



September 2002 – £3.50

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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A guide to who's who at BIGGA

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

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Golf Greenkeepers Association

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This year's National Championship will be played at Hillside and Hesketh Golf Clubs, two courses guaranteed to serve up some wonderful golf

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



'THE TURFTIME TEASER'
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Welcome

A TRUE "SPORTING" EVENT

It has been said, and I have no reason to doubt the truth of the statement, that the Ryder Cup is the third biggest event on the world's sporting calendar, collecting a bronze medal behind the FIFA World Cup and the Olympics. I'm not sure which of the others picks up the gold, or even how it is judged. That's beside the point, however. What it means is that the biannual match, which pitches the best golfers America has to offer against Europe's finest is larger, more prestigious and produces more newspaper and magazine column inches than any of golf's four Majors.

Having been to three of them, the last in '93, I can vouch for the intensity of the competition. During the three days, and five series of games, it sometimes appears as if a point - and 14 and a half of them are needed to win the Ryder Cup - is of more value than Colin Montgomerie's weight in gold. Anyone who wins a point, or even halves his match, immediately achieves God-like status and doesn't have to buy a drink for the rest of his life!

This year may be slightly different.

No-one can surely argue with the reasons behind postponing the match last September, but it has meant that this year the build up has lacked the usual interest and speculation. That is partly down to the decision to retain last year's selected teams - another I agree with. Some players may be struggling for form 12 months on but it is the same for both sides.

What it must be hoped, and this year it must be said that the chances of it happening are greater than at any of the recent matches, is that everything is kept in perspective and the fact that, bottom line, it is just a sporting event is not lost. Not only that it is a sporting event played by the most sporting game of all.

Recently passions have run uncomfortably high to the extent that three years ago a stampede of players, wives and caddies invaded the 17th green at Brookline before the hole had even been decided. The quality of the American fight back that day was outstanding but the antics surrounding the match left a sour taste and the respective Captains, Curtis Strange and Sam Torrance, have worked hard subsequently to repair the damage inflicted upon the game that day.

Let's hope this month's Ryder Cup is a true sporting event remembered for all the right reasons, including the quality of the Brabazon course.

One man who will be hoping so is Bevan Tattersall, Course Manager at the De Vere Belfry. Bevan and his team have worked extremely hard to ensure that the Brabazon Course, which has improved as a layout almost out of all recognition, is in tip top condition and we must all hope that the Weather Gods are smiling on the event so it is seen at its best by the enormous television audience.

Good luck Bevan. I hope it all goes well for you.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

DOUG BELL

Members will be saddened to learn of the passing of Doug Bell who died in hospital on 2 August following a short illness. Doug had served as Regional Administrator for the Northern Region since September 1997. Before joining BIGGA he had been Secretary at the West Lancashire Golf Club and prior to that at Woolton Golf Club. These appointments followed 25 years spent in public administration.

During the last five years Doug had become a much respected figure in the Northern Region as well as more widely within BIGGA. Many members have benefited from his golf club visits whilst he proved a great friend and adviser to those experiencing difficulties in their lives or careers. Doug was quiet and reserved, in many ways a private man, but blessed with a dry sense of humour. His passions in life were golf and football. In the football world he served for many years as Treasurer of the Liverpool County FA while in golf his extensive knowledge of the game was there for all to witness at BIGGA events. Doug was an excellent Administrator for the Northern Region and BIGGA has lost a much valued member of staff.

"Doug Bell was a huge asset to the Northern Region and he worked extremely hard on behalf of its members. His untimely death was a great shock to everyone who knew him and he will be greatly missed," said Bert Cross, Northern Region Chairman.



HARRY DIAMOND MEMORIAL QUAICH

The Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich was played over The Belleisle Golf Course, Ayr, on Sunday, July 14. The tournament was inaugurated last July as a memorial to Harry. His wife, Jessie, and his close family, Ann, Linda and Rosemary, have been deeply involved in the organisation, together with members of the Belleisle Golf Club.

The format is a Stableford Competition of foursomes with the two best scores counting at each hole. The shotgun start enhances the whole day and enables the participants to finish at the same time thereby allowing everyone to be at the presentation. The family, together with sponsors, put up the prizes for the day. The Quaich which was purchased by the family is large Scottish drinking vessel presented to the winners whereon they have their names engraved. Seven greenkeepers were invited to take part in this unique competition, three from the West Section and four from the Ayrshire Section. Unfortunately, none of us got our name on the Quaich!

The Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich is a reminder of

the esteem and high regard the Club and his friends still hold to the memory of Harry. I know of no other Club who have respected the memory of their Greenkeeper in the setting up of an annual competition such as this. The attendance alone of some 130 golfers speaks for itself.

The Course was in excellent condition and the presentation was second to none. The Head Greenkeeper and his staff were greatly praised for the amount of effort they put in getting the course up to scratch for the Competition. The greens, in particular, were excellent and taking into consideration the weather we in the West of Scotland have suffered this summer, it is no less than a miracle that regular golf has been played. The seven greenkeepers who took part were invited back to the Market Inn to a buffet and to meet the Diamond family, from the very young to the more mature. The whole day was a pleasant affair and, as we said to Jessie and the girls, we greenkeepers would consider it an honour to be invited back next year.

Cecil George

PASSES ALL ROUND!

BIGGA Staff members Sami Collins (right), Education and Training Administrator and Sarah Sowerby (left), PA to Neil Thomas, have both recently passed their European Computer Driving Licence. The ECDL is a Europe-recognised qualification, comprising seven modules, which demonstrates a holder's ability to operate a computer and various software programmes. Sami and Sarah now join Brad Anderson, BIGGA's Administrative Assistant, who passed his ECDL at college earlier in the year.



NEAREST THE PIN...

Rob Gee, of Crow Nest Park Golf Club, Brighouse, West Yorkshire and part of the British Seed Houses team in the BIGGA Golf Day was the Nearest the Pin winner on the 18th hole. Congratulations Rob and sorry for missing out your name last month.

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

TEXTRON



Steve Chicken

A threat to jobs at Textron's Ipswich headquarters has receded following a review on the future viability of the manufacturing facility.

In the last few weeks Textron initially announced that the review "may potentially

place some jobs at risk" and added that "the company will be working with its workforce and relevant interested community agencies in the review. The study does not affect the Sales, Marketing, Customer Service or Engineering parts of the company".

The initial statement, by Steve Chicken, Textron Managing Director continued, "Uncertainty in the worldwide golf and municipal markets, as well as tough global market conditions, has increased the difficulties of maintaining financial performance. We need to find ways of more efficiently delivering our brands to our customers and maintain competitiveness in an aggressive marketplace."

However, despite such an ominous warning there was better news when the review was completed and Steve Chicken was able to make a much more positive announcement a few weeks later.

In the statement he said, "It has quickly become clear that we can serve our European customer base best by maintaining our current manufacturing facility, as such

the Ipswich plant will not close. We shall continue to produce the municipal and European golf-related products in the Ipswich plant. We shall continue to improve efficiencies within the manufacturing process by adopting contemporary world-class automotive practices as employed in our American factories.

This is good news for everyone associated with the company and the news was unanimously welcomed by the entire workforce and enthusiastically embraced by the local Trade Union representatives and community leaders.

"The decision to continue with production in Ipswich was strongly supported by our American parent company. We have secured the future financial success of Ipswich with an aggressive plan for the sales of our products over the coming months and years. The continued support of our dealer network, who have been particularly positive over the past few weeks, to make these plans a reality is a key factor. We intend to continue to produce top quality turf equipment for the global marketplace from the Ipswich site as well as from our facilities in the USA.

"The current range of golf and municipal products built in Ipswich today will continue unaffected with the exceptions of the Multi-mower, the T-Plex 180, the Triple 18 and the Greens Super range which will be discontinued as stocks run out during the months ahead.

"As I said in my previous statement, we remain totally committed to the Ransomes brand and to Ipswich as a base for manufacturing, selling, supporting and designing high quality products for the worldwide market."

RAIN AT ST ANDREWS

Recent excessively wet weather has had a noticeable effect on the numbers of rounds of golf being played at St Andrews Links. After last year's new record of 215,000 total rounds, this year seemed to be following the same path - until June. With 50% more rain than usual for June, the number of rounds played at St Andrews in June was down by 7% on last year, with the decrease affecting both local and visiting golfers.

Figures for the first six months of 2002 show an overall 2% decrease in golf primarily as a result of fewer visitors, as play by local golfers is up by 1%.

"The weather is clearly deterring casual golfers and last minute visitors," explained Peter Mason, external relations manager at St Andrews Links Trust.

"Even the ballot for the Old Course has been relatively quiet so golfers who are happy to play whatever the weather have a better chance than usual at this time of year of getting a tee-time."

Golfers who have ventured out in between downpours will have noticed the effect of the heavy rainfall on the courses as there has been more than the usual greenkeeping activity taking place at the world's most famous golfing venue.

"The greenkeeping teams have had to concentrate on managing the rough including invasive plants such as clover, which is more difficult to spray effectively in wet weather," explained Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent at St Andrews.

"We have had strong winds which displace the sand in the bunkers resulting in many hours spent reshaping and restoring the bunkers. The courses are more lush and greener than we would like. On the bright side, it only takes a few dry and breezy days to firm up the greens to traditional links standards."

NEW AREA MANAGER FOR SCOTTS



Gary Smith has joined the Scotts Company (UK) Ltd as Turf & Amenity Area Manager for Scotland, Cumbria and north Northumberland.

Gary began his career working as a greenkeeper in Scotland having qualified some 12 years ago. He subsequently changed role

to take on sales positions - notably for Scotts distributors Stewarts - in fertilisers and chemicals for the sports and amenity turf, local authority and landscape industries.

He is a keen sportsman, playing golf regularly and holding a black belt in Taekwon-do.

AVONCROP AMENITY PRODUCTS LTD

Avoncrop Amenity Products Limited has announced that Richard Aitken of Richard Aitken (Seedsmen) Limited has become a Shareholder and Director of the Company.

The appointment is seen as a strengthening of the two companies relationship and market positions. Both Companies have recently launched the "Award" brand of granular and liquid fertilisers and hold similar distributorships. Mr. Rod Feltham who will remain Managing Director of Avoncrop Amenity Products Limited said "This joint marketing venture will result in further developments of innovative products and services that will be offered to Turf Managers across mainland UK. The move will give real benefits to the industry, not only for our customers but our suppliers as well. We are very excited for the future".

NATIONAL TURFGRASS FOUNDATION CONFERENCE

As an entertaining addition to the National Turfgrass Foundation Conference in Southport from November 18-21, a Ryder Cup-style match is being organised for American superintendents and European greenkeepers.

A party of superintendents from some of the major courses in America is attending the Conference and will be playing in the Match on November 22. Captained by Melvin B. Lucas CGCS, past-President of the GCSAA, they hope to beat the European Team, strongly captained by BIGGA's inaugural Chairman, Walter Woods BEM, past Links Supervisor at St. Andrews. The two Captains may even look on it as a return match after an American victory in 1980 at Anaheim, California when GCSAA members played SIGGA members under the same captaincies. This could be as much of a needle match as this month's clash at The Belfry!

Sponsored by Bernhard & Co in their support of the National Turfgrass Foundation, the event should prove to be great fun, despite the inevitable competitiveness. Attendees at the Conference who would like to be considered for the European Team should contact Martyn Jones on +44 (0) 1995 670675 or Louise Clegg on +44 (0) 7759 755844 or Email: NTFoundation@aol.com.

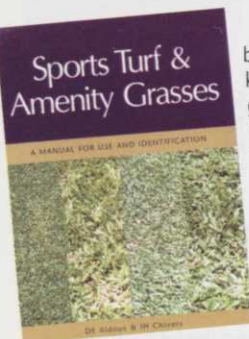
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SPORTS TURF AND AMENITY GRASS

BY D E ALDOUS AND I H CHIVERS



This recently published book extends the knowledge that can be gleaned from the BIGGA Field Guides, Grasses on the Golf Course and Grasses in the Rough. Published in Australia, the book contains most of the common cool season grasses as well as, a host of warm season grasses that might be of interest to the British Greenkeeper.

Written by David E Aldous, an Associate Professor in the School of Resource Management at the University of Melbourne and Ian H Chivers, a private consultant and grass breeder/seed producer, the book starts by

introducing ten, major cool season grasses and 16 warm season grasses.

The cool season grasses range from *Agrostis capillaris* (Browntop bent) to *Poa trivialis* (Rough stemmed blue grass) and the warm season grasses range from *Axonopus affinis* (Narrow leaf carpet grass) to *Zoysia tenuifolia* (Korean lawngrass). A list of lesser known (at least in the authors' view) cool season and warm season grasses follow which includes *Festuca ovina* (Sheep's fescue) and *Ergrostis cilianensis* (the delightfully sounding Stink grass).

Detailed instructions on the use of visual turfgrass keys follow before each grass is given an extensive description which contains: the grasses tolerance to temperature, drought, close mowing, low fertility, frost, shade, wet soil, wear and salinity; sowing, growing and mowing; plus a list of characteristics such as positives, negatives and identifying

characteristics.

Although a lot of the grasses will not be familiar to the British greenkeeper, this book would make a useful reference to a range of grasses grown in Northern Europe. It would also extend the knowledge of those wishing to learn more about warm season grasses especially those thinking of working in warmer parts of the world.

Published by Landlinks Press, the book can be ordered by e-mail to orders@edpubs.co.uk or by writing (in the United Kingdom and Europe) to Eurospan, 3 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2 8LU or in the rest of the world to publishing.sales@csiro.au or by writing to Landlinks Press, 150 Oxford Street, Collingwood VIC 3066, Australia.

The book costs £39.50 plus post and packing.
Ken Richardson

HUW'S EXCELLENCE BRINGS ITS REWARDS



It's been an exciting year for Huw Morgan, holder of the prestigious Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award. In February, the Course Manager of The Wildernes Club, near Sevenoaks, Kent, took up the first part of his prize: a two - week trip to the US, courtesy of Toro.

Then recently Huw was presented with the second part of his prize, a brand new Toro Workman 2100 utility vehicle for his club.

"The new Workman is a great transport vehicle. We have a pretty big course, so it's a useful addition to our fleet."

Huw's visit to America kicked off with a week at the GCSAA Conference and Show, in Orlando.

Next on the agenda was a three-day visit to The Toro Company headquarters in Minneapolis, to observe the manufacturing operation, and two days in Riverside, California, home to Toro Irrigation.

"It was quite amazing to see the Toro operation first-hand. The quality of the manufacture and the pride they take in their work is quite inspiring. I also visited some beautiful golf courses in the desert between Los Angeles and San Diego and had some very interesting discussions with their greenkeepers," added Huw.

"The reaction of everyone at Wildernes to the award has been amazing. They are very proud of the achievement and the effort put in by everyone in the greenkeeping team - because it's a team prize, not just mine."

Our picture here shows Toro distributor Lely's Peter Mansfield presenting Huw with the keys to the vehicle.

MIDLAND REGION GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY COMPETITIONS 2002

The Midland Region Golf Management Trophy Competitions 2002, sponsored by Scotts UK Professional were held at Hartsbourne Country Club, Bushey Heath on August 7 and Beeston Fields Golf Club, Nottingham on 14 August. Club teams comprising of Head Greenkeeper, Secretary, Captain and Chairman of Green competed in a 4-ball stableford format for £200.00p worth of Scotts products and individual prizes for team members in 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The weather was superb for both days as was the welcome, co-operation and catering at both clubs. The courses were in excellent condition, and our thanks are extended to David Stenton and his staff at Hartsbourne and David Bellamy and staff at Beeston Fields for providing wonderful playing conditions.

Hartsbourne Country Club hosted 23 teams, scores were very close with Ashridge Golf Club, led by Head Greenkeeper Jim Cassidy, winning with 83 points, closely followed by Hadley Wood Golf Club on 82 points and the host club third on 81 points.

The Kedleston Park team with Nick Martin, Scotts



There were 17 entries at Beeston Fields Golf Club with Kedleston Park Golf Club led by Head Greenkeeper David Leatherland comfortable winners on 89 points from the host club second on 86 and Drayton Park Golf Club third on 85 points. This is the fourth year Scotts UK Professional have sponsored these events in the Midland Region and our thanks are extended to Nick Martin from Scotts for his continued support.

FORMATION OF BAYER ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Bayer Environmental Science was formed recently following acquisition by Bayer of Aventis CropScience incorporating Aventis Environmental Science (formerly Rhone-Poulenc Amenity). Bayer Environmental Science is one of three major business groups within

Bayer CropScience, along with Crop Protection and Bio Science. The Bayer Environmental Science organisation will be comprised of two distinct business units: Professional Products and Consumer Products. The Professional Products business will operate in the following market segments: professional pest control, vector control and the turf and amenity business. The

Consumer Products business will operate in the consumer lawn and garden sector and will manage the sale of active ingredients and concentrates to other companies in this market.

The process of integrating the two companies has begun and will continue over the coming months. The aim is to adopt the best features and practices of both organisations. This will enable Bayer Environmental Science to fulfil its potential and be the leader in the markets in which it operates. In the meantime Bayer Environmental Science will operate through the two existing organisations.

JOHN STRATFORD JOINS GEM

Joseph Metcalf Limited has announced the appointment of John Stratford as Sales & Marketing Director. He has responsibility for all three operating divisions - Gem Gardening, Gem Horticulture and Gem Professional.

Prior to joining Joseph Metcalf, John held senior positions within the fertiliser, chemical and growing media industry and has been a consultant to several

garden and horticultural companies in other product categories.

He hopes to build on the close relationships that Gem enjoys with their customers and is particularly keen to accelerate the new product development programme, whilst continuing to offer the traditional Gem virtues of consistent quality and value for money.

Available October this year

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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.

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

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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



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TEXTRON



Alan Prickett has been promoted to the position of Textron's UK Sales Manager, with immediate effect. Reporting to David Withers, Director, Sales and Customer Support, he will be responsible for sales of Textron's extensive range of

equipment throughout the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

Over the past 20 years, Alan has gained extensive experience of Ransomes products in both the retail and manufacturing sectors. He joined the Jacobsen division of Textron UK in early 1997 after a career with Ransomes distributors P.A. Turney Ltd and E.T. Breakwell Ltd.

Last year he was charged with establishing Textron's branch network in the Midlands and N. Yorks, following the resignation of two dealerships covering these areas.

"Alan has done a magnificent job for us establishing the branches in Redditch, Mansfield and Selby in record time. He has the knowledge, the experience and the management skills required for this new, demanding position and we are delighted to welcoming him to Ipswich," said David.

Alan is married to Sue and has three young children. They currently live in Banbury, Oxfordshire, but will be relocating to the Ipswich area over the next few months.

HAYTER



Hayter has promoted David Sturges to Associate Director, Sales and Marketing. The appointment is with immediate effect. His responsibilities will include management of the outside sales force, maintain links with key overseas customers, oversee the development of

new products and look after specific key accounts in the UK. He will continue to report to Kim Macfie, Sales and Marketing Director.

