

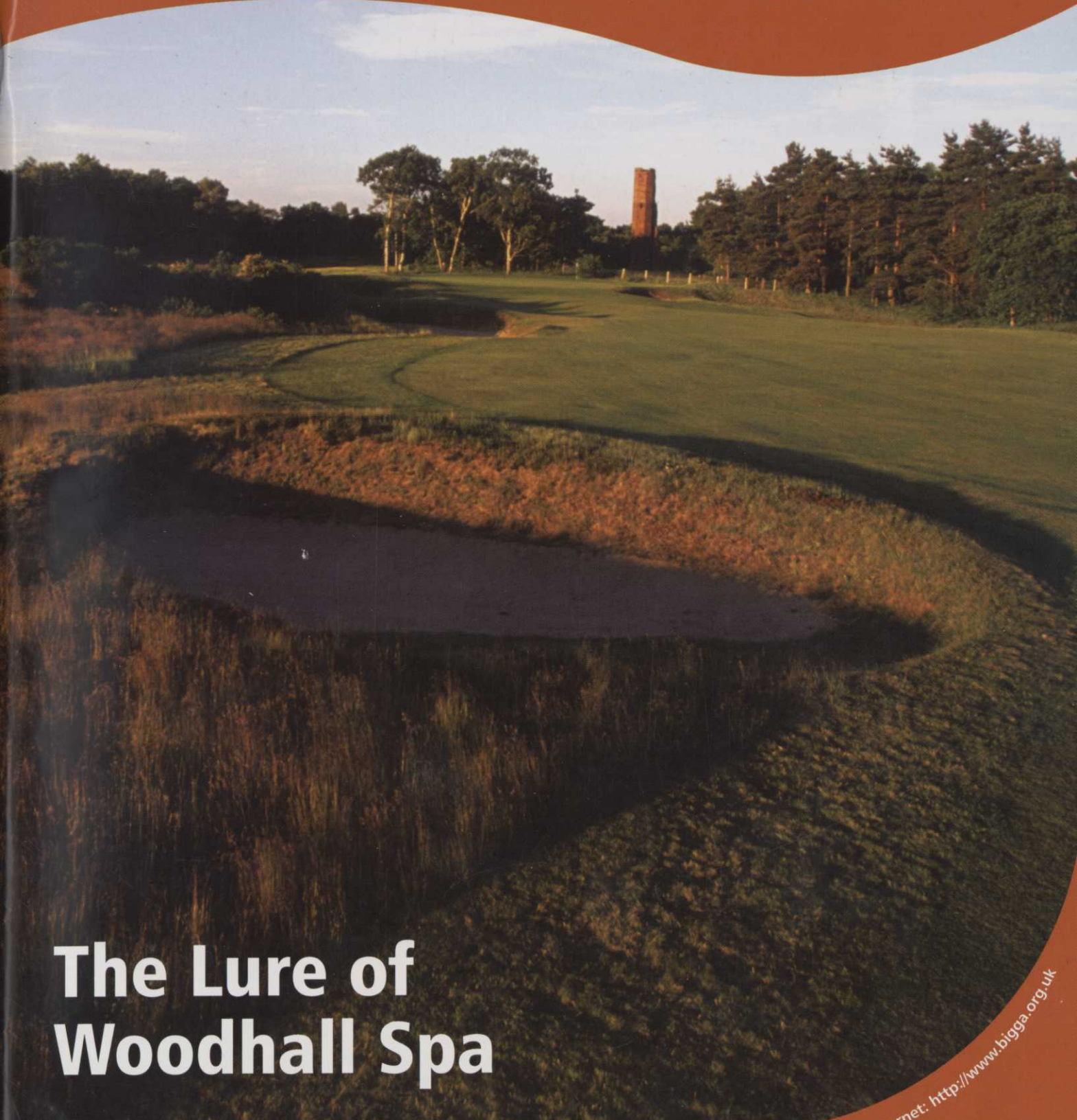
Award-winning magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association