David has an MBA from Cranfield University and a BSc Honours in Agricultural Technology and Management from Silsoe College. He has been with Hayter since 1990, transferring from Polymark Beaver after their acquisition by Hayter. With a background in product design he has been responsible for export sales for nine years and from 1997 has also assumed the responsibility for product management. David is in his mid thirties, married with a baby son and lives in Sussex.

This appointment follows on from a major restructuring of Hayter's outside sales force earlier this year which included the appointment of a National Account Manager and Field Sales Manager.

Commenting on the new appointment Kim Macfie said, "We are delighted to be able to announce this new appointment. Our business, particularly on commercial products, has continued to grow at a very encouraging level and the appointments made this year will ensure that we not only manage that growth but also continue to build on the success of the last few years."

TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND AND A COLLEAGUE



John Taylor, an Assistant at Bradley Park, in Huddersfield, and a top international athlete died in early August from what doctors believed to have been an enlarged heart brought about by the extremely intensive training he undertook. He was just 33.

Following his death, which was reported in the Daily Mail under the heading, "Fatal dedication of man who ran himself to death" his Head Greenkeeper, David Brierley and his fellow greenkeepers wrote this tribute to their friend and colleague.

JOHN ROBERT TAYLOR -1969- 2002

John had worked at Bradley Park Golf Course in Huddersfield as greenkeeper for 15 years and was a great friend to his colleagues, a young man whose humour and spirit could be relied upon to brighten the greyest day. He was an inspiration to all who followed his great success in athletics where in Fell Racing, Cross Country and Mountain Running he represented his County, Country and Great Britain both as a Junior and Senior Athlete and was never more at home than racing up Alpine Tracks in Switzerland, his favourite venue, from the many international competitions for this Holmfirth and Bingley Harrier.

John was soon to be married to his beloved Kirsten and they had planned to build their home together in Huddersfield where he had begun to consolidate a greatly promising career in greenkeeping with studies for his NVQ Level 3 at Askham Bryan College.

At work, as in his sport John applied himself with great dedication and commitment, he had an overwhelming love of the great outdoors and was truly content at work and play. A guiding star and inspiration to those who had the great pleasure to know him. 'Joggy' was a unique man who will be sorely missed, this world has indeed lost an outstanding individual.

David Brierley, Marcus Cordingley, Andrew Chipendale, John Moonie and Martin Shaw the team at Bradley

SCOTTISH GRASS MACHINERY



Providing a dedicated sales and support function to some of the world's most famous golf courses has seen Scottish Grass Machinery increase its golf business by over 40% this year.

Over the past 12 months, Inverkeithing-based SGM Golf division, led by Divisional Manager Brian Goudie, has increased its turnover by £1 million to nearly £4 million per annum.

Of particular satisfaction to Brian is that around 70% of this increase in business has come from totally new custom.

LOUISE TOPS AT KAWASAKI

Every successful company has key individuals working behind the scenes to ensure targets are achieved and Kawasaki Motors UK is no exception.

Sales and Marketing co-ordinator Louise Topp has been doing exactly that as one of the lynch pins within the Japanese manufacturers Commercial Products Division in the UK.

Louise, who manages the day-to-day running of the division's UK sales and marketing operation has just completed ten years with the company having risen through departmental ranks from junior secretary to her present position. The service milestone is to be recognised by a special presentation.

"Since joining Kawasaki my goal has always been to get involved in the marketing side which is always exciting and challenging. There's plenty going on all the time taking part in the promotion of an ever growing product range, product launches and shows



all over the country," explained Louise.

The extent of Louise's product knowledge means she has long had her leg pulled for her ability to identify a Kawasaki generator, water pump or engine from 100 yards, often right down to the model number

OUTSTANDING OFSTED RESULTS

Outstanding Ofsted results confirm that Reaseheath College, Nantwich, is one of Britain's top colleges for sports turf management, horticulture and floristry.

The education report, released in July, identified high standards in teaching and resources, strong industry links and an adult ethos within college as key strengths. Sports turf, horticulture and floristry facilities were singled out as 'excellent', with inspectors being particularly impressed with the high standard of students' work and with the employment opportunities available after graduation

The report highlighted well-managed courses, resulting in good retention and pass rates, with frequent celebration of student success. It was also noted that students are encouraged to take additional qualifications and benefit from external visits.

Principal Vic Croxson said: "We are delighted that inspectors found the Reaseheath Experience to be as outstanding as our students know it to be. We are extremely proud of the efforts of our sports turf, horticulture and floristry students, who have consistently proved to be among the best in the country."

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Education

This Month sees the Education and Training Department finalising the programme for The Continue to Learn Week in Harrogate, co-ordinating the final stages of the Golf Environment Competition and organising Regional and Section Training Courses.



Regular visitors to the BIGGA week in Harrogate will have seen that the Continue to Learn programme has a range of opportunities for all levels of greenkeeper. There is a wide range of options throughout the week and you will need to study the Continue to Learn brochure very carefully, when it is delivered with your October copy of Greenkeeper International. Remember to book early, to reserve your place(s) on the sessions of your choice.

The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

The STRI Ecology Team has been busy judging the entries in the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, visiting clubs around the Country and trying to select Regional Winners. The Competition continues to attract high quality entries from around Great Britain, helping clubs to assess their environmental management policies against the Competition Standards. The Competition continues to run thanks to the support of the R&A but a major sponsor is still required to give the Competition a long term future. If there are any companies or individuals out there who wish to sponsor this high profile competition then please contact BIGGA House.

Clubs selected to progress to the next round are:

WALES

Cardigan Golf Club

SOUTH EAST

Thorpeness Hotel and Golf Club
Aldeburgh Golf Club
Rookwood Golf Club
Gerrards Cross Golf Club
Ipswich Golf Club

SOUTH WEST

Warren Golf Club
Parkstone Golf Club
Bath Golf Club

NORTH

Kenwick Park Golf Club
Bradley Park Golf Club
Wilmslow Golf Club
Wirrel Ladies Golf Club Ltd

SCOTLAND

Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club
Loch Lomond Golf Club
Duke's Course (The)
St Andrews Links Trust

BIGGA Local Training Courses

You should have received a copy of this year's Local Training Brochure inside this copy of Greenkeeper International. If you have not received a copy or if you need extra copies then contact BIGGA House. These, high quality, courses continue to be offered at such low prices thanks to support from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund. The Fund, which gets its income from Golden and Silver Key contributors, subsidised local training by more than £26,000 last year. For 2002/2003, each Golden Key company will be distributing £30 training vouchers to its customers, making attendance at a one day BIGGA Training Course absolutely free to BIGGA Members. Vouchers can also be used towards the cost of Continue to Learn at Harrogate.

Guidance on general health and safety topics is given in HSE's booklet: Health and Safety in Golf Course Management and Maintenance, although the booklet does not have specific guidance on the recovery of lost golf balls from golf course water hazards. However, a general risk assessment of any water hazard should include risk control measures to prevent foreseeable accidents such as drowning.

If recovery of golf balls requires the use of divers at work then the Diving at Work Regulations 1997 apply. If divers are not at work then the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 still applies and a similar duty of care standard would be expected.

GTC LIAISON OFFICERS

Readers of this magazine may have seen recent advertisements, placed by the GTC, asking for experienced, assessor qualified greenkeepers to apply to become GTC Liaison Officers in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The GTC had a reasonable response from some areas but there is still time for you to apply for one of these important, part time, posts.

Anyone interested should contact David Golding or Sue Gudgeon at the GTC on 01347 838640

DOES YOUR CLUB COMPLY?

Following the stories in the media, early this year, the Health and Safety Executive has issued a press release about the recovery of lost golf balls from golf course water hazards.

The managers of golf courses have a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all of their employees and of all visitors to the course. This includes golfers, contractors working on or visiting the course and members of the public.

BIGGA HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TEXTRON TURF CARE

Thanks to generous sponsorship from Textron Turf Care, BIGGA is pleased to announce the launch of the BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships.

All greenkeeper members of BIGGA in, or about to enter, higher education ie. N/SVQ Level 4 in Turfgrass Management, Higher National Certificate in Turf Science and Golf Course Management, Higher National Diploma in Turf Science and Golf Course Management, BSc in Turf Science and Golf Course Management or MSc in Sports Surface Technology, could apply for a scholarship. The number of scholarships awarded will depend on demand but should range from £500 for a Level 4 to £1500 for an MSc.

Applications would be assessed by a panel of assessors,

who would look for:

- Type of course
 - BIGGA Member
 - Number of years as a BIGGA member.
 - Contribution to BIGGA
 - Previous training and development
- The Scholarship should be for the whole course ie, a one off payment.

Scholars would be expected to maintain contact with BIGGA and provide feedback on research, work experience etc.

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship then contact BIGGA for an application form.

The deadline for applications to be received at BIGGA House is 25 October 2002.

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund



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

Golden and Silver Key Membership is available to both companies and individuals.

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

Golden Key Supporters



Golden Key Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
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PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 377777
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Textron Turf Care	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01202 319987
TurfTrax Group Ltd	01722 434000

Golden Key Individual Members

Mike Eastwood; J H Fry; J H Greasley; WJ Rogers; David S Robinson; Stuart Townsend; Douglas Smith; Andrew Cornes; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Roger Barker

Silver Key Supporters



Silver Key Company Members

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Heath Lambert Group	0113 246 1313
Ocmis Irrigation	01460 241939
RainBird	01273 891326
Syngenta Professional Products	0041 613 233 028

Silver Key Individual Members

Clive A Archer; John Crawford; Bruce Cruickshank; Douglas G Duguid; Alan Holmes; Kenneth Jones; Iain A MacLeod; Robert Mailbusch MG; Richard S Mullen; Elliott R Small; Steven Tierney; CJ Yeaman; Richard Lawrence; Clive Osgood; David Robinson; Richard Stillwell

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- Our MSc in Sports Surface Technology is also available as a one-year full-time course. Apply now for entry in October 2002.

Endorsed by The Institute of Groundsmanship and supported by top national and international sporting organisations, this qualification will enhance your future career and salary prospects.

Bursaries available

For further details please contact Sue O'Neill, Student Enquiries, Cranfield University, Silsoe, Bedford MK45 4DT.

Tel: 01525 863319 Fax: 01525 863399

Email: StudentEnquiries.silsoe@cranfield.ac.uk

www.silsoe.cranfield.ac.uk

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

- Hydrostatic transmission
- Wide wheel base and ATV type rear tyres gives great traction and stability
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Membership UPDATE

Rachael Palmer from BIGGA's Membership Services Department would like to welcome 64 new members to the Association and invites you to take a look at BIGGA's range of merchandise.

END OF RANGE SALE

This month I have devoted the membership page to the fantastic range of BIGGA merchandise on offer. We are holding an END OF RANGE SALE which offers quality clothing at bargain prices. Perhaps the best value item we have for sale are ex Open Championship Waterproofs. These Sun and Rain suits were worn by the team at the Open and are consequently slightly soiled, for that reason we have slashed the price to £30 for the Jacket and £15 for the trousers or £40 if buying the whole suit. This compares favourably with new suits which retail at £59.95.

Other items available in the End of Range Sale are windproof tops at £14 and a variety of Slazenger and Arco Polo shirts retailing at £12.50 and £7.00 respectively. Please note that there are limited numbers of each item available. To order please call Rachael Foster on 01347 833800.

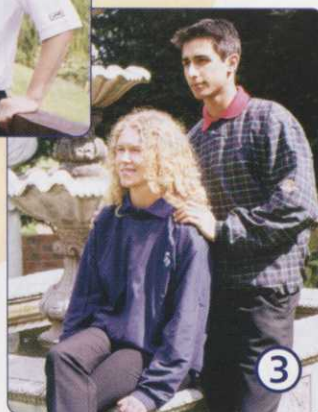
Also featured is our normal merchandise range comprising of Cutter and Buck polo shirts and Peter Scott Lambswool jumpers in a variety of styles, perfect for Autumn and Winter use. To order either call Rachael Foster on 01347 833800 or use the order form opposite.

1. Arco BIGGA Logo Polo Shirts
Available in Red or Royal Blue, Sizes M, L £7.00
2. Slazenger BIGGA Logo Polo Shirts
Available in White or Navy Blue, Sizes L, XL £12.50
3. Walrus Golfwear Wind/Shower Proof Top
Available in Tartan and Blue, Sizes M, XL £14.00

WATERPROOF SUITS

Slightly soiled as used by the Open Championship Team,
Sizes M, L, XL £30.00 Jacket £15.00 Trousers £40 for Whole Suit

To order please ring Rachael Foster on 01347 833800.
Please note there are only limited numbers available of each item.



SEPTEMBER'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, Peter Blacker, a retired member. 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.

BIGGA welcomes...

Scottish Region

Kevin Bell, West
Richard Evans, East
Mark Knox, East
John O'Connor, North
Ross Prowse, East
Michael Rae, North
Daryl Robertson, West
Darren Ross, North
Neil Stevenson, Central
James Wilson, West
Andrew Wilson, West

Northern Region

Peter Bailey, N West
Jason Elliott, N East
Alan Kopanski, N West
John Moutrie, N East
Steven Murray, N West
Lee Roberts, N West

Midland Region

Johnathan Allen, Midland
William Bachelor, BB&O
Lee Dancer, BB&O
Pat Doyle, Mid Anglia
Neil Faubel, Mid Anglia
Simon Freshwater, Midland
Harry Hepple, BB&O
George Hunt, Mid Anglia
Gary Norcott, BB&O
Neil Pilsbury, Midland
Robert Prigmore, Midland
Martin Raisbeck, Midland
Stuart Raybould, Midland
Gareth Rees, Midland
Michael Scullion, Midland
Lee Underhill, Midland
Tim Watts, Midland
Colin Wilson, BB&O

South East Region

Alan Browne, E Anglia
Terry Burgess, Kent
Colin Chilvers, Sussex
Aaron Coote, Sussex
Anthony Duggan, London
Michael Eade, E Anglia
David Greybe, London
John Morely-Smith, E Anglia
Justin O'Connell, Surrey
Daniel Pardoe, Sussex
Stuart Prestney, Essex
Kenneth Thompson, Kent

S West/S Wales Region

Robert Cully, S Coast
Dale Glead, S Coast
Darren Hill, S Coast

Northern Ireland

Martin Casement
John Kennedy

International

Brian Nikkel, USA

Associate Members

Richard Atherton, Sheffield
Ed Carter, Northern
Johnathan Smith, E Scotland
Howard Davies, Sussex
Petr Voracek, Czech Republic

Corporate Members

Ray George, Midland
Chris Glover, Midland
Campbell Young, Midland
Matt Patton, Surrey

Golden/Silver Key Members

Jonathan Rule, E Anglia
Richard Stillwell, Sussex

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



Brad Anderson

Position:
Administrative Assistant.

What does your role involve?
Reception duties, maintaining the computer systems in the building, stationery ordering and helping everyone else if I can.

How long have you worked for the Association?
Two years.

Where were you born and brought up?
Born in Mansfield, Nottingham and brought up in the Doncaster area - Epworth.

Where did you work before you joined BIGGA?
I had just left full time education before joining BIGGA.

What are your hobbies? Listening to music, computers and modern technology.

What is your favourite food?
Maccydees! (MacDonalds to those not familiar with modern day lingo.)

What is your favourite film?
Road Trip, American Pie and Half Baked.

What was the last book you read?
Lord of the Rings.

Who is your all time hero?
My Mum.

What was the best event you've ever attended?
Galaxy 105s Weekender at Ikon and Diva (York nightclub).

What is your claim to fame?
(None not acceptable)
Writing off my bike and a car while only travelling at 15 mph and having to call the emergency services.

BIGGA MERCHANDISE

- A. Cutter and Buck BIGGA Logo Classic Polo Shirt
Available in Sunflower and Navy, Sizes M, L, XL or XXL £29.95
- B. Peter Scott Lambswool Crew Neck Jumper
Available in Charcoal and Navy, Sizes 40, 42, 44, 46, 48 £34.95
- C. Peter Scott Lambswool V Neck Slipover
Available in Navy only, Sizes 40, 42, 44, 46 £29.95
- D. Peter Scott Lambswool V Neck Jumper
Available in Navy only, Sizes 40, 42, 44, 46 £34.95
- E. Sun and Rain Waterproof Suit
Available in Navy only, Sizes M, L, XL, XXL £59.95
- F. Slazenger Baseball Cap
Available in Khaki with a Navy Peak only, One Size £12.95



ORDER FORM

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C	Peter Scott V neck slipover	40	1	Navy	£29.95

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Signature: _____

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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.



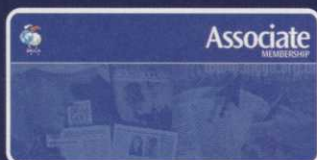
Greenkeeper Membership
(any person employed in the 'keeping of the green at a golfing establishment') offers:

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

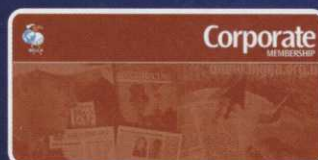


Associate Membership
(any person who is not a working greenkeeper, but wants to be part of a growing Association, i.e. Chairman of Green, Secretary, Company Sales Representative etc.) offers:

Networking with members, clients, suppliers and potential customers

Exclusive discounts and benefits for Associate Members

Online information & opportunities for Associate Members



Corporate Membership
(for those companies who want to join up to 4 members of staff) offers:

Network with members, clients, suppliers and potential customers

Exclusive discounts and benefits for Corporate Members

Online information & opportunities for Corporate Members



Student Membership
(for those who are studying full-time) offers:

Research tools to help with your study

Exclusive discounts and benefits for Student Members

Get exclusive access to our Greenkeeper Members Area

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

A GOLDEN Opportunity

TORO
STUDENT
GREENKEEPER
of the year
AWARD

Reigning Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, Andrew Pledger, gives the 2002 finalists an insight into what to expect if he or she were to win.

It wasn't until I had boarded the aeroplane to the US that it actually hit home that I had won the award of "TORO Student Greenkeeper of the Year", I had still been in shock up until then.

The prize award was an all expenses paid trip to the US and an opportunity to study at Massachusetts University.

After an emotional farewell at Gatwick Airport I boarded the plane for the nine hour flight to Hartford, via Newark. On arrival, I was welcomed by over a foot of snow and hence a longer than usual taxi ride to the motel, where I would lodge for the next seven weeks. Adding to the drama my luggage was not to arrive with me and did not finally turn up until a few days later! But, I had no time to be worrying about this. I had time for just a few hours sleep and then it was up for an early start for registration and my first lesson at the University of Massachusetts.

For the next seven weeks I attended the 'Winter School for Turf Grass Managers', during which time I studied 11 subjects including Turf Grass Management, Soil Science, Diseases and Weed Management. All of the 11 subjects were taught to the highest standard by professors and scientists in their own field. It was truly a golden opportunity to be attending such a course.

The classes demanded a lot of studying both within and outside the classroom, but I found it stimulating and hence enjoyable. I often studied together with fellow students, who were also lodging

at the same motel as myself, and this naturally gave opportunities to discuss openly what we had learnt in class.

In all, the course was attended by 53 students (Course Superintendents and Deputies), most of whom were from the US, and some from Canada.

Throughout the weeks we were assessed continually, and the marks from these assessments/tests helped form part of the final pass mark. For Turf Grass Management, Soil Science, Entomology, Turf Diseases and Weed Management we also had end of course exams/test papers.

It was seven weeks of hard studying and discussion, but as a way of relaxing I, together with a few of the other lads, took time out at weekends and evenings, to catch a few Basketball and Ice Hockey games. It was also the season for the SuperBowl so, as I am sure you can imagine this gave focus to some our time-out! I also found time to enjoy a weekend visit to Boston.

Five weeks into my studies and I was catching a plane again. This time to Florida, to attend the GCSAA Trade Show, and the President's Dinner Show. At the dinner I met with Richard Barker, BIGGA Chairman, Clive Osgood, Past Chairman, Neil Thomas, BIGGA Executive Director, Huw Morgan, MG and winner of the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award, and Andy Wight, my Tutor from Oaklands College. Before the dinner we witnessed Walter Woods receive the Old Tom Morris Award, given for



A GOLDEN Opportunity

TORO
STUDENT
GREENKEEPER
of the year
AWARD

recognition of his services to the industry. I felt very privileged to have been invited to the dinner, after all I had only been part of this industry just three years, and what an opportunity! I, of course, had an enjoyable evening.

The following day I attended the Trade Show. It was enormous and extremely impressive, I only wish I had had more time to see more of it. I did, however, visit some of the major US grass seed companies, which I found particularly interesting because of the launch of a Round-up ready Bentgrass cultivar and, of course, I met with the TORO representatives, namely Andy Brown. By the end of the day I was back at the airport to catch the flight back to Hartford. It was unfortunate that the Trade Show and Dinner were scheduled during term time.

The course ended with a Graduation Dinner and Certificate Presentation. All my hard work had paid off and I graduated with high grades and a Certificate to prove it! I made a lot of friends and it was strange having to say goodbye, but I knew that I would keep in touch with them and who knows where we might meet again, in a professional way!

My next destination was Minneapolis and over the next three days my itinerary was to include a visit to the TORO Headquarters, the Shakopee Manufacturing Plant and the Tomah Production Plant.

The visit to the TORO Headquarters gave a useful and interesting insight into the research and equipment developing test work. It has certainly made me appreciate the 'behind the scenes' work conducted on each and every piece of equipment. Kris Lindstrom, from TORO, accompanied me on my visit to Shakopee. It is a manufacturing plant where they produce various parts for the TORO machines, but mainly cylinder blades and bottom blades for their cutting units. My final excursion was to the Tomah Production Plant in Wisconsin. Daniel Tinklenberg, from TORO accompanied me on this visit. Tomah is the place where most of TORO's turfgrass machines are assembled and get their distinctive paintwork applied. The image that I take away from these visits wasn't only one of machinery or a piece of equipment, but one of employee

loyalty, where everyone seemed proud to work for TORO.

I also really appreciated that the lads from Toro, together with Jase Birch, Mike and Dan (also from Toro), took time out to show a good night in Minneapolis and we enjoyed some excellent food and a beer or two! An all-important bonding session is what some might call it!

My next port of call was to Riverside, California and it was a relief to finally be in warmer climates. The average temperature in Minneapolis was -6 degrees and never before had I attempted to wear so many layers of clothing.

On arrival at Riverside, and after checking in at The Marriot Courtyard Hotel, I was contacted by Kenne James, from Toro, who had arranged for me to visit Oak Valley Golf Course (just outside Palm Springs) and to play the course, which was in excellent condition.

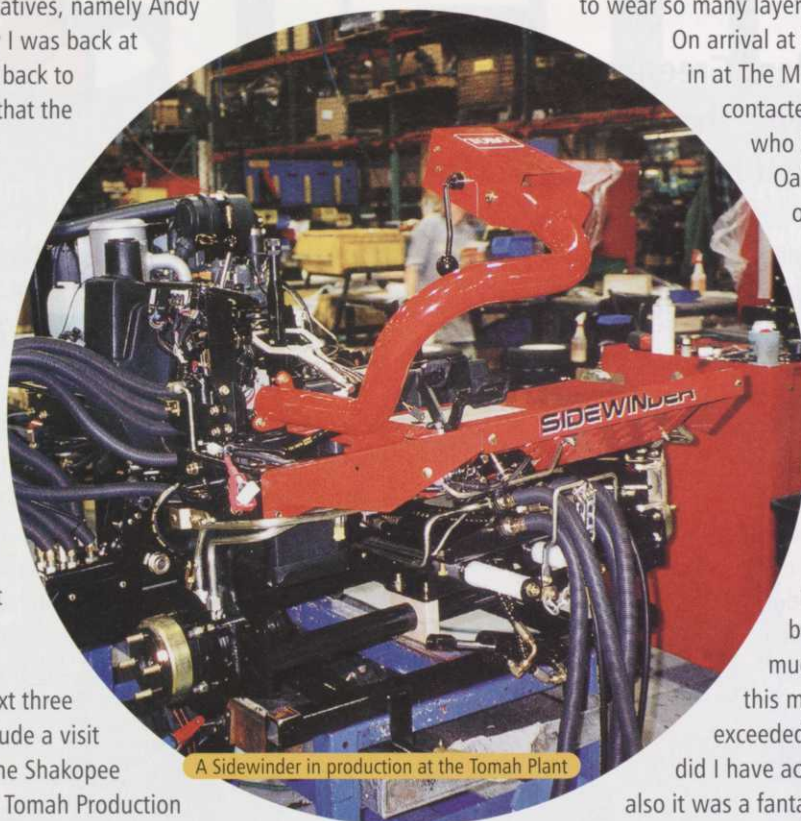
The main purpose of my visit to Riverside, however, was to visit the TORO Irrigation Plant. Here all the irrigation systems and sprinklers are designed, produced and tested.

Now that I've been back for a few months, I can look back and reflect on just how much I have gained from winning this much-desired award. The trip exceeded all my expectations. Not only did I have access to first class tutoring, but also it was a fantastic opportunity to establish an invaluable network of contacts and friends. My

confidence has increased and my profile raised, both of which I am sure will stand me in good stead for my future career progression.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ken Richardson, Education & Training Manager at BIGGA, and everyone else at BIGGA; TORO for their continuous sponsorship of the award and Lely UK, namely Pete Mansfield and Christine Wilson, Pete's assistant, who helped organise the whole trip.

In addition, I would like to thank Richard Sheppard and Laurence Pithe, from American Golf UK Ltd, for allowing me the time away from my work at The Hertfordshire Golf Club, and lastly my friends and family who have supported me and backed my decision to change careers from Retail Management to Turf Management.



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Irrigation

A new type of water source for Southport and Ainsdale

Can a water supply be obtained that is both cost effective and does not cause environmental harm? Consultants Rick Brassington and Martin Preene describe a new water source at Southport and Ainsdale that is designed to do just that.



Drainpipe shows the Terram fabric wrap that is held in place with nylon cord

The Environment Agency recently granted Southport & Ainsdale Golf Club an increase to their water abstraction licence and allowed them to construct a new water source. The improved water supply is part of an overall irrigation improvement scheme based on a computer-managed system that allows a carefully controlled application of water on each part of the course. As well as watering the tees and greens, the irrigation system has been extended over the fairways to encourage grass growth in areas of high wear. The Course Manager can now apply water when, where and in the quantities that are needed, minimizing both the use of water and pumping costs. Avoiding over-irrigation forms an important part of S&A's strategy to have the minimum impact on the dune environment and goes hand-in-hand with their careful selection of grass species appropriate to a dune habitat. S&A has a Countryside Stewardship agreement with DEFRA for the management of the dune heath habitat for a 10-year period that started in 1999.

The whole of the Sefton coastline from Formby Point to north of Southport, provides important habitats for plants, insects, migratory birds and animals whose conservation is important on both a national and European level. As a result, English Nature has given the area special status in terms of the EC Habitats Directive,

ensuring that the natural features have the highest possible level of protection.

The S&A course lies on part of the sand dune system within this Habitats Directive conservation area and also an area of dune heath that English Nature has recently designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Dune heath is now one of the rarest habitats in Europe with about a quarter of this habitat in the UK is found along the Sefton coast. It is important for a very distinct group of animals and plants including scarce plants such as Common Bird's-Foot and Grey Hair Grass, birds such as linnets and reptiles such as sand lizards. It also provides a suitable habitat for natterjack toads that breed in adjacent wetlands.

Some of the valleys between the dune ridges contain marshy areas and pools during most winters, which are called wet slacks and are formed when the water table in the sands rises above ground level. These wetlands provide suitable breeding conditions for the natterjack toad and the common newt and are also home to several rare plant species.

Although these wet slack areas lie on the western part of the dune system some distance away from the S&A course, the environmental regulators needed to be satisfied that the increased abstraction would not impact on these habitats.



The Mastenbroeck deep trenching machine begins the installation of the HWP to a depth of 6.5 metres



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Irrigation

S&A have taken a water supply from the dune sands aquifer (a water-bearing geological formation capable of yielding supplies to wells) that underlies the course for many years. The groundwater conditions in the aquifer around the golf course were investigated as part of S&A's application to increase their abstraction licence. A network of specially constructed shallow, small diameter tubes was used to monitor groundwater levels at the locations shown on the map. Several measurement tubes were also located in club members' gardens and one on the neighbouring Hillside course, to provide information over a greater area.

Groundwater in the dune sands is fed by rainfall percolating into the ground until it reaches the water table. The water level readings show that there is a low recharge mound running parallel to the coast about 1.5 km inland with a peak some 11.5 m above Ordnance Datum, or about 7 m above the average sea level. Measurements taken for more than a year show seasonal fluctuations of 50 – 75 cm with the water table mound remaining in much the same place. Groundwater flows through an aquifer in the direction of the slope on the water table. Consequently, in the western part of the aquifer groundwater flow is towards the sea with it seeping unseen through the beach sand. The eastern part of the aquifer including the S&A course drains to local streams on the east side of the sand deposit and as a result, the new abstraction poses little risk to the wet slacks that lie more than 500 m to the west.

S&A's existing lagoon was not capable of being pumped at the increased rate. It was decided to construct a new source located near the Greenkeepers' maintenance facility where the irrigation control system had been installed, with the advantage of being further away from the wet slacks. Nevertheless the Environment Agency still required a detailed investigation to show the potential impact of the increased abstraction. All the water level records were fed into a standard groundwater computer model which showed that even with three years without any recharge to the water table, the S&A abstraction would not reduce water levels in the wet slack areas.

Options for the new source were limited to a borehole or a well-point system. A deep borehole was ruled out because of the relatively shallow depth of the dune sands. A well-point system typically

consists of a large number of small diameter (50 mm) tubes sunk to a depth of 4 – 6 m and connected to a pump via a pipe laid on the ground surface. They are mainly used in construction to lower groundwater levels and sometimes as a water source in aquifers with shallow water tables.

The type of construction ultimately chosen was a horizontal well-point (HWP), a relatively little used variant on the well-point system with significant advantages over the conventional design in a well-sorted, fine-grained sand. HWPs consist of a horizontal filter pipe similar to those used in land drainage schemes, which is installed below the water table and connected to a suction pump at one end. The overall surface area in contact with the aquifer is much greater in a HWP compared to more conventional well-points and allows water to flow in easily with negligible lowering in water levels. Hence the environmental impact to groundwater dependent habitats is minimal. In addition, groundwater flow velocities are kept low thereby reducing silt build-up on the pipe surface and significantly extending its useful life, probably by several decades.

The HWP was made from 160 mm diameter, corrugated plastic land drainage pipe slotted with 2 mm perforations and wrapped in a geotextile fabric as seen in the photograph. It was installed using a specialized deep trenching machine normally used for land drainage works. First of all, a hole was dug to the water table at about two metres depth using a JCB-type excavator. The trenching machine boom was lowered into this hole and then cut down until the boom was vertical and the pipe set at 6.5 m depth.

The HWP pipe runs along the edge of the course from the Greenkeeper's shed for some 150 m to the southeast where it turns to the northeast for a further 130 m. The depth of burial gradually decreases and is about 4.5 m at the change point and 4 m at the furthest end. The location of the HWP is shown on the map.

The filter pipe was surrounded by a coarse silica sand with a grain-size selected to match the aquifer to prevent silt entering the pipe. The sand was fed into a hopper on top of the trenching machine's digging boom and fed directly onto the pipe. All the water pumped from the HWP has been sediment-free showing that this aspect of the construction has been successful.



The end of the drainpipe is protruding from the ground at the end of the spoil mound



A view along the HWP trace from the pumping end

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Irrigation

A pump chamber was made from a 2 m diameter concrete ring set above the western end of the HWP to hold the surface mounted electrical pump that delivers water into the nearby storage tank. The pump control panel and switches are housed in the nearby Greenkeeper's shed. During operation the pump is controlled by float-switches in the tank with a manual override option.

A pumping test was carried out over a 72-hour period and showed that the HWP will yield more than 1,100 m³/day, about 2.5 times the maximum irrigation need. During the pumping period and for three weeks after the test, water levels were measured in both specially constructed tubes close to the HWP and the network across the course. The extensive data set produced from these measurements was carefully analysed to predict the extent of the lowering of water levels showing that the drawdown in groundwater levels will be restricted to the southern part of the S&A course well away from the wetland habitats.

The S&A Course Manager now has sufficient water available at the push of a button to feed the computer-controlled irrigation system and keep the whole course in championship condition.

Rick Brassington is an independent consultant hydrogeologist and Martin Preene is an Associate with Arup Water and runs their groundwater team based in the Leeds office.



View along the HWP trace from the northern end

Rick Brassington Consultant Hydrogeologist,
12 Culcheth Hall Drive, Culcheth, Warrington, WA3 4PS
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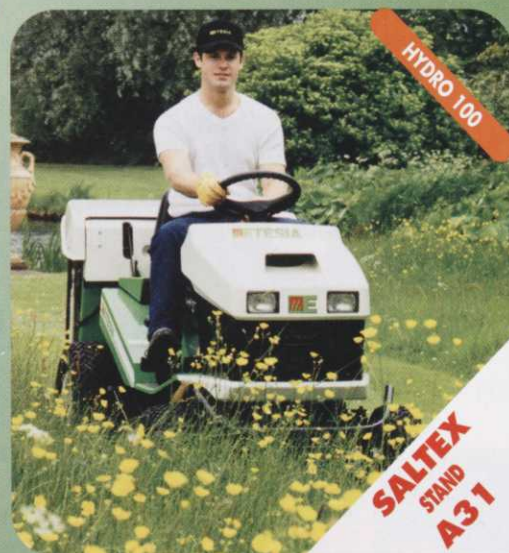


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Course Feature

TOUCHED BY A MASTER

Hawkstone Park is closely associated with an Open and Masters Champion, but as Scott MacCallum found out Sandy Lyle didn't just play over the golf course



On a clear day you can see 12 counties



Frank Tong and Mike Sheehan

Mention Hawkstone Park, in Shropshire, to any golfer with more than just the passing knowledge of the game and one name will immediately spring to mind.

When Sandy Lyle was at the top of his, and the world's game, winning the '85 Open at Royal St George's and the Masters two years later, he was attached to the club and the name Hawkstone Park was known the world over in association with the big Scotsman. Indeed more than that he was born and brought up at the pretty parkland club as his father and coach, Alex, was first pro-greenkeeper at Hawkstone and then owner, as part of a consortium.

Walk round the impressive and imposing clubhouse and you will see pictures of Sandy, at various ages, clutching trophies and posing with club officials.

But one fact I didn't know until Course Manager, Frank Tong, told me, when I visited just before this year's Open Championship, was that Sandy's first passport listed his occupation as "Greenkeeper".

And Frank should know as Sandy worked for him in the early 70s before his burgeoning golfing career took over.

"Sandy was officially on the greenkeeping staff and worked for me after leaving school. He was very good too," recalled Frank, whose career at Hawkstone has only been interrupted by National Service and a short spell as Head Greenkeeper at Leamington Spa GC.

"His father thought greenkeeping was a good way for him to improve his fitness levels and he trained him well in all the greenkeeping skills. He worked here for several years," said Frank, who has a host of stories about the amazing golfing feats Sandy

performed almost on a routine basis. It is not widely known that Seve Ballesteros regards Sandy as the most naturally talented golfer he has ever seen.

Frank also recalled his time working with Alex Lyle, with whom he co-designed Hawkstone's Weston Course.

"It was very satisfying to see the course develop and people grew to love it. Originally it was built to relieve the pressures on the original course but by the end as many people were playing it as the Hawkstone."

Alex and Frank managed the course with the help of one other who used to rake bunkers but despite the lack of staff, by modern standards, they didn't compromise on the condition of the course.

"Alex Lyle liked fast greens and he used to mow all 18 greens, initially with an Overgreen, double mowing if necessary, before he took on his golf lessons. Then he'd often play a round of golf in the evening. He was a great guy but I don't think people could work like that nowadays."

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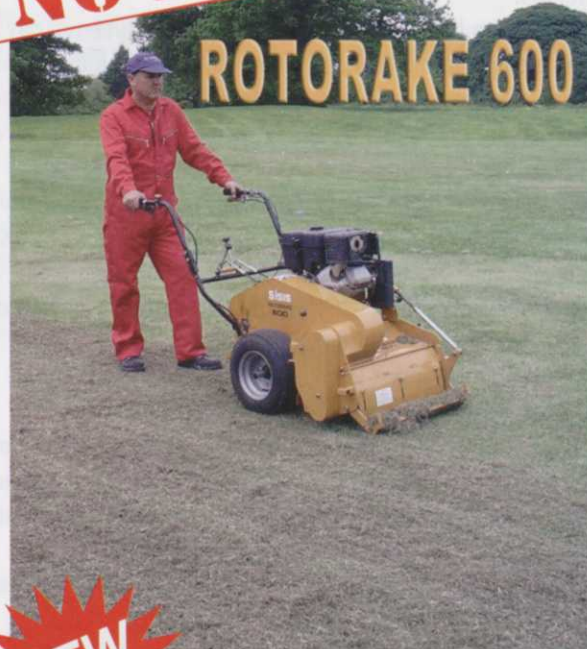
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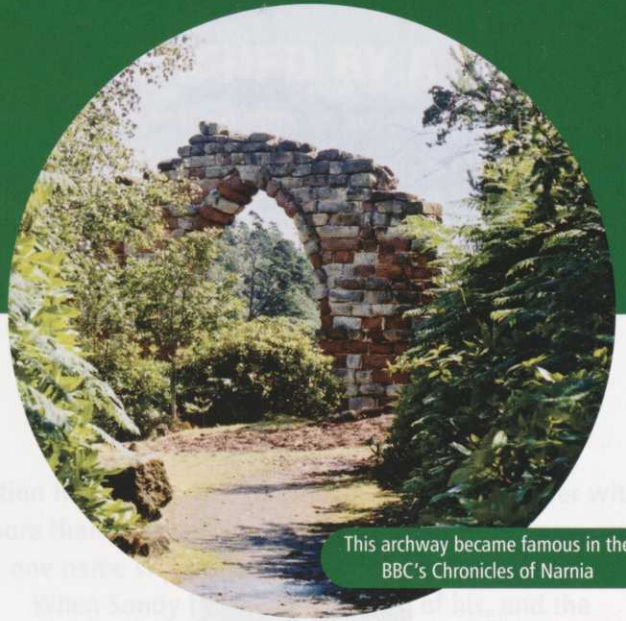
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Hawkstone boasts some wonderful holes and some fabulous trees



This archway became famous in the BBC's Chronicles of Narnia

Hawkstone now boasts a fine 65 room hotel and a purpose built golf centre and Alex and Frank's the Weston course has been incorporated into The Windmill Course, designed by Brian Huggett and opened in 1995, while there is now a six hole academy course for beginners or those wishing to hone their short games. It brings the total number of holes, plus an excellent practice range, to 42 for Frank and his team of 13, including two gardeners, to maintain.