August 2003 - £3.50

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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Advertisers' Index

ADVERTISER	TELEPHONE	PAGE
ADVANTA SEEDS UK LTD	0113 2037627	22
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ALLMAN	01243 512511	38
BAYER ENVIRONMENTAL	01992 784260	2
BLEC LANDSCAPING EQUIPMENT CO. LTD	01778 346222	38
CRANFIELD UNIVERSITY	01525 863319	6
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ETESIA	01926 403319	39
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GREENSWARD	0113 2676000	75
GROUNDSMAN INDUSTRIES	028 27667049	12
GWV PRO	00 31 786103323	39
HEADLAND AMENITY	01223 597834	34
HUNTER GRINDERS	01206 230831	34
HYDROMULCH	0118 931 111	16
HYDROSCAPE	01425 476261	30
J.R.I. EUROPE	00 45 87965070	6
JOHN DEERE	01949 860491	44
MCCORMICK TRACTORS	01302 366631	INSERT, 36
MASTER FARM TRACTORS	01206 210732	33
MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE	01995 642214	39
NATIONAL TURFGRASS FOUNDATION	01995 670675	38
NORTH STAFFS IRRIGATION	01785 812706	12
RANSOMES JACOBSEN	01473 270000	INSERT, 56
RENAULT	01608 662727	40
RESERVATIONS HIGHWAY	01423 525577	49
RUFFORD SOIL TECHNOLOGY	01477 572462	15
RYETEC INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT LTD	01944 768232	12
SEWARD TURF MANAGEMENT	01904 765949	22
TERRAIN AERATION	01449 673783	22
THE GREEN APPROACH	01935 389358	38
THE SCOTTS COMPANY UK	01473 830492	39, 42
TORO COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS	01202 319987	18
TURF MASTERS	01577 863864	39
VALTRA TRACTORS (UK) LTD	01928 594400	38
WASTE 2 WATER	01782 373878	28
WOLF PROLINE	01495 306600	38

August 2003

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International
will be with you by 5 September 2003

REGULARS

News

Pages 4, 5 6 & 7

8 Education

Ken Richardson unveils the finalists
in the 2003 Toro Student of the
Year Award



10 Letters

11 Membership

19 Continue to Learn - Aeration

Roland Taylor takes an extensive look at
the various methods of aeration currently
at a Course Manager's disposal



52 Managing a Golf Course - Managing Staff

Duncan McGilvray continues his series on
managing a golf course

54 New Products

57 Around the Green

74 Features Listing

Helping you track down some of Greenkeeper
International's past articles.

74 As I see it ...

BIGGA National Chairman, George Brown, takes a walk
down memory lane in recalling his time living and
working in the Sandwich area.

FEATURES

13 The Lure of Woodhall Spa

Scott MacCallum meets Peter Wisbey, Courses Manager
at Woodhall Spa, who gave up the sun of Portugal to
return to England.

23 A Triumph!

The Open Championship wasn't just a triumph for
surprise winner, Ben Curtis, the BIGGA Open Support
Team were heroes as well.

29 Where Does the Wash-Water Go?

Dave Moore explains the various options when it
comes to the disposal of waste water.

33 SALTEX '03

All you need to know about September's
Windsor Show.

43 Don't Make the Rest Lincsgreen with Envy

Lincsgreen showed the rest of the field how it is done
once again at the annual BIGGA Golf Day.

50 Why an MSC?

Ian Somerville, Course Manager
at Heaton Moor Golf Club,
talks about his decision to
undertake an MSC in Sports Surface Technology.



68 John Campbell

Walter Woods pays tribute to John Campbell, his
predecessor at St Andrews, who died recently.

Cover photograph by Eric Hepworth.



23 Open Review



33 Saltex 2003 Preview

WIN

A PALM HAND-HELD COMPUTER!