Having progressed from those days to embrace the modern day course management regimes Frank is well placed to appreciate the differences.

"You used to be happy to go out and mow six greens a day and hollow tine by hand. You prided yourself in that but it is like chalk and cheese to today. The biggest differences I've seen are in the paperwork and the standards that we are trying to achieve on a day-to-day basis. Fortunately the change has been a gradual process as I don't think I would have been able to cope otherwise but I think I've been able to adapt to the modern day pressures."

In recent times Frank has been able to turn to an old friend, and well known face in the industry, whose job has taken him out of the Maintenance Facility and into the Board Room.

Mike Sheehan first met Frank when he took over as Course Supervisor at Mere Golf and Country Club in 1983.

"The syndicate - including Alex Lyle - which owned Hawkstone Park at the time also owned Mere and Frank had been combining his work at Hawkstone with managing Mere as well," explained Mike.

"When I started he gave me a two week overlap during which time he gave me the run down on the golf course, irrigation, drainage etc."

At the end of '83 Hawkstone sold Mere to Stephen Boler, a Manchester businessman and very keen golfer. Some years after that Mere was purchased by Stephen Boler son, Mark, who then, in August 2000, purchased Hawkstone Park, thus squaring a very neat circle and bringing Frank and Mike together again.

This time it is under different circumstances as Mike's career has blossomed and taken him off the golf course on a daily basis.

He started at Mere as Golf Course Supervisor and was promoted to Golf Course Manager. Next he became Operations Manager and

as a result more involved in the running of the business. Next stop on the career ladder, was Operations Director then, when the company purchased Hawkstone Park, he was appointed Group Estates Director working between Mere and Hawkstone.

"My job basically involves the running of every aspect of the group outside of catering, banqueting and conferences. One of my main roles is overseeing the development of the golf courses - reaching, then retaining Championship standard for as long in the year as we actually can," explained Mike, who had previously been Head Greenkeeper at West Derby, having started his career under Edwin Walsh at Childwall.

"Frank and Paul Hyde, Mere Course Manager, are our men on the ground while I work with the Chairman, who is a 2 handicap golfer, on what our future policy should be," he explained.

Although the two clubs work independent of each other they do share a mechanic and Mike does use the buying power of two clubs to ensure the best possible deals.

Having Mike, and a golfing man like Mark Boler, in charge has given Frank and his team a real boost.

"We get more input on greenkeeping matters from Mike and Mr Boler, who are both very knowledgeable about golf, whereas our previous owners (newspaper-owning entrepreneurs, the Barclay Brothers) were hoteliers first and golf course owners second."

One of the elements which has really been improved is course presentation.

"We have progressed under Mike's guidance on this and it is now done on a far more regular basis than it was before. All the intensive mowing was a little bit strange to begin with, but everyone can now see the rewards from it," said Frank.

Mike looks for an equal standard over both clubs with diamond cutting of the fairways and graded rough. Although with one course on a rock based site, another on a clay and with Mere Golf & Country Club 70% sand based and 30% clay, they are three very different courses so the team has to adopt different management techniques for each.

Mike, who has swapped his traditional outdoor clothes for a smart suit ("Let's not go into the suit"), has adapted well to the demands of his new role.

Course Feature

"I've done it by putting a hell of a lot more effort in," he said candidly.

"That's not to say I didn't feel that I was not putting in a lot of effort in the past but it is demands on time. I spend much more time in the evenings in meetings or meeting and greeting customers."

Watching him as we made our way around the golf courses, jumping in and out of the 4x4 to avoid the showers, you could still see the innate greenkeeper's attention to detail as he picked up the odd piece of litter and chatted to Frank about the nuances of the course.

"The training I received as a Course Manager has been extremely useful in the areas in which I now work. I attended the four week long Management Training Courses at Aldwark Manor and a lot of people have gone on to be extremely successful having attended these. I found them very beneficial while I've also tried to read up a lot and train myself. I speak to people in the industry and have been fortunate enough to go over to the GCSAA Show and talk to guys abroad.

"Just by talking with them tells you just how many years we are behind in certain aspects... although we are ahead in others."

Mike pinpoints customer demand as being the one thing which has really come to the fore in recent times.

"This is far higher now than it was ten, even five years ago," he said, as already highlighted by the much higher tariff now placed on course presentation.

Anyone not acquainted with the area surrounding Hawkstone Park should make a point of visiting - it is truly unique.

The cliffs which border the club and give it much of its character are full of tunnels and grottos - legend has it that it is the final resting place of King Arthur, while the area was used as a location for the BBC's Chronicles of Narnia. It is also a wonderful location for Santa's Grotto every December. The guided walks provide those with the stamina to make the climbs with views of a dozen counties when the weather is obliging.

It all adds to the feel good atmosphere inherent in a golf club Mike regards as a sleeping giant.

"Hawkstone Park has a worldwide reputation and the Chairman and I felt it was a project which we could develop."

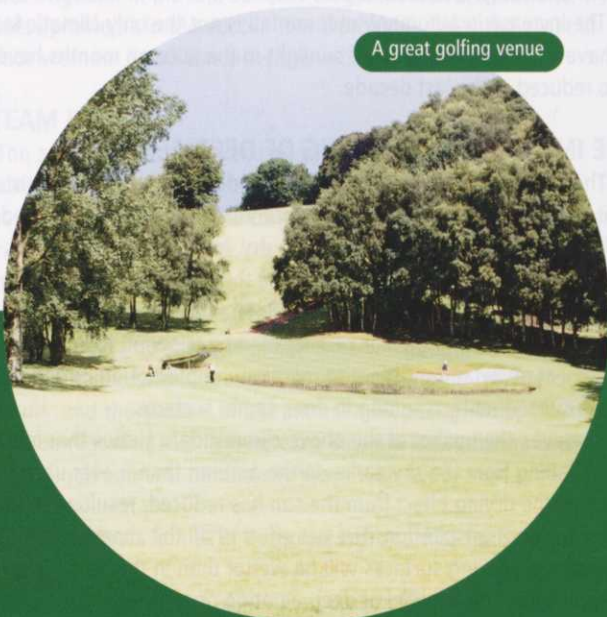
That development has included on-course improvements including the stripping away of the turf on the 6th fairway of The Windmill course, removing all the clay, installing a draining system and returfing the 16th green on the Hawkstone course which was on the old style clay based basin type.

"We agreed something needed to be done so we removed the top fourteen inches and installed a herring bone drainage system and a new root zone and returfed. The result has been very worthwhile," said Frank modestly.

It is another step towards achieving the aim of Championship standards that Mike is looking for.

"We have done it at Mere over the last 17 years and hopefully in two to three years we will achieve that standard here, then we have to maintain it at that. That's where the real fun starts!" said Mike.

With a history that includes an Open and Masters Champion on their Green Staff you can be sure that achieving the standards desired will not be a problem.



A great golfing venue



The King Arthur exhibit in one of the cliff caves above Hawkstone

TIMING is of the essence!

Richard Windows looks at how the climate has changed and how this should affect the timing of some regular agronomic practices



In order to achieve the best results from deep aeration the underlying soil must be relatively dry, particularly on heavy soils. Historically, the conventional time for deep aeration has been during the autumnal months, ie September to November. However, some recent data from the Climatic Research Unit, University of East Anglia, has shown that in the past ten years, our weather, particularly during the autumn/winter months, has become increasingly wet.

Consequently, the soils on many of our turf areas have become wet, often saturated, earlier in the autumn than previously, meaning deep aeration cannot be achieved or, if it is, with much less success. If sportsmen and women require better winter playing surfaces they must not restrict the aeration programme from adapting to this climate change, by allowing earlier aeration operations to be accomplished when the soil is guaranteed to be drier and therefore more receptive.

ANALYSIS OF THE RECENT CLIMATIC DATA

The latest data from the Climatic Research Unit and the Hadley Centre has unequivocally shown that the climate has changed (probably due to the effects of global warming). The trends in the data show that the total amount of annual rainfall has increased but, more importantly, the amount of precipitation during the winter months has increased hugely (see Figure 1 opposite). In contrast, the total rainfall during the summer months has decreased slightly in the past ten years - there must surely have been a mistake!

Further analysis of the climatic data shows autumn rainfall has increased hugely in the past ten years. During the period 1961-1991, the percentage difference in September and October rainfall compared to August rainfall was 2% and 12% respectively. In the past ten years the difference has increased to a staggering 23% and 28% respectively (see Figure 2 opposite), essentially meaning our autumns are much wetter than they ever used to be.

The increase in autumn/winter rainfall is not the only climatic factor to have changed. The hours of sunlight in the autumn months have also reduced in the last decade.

THE IMPACT ON THE TIMING OF DEEP AERATION

The success of deep aeration is largely determined by the moisture content of the underlying soil. For 'optimum' results to be achieved the soil must be moist; not too wet or too dry. In 'optimum' conditions the heave action imparted on the tines from the deep aeration unit causes fissuring/cracking of the underlying soil. The effect of this is to increase the air space, deep in the soil profile, thereby allowing freer water movement away at depth (not to mention the promotion of deeper roots), subsequently resulting in drier, firmer surfaces.

However, the upshot of the above climatic data shows that more rain is falling from the sky earlier in the autumn than it ever used to and also the drying effect from the sun has reduced, resulting in lower rates of evapotranspiration. The net effect of all this means the soils beneath our playing surfaces will be wetter than in the past, therefore compromising the benefits of deep aeration operations.

THE SOLUTION?

Simple, bring forward deep aeration to a time when the soil is likely to be drier and therefore more receptive to the operation. This change of timing will be related to conditions such as soil type, drainage capability, etc. Regional climatic differences will also play a role in optimum timing.

THE RESULT?

In essence, there will of course be a small amount of inevitable disruption to the playing surfaces but course managers and head greenkeepers who achieve late summer aeration operations all seem to do so with astounding success. The minimal disruption to the surface (if done properly) is short lived as temperatures are higher and sunlight is more intense and frequent in late summer (August), compared to early-mid autumn (September-October). This means the growth rates and recovery of the grass plant are greater, as photosynthesis remains active. Another benefit is the fact that the grass plant can invest the assimilated photosynthate into the production of new roots down the cracks/fissures created by the deep aeration operation. This would not be achieved to the same extent if the operation were left to later in the year, as the rate of sugar production by photosynthesis would be reduced. The overall result of the earlier aeration operation essentially promotes better quality, freer draining, late season surfaces that can withstand the stresses of our increasingly wet winters. More importantly, it also ensures the grass plant will be stronger and quicker to respond to ongoing maintenance practices.

IT'S JUST NOT WORKING!

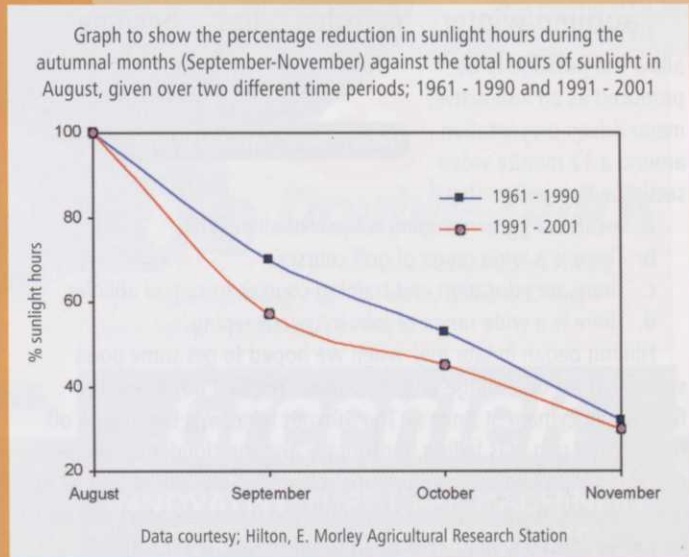
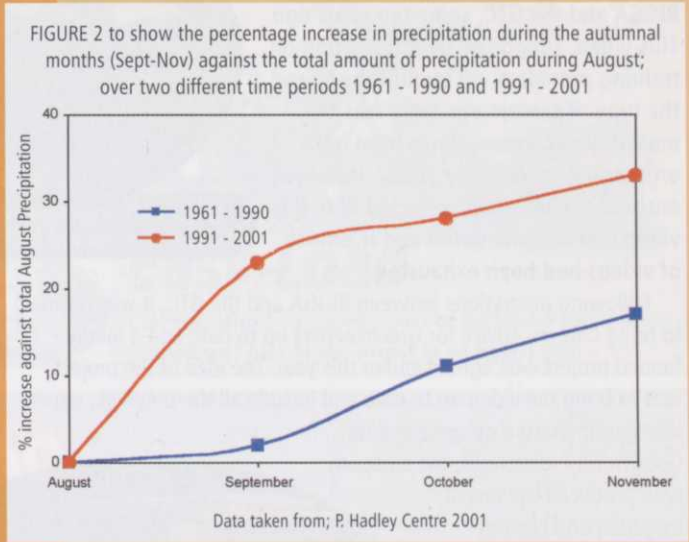
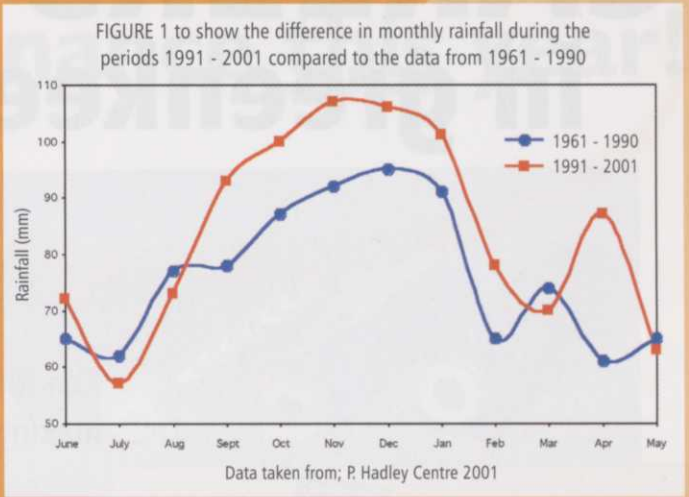
It is fair to say that on some golf courses the response from an earlier deep aeration operation is just not adequate enough to improve the winter playability of the putting surfaces. If this is the case, the only viable method remaining to improve the year round playability of the greens, in the increasingly wet climate, is to reconstruct them to modern, high performance USGA guidelines. Such a construction is designed to be free draining, ensuring that water will rapidly move through the soil profile and out through the pipe drains beneath the rootzone.

This may be an opportune time to also mention that it is wise to reduce irrigation in the late summer on greens that are prone to wetness problems in the winter (it will probably delay the onset of surface wetness if you can enter the winter firm and dry).

A TEAM EFFORT!

The achievement of earlier, late summer, deep aeration operations, to adapt to the increasingly wet autumns, is largely dependent upon the will and commitment of the particular turf manager involved. However, responsibility must also lie with committee members and players alike who should allow and ensure the operations are achieved with regularity. Sometimes this simply cannot be done due to the commitment to an important fixture or event. Hopefully, however, such engagements would be regarded as 'one-offs' and the 'fixture' of late summer deep aeration operations should be regarded as a firm date on, say, the future fixture cards of all inland golf courses, particularly those with heavy soils.

Richard Windows is a STRI Regional Agronomist for Scotland



CAREERS in greenkeeping



Cameraman, Stuart Dunbar, arranges a shot at Royal Lytham

Ken Richardson describes the work that has gone into making BIGGA's latest production - a Careers CD Rom

Many readers may remember the greenkeeping career video called 'Keeper of the Green' that was produced, jointly, by BIGGA and the GTC, some ten years ago. This video, supported by information on training providers, on qualifications and the type of careers available was the mainstay of careers advice from both organisations for many years. However, much of the information included in the video had become dated and the stock of videos had been exhausted.

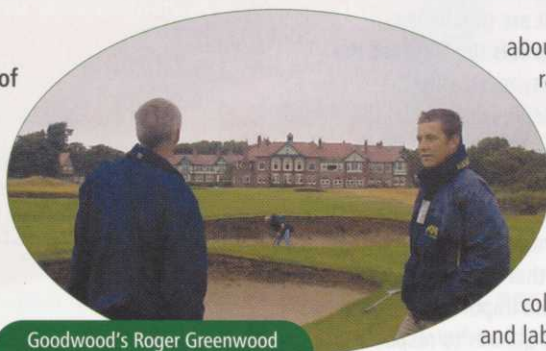
Following discussions between BIGGA and the GTC, it was decided to bring Careers Advice for Greenkeepers up to date and a jointly funded project was agreed earlier this year. The idea of the project was to bring the video up to date and include all the previous, paper based, information on one medium.

Goodwood Productions, the company who produced the recent Irrigation and Ecology videos, was chosen to produce the package, which will be available on DVD and on CD.

DVD and/or CD will allow the package to be produced as an interactive, menu driven presentation around a 12 minute video section which shows that:

- A career in greenkeeping is open to all abilities.
- There is a wide range of golf courses.
- There are education and training courses to suit all abilities.
- There is a wide range of jobs in greenkeeping.

Filming began in late July, when we hoped to get some good summer shots on a range of golf courses. The first day started at 6.30am, at Lytham St Anne's. The 30 knot wind was blowing in off the sea, the rain was falling horizontally and the cloud was on the ground. We arrived at Royal Lytham St Anne's Golf Club to be met by greenkeepers in cold weather clothing, who were preparing the course for ladies day. Paul Smith, the Head Greenkeeper, told us that greenkeepers got used to changes in the weather but we were unsure



Goodwood's Roger Greenwood discusses next shot with Paul Smith

about filming in such conditions. Luckily, the rain stopped and we managed to film various activities around this, lovely, links golf course before loading up the camera and sound equipment and heading off to Myerscough College.

The weather was slightly better and we proceeded to film scenes outside on the college golf course and inside in classrooms and laboratories, before filming a range of interviews.

A night at Guy's Lodgings set us up for our trip to Liverpool and filming at Croxeth Hall before we made the short journey to Bowring Municipal Golf Club in Knowsley. We spent the afternoon filming the course and several of the greenkeepers, before loading up again and heading for Carden Park.

The weather was kinder when we reached Cheshire and we were out early in the morning to film switching of greens, hand mowing of greens and cutting of fairways. We also filmed on the job training and conducted interviews with a range of people including two Master Greenkeepers, College Lecturers Students and greenkeeping staff.