You could win this superb Palm computer
in this month's Buyers Guide competition
sponsored by Greenlink International in
support of their range of Nutri-Rational
foliar.

See page 64



Welcome

A POSITIVE MONTH FOR GREENKEEPING

It's not often that greenkeeping is in the news for positive reasons but the praise which filled the newspapers and television screens for Royal St George's during the Open Championship was genuine and a real credit to Head Greenkeeper, Neil Metcalf, and his hard working team.

The course was firm and fast running and looked as you would hope a links course would look. The hard bounces, some cruel, some occasionally kind, presented golfers, more used to golf of the target variety, with all sorts of conundrums. Despite this players expressed their admiration for the course... if not always the pin placements.

This was even more of a surprise as players love to make birdies and most loathe grinding out the pars and only one player, Ben Curtis, managed to better Mr Par and then only by a single shot.

Speaking of Ben Curtis, whose father incidentally is a Golf Course Superintendent, he reminded me a little of Tom Watson in 1975 who was a virtual unknown when he arrived at Carnoustie and defeated Jack Newton in a play-off before going on to have a spectacular career. It would be fair to say that Curtis wasn't merely a virtual unknown, he was a complete unknown playing in his first ever Major and odds of 80-1 could still be snapped up on Sunday morning but I don't suppose the bookies were swamped. However he appeared to have some of Watson's unassuming demeanour and unflappable approach to the game.

Whatever, I'm sure there is a Hollywood producer even now looking at turning it into the latest golfing movie to join the illustrious list of Follow the Sun, Caddie Shack, Tin Cup and Happy Gilmore.

The fact that Curtis was a long shot winner is certainly not a reflection of the golf course. Davis Love said of Paul Lawrie and Carnoustie that the 1999 Open got the Champion it deserved. He was wrong in every respect. Lawrie has won two big tournaments since and Carnoustie is proud of its position as the toughest course on the Open rota, if not the planet.

Using Davis' logic, Royal St George's didn't identify the best player but the long list of superb players, including himself and Tiger Woods, who could and perhaps should have won defeats that argument.

It was also a great week for the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team which each year is becoming a more integral element in the Championship. This year an advanced party went out at 4am to rake bunkers before the start of play each day taking pressure off both the home team and the R&A who knew the job would be done to the highest standard.

On a final note it was great to see the aforementioned Tom Watson winning the British Seniors Open at George Brown's Turnberry to rekindle memories of his epic Open win over Jack Nicklaus in 1977.

Who says golf can't produce fairy stories?

Scott MacCallum, Editor

LONG SERVICE



George Newson

George Newson, Head Greenkeeper at Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club, retires this month after 41 and a half years service with the same club.

As you might imagine George has thoroughly enjoyed his time at Felixstowe and hands over to John Houston, who has been working in harness with George for the past couple of months.

"Felixstowe has been a good club to work for and when they could afford it, they looked after us proudly. Now Felixstowe has got some of the best facilities in the country," he told the local paper, in a full page feature it did on his impending retirement.

"It's always been a friendly club and I've always been welcome in the clubhouse just like any other member."

George got the job in 1962 by chance when he was in the local pub listening to the club pro and the steward commenting on the state of the course.

"I'd had a few beers and I told them I could do the greenkeeper's job with my hands tied behind my back. Three days later I received a letter asking me to go for an interview and afterwards I was offered the job," said George who had worked on a farm prior to moving into greenkeeping.

"It's been a labour of love," said the man who played for 30 years off a handicap of five.

John Houston began his career at Ratho Park near Edinburgh and worked for Jack McMillan at Bush Hill Park before moving to Dorking GC as Head Greenkeeper. He has since been head man at a number of clubs including Addington Palace, Royal Blackheath, Fulwell and Dore and Totley.



John Houston

NATIONAL TURFGRASS FOUNDATION CONFERENCE

Following the success of last November's National Turfgrass Foundation Conference at Southport, the Foundation have again joined forces with Cranfield University at Silsoe to produce an even bigger event with a greater diversity of topics and speakers. This year's 'In Pursuit of Excellence' Conference will again be held at the Southport Theatre and Floral Hall Complex, and will run from November 3-6.