At the end of three days, we almost had three hours of film recorded and we returned to Yorkshire.

The next stage is to edit the film, include shots of golf being played and try to produce the 12 minute programme. Once we agree on the content, the Programme is turned over to Peter Alliss to add the voice over, the graphical and text content is added and the DVD/CD is produced.

We anticipate that the package, which will be available in late October, will be sent to Careers Offices, schools and colleges and, on request, to golf clubs and greenkeepers.

BIGGA would like to thank contributors to their Education and Development Fund and the GTC who made it possible to produce this careers package.



'Action' shot at Myerscough College



Training session at Carden Park

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**INNOVATIVE TURF CARE MACHINERY
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The Cutting Crew

Roland Taylor looks at the myriad of non-grass cutting machinery which is on the market at the moment and gives some useful advice on what to look for before buying.

Keeping a course looking immaculate at the turn of the century (not the last one!) must have been a greenkeepers nightmare. There would have been very little mechanisation in the machinery sheds to make life easier. As most of the work was done by hand it required a great deal of skill to achieve the results members in those days expected. Labour was relatively cheap, but one suspects, that most clubs kept their grounds maintenance staff to a minimum and on a tight budget. Thank goodness for man's inventiveness in coming up with mechanised solutions.

A walk round BTME or SALTEX reveals that for virtually every task there is now a powered unit available to carry it out. This is great, but as often happens, companies see an opportunity and suddenly the choice becomes overwhelming. It then becomes a question of sorting out the wheat from the chaff and to do this you are in a better position, if you are aware of exactly what goes on under those bright shining covers. Hopefully, by the end of this feature, you will have some ideas regarding hand-held power equipment now on offer.

TRIMMERS/BRUSHCUTTERS AND CLEARING SAWS

These are not the same machines although some models will take different cutting heads.

TRIMMERS

George Ballas was bored, he had nothing to do and there was no sport on the telly, so, he went into his garage in Houston, Texas, and cobbled together an electric lawn edger, a popcorn tin and some fishing line. "What's that for?" cried his neighbours. "Cutting grass", he replied. They fell about laughing, but not for long. The trimmer had arrived. George called his invention a Weed Eater and went on to sell millions throughout the world.

This type of machine is designed, mainly for cutting grass, although they will deal with light vegetative growth as well. Trimmers are generally, electrically powered and sold mainly to domestic customers. Some companies offer petrol engine units, but like their electric counterparts, they are mainly bought by the man in the street.

BRUSHCUTTERS/CLEARING SAWS

The brushcutter and its larger cousin, the clearing saw, evolved from the chainsaw and were first used for forestry work. As their name implies the brushcutter was developed for clearing undergrowth and tall vegetation. The clearing saws harvested saplings and small trees. Interchangeable cutting heads were introduced at a later stage to provide more versatility.

ENGINES

In the past, the two-stroke engine has proved the best. This is about to change in the next few years, because of regulations regarding exhaust emission. The engine as we now know it, will no longer be available. Its replacement is likely to be a mini four-stroke power unit. However, man's ingenuity is coming to the fore and some variations on this principle are beginning to surface (more information on the latest developments will be covered over the next few months).

Any system that relies on a constant speed, to achieve satisfactory results, requires the availability of extra power when it is needed, so engine output is critical. Certainly, you have got to be looking at least a 25cc rating for a professional application, higher if possible. Below this level the machine will be under powered, especially in long, wet grass or thick stemmed undergrowth. This situation is dangerous and can seriously damage the brushcutter.

CLUTCHES

On some cheaper models the drive is direct from the engine to shaft. If this type of unit is used in heavy conditions then either the drive shaft or engine is likely to be damaged.

Virtually, all brushcutters have some form of clutch that is there to act as a safety feature. It ensures that when an engine is ticking over and not under throttle, the drive shaft is disengaged. This reduces the possibility of an operator coming into contact with a moving cutterhead and also means the engine does not have to be switched off when walking between sites.





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The Cutting Crew

A throttle can come 'off adjustment' so the engine does not slow down sufficiently to stop the blade assembly spinning. From a Health and Safety point of view, if this happens the machine needs to be correctly adjusted, as soon as possible.

SHAFTS

Apart from engine sizes and cutting heads, one of the most important components of a trimmer, brushcutter or clearing saw, is hidden from sight, this is the flexible drive shaft.

These can be made from flexible steel and consist of either a soft steel rod or a wire core encased in a coiled wire sheath. This type of drive is okay for light work, but it can unwind, or in some cases break, if placed under a heavy load.

For heavy-duty work the answer is a solid straight shaft made from high carbon steel. These will absorb the twisting forces that are created, in certain conditions and because there are no joints where stress levels can build-up the chance of a breakage occurring are less likely. The shaft is supported at intervals throughout its length by rubber mounted, brass bushes, which also help to absorb vibration. Another advantage is this type of shaft is that they are longer, so produce a wider cutting area.



VIBRATION

A brushcutter is often used for fairly long periods.

Excessive vibration will cause damage to the operators hands and arms, Health & Safety issue guide lines on this subject. With a larger brushcutter there is an increased possibility of twist and kick from high impact loads. This will also become very evident if the blade becomes blunt. Quality machines have built-in shock absorbers to minimise this problem. As these are likely to vary between models, it is a feature that requires particular attention when buying a unit. Another thing to be on the look out for, is how the fuel tank is mounted. If it is screwed directly on to the engine block, due to vibration, the bolts can damage a plastic tank. The best method is where the tank is situated underneath the engine away from the exhaust and held in place by anti vibration, elastic straps.

CARBURETTORS

Whatever the salesman says, a diaphragm carburettor, with a sliding throttle valve, is the best, for working at virtually any angle. These produce a constant power output over the whole rpm range, especially at the lower end where fuel/air mixture can sometimes be effected.

HANDLES

When it comes to a choice of handles it has to be the dual type with foam grips. The blade head is travelling at over 8000 rpm, if it comes into contact with something solid the machine is going to take some holding. In addition, they give the operator more stability on rough ground and an easier swinging action when cutting.

CUTTING HEADS

A brushcutter usually comes fitted with a nylon line unit. This will have a built in carrier, which has either manual line feed, or a semi-automatic system that is activated by tapping the head on the ground.

The correct diameter and weight of line should always be used, if it is too heavy, then overloading will occur. This drastically reduces the speed of the head and the line can then become entangled in vegetation and the chance of the clutch shoes burning out is greatly increased. The quality of cut will also be appalling.

When buying nylon line always go for quality, rather than price, it will give longer service.

In a new brushcutter's pack there are, generally, some metal blades. These can be used for other applications than grass cutting. A blade with eight cutters is ideal for taking down dead, dried weeds and rushes, whilst a shredder/brush type is for working on areas of tangled grass and undergrowth. The circulars saws are best suited were bushes, saplings and trees are predominant.



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BACKPACKS

Brushcutters are usually handheld units, but some manufacturers also offer backpack models. These are designed for working on steep slopes, ditches and embankments. The engine is carried on the back, like a rucksack and there is a flexible drive between the power unit and shaft. They are said to reduce operator fatigue and make it easier when working over difficult terrain.

EDGING MACHINES

You often see the visual effect of a finely cut expanse of turf, marred by uncut edges not usually on golf courses, I hasten to add. Edging has traditionally been done with shears, but this method is a very time consuming operation. Using a machine is a far quicker and more cost effective, there are a number of these now available. They are basically a rotary blade, mounted vertically rather than horizontally. There is some form of guide, with a depth control, that runs along the edge and they are mostly pushed units on either wheels or rollers. An edger will trim bunker's surrounds and the sides of paths in a matter of minutes. On some models the angle of the blade can be altered to deal with any feathers of grass against walls and other obstacles. A few companies are now offer an edging attachment to fit on some of their specially designed trimmers and brushcutters.



ROTARY BROOMS

These come as complete units or an attachment, as part of a system. They look like a brushcutter with a horizontal drum, that incorporates flexible fins, that are designed to work on turf, without causing surface damage. On golf courses they can be used for keeping tees, fairways and greens clear of debris. Raking and grading the sand, or simply brushing it back into bunkers, are other tasks they will perform. In addition, these power brooms or sweepers are used for removing aeration cores, sweeping up leaves and cleaning paths and car parks. In the winter they are ideal for clearing snow and mud of hard surfaces.

POLE PRUNERS

When it comes to chainsaws unless you have a qualified operator on the staff, any work involving these is best left to a tree surgeon or arboriculturist.

However, over recent years pole pruners have been introduced. These consisting of a small chainsaw attached to a telescopic shaft, and depending on the make, will deal with branches as high as 5 metres from the ground. A major benefit of these, is the operator does not have to climb ladders, so it can be a one-man job. They are particular useful for dealing with storm damaged or dead branches that may be a hazard, especially, over walkway and paths. Some companies also offer a long-reach hedge cutting attachment for their pole pruners, these are the answer when it comes to shaping and trimming large bushes and ornamental shrubs.

WHAT TO WEAR

Like all other machinery, in the interests of safety, there are set rules that apply then using any handheld units. The operators kit should include; safety helmet, the correct footwear, ear protectors, gloves and a full-face mask rather than goggles. If a chainsaw is being used then the Health & Safety Executives Protective Clothing Recommendations should be worn. At all times it is necessary to follow the guidelines on safe use of the equipment. This is usually found in the manuals or paperwork supplied with the machine.

WHAT TO BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR WHEN BUYING

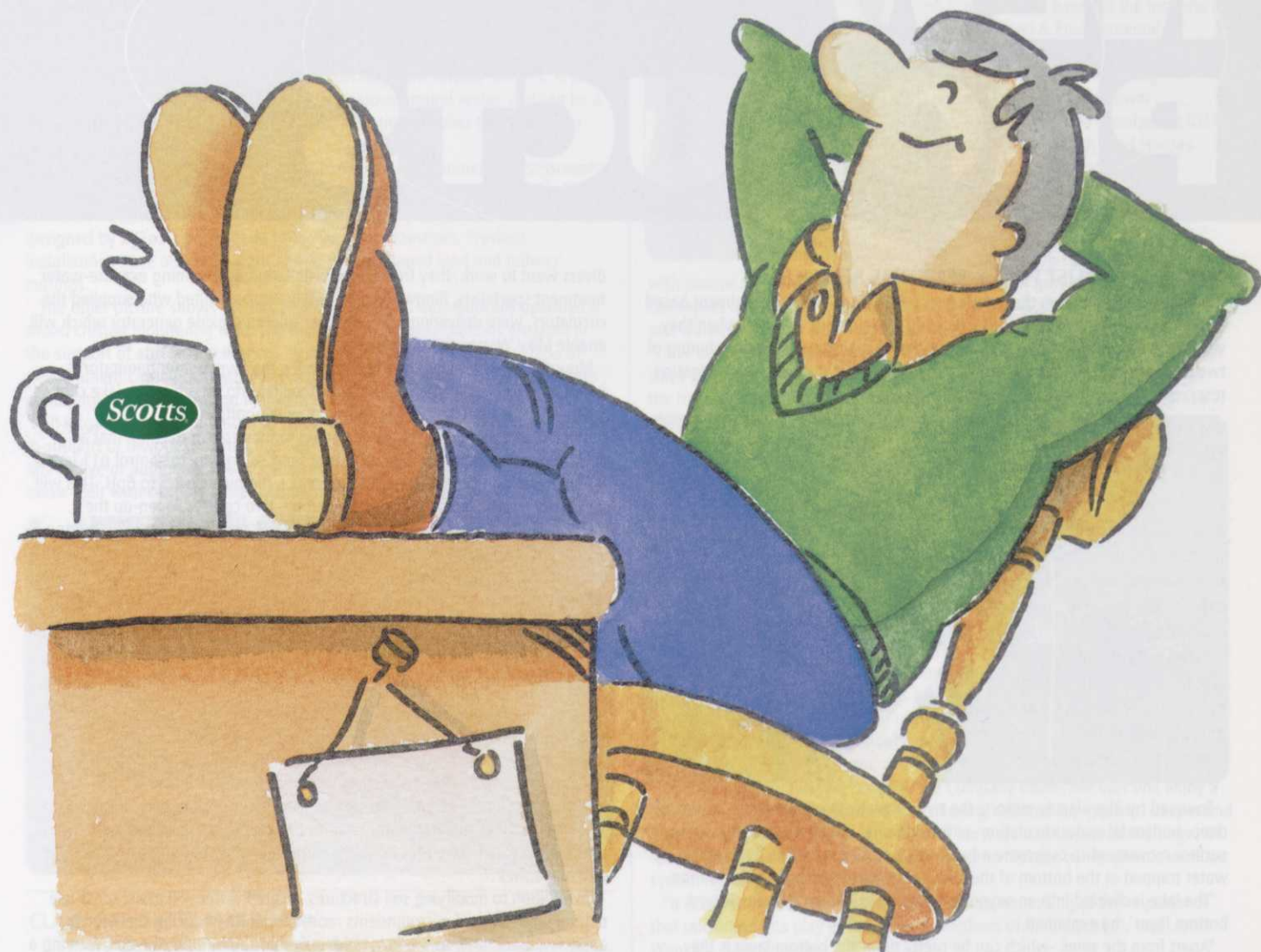
Power-to-weight ratios are an important feature bearing in mind how long a unit is likely to be used. The figures in the literature are fine, but are only a guide. The best way to find out if a unit is not going to cause fatigue problems, is to test it, for at least an hour, in the conditions it will normally be encountering. If, after this period you are not flat on your back or aching from every joint, it could be the model for you. This type of trial will also throw up other things, like how hot the engine gets and the effects on its performance. One suggestion of a good way to carry out this evaluation is the actually hire a particular machine before buying.

There are literally hundreds of models to choose from, so look at specifications carefully, checkout price comparisons, warranty periods and the reputation of both the manufacturer and the company who will be supplying the machine. After sales service and availability of replacement parts are two other important areas to take into consideration.

With so many different models available its advisable to follow the above suggestions to ensure you are buy the right one that meets your specific needs and will give you long reliable service.



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NEW PRODUCTS

ARMY'S SPECIALIST PORT & MARITIME REGIMENT

Five divers, drawn from the Army's specialist Port & Maritime Regiment based at Marchwood, near Southampton, recently created quite a splash when they visited the East Sussex National GC, to assist with positioning and anchoring of two bottom circulator units in one of the club's four lakes used as an irrigation reservoir.



Powered by 3hp electric motors, the two circulators were installed to provide deep, horizontal water circulation -with additional 'up-flow', creating bottom to surface movement-to overcome a build-up of problems caused by anerobic water trapped at the bottom of the lake, said Course Manager, Mike Watton.

'The lake is divided into an oxygen rich top layer and an oxygen starved bottom layer', he explained.

'Apart from the smell -which can be pretty grim- the bottom layer is the source of troublesome algae growth both in the water and in turf under irrigation. The circulators will help cure this by inducing oxygen deep down into the depths.'

But the circulators are only part of a long-term strategy designed to improve the quality of water held in all four of the club's lakes. As the Army

divers went to work -they treated the installation as a training exercise-water treatment specialists, Ringwood based Hydroscape Limited who supplied the circulators, were delivering a Sweetwater sulphur dioxide generator which will enable Mike Watton to adjust pH levels.

Mounted on a specially built flatbed trailer, the Sweetwater generator is being used to treat water in three lakes feeding into the irrigation lake cum reservoir, prior to watering selected parts of the golf course.

'We looked at various options -including fountains- but decided that a sulphur dioxide generator was the better (and safer) way to control pH levels in the water. Ideally, we are aiming to reduce the present 8.5 to 6pH. This will ultimately flockulate soil particles around the two courses, open-up the sub-surface, improving moisture absorption and drainage, said Mike Watton.

'Yes, it will take time-probably 12 months- before we see real benefits both in water quality and improved (turf) growth. For me, it is an interesting and exciting prospect. Side benefits? According to my calculations, treated water will reduce run times -and equally important, consumption- by some thirty percent. This in turn, will enable me to save an estimated 40% on electricity used to power the irrigation system. These are impressive figures'.

Adding his own thoughts on the subject, Hydroscape managing director, Peter Roberts, said that the introduction of the Sweetwater sulphur dioxide generator will, when the unit's potential is more widely recognised by green-keepers and groundsman, revolutionise fine turf irrigation techniques.

'Designed as an add-on to existing (irrigation) systems linked to water abstraction sources like boreholes, ponds and lakes or plumbed-in to reservoirs and storage tanks, the generator enables turf managers to modify and control pH levels in water stored for irrigation purposes, and subsequently absorbed into root zones'.

'In addition to modifying soil structures, treated water will assist grass use natural nutrients and micronutrients more efficiently -reducing the need to apply fertilisers- and, as a bonus, adds solvable sulphur into the soil, forming a fourth major nutrient'.

'The sulphur dioxide generator not only reduces the growth of surf-ace algae, it prevents expensive irrigation pumps, valves and sprinklers becoming clogged by water borne fungus'.

For further information tel: 01425 476 261

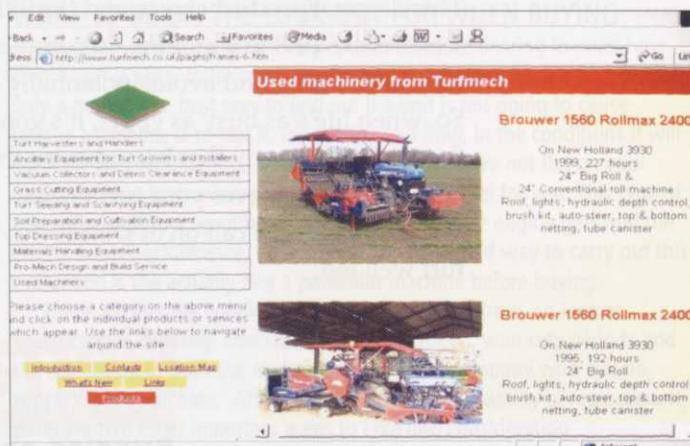
QUALITY USED MACHINERY AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

An impressive line-up of quality pre-owned equipment for use by turf growers, groundsmen, contractors and greenkeepers can be viewed in confidence and at leisure by logging-on to the website of Staffordshire-based manufacturer and supplier, Turfmech Machinery.

Located within the Products and Services section of the Turfmech website at www.turfmech.co.uk, the used machinery page can be accessed also via the following direct link: www.turfmech.co.uk/pages/used-equipment/used-machinery.htm

Updated whenever a machine is bought in or sold, the used machinery section of the Turfmech website includes both ex-demonstration equipment and items bought by Turfmech in part-exchange against the supply of a new piece of machinery. From time to time, the used machinery section will also have details of a machine which Turf mech is offering for sale on behalf of a customer.

All of the equipment shown on the website is accompanied by a brief description and the majority will also feature a photograph showing the actual item "in the flesh". Customers have the choice of buying a selected machine "as seen" or with the benefit of a factory-backed warranty, following a thorough inspection, service or overhaul by skilled Turfmech engineers. Price of a specific used machine is available from Turfmech on request, depending on the purchase option selected.



2iC – INTERNATIONAL IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS REDUCE WATER COSTS WITH WINTER WATER

Irrigation efficiency is normally measured in terms of the amount of water used by an irrigation system compared with the amount of water benefiting the turf. But this does not relate to cost.