Martyn Jones and Louise Clegg, founders of the NTF and organisers of the Conference, said that the Conference has been designed as two programmes running in parallel to each other and delegates are free to move between the two depending on the topic selection of their choice.

This is the largest programme to date and will feature 38 speakers, sharing their vast knowledge and experience on 43 topics. Something for everyone and at an affordable price is definitely the theme for the event. With an impressive line up of speakers from a range of European countries and the USA, the conference should prove to be a winner with a wide range of turf managers.

Appearing alongside some of the most revered professors, researchers, and agronomists will be a number of notable BIGGA members. Duncan McGillvray, Potters Bar GC; Kerran Daly, MG, Gog Magog GC; Ian McMillan, Queenwood GC; Stuart McColm, Kingsbarn GC, and Wendy O'Brien, Carden Park Golf Resort, will be sharing their knowledge for the benefit of delegates. BIGGA Vice-Chairman, Andy Campbell, MG, CGCS; Walter Woods, BEM, and Jack McMillan, OBE., will also be inputting their

style and experience to the proceedings in their capacities of Session Chairmen.

Presentations cover a diverse range of subjects, including recent research conducted at Newcastle upon Tyne University into enhancing drainage rates by the use of electrokinetic geosynthetics, and details of a UK golf green construction specification. The effects of biostimulants on soil microbiology and composting as a management tool are other highly topical subjects. Maximising green speed while minimising damage, and rootzone/topdressing compatibility will be of particular interest to some greenkeepers.

"Those who have attended similar programmes will be aware of the tremendous knowledge that can be gained, not only directly from the presentations but also from socialising with the speakers and fellow delegates during out-of-conference hours. Greenkeepers will also have a marvellous opportunity to discuss aspects of 'Golf Greenkeeping throughout the World'. A panel of Course Managers, Superintendents and greenkeepers from numerous countries in Europe and North America will be talking of their experiences in different climatic zones; with contrasting budgets, and varying legislative constraints," said Martyn.

For further details of the Conference and accommodation contact Martyn Jones on Tel. +44 (0)1995 670675 or Louise Clegg on +44 (0)7879015921 or email NTFoundation@aol.com.

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

DISEASE MANAGEMENT DIFFICULTIES IN SWEDEN AND THE NETHERLANDS

Greenkeepers realise that fusarium patch is one of the most common diseases on north European golf courses and that a severe attack can leave disfiguring scars which will affect the quality of putting surfaces. They are also well aware that of the common grasses found on greens, annual meadow-grass (*Poa annua*) is the most susceptible to this disease.

The vast majority of golf greens in northern Europe contain a significant proportion of annual meadow-grass, even though most will have originally been established with bent (browntop or creeping) and fescue grasses. This reversion has often been due to a combination of mismanagement at some point in their history (often forced on greenkeepers by the habit of golfers interfering directly with management of courses, the pressure from ignorant committees with their constant demands for greens that are soft and green), local environment influences (e.g. shade and drainage) and increased playing pressure.

Over the years, fungicides have provided a safety net for greenkeepers but recent EU Directives have placed far more stringent controls on their employment and in certain countries these Directives have been interpreted in such a way that the use of fungicides on golf courses has been effectively banned, eg. as is the case in the Netherlands, to public places in Denmark (on which approximately 50% of their golf courses are

situated) and in Sweden where courses fall into special environmental designations.

Earlier this year Tim Taylor and Nick Park of the R&A's Golf Course Committee went on a brief fact finding tour of Sweden and the Netherlands to see examples of what can happen to annual meadow-grass dominated greens hit by disease on sites where the use of fungicides is totally prohibited. The images arising from this trip should focus the attention of everyone involved in golf course management, including golfers who utilise courses, and make us all realise that without the back up of fungicides, alternative strategies will have to be adopted to provide sustainable golf green management.

The consequence of this damage is more anguish for greenkeepers and golfers, an even shorter playing season in situations where this is already an issue and, more worrying, the temptation to bring about a more rapid recovery through the application of extra fertiliser and water, which will undoubtedly exacerbate the diseased incidence the following autumn and winter.

The R&A Golf Course Committee are in the process of developing best practice guidelines and a research strategy, involving consultation throughout Europe, in an attempt to provide answers to problems such as these which will be facing greenkeepers worldwide in years to come. Regular updates on their progress can be found on the Course Management pages of the R&A website, www.randa.org.



RESTRICTIONS LIFTED

As part of BIGGA's ongoing commitment to Employers throughout the UK we can now inform you of recent Immigration law changes effecting UK employers and adding to the depth and breadth of the labour market.

Over 40,000 Antipodeans, (Australians and New Zealanders), enter the UK each year on a Working Holiday Scheme. This scheme traditionally allowed people under the age of 28 to enter the UK and work to supplement their incomes.

Until now this scheme was restrictive to people wishing to pursue a long term career path. From today these restrictions have been lifted on the type of work that can be undertaken, allowing people to

follow their chosen career path and work for the full two years of their visa. Also, the age limit has been raised to 30.

The changes create more flexibility for employers to retain these workers. After working in the UK for 12 months with a company, this experience can count towards to a UK work permit.

A work permit is issued to allow an individual to stay with an employer and reside in the UK for a period of four years, and can lead on to residency.

The bottom line: UK employers will now be able to secure a long term commitment from antipodean staff, and invest in their development.

LAST CHANCE

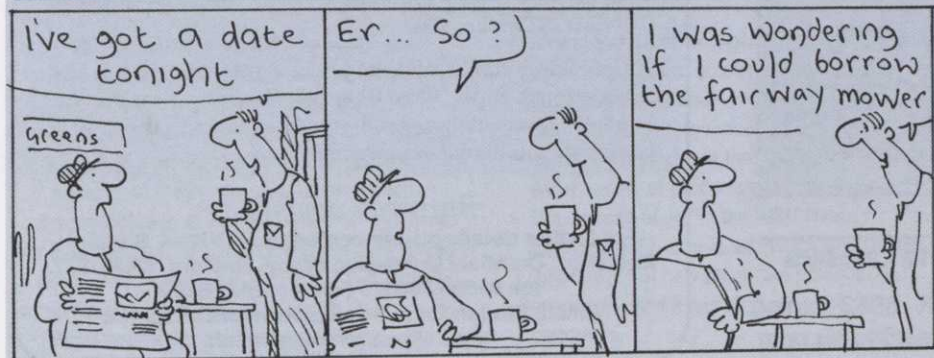
Anyone who has not yet entered this year's National Championship, sponsored by the Greenkeeping Supply Company, to take place at Coxmoor and Hollinwell Golf Clubs on 6 & 7 October, and who wishes to do so should contact BIGGA HOUSE as soon as possible to request an entry form. Entries are strictly limited to 100 and places are allocated on a first come first served basis.

MIDLAND SNOOKER

"The Nigel Tyler, of Alpha Amenity, Snooker Evening" run by the Midland Section was held at that infamous venue, "The Perfection Snooker Club", at Stirchley, in Birmingham. Not only did Alpha Amenity stand the players an extensive buffet, they were also gracious enough to afford the Lights, and prizes to boot. On the evening there were 17 players of which was eventually, after some fiercely contested battles, whittled down to two for the final: Robert and John Tomlin with John emerging the victor.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

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



UN-SUNG HEROES - GIVE THEM A BREAK

Terrain Aeration are to acknowledge the scores of un-sung heroes among greenkeepers and groundsmen.

Nominated by you, as a practising member of either profession, the lucky winners - one greenkeeper and one groundsman - will receive the hire of a village house in the South of France for the week of their choice, plus £150 towards travelling expenses.