In order for financial efficiency to be demonstrated it is necessary to reduce the unit cost of water. Irrigating with mains potable water is obviously the most expensive method of irrigating, but how many irrigators know that the unit cost of water abstracted in the summer is exactly ten times that of water abstracted in the winter? Winter water, especially from surface streams, is also often of a better quality than high pH, calcareous ground water, and can be a much more reliable prospect for long term irrigation supplies than any other water supply.

Designing flow monitoring systems, carrying out environmental assessments and applying for abstraction licences are in-house specialities of 2iC. Spalding Golf Club had a winter storage reservoir built during August 2002. This was designed by 2iC as a tailor-made fit for the site parameters. Previous installations have also been designed to fit odd shaped land and railway cuttings.

The other picture shows 2iC has also designed and automatically operated a broad crested monitoring weir. The flow data from these stations are used in the support of abstraction licences by 2iC. Having each progressive stage of development carried out by the same team of irrigation professionals, ensures continuity, reduces costs and maintains quality.

All irrigators should monitor the efficiency of their irrigation systems, not least in support of their next abstraction application, but by also considering alternative or additional sources of abstraction, they can help the environment, make their water supply more secure and they can save money.



CLAYMORE GRASS MACHINERY

Claymore Grass Machinery continue to build their range of Yanmar products with the introduction of the Ge22 and Ge28 out front rotary four wheel drive mowers.

These tough, reliable machines have been designed for the professional user where reliability is the key word and ease of maintenance essential.

The Ge22 is powered by a 3TNE74 Yanmar 22hp 1006cc engine with a 28 litre fuel tank.

Hydrostatic drive and rear wheel steering means maximum manoeuvrability and a forward speeds of up to 14km/h are achievable.

Cutting width is 1220mm (48in) from a side-ejection three blade deck that can be flipped up to the upright position without disconnecting the drive shaft for easy servicing.

Safety is a prime consideration with a roll over protection bar as standard and automatic four wheel drive system ensure sure footing in even the worst conditions.

Hydraulic power steering and high backed seat provides operator comfort.

The Ge28 has most of the features of the smaller cut unit, but is powered by a 28hp 1330cc 3TNE82 Yanmar engine and has a 1520mm (60in) cutting width.

The Ge28 also boasts cruise control and tilt steering handle with weight adjusted seat and arm rest and pit stops are few with a 50 litre fuel tank.

Claymore Grass Machinery believe the smooth running, performance and reliability of these new models will be of great interest to the professional user facing ever increasing costs and demands in this highly competitive section of the market.

For further information Tel: 01865 820731



TURF ROLL

Turf roll shelf life can now be extended thanks to the emergence of new 'stay green' grasses being developed by the British Seed Houses turfgrass breeding programme based at the Institute of Grassland & Environmental Research (IGER).

Hosting a grass breeding workshop for Turf Grower Association (TGA) members at IGER last month, British Seed Houses amenity seeds manager Jon Chippendale claimed the turf industry was on the threshold of new era.

"IGER trials comparing So-Green with normal turf have clearly demonstrated that turf growers and landscapers can expect better keeping quality, reduced yellowing and improved summer and winter greenness from turf based on 'stay green grass', he said.

"We are already fielding a large number of consumer enquiries for grass that stays green all year round, but the practical growing and storage benefits to the turf industry are significant too. So-Green — based on the new ryegrass AberNile — combines the sought after 'stay green' benefit with all the other desirable requirements for high quality turf, namely high shoot density and resistance to wear. In addition, AberNile is very resistant to crown rust."

For further information tel: 01925 654411

FIELD SCIENCE LTD

Field Science Ltd, specialise in re-dressing the balance of trace elements in soil. Based on soil analysis, the Company creates tailor-made dressings to replace those vital trace elements missing from so much of the UK soils.

"So little is understood of the importance of trace elements and their vital role in creating a healthy growing environment for grass plants. Without the correct balance of trace elements, nutrients are 'locked-up' and not available for uptake by the plants - a situation usually aggravated by the excessive use of artificial fertilisers in a bid to induce growth and colour of the award," said Martin Lane, Technical Director,

By correcting the nutrient balance, the Company claims the user will enjoy a denser greener sward, with increased tillering, reduced top-growth, deeper and broader rooting, faster repairing tees and fairways and improved drainage. Of special importance is the increased resistance to disease as the plant's immune system improves.

"It is essential that greenkeepers have an understanding of the importance that micronutrients play in the growing medium of their courses", said John Wanklyn, Sales Director.

The Company offers a free course visit and appraisal. For further information or to arrange an advisory visit please contact Field Science Ltd, Downview House, Grove Avenue, Coombe Dingle, Bristol BS9 2RN Tel: 01170 856 550 Fax: 0117 900 2432 improv.fieldscience.co.uk

RETONA LTD

Recently introduced to the UK by Glasgow-based Retona Ltd, ComCat® is a low cost and easy to use grass strengthening agent, which improves root development and gives better colour. Extracted from non toxic wild plants, this bio-catalyst is a natural and organic product that requires no special handling.

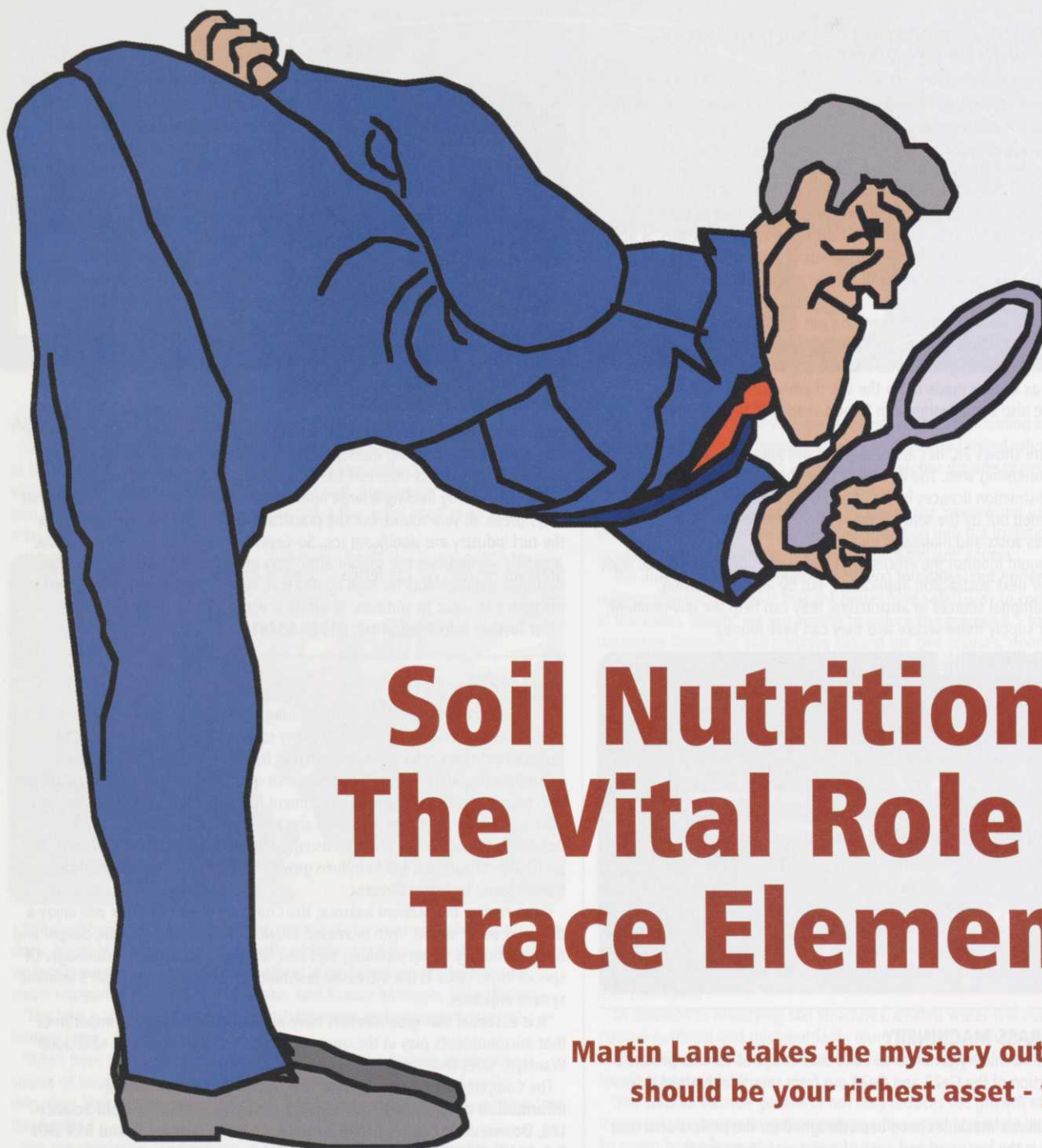
ComCat® is absorbed either by the seed or by the grass through all parts of the leaf blade and root. The effect unfolds with the positive stimulation of the grass' defence mechanisms and the improvement of the root development, resulting in deeper roots with higher bio-mass. This enhances the grass' resistance to biotic and abiotic stress factors such as disease and drought. ComCat® accelerates the uptake and assimilation of available nutrients that increases turf density, improves chlorophyll content and intensifies the turf colour. It also makes more efficient use of any added nitrates.

ComCat® is supplied as a powder and dissolves in water making it easy to apply with a spray. Developed in Germany, ComCat® is also certified under EU regulation 2092/91 for use in organic farming.

For further information contact: Jim Wotherspoon

Tel: 0141 556 5755 Fax: 0141 556 7255 Email: info@retona.co.uk

Sharp eyed readers will have noticed that in last month's New Product section the photograph of the Complete Weed Control Weed-It Machine was placed alongside the Aquaflex moisture sensor. Apologies for any confusion.



Soil Nutrition & The Vital Role of Trace Elements

Martin Lane takes the mystery out of what should be your richest asset - your soil

In the last 20 years or so the science of greenkeeping has become much more demanding as golf has massively increased in popularity. Greenkeepers are now under constant pressure from the golfers to provide perfect, dark green, even playing surfaces -just like Augusta! The snag is that, unlike at Augusta, they can't close the course for six months of every year. To achieve perfection all year round is therefore, rather a tall order in our northern climate.

The density of human traffic and the demand for all-year-round course availability has led to a revolution in course design and maintenance. The increase in popularity of sand-based greens has been due partly to American influence and partly to this need to provide all-year playing conditions. All golfers appreciate the excellent playability of these surfaces throughout the seasons, as do the clubs as they compete for business.

As always, there is a downside. Trying to grow and maintain fine golf

turf on sand can be complicated, time-consuming and expensive. As a result, a whole industry has grown up offering a myriad of off-the-shelf products all claiming to be the answer to the greenkeepers' prayers, but often just adding to the confusion. As we pour on thatch-reducing agents and microbial inoculates, do we ever ask ourselves how we came to kill off all the native organisms in the first place? As we spray on the fungicides do we wonder why golf courses are now so vulnerable to fungal attack?

The effect of all this has been to distance us from our roots (oh dear!) and allow us to forget that Nature knows a great deal more about growing grass than we do. Our role in life is to assist it, not spit in its face! In recent years it has been all too easy to forget that we are dealing with a sensitive ecosystem that has been around for millions of years. To understand fully the problems generated on our somewhat artificial playing surfaces, we first have to take a close look at normal soil.

Soil is made up of a mixture of rock particles, organic matter and living organisms. In ideal circumstance these exist in symbiotic harmony and this, with the addition of sunlight, rain and the Earth's atmosphere, offers the perfect growing medium for plants. As the constituent rock particles naturally weather, mineral nutrients are released into the soil and are taken

up by plants in a ratio that constitutes their perfect "diet". The plants thrive, are healthy and disease-resistant. The presence and activity of beneficial soil microbes enable this transfer of nutrients from soil to plant

Of course there are many variations on the theme and soils vary enormously from poor to rich, from light to heavy and so on. Climatic variations also have a dominant effect. Even so, soils are the natural growing medium, containing the spectrum of nutrients/elements essential to life and in this case, grass.

NON-MINERAL NUTRIENTS

The non-mineral nutrients are Hydrogen, Oxygen and Carbon. These are found in the air, in water and, if you aerate properly, in the soil. Plants use Carbon dioxide (CO₂) and Water (H₂O) + energy from the sun to make the starches and sugars that are their food. (The word Photosynthesis actually means "made with light"). To grow and thrive, plants also need mineral nutrients. These are divided into two groups, macro-and micro-nutrients and are naturally absorbed through the roots.

MACRO OR MAJOR NUTRIENTS

The primary nutrients are Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium. They are often the first to be lacking, because plants use up significant soil reserves during growth. The second nutrients are Calcium, Magnesium and Sulphur. On golf courses sulphur is rarely deficient, but the others can need attention. Interestingly, the more you balance the micronutrients/trace elements, the less conventional fertiliser you need.

TRACE ELEMENTS /MICRONUTRIENTS

These are only needed in small amounts for plant growth and survival, but are absolutely vital. Of those that directly affect plant growth, the most commonly known are Boron, Copper, Chloride, Iron, Manganese, Molybdenum and Zinc. Others, such as Selenium and Iodine have no direct role in plant growth, but their principle function is to feed the soil microflora, the living organisms without which it is impossible to create an efficient growing medium. (They are also fundamental to animal and human health.)

Sand, like soil, is also made up of rock particles, but unlike natural soil, the particles are larger and coarser and therefore have a much smaller surface area relative to their size. This greatly reduces weathering rates and the release of nutrients, making sand essentially a sterile, highly porous medium, low in organic matter and unable to produce or retain the required, fine balance of nutrients. Because of this, on high sand content areas, plant nutrition has to be supplied by the greenkeeper.

Sadly, the problem is much more complicated than it first appears. There are literally hundreds of NPK fertilisers on the market of varying strengths, ratios and release rates. Most are based on agricultural practice and are designed to replace the predicted loss of only three macronutrients; Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K). If we try to grow grass on high sand content areas using only NPK nutrition, we will not succeed. As an analogy, it is not unlike trying to raise a child on bread and water alone. There is nothing wrong with bread and water, but the child will sicken and die without a full and balanced diet. This is precisely what happens nowadays to farm animals being raised on poor grass from exhausted fields; they sicken and die without a cocktail of the missing, essential minerals being added to their diet. A further complication arises because to be effective, these mineral nutrients are each needed in widely varying, but very specific concentrations in the soil to mimic Nature. Failure to observe this golden rule results in at best a waste of money and at worst, disaster. This is as true in South East Asia, the Middle East and Europe as it is in the UK

Over-use of NPK is probably the commonest mistake made. Even the best soils can be wrecked, the balance of nutrients destroyed by the injudicious use of chemicals and fertilisers. Here there are more lessons to be learned from agriculture. In order to bolster sagging returns, some

farms are being run more and more intensively to increase yields. This involves increased use of fertiliser as more crops and animals are reared on the land.

After some years of this treatment, yields begin to fall despite the fertiliser and disease afflicts both crops and animals. On investigation, we find that the reserves of crucial Trace Elements or Micronutrients have been stripped out of the soil. This has happened for two reasons; firstly because the excessive fertiliser and chemical use has removed elements such as Selenium and killed off most of the beneficial soil microbes; secondly because intensive cropping has reduced the remaining soil micronutrient reserves below critical levels, hastening the collapse in fertility. We now operate on a knife-edge in the UK, because intensive cultivation, industrial pollution and the excess use of fertiliser and chemicals have reduced the soil mineral reserves by 75% in the last 100 years - no wonder we have problems!

Without all the components of nutrition, grass will never thrive and will always be weak and disease-prone. This is the main reason why new playing surfaces are so prone to diseases such as take-all patch and fusarium in the early years; the plants have no immunity because they are starved of the correct trace elements and the soil balance is all wrong. On problem courses we see fertiliser used to create 'green-up', followed by growth inhibitor to reduce mowing! This is both expensive and unnecessary. When the balance is right the grass is greener, disease-resistant and less in need of fertiliser and pesticide. The healthier the plant, the denser the growth, the longer the growing season and the faster the divots will repair. With minimum use of synthetic Nitrogen, there will also be less watery, weak-celled, vertical growth, needing less cuffing and possibly, less ingress from poa annua.

There are other sound financial and ecological reasons for the carefully metered use of macro- and micronutrients. Financially it makes sense not to waste money on excessive use of any products, but more importantly, it is becoming unacceptable to leach carcinogenic nitrates, phosphates, pesticides and fungicides into the local water supply. Before long it may become a condition of planning consents that leaching be reduced to much lower levels. Prohibitively expensive, fully lined greens with captive drainage systems are becoming compulsory in parts of Europe and the signs are that controls will become much tighter in the UK. It is the strongly held view of the author that tailored, monthly dressings of the precise nutritional requirement of greens, tees and fairways will prevent leaching and thus remove the need for more draconian legislation. The native flora and fauna also gain enormously from this system. As the course returns to a balanced ecosystem, back come the insects, including the pollinating bees; the wild flowers and the birds. The golf course can again be seen as a haven of wildlife, much more acceptable to the community and the local planning authority!

In future, much more thought must be given to the planning stage of course construction and alteration. For example, substantial benefits will accrue from bringing in specialists before the construction of new projects. Then the correct nutrient balance can be accurately calculated and incorporated into the bases of new tees, greens and fairways during construction, whatever medium is being used. This will significantly speed up growth and shorten the lag time between construction and playability, providing more robust playing surfaces quicker. It will also please the accountants, because if it results in an extra six months of revenue at the outset, it will greatly improve the Club's cash flow and bottom line.

Martin Lane is Technical Director of Field Science

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Chris Ball is presented with the trophy last year

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

30 September - Hillside Golf Club

1 October - Hesketh Golf Club

Exciting Times Ahead at the Two Hs

This year's National Championship will be played at Hillside and Hesketh Golf Clubs, two courses guaranteed to serve up some wonderful golf.

Last year's National Championship was a superb occasion. Two superb golf courses in Royal Birkdale and Southport & Ainsdale and an exciting competition, ending with a local man holding his nerve over the second round to clinch the major silverware.

Going by the old adage "If you've got a winning formula, stick with it" the 2002 National Championship will be played over two superb golf courses, Hillside and Hesketh virtually guaranteeing an exciting competition and the local man who won last year will be even more local!

Chris Ball, who lifted the superb trophy last year, is an assistant at Hillside and was the only man who could go home and get changed before the presentation last year. He may be in a position to do so again this year because, as well as having the knowledge that he has what it takes to win, he might also be able to persuade his boss, Course Manager, Martin Twist, to give him a few of his favourite pin placements!



It is generally regarded as one of the best link golf courses never to have hosted The Open.

Greg Norman wrote to Hillside saying its back nine holes were the best in Britain.

Peter Alliss has said that "Hillside's first few holes with the railway on the left are frightening, particularly when the (prevailing South Westerly) wind blows from right to left. But, even if you safely negotiate the start, there are plenty of testing and scenic holes to come."

Hesketh Golf Club, is Southport's oldest golf club, founded in 1885. Standing alone on the crest of a tall sandhill, the clubhouse dominates the golf course and the surrounding district. The course is at the northern end of south-west Lancashire's sand dune system, which is the home of so many great golf courses. Professional championship golf has been played on these famous old links from the club's earliest days, and the course is regularly used as a final qualifying course when The Open is played at Royal Birkdale.

The course sets a unique challenge with half of the holes threaded through tall sand dunes; while the other holes border the Ribble estuary. Here the course's neighbour is a nationally renowned bird reserve, where winter visitors are rewarded by seeing great flocks of migrant geese, swans and waders.

The drive up to the clubhouse is alongside a short hole that Henry Cotton described as the best short hole in Lancashire. What is beyond doubt is that emerging from Southport's urban landscape and driving alongside this picturesque hole to approach the clubhouse will fill a visitor with anticipation at the prospect of playing on these fine links. The Club is renowned for its friendly welcome of visitors.

Information on the two golf clubs was obtained from www.ukgolfer.org

There are still a few places available in what is already a very strong field so if you want to reserve one do so quickly by contacting Sarah Sowerby at BIGGA HOUSE Tel: 01347 833800



In fairness to Chris, who declared his intention to defend his title almost as soon as he was crowned last year, he did admit that there would be more pressure on him on his own course and that he never played well round Hillside.

The two "Hs" are among the finest golf courses to be found anywhere in the North West of England.

Hillside, is a near neighbour of Royal Birkdale, but suffers little, if at all, in comparison. As such, it has hosted many tournaments including the 1982 PGA Championship, before it found a permanent home at Wentworth, which was notable as being Tony Jacklin's last big win - defeating Bernhard Langer in a play-off.





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Open Thanks 1

The Open is over for another year, but this one is worth remembering for a special reason. I'm an Australian greenkeeper working in Hertfordshire and have viewed The Open for many years on TV during the small hours of the morning. Little did I know that I would be given the privileged opportunity to view an Open Championship from inside the ropes. Being part of the Support staff, on the best links course in the world, has been the highlight of my career. The emotion I felt walking up 18 will remain with me forever. I wish to thank John Pemberton and BIGGA for looking after, not only myself, but also the other members. Looking after 50 greenkeepers cannot be easy!

Many friendships were made and I look forward to renewing them next year at Royal St George's.

Graham Blum
Redbourn Golf Club.

Open Thanks 1

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone from the BIGGA support team involved in the Open Championship. The assistance you gave with the bunkers and divoting was outstanding and gratefully appreciated. It was a great reassurance to know there were so many willing volunteers who were prepared to help in any way and in all weather conditions, to ensure the Championship ran smoothly.

Once again, thank you.
Colin Irvine
Course Manager HCEG
Muirfield.

A Great Trip

I would like to congratulate Toro on their well organised Turf Professionals trip to the USA. I was impressed with the positive and relaxed attitude of all the Toro staff from the production line workers up to the top management. There were too many highlights to mention but I would like to give my thanks to all at Toro and also to the other greenkeepers/Superintendents who were on the trip who added an extra dimension to what was an excellent week.

Colin Mackay
Head Greenkeeper
Vejle GC, Denmark

Thanks for Coming

This is just a big thank you to all of the competitors who played at West Linton GC in the Scottish National Tournament in June which was a superb day.

I must say leading up to the tournament was very nerve racking when you think that 70+ of your colleagues are coming to play your course you want everything to be just right, but I shouldn't have worried as my team had the course in great condition and it was a credit to them.

A big thanks to the Captain and Council of WLGC for courtesy of the course, all the competitors for their praise and comments about the course which was much appreciated by myself and my staff. Peter Boyd, for all his hard work to set up this tournament, Robert Hogarth for his help on the day (hope the ankle gets better soon) and everyone else who made the day go smoothly.

It was also nice to spend a couple of days with our National Chairman, Richard Barker. So Richard it was nice to have you up here at West Linton we hope you enjoyed your stay with us and I hope to catch up with you over the next few months. Also a big well done to all the trophy winners and our new Scottish Champion.

We hope to have you all back in the future as the club thoroughly enjoyed having you all here and have offered the course for the National Tournament in the next few years. I will speak to Peter and see what we can organise. Once again a big thank you to you all. It was a pleasure.

Chris Yeaman
Course Manager
West Linton Golf Club

B&B Recommendation

In late June two pals and I spent a week golfing in the Moray and Aberdeenshire area of Scotland.

We played six courses in six days (36 holes a day). They were: Hopeman, Turriff, Duff House Royal, Forbes, Kemnay and the Boat of Garten. If you are looking to play golf off the beaten track I would thoroughly recommend this area. The people are friendly, the courses are in excellent condition and the green fees extremely reasonable.

Our accommodation was in Keith, run by Paul and Eileen Fleming (Chapel Hill Croft, Crossroads, Keith, Banffshire). Eileen worked at Chivas Brothers whisky distillers, and Paul was the Fat Controller at Huntley Station. The accommodation and breakfasts was excellent, and I make that recommendation as someone who enjoys both food and whisky.

I sit writing this letter with a glass of Strathisla in my hand and toasting Paul and Eileen and all the clubs who were so helpful to us, for an exceptional week. To you all... Slange (assuming I have spelled it correctly)

Alan T Kelsall
Portal Golf and Country Club
Tarporeley
Cheshire

Thanks for the Help

Through the pages of the magazine I would like to pass on my thanks to Adie Holt and his team from Birchwood GC for the tremendous assistance they gave us during the recent De Vere PGA Seniors Championship. Their efforts together with those of my own staff, in atrocious weather conditions, meant that we were able to resume play after a six hour rain delay and subsequently complete the full 72 holes on time.

It is reassuring in these competitive times that such helpful attitudes exist and it says much for the professionalism and camaraderie that is at the core of Greenkeeping and Golf Course Management in this country, and surely must lift the spirits of anybody currently doubting the commitment of Greenkeepers and the respect that they have for each other.

Adie, once again, many thanks.
Andy Campbell M.G. C.G.C.S.
Golf Courses and Estates Manager
De Vere Carden Park

All the Best

After almost 20 years service, Martin Smith, Head Greenkeeper at Burhill Golf Club, in Surrey, has taken up a new challenge as Head Greenkeeper at the Happy Valley Golf Club. Martin first worked with Burhill as an Assistant, he then went on to Hoebridge GC as Deputy Head. From there he went to Ramsdale Park GC as Head Greenkeeper to grow in the new golf course until he was invited back to Burhill to oversee the development of a further 18 holes to their flagship course. All this time, remaining within the Burhill company. The staff from Burhill wish Him and His family all the very best for the future.

Richard Hucklesby
1st Assistant Greenkeeper
Burhill GC
Surrey

Well Done Sandy!

The two Sandy McDivot articles in July's magazine were creative, entertaining and in their own way thought provoking. Enough so that I shared them with the Grounds Committee Chairman, Superintendent and Golf Professional. I do not agree with the objection raised in the last issue.

Hopefully Sandy will return to Sludgecombe from vacation and write another article next month. He does not lack for subject matter.

David Chag, General Manager, The Country Club Brookline
Massachusetts
Via email

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Around the Green



SCOTTISH REGION
Peter Boyd
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East

Well another month and another article. As I write this the sun is beating down, the temperature must be in the 70s, not a cloud in the sky, which is very unusual because this is August and it's Scotland, not the south of Spain.

It makes a change for all we seem to have had this summer is constant rain every day so hopefully this is the start of summer, hopefully!

Events that have taken place in the last month were the Scottish National Tournament at West Linton GC in June, a great time was had by all competitors who, with their feedback, had some very nice comments to make about the course which was much appreciated by myself and my team. Well done to the East Section members who were on the prize list and well done to all the competitors, 70+ of them, who enjoyed a great day.

We had only 13 East Section members which was very low considering it was in our Section this year. If anyone knows the reason the Section committee would like to hear from you.

A big well done to Colin Irvine and his team at Muirfield GC for the condition of the course during The Open Championship. It was a credit to each and every one of them.

The Summer Tournament at Uphall GC on July 30 had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers. Well, eight people to be exact, so if anyone can tell us why the lack of interest we would like to know. Is it just that the Summer Tournament is no longer wanted by our members? Let us know. Do the members want more education events and course visits as these seem to be well supported? If that's the case drop me a line and the committee can do something about it. It's better letting us know than not saying anything at all. So come on it's your Section, let's hear from you. Apologies to Uphall GC for the cancellation of the tournament.

The East Section Tour heads to West Linton GC for the Annual Willie Woods Invitational Tournament on September 5. Entry forms will be with you soon. We hope to see you, your Club Captain, Secretary, Greens Chairman or committee member along for a great day out. The entry form for the Autumn Tournament at Liberton GC on October 10 will be with you soon so get them back as soon as possible as no entries after the closing date also no form no entry.

News Flash:

The annual dance is on at the Kilsplindie House Hotel on Saturday, November 30. Details will be with you shortly. If you're going to the National Championship at Southport in October, I'll see you there. Well that's it for this month so get those entry forms back as soon as possible and we'll see you there, if anyone has any news drop me a line and we will get it in the column in a future edition of Greenkeeper International.

Chris Yeaman

North

Five new members to report this month. They are John O Connor, from Dornoch GC; Michael Rae, Glenisla Golf Centre; Darren Ross, Boat of

Garten GC; Graham Grant, Inverurie GC; Donald Mackinnon, Isle of Barra GC. It is good to see so many new members, and I hope you enjoy your time as BIGGA members.

Some good news to report in the birth of a third child for Robert Hardie, currently of Craibstone GC. I think the days of going to the football to watch Aberdeen are over now for Robert and, after Saturday's performance against the mighty Celtic, it might be a blessing in disguise. Eh Rab? Anyway good to hear everyone is well.

Not such good news has been the weather since the last report. It has been raining drastically for most of us this summer, but in particular the east coast all the way down, and the west have been badly affected. The growth has been phenomenal, and has put a lot of extra work on staff, who already are stretched to the limit anyway. Many clubs have lost valuable income to the weather and on top of the lack of visitors, there could be some harder times ahead.

A course which has had adverse weather to put up with is Culcabock GC in Inverness. I played in a 36 hole Open there on August 9 and the course was playing to its full length and was indeed a really good test. The course was in first class condition and Brian Fraser and his staff deserved all the praise they got for the course. It was also good to see many scratch and plus handicap players making the effort to play and these included greenkeepers George Paterson, now at Scotsraig GC, and Steve Mackintosh, now at Blairgowrie GC, as well as Brian and Martin Fraser from Inverness GC.

By the time you read this report the outing at Ellon GC may have already taken place, but just in case it has not, then I hope to see you at the outing and surely the weather will have taken a turn for the better.

Finally, the Section were represented by Iain Macleod, Stuart Hogg and myself as part of the BIGGA Support Team. The last time I raked bunkers was a way back in SIGGA's last days in 1987, and there have been big changes since then. It was a great experience and I would thoroughly recommend it to any greenkeeper willing to try it. The days are long, from 6am to very often 8pm and later if you are part of the divotting squad for that night. It can leave you tired at the end of the event but it is worth it. The work put in behind the scenes by Peter Boyd and the BIGGA staff is very often unseen and unheralded, but they stick with it and do their level best to promote the standing of the greenkeeper. The course itself was in fantastic shape and praised by the pros highly and rounded off a very good week.

I hope the weather turns in our favour and I hope to see you at the outing at Ellon G.C.

Iain Gunn

Central

We welcome another three new members to the Section this month and they are Neil Stevenson, from Bishopbriggs Golf Club; Christopher Brown, from Gleneagles Hotel and David Cheape, from Linlithgow Golf Club. I keep saying that I hope we will get the opportunity to meet our new members at some of our events but unfortunately very few of them ever appear. Still we can live and hope.

Everyone should have their entry forms for this month's Autumn Tournament at Dullatur Golf Club and for the football tournament at Stirling on

October 13. If not, get in touch ASAP.

I had hoped to have finalised details of this year's AGM in time for this month's news but due to unforeseen circumstances we have had to change our original plans, never mind I will get details out to the 15/20 who attended shortly.

June winners in "Club 2000" were - J. Oliver with ticket number 121 and R. McGregor with ticket number 449. July winners were - A. Crawford, with ticket number 54 and R. Fleming, with ticket number 21.

In the July edition of Greenkeeper International I asked if any of the original committee of the Section were interested in a reunion dinner. Well obviously not, as outwith the one member who approached me regarding this event, not one has made any contact. Is he the only one who still has an interest in the Section? Surely you would have plenty to discuss with the way the Section has developed over the years. Whether it is for the better or not, it has come a long way since 28 greenkeepers from the Central area met on November 20, 1980 at Stirling Golf Club and decided to set up a fourth Section in SIGGA. Still if you're not interested there's nothing more we can do. (We now have nearly 280 members)

Have any of the teams competing in this year's Inter Club Tournament played any matches? At the time of writing no one has returned any results which makes me wonder if this year's event is going to take even longer than the last one!

HELP! Does anyone know where I can purchase timber roof shingles? I require them to repair a shelter on the golf course but, despite numerous enquiries, I am finding it impossible to obtain any. If anyone knows a supplier could they please get in touch with me on 01577 865607 or 07979 988518.

John Crawford

NORTHERN REGION

North Wales

September is show time with IOG. Saltex on 3rd 4th 5th at the Windsor Showground in Berkshire and for those of us not local to this venue, we have IOG Groundex' on September 18 and 19, now for the second year at Aintree Racecourse. It's everything that Saltex is, but it's just down the road and well worth a visit.

Congratulations go to Darren Anderson, of Abergele GC, in his new role from July as Head Greenkeeper. Darren will oversee the re-construction, by contractors John Greasley, of the next nine holes up to USGA spec starting this month and on a fully computerised irrigation system from TIS. Darren has also attained 100 points in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for his HNC in Golf Course Management and we wish Darren the best of luck for his future.

This month's tale is of two golfers who set out one chilly morning for the links of Prestatyn GC. Adamson a keen golfer who plays regularly and who is a fine challenge to anyone on his day. The other, Dauber Cornes, plays very seldom but quite useful on the links. Adamson teed up first and feeling very confident waged a modest bet of £10 £10 & £20 on the match. Cornes agreed and off they went. After a few holes it was obvious how

things were going to turn out for the day, Adamson playing very well but simply outclassed by the superior shoemaking and the enormous experience around the links by Cornes. The first nine an easy victory followed by a 4&2 on the back nine and so a convincing win on the match. After a substantial lunch and a couple of pints of smooth, Adamson once again felt a surge of confidence and suggested nine holes on the way home at Northop GC. Feeling sorry for his friend, Cornes once again accepted. Nine holes strokeplay and Adamson holes out for a very modest 38. Unfortunately for him Cornes posts a staggering 32 thus winning another cool £25. Still not satisfied with who the real No 1 is Adamson lays down a challenge on the ocke of the Old Boot pub. Yes you guessed it a predictable 10 – 3 victory for the champ. Adamson then agrees who is the No 1 player. This satisfies Cornes and they agree on Fish'n'Chips at the Adamson household and phone Maureen to put the kettle on. A good day had by all. The End.

Any news views or information give us a call 01925 263394 Fax 269622

E-mail acorn@golf@supanet.com

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn

Cleveland

The Section summer knockout is in full flow, I played my first match against Liam McGeough at Eaglescliffe Golf Club and I narrowly beat him. The front nine was in excellent condition, I can only presume the back nine was in the same condition, we never got that far! When we returned to the clubhouse George Salabank's horse was tethered outside while he was getting in some last minute practice for his match at the magnificent Ramside Golf Club against Gary Shaw. George beat Gary on the last hole and will play MG next at Ramside. Other matches to be played include, Jim Thompson vs. Stan Shutton; Tony Cheeseborough vs. Martin Woods and Barry Walker vs. Tony Smith.

The Northern Region team final is at Whitefield Golf Club in Manchester on August 9 and the Cleveland team is: Steven Agar, Crook; Jim Thompson, Darlington; Tony Burgg, Richmond; Gary Shaw, Ramside; Liam McGeough, Eaglescliffe, and Steven Jaques, Ramside.

The Section has won the final for the last two years and hope to complete the Hatrick this year. Good Luck Lads. Any news call 07719 193381.

Steven Jaques

North West

Firstly, I have some sad news to report. Doug Bell, the Northern Region Administrator died on Friday, August 2. Doug had been in hospital for five weeks and I had visited him regularly, but his progress had been very slow. It came as quite a shock to hear that he had passed away, and he will be sadly missed by the Association.

The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award has reached its final stages, and I am pleased to report that the Northern Region winner is Peter Cross, from Woolton Golf Club. We wish him good luck in the final on September 23.

I have not been long back from The Open and what a great week it was. The course was in perfect condition with the greens cut at 3.2 mm and running at 13. The fairways were reasonably wide, but the carry to the fairways off the Tiger

Tees I suspect would be too far for most of us. The weather was probably too good for most days, but Saturday certainly showed just what links courses can be like and certainly sorted the wheat out from the chaff. Rain and wind was the order of the day from morning till night, and although conditions were tough, the greens stayed perfect, and the eventual winner, Ernie Els, shot a 72.

Talking about winning at The Open, I have just heard that Steve Oultram was closest in his guess of the correct number of bunkers raked during the week and won a Hayter Mower and a bottle of whisky.

We shortly have the regional final at Whitefield Golf Club and the Roses Match at Stand Golf Club, which I will report on in next month's Section notes.

The next events in the section are: Whitelaw Bowl, Penrith Golf Club, Wednesday, September 4; Stewards vs. Greenkeepers, Ashton & Makerfield Golf Club, September 9; Autumn Tournament, Didsbury Golf Club, Thursday September 12

For the Autumn Tournament contact Bill Merritt 225 Utting Avenue, Clubmore, Liverpool L4 9RB Tel: 01512 844416.

For the Whitelaw Bowl, and the Stewards v Greenkeepers, contact me, Bert Cross Tel: 0151 724 5412 or mobile: 07761 583 387, Any news or contact me any time.

Bert Cross

Northern

Hi guys. Well that's the summer over and done with for another year. It's been another frustratingly wet one. As I write these notes the rain is pouring down and it's only early August - I do hope it's improved by the time these notes appear.

As you know the Northern Section has a quiet July on the golfing and events front so I have nothing to report other than to remind you all of the up and coming fixtures and events.

Invitation day will almost be among us by now. This is at Bingley St Ives on Tuesday, September 10 at the usual price of £15. Places are strictly limited so book early.

Rigby Taylor has challenged us to a football match. It will take place on Monday, September 23 at SYNGENTA Sports Club, Leeds Road, Huddersfield. Kick off at 3pm. Any budding Beckhams or Seamans who would like to show off their silky skills and ball control please get in touch with me.

Last date for your diary is Thursday, October 17. This is the Autumn tournament and AGM. It all takes place at Thirsk and Northallerton Golf club, tee off at 11am.

Suggestions for subjects and topics to be covered at the winter lecture are being sought, so any ideas and speakers you would like to hear, please get in touch with any of the Committee Members.

Well that's all from me. I will hopefully be able to report to you in my next notes on the demolition of the North West Section in the Roses match.

Any news and gossip will be much appreciated: 16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West Yorks, BD2 2NJ. Tel: 01274 640739 Mobile: 07976876264

E mail: Dthackray@aol.com

Happy mowing, David Thackray



MIDLAND REGION
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

East Midlands

The Section have organised a Management Training course at Beedles Lake on Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 November. Cost for the day will be £60 including meals. If you require further information, or if you would like to book a place, please contact your Chairman, Adi Porter, or me.

Please give me more information for this column, as I require everybody's input to write an article each month.

Antony Bindley

East of England

The small turnout at Waltham Windmill GC were treated to very pleasurable days golf on this comparatively young course. The main sponsors were Burdens Groundcare and it was good to see Norman Burden attending the event.

The Burdens trophy went to Les Howkins, Cleethorpes, with 36 points; second on count back Russ Moody, Torksey, 35 points and third Graeme Macdonald, Newark, 35 points. The trade prize went to Peter Fell, of Aitkens. The longest drive went to Russ Moody as usual and the Nearest the Pin went to Rob Welford.

Other sponsors on the day were Alpha Amenity, Sheriffs, Mansfield Sands, Midlube, Lincsgreen, Aitkens and Rigby Taylors.

The evening meal was one of the finest yet - local fish and chips from down the road at Grimsby. Thanks to Waltham for courtesy and the warm welcome from all the staff.

Phil Wilkinson, of Lincsgreen, entered a team of greenkeepers from the East of England section to play in the BIGGA National team competition. The team which comprised of Les Howkins, 6 handicap, Mike Love, 6 handicap, Graeme Macdonald, 5 handicap, and Phil, off 17 handicap. The team had a score of 53.6 and walked the competition by four shots. It was just one of those days when everything went right. Phil has already booked the same team for next year and looks forward to defending the Trophy.

The July Golf Day was almost cancelled at Thorney Lakes GC due to the atrocious weather. Thanks to Sid and staff who managed to keep open the course. It did stay dry for those who braved the weather and all enjoyed a well-presented course. The Peterborough Garden Machinery trophy went to Bruce Hicks, Boston, with 38 points, second John Mitchell, Thorney, 35 points and third Ian Batty, Sleaford, 33 points.

The Blazer Order of Merit is now to be sponsored by Toro and we would like to thank Nigel Lovatt Area Manager for Toro for stepping in at short notice.

Photographs enclosed show this year's presentation of the BIGGA blazer to Richard Owen of Boston West GC for winning the last Order of Merit Title also attending are Graeme Macdonald EOE section secretary and sponsor Nigel Lovatt.

Graeme Macdonald

BB & O

Our golf day at Temple Golf Club was a great success. The weather gave very pleasant conditions for playing golf on a hilly course. Martin Gunn and his crew were busy getting the course ready for the Oppenheimer Classic so the course was in pristine condition. Putting greens were quite a pace but that did not deter the guests from pulling out the punches and scoring well. As for the infamous Temple rough, I am pleased to report it has receded in all the right places and plays very fair to all handicaps. The food was excellent to round off an enjoyable day and my thanks go to Temple Golf Club for all their help in ensuring we had a good day. I must thank Peter Larter for helping organise the players on the day; it was a great help indeed. The winning players were as follows: 1. Simon Robinson & John Cox, Calcot Park; 2. Tim Webb & Mark Day, Tacit; 3. Jim Socket from Huntercombe GC & Carl Small, Ellesborough GC. Longest Drive. Tony Hunter, Cherwell Edge GC and Nearest Pin. Terry Jackson, Maidenhead GC

Our sponsor for this event was Gem Professional and I would like to thank Clive Parnell for making sure all went smoothly on the day. Of course, without members coming forward to play in these matches, they will not be the great success they could be. I hope to see more names put forward for the next event held at Ellesborough GC on Thursday, October 3. This will be a 3-ball Stableford with individual handicap and is limited to 40 players. The first tee off time is 12pm. Please ring me on 07778 765021 for any further information. The cost is £20 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. Before the meal we will hold an AGM for this Section so even if you are not in for the golf but have any issues you wish to raise, please come along or speak to me beforehand so I can bring them to the committee's attention. We have two places available on this committee so if you feel an urge to contribute to the important work of this committee then please reveal yourself at the AGM; we would really appreciate your help.

I would like to welcome the following new members into the BB&O Section and wish you all well in the year to come: William Bachelor, Chipping Norton GC; Lee Dancer, Gerrards Cross GC; Colin Wilson, Wycombe Heights GC; Gay Norcott, Farnham Park GC, and Harry Hepple, Wrag Barn G&CC.

The competition being held by Rigby Taylor is entering its final stages with the semi-final and final being held at Stoke Park GC on August 29. This is a 36-hole competition and on behalf of the Section, we wish them all the best in their games. The teams for the semi-finals are as follows: Simon Austin & Lindsay Anderson, Badgemore Park GC; Jason Brooks & Lee Bishop, Burnham Beeches GC; Peter Critchley & Gordon Critchley, Three Locks GC, and Steve Putt & Martin Birdbank, Witney Golf Centre.

Let's hope they have had great golfing conditions on the day and not the sort endured during our golf Section day in April!

I would like to wish all members great success on your golf courses during the twilight days of the Great British summer ha ha! This summer has

gone so quickly – why does the winter lag behind so? Ah yes, it's very, very long but with great resolve we will get through another season, giving you plenty of time to invest very carefully in those shares!

David Haskell-Craig

Mid Anglia

Stocks Golf and Country Club is the venue for our Autumn Tournament, on Thursday October 10. Stocks has not been used before for a Section event, so I'm sure we're all looking forward to playing a new course.

The golf is over 18 holes only and will be followed by the Section's AGM at around 4pm. All members are welcome to attend. Entries for the golf via the standard form, please, to Richard Saunders at the usual address.

Paul Lockett



SOUTH EAST
Derek Farrington
Tel: 01903 260 956

Sussex

July 16 saw the Section's avid golfers make their way to Piltdown Golf Club, set in the heart of East Sussex.

A total of 36 Golfers managed to make their way around 18 holes in the most humid conditions we have experienced this summer. The course was presented in usual high standard thanks to the very hard work of Course Manager, John Shepard and his team. Thanks also to Piltdown Golf Club for letting us demonstrate our golfing prowess on their wonderful course.

The day was very well sponsored thanks to Tacit (you know that big van which turns up, driven by Brian Wilmott) who presented the winners with some very nice prizes.

1. Mike Gould, John Pync, 43 pts; 2. Lee Amos, Harry Ruffles, 42 pts; 3. Jim Russell, Rose Gould, on countback with 40 pts.

We also had nearest the pin, which was picked up by Rose Gould, and longest drive, which with a monstrous drive was won by Harry Ruffles. I would like to thank Copthorne professional demonstration golf team for showing us mere mortals how to play the game!

Well on to our next meeting which will be held at Mannings Heath on the September 25, well worth a visit. Remember if you have any news which may be of interest please contact me on 07876 233253.

Jon Budd

Kent

Once again I have nothing at all to report on this month. There will be a report next month on the golf day at Wilderness Golf Club. But, until then, I have nothing to say but give me a hand and send or call with anything that is remotely funny or news regarding your club or colleagues that might fill a few more lines and make my job a whole lot easier.

Call 01732 875020 or e-mail me at JRBATKHOLF@AOL.COM please, please, please.
Jason Bean.

East Anglia

What a lovely day it was at Gonleston. 50 + Nomads teamed up to play on a well presented course, thanks to Mark Sherwood and his team. The course is quite tough and if you are doing well don't look over the cliff at the 16th. If you see the topless bathers on the beach it will put you off your stroke (figuratively speaking). I know a bloke that did just that. The prizes were as follows and keep your eye on the 20-28 bandit section.

0-9. 1. James Wrigh, 39 pts; 2. Peter Howard, 33 pts; 3. Bob Barnes, 31 pts

13-19. 1. Mark Broughton, 33 pts; 2. Ian Willett, 29 pts; 3. Paul Gould, 28 pts. 20-28. 1. Mick Lathrope (That's me), 37 pts; 2. Pat Swinn, 33 pts; 3. Martin Mison, 28 pts. Guest. 1. Roger Matson, Eaton, 39 pts; 2. David Littlechild, 38 pts; 3. Larry Pearman, 37 pts. Longest Drive. Peter Clements.

Nearest the Pin. Alan Sharp. Loo Seat. Graham Brumpton, 11 pts.

Don't worry son, I won the loo seat three times and it's only taken me 39 years to actually win a prize. Patience my son, patience.

Now for the sponsors. Main ones for the day were Scotts and Prime Irrigation. The just as vital are: Ruchbrooks & Son, SISIS, Aventis, Lely UK, Bartram Mowers, Tomlinson, Ground care, John Deere, Textron Turf Care, Tacit, Atterton & Ellis, Rigby Taylor, Norfolk Turf Machinery.

Our thanks to Peter Longbottom Secretary/Manager of Gorleston Golf Club for his warm welcome and Eric Wamer, Green Chairman, for presenting the prizes.

Did you hear about the Head Greenkeeper who built this beautiful green. He was putting the finishing touches to it on a hot summer's day when a member came up to him and asked him to put his shirt on. A bit like telling Michelangelo off for not wearing a hard hat when he had just finished the Sistine Chapel. You couldn't dream it.

Next meeting. October 9, Ufford Park. Be There Mick Lathrope



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

Devon & Cornwall

September is upon us already. Where has the summer gone? Our wives are thinking about Christmas and we can look forward to our forthcoming Section meetings. Our first meeting sponsored by Roffeys will be held at Portmore GC, Barnstaple. This will also be the final of the 2002 Vitax match play championships.

As in previous years the Section will be holding six meetings during the winter and one summer meeting, which are listed below. Members attending the October, January, February and March meetings will be able to claim CPD points for attending the afternoon educational talks.

October 16, Roffeys Meeting, Portmore;
November 13, DGM Meeting, Bude;

December 10, PJ Flegg Meeting, Okehampton;
January 16, Barenbrug Meeting, East Devon;
February 23, Avoncrop Meeting, Mullion; March 26, Aventis & Supaturf Meeting, Yelverton; June 17, Rigby Taylor Meeting, Trethorne.

Please note the following booking terms and information listed below for Section meetings: Golfing members to receive starting times before meeting with a draw for partners; For our foursome and greensome events you may enter with a partner with your opponents being drawn; Company and golf presentation to conclude the day; A levy of £2 will be added to each entry received after the closing date.

As some members have problems paying before meetings, they will be able to continue to pay on the day without being levied as long as the entry has been received before the closing date, any member who doesn't attend after entering will be invoiced if no payment is received.

Richard Whyman

South West

We would like to thank Scotts for their very kind sponsorship of the Scotts Trophy held at Cumberwell Park GC. The event was won by Kendleshire GC with 87 points with Lansdown GC in second with 82 and Cumberwell Park third with 81. Pat Murphy, from Kendleshire, won the Nearest the Pin competition.

We would also like to thank Breakwells for their sponsorship of the SouthWest verses South Coast Match played at Long Ashton on August 14.

Please remember the next event on the schedule which is the Regional Seminar on September 20.

Robin Greaves

South Coast

As another month passes it is inevitable that my opening comments once again focus on the weather. We are currently going through what can only be described as monsoon season! We always think that we are getting a raw deal and some times we are, but have a thought for our colleagues in Glasgow who in August had to cope with 18 inches of rain in one day! We collect rainfall data at Parkstone and the most we have ever recorded in a day was 47mm and there was us thinking how it rained that day. I find it difficult to imagine what 457mm of rainfall in a day would do to a golf course! It doesn't bear thinking about! What I can say is that as a profession we as greenkeepers take it on the chin and soldier on, and I am sure that is what happened in Glasgow.

As I said before, our thoughts are with those greenkeepers who had to cope with the deluge.

Our summer tournament kindly sponsored by Huxley and Rigby Taylor was held on August 8 at Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club. With Course Manager Ed McCabe away on holiday, Deputy Course Manager, Kieron Jaques, was at the helm and also in charge of the weather prayer mat. The better ball invitation event had a superb turnout of 88 players, which included our National Chairman, Richard Barker. Richard's trip down south proved very fruitful after he managed to card three 2's during a birdie blitz. A very impressive feat considering before his round he revealed his golf was suffering and he had been advised to put his clubs away for a month. As if we believed him! Well-done Richard! The weather was not quite what we had hoped for although we didn't get too wet. The golf course was as ever in superb condition and a great credit to the greenkeeping team who had worked so hard to prepare it for us. The scoring reflected this and winners on the day were:

1. Rigby Taylor Challenge Trophy. Alex McCombie & Scott King, 49 pts;

2. Huxley Golf Trophy. Paul Cooper & Tim Rockey, 45 pts; 3. Mark Zealander & John Baker, 45 pts; 4. Matt Blake & Neil Cousins, 44 pts. Nearest the Pin. Alan Magee. Longest Drive. Darren Miller

After the prize giving Richard Barker paid tribute to Ted West who has recently retired from Broadstone Golf Club before presenting him with a gift from the Section. This rounded off a superb day! Many thanks must go to Huxley's and Rigby Taylor for their invaluable sponsorship; to Brockenhurst Manor for their superb hospitality; to Kieron Jaques and the greenkeeping team (Ed will be very proud of you) for all their hard work; to the catering staff for a superb meal; to Richard Barker, it really was good to see our national Chairman at our section event; to Joe Crawley, our ever present starter, who again did a superb job! Also many thanks for our Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, for her help in ensuring the day ran smoothly. Last but not means least, Chris Sturgess,, our tournament organiser came up trumps again! Dates for your diaries. Our Autumn Tournament sponsored by Tacit will be held at Hayling Golf Club on Tuesday, October 1. The cost is £18 per person. The Section AGM will follow the tournament so we will be looking for a good turnout. Please send your entries to Chris at the usual address. If you have any news you wish to include in next months column then please contact me.

Until next month.

Alex McCombie

NORTHERN IRELAND

Firstly, this month I would like to congratulate Noel Crawford for his excellent performance in this year's North of Ireland amateur championship played at Royal Portrush in early July. Noel is part of the greenkeeping team at Royal Co Down and a very gifted golfer. A total of 300 competitors played in this tournament and Noel fought his way through the matchplay stages to the semi-final losing out 3&2. On behalf of the Section congratulations on a fine performance.

Our summer competition took place at Massereene Golf Club on July 25. Course manager Eammon Farrell and his team had the course in great condition. Many thanks to Massereene Golf Club for giving us courtesy golf. Our sponsor for the day was Graham Prosser, of Tacit. Graham is a very popular and generous supporter of the Section and his continued support is very much appreciated. The results were as follows: 1. Michael O'Neil, Fortinillian Golf Club, 35 pts; 2. Robert Patterson, Rockmount Golf Club, 34 pts; 3. Paul Loffin, Kirkstown Golf Club, 31 pts; 4. Robert McCloone, Easterock Golf Club, 30 pts. Visitors prize. Ken Frew, Massereene Golf Club, 42 pts.

The National Championship qualifying competition for the section will take place at Ballycastle Golf Club on August 30.

The result and full report on the Charity Golf Day at Clondeboy GC will be featured in next month's magazine.

Well that's all for this month. If you have any news you would like added to the column please call me on 02894 429001 during working hours. Ken Henderson



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1. Our company name can be a male or female christian name.
2. We don't just supply equipment to golf courses.
3. Our fax number is 01425 471296.

Write down your answer on a postcard and send your entries to:

Turftime Teaser, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aline, York YO61 1UF. Entries to reach us no later than Monday 16th September 2002. The first correct entry drawn will receive an Autumn warmer duck-down jacket.

This competition is not open to BIGGA Staff or non-members. The solution to the August Turftime Teaser was 'Inturf'. This was correctly answered by: Mr A. Pears, Pewit Golf Club, Derbyshire and G. Davidson, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire.

Our congratulations and a designer Cutter & Buck polo shirt are on the way to both of you!

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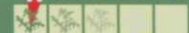
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Stapleford Park

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

August 2003; BIGGA Golf Day; Open review; Talking Heads - Education & training; Trees; Dr Kate Entwistle; Pwllheli GC; Weather; Compact Tractors; Saltext preview;



A Sad Start to the Month

It is with much sadness that I start to write this report but for those who don't already know. Douglas Bell, the Northern Regional Administrator, died recently after a short illness. BIGGA will certainly miss him, as will all those who knew him personally.



On a brighter note, and having left Muirfield, and the Open Championship behind, I headed straight on to St Andrews to attend the World Scientific Congress of Golf. While there were presentations on agronomy from speakers including, James Beard, most of the speakers and attendees were concerned with the development of equipment of clubs and balls. Most of these lectures were were comprehensive with the speakers having a background in physics and aerodynamics. Having listened to most of these and spoken to many of the people, it concerned me greatly as to the future development of equipment and the game of golf as most courses have limited room for lengthening their courses. Hopefully the R&A and USGA will soon put limitations on the development of this equipment.

During the week I had the opportunity to play Kingsbarns. I am sure most of you will have heard of this golf course and believe me, if you ever get a chance to visit, you will not be disappointed. It is a truly magnificent golf course with stunning views, but unfortunately it took me six hours to play! But it was time well spent.

I also played the Old Course which was another tremendous experience and having started with eight pars and a birdie I thought the game was easy. Not so. I came back in a few more and a shank on the last was quite embarrassing in front of the 10 strong gallery... but I did go on to make 4!

So back to work for a few days in the pouring rain (I got away with it quite lightly but for those of you who didn't, you have my sympathy and I hope your courses are returning to normality) and then down to the south of the country.

First stop was Hartsbourne Country Club, a beautiful course set just outside Watford, which played host to one of the Midland Region's Scotts' days. There was a tremendous turnout of 23 teams and the day ran very smoothly thanks to the work of Peter Larter and everybody at Hartsbourne. The only downside to the day was right at the start when the Hotel fire alarm sounded at 4.30am. Peter, Nick Martin, from Scotts, and I had to

assemble in the car park, along with the English Ladies Cricket team. So it wasn't too bad after all.

From there it was down to Brockenhurst Manor in the New Forest, another lovely golf course, which played host to the South Coast Section. Fortunately the weather stayed nice and it was great to meet up with many old friends, and also have the opportunity to present Ted West with a gift on his retirement, having completed 40 consecutive years with the same golf club. Quite an achievement.

Ted, I hope you have a happy retirement and find time to play plenty of golf.

Well, after putting 400 miles on the clock it was home for a couple of days before heading west into Wales and Celtic Manor for the final day at the Wales Open, courtesy of Bernhards. Fortunately this was one of the dry days and a great day's golf was to be witnessed with Paul Lawrie coming out a comprehensive winner. Again this is another super course with vast changes in elevation over few holes and it should make an excellent Ryder Cup venue in 2010. I just hope the weather improves to give Jim McKenzie and his staff every possible chance of showing this course at its best.

And finally, to complete a hectic week, it was on to the Forest of Arden, the following day, with the Midland Section.

Again it was nice to meet up with many old colleagues and to see that the Section was alive and kicking.

As for the future. Well SALTEX is the next major event and I hope to meet up with as many of you as possible. If you are there, please stop by at the BIGGA Stand where a warm welcome awaits you.

Richard Barker

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