Judged by a panel of three, Gordon Child, BIGGA; Derek Walder, IOG and Tim Lodge, STRI, the winners will be announced at BTME 2004, in time for them to prepare for their unexpected holiday.

The judges will not necessarily be looking for outstanding turf care skills (there are awards for these already), but individuals who have shown outstanding dedication either to their jobs or the welfare of their colleagues, and whose contribution has made a significant difference to the quality of working life, at their particular work place.

Application form can be obtained Terrain Aeration at Saltex.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Bill Lawson, a doyen of the greenkeeping industry and former Course Manager of Heswell Golf Club on the Wirral, has just celebrated his 70th birthday and has the wishes of his many friends as he enjoys his septuagenarian years.

ALISDAIR MACLAREN

Unfortunately I have to report another loss to the greenkeeping fraternity with the untimely death of Alisdair Maclaren at the age of 60. Alisdair was a stalwart member of the Scottish Region where for many years he was the Education Officer and in particular the North Section where he was Chairman and Education representative.

Originally from a farming background Alisdair moved into greenkeeping in the Speyside Area looking after the 9-hole course at Nethybridge. At one point he was running three nine-hole golf courses in the area as well as building the par-3 course at Grantown-on-Spey called Craggan. Despite these commitments he always made time to attend education meetings on behalf of the Association and never missed Regional Section meetings.

Coming from a well-educated background he easily immersed himself in education ways with all its abbreviations. SILC, VQ's, HNC's etc. and as Chairman of the college industrial liaison committee was one of a few good people in our Association that have assisted in moving greenkeeper education forward.

Alisdair and his partner, Pat, moved to New Zealand in February 2002 where they bought a small holding with some livestock and he also worked as a manager within the sports industry.

Our sympathies and thoughts go out to Pat in New Zealand and Alisdair's family over here at this sad time.

Iain MacLeod
Board Of Management (Scottish Region)

NEW MANAGER

Countrywide has appointment Martin Townsend as their new Turf and Amenity Sales Manager.

Martin Townsend joins Countrywide from Scotts UK, with a wealth of knowledge in the industry stemmed from his early days in the 1970s as an apprentice cricketer and groundsman at Lords Cricket Ground. From 1976 until 1989 Martin held posts of Head Groundsman and Head Greenkeeper.

He then moved into the Amenity Distribution side of the industry, a natural transition for a man who is always up for a challenge, during this and

subsequent roles. Following 10 successful years as a Technical Sales Manager working predominately in the south west of the country Martin joined Scotts UK Professional four years ago as Senior Sales Manager for the South West, South Wales and the Channel Isles.

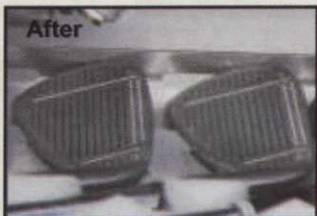
Martin's remit is to build a sales and distribution Turf & Amenity business that will run along side and compliment the portfolio of Countrywide's products and services available throughout the midlands, southern England and Wales.

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SUNSHINE ON LEITH!

PETER BOYD REPORTS ON THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Scottish National Championships took place over the Kintyre Course at the Turnberry Hotel on the Ayrshire coast, home to our National Chairman George Brown in June.

The Kintyre course has undergone major changes and now ranks with the very best in the country and during 2003 will be host to another major event the British Seniors Open and in 2004 it will be one of the qualifying courses for the Open at Troon.

With 80 competitors taking part the course was in immaculate condition. With the first players due to play at 10am, play looked in doubt when literally the heavens opened up and we experienced horrendous conditions, rain everywhere, the greens were flooded and the fairway's in some cases completely under water, but credit to Martin Lothian, Jimmy Johnstone and their staff who worked tirelessly to get play started. Play soon got under way and with the overhead conditions improving greatly and the usual sea coast breezes this made the playing of the course very difficult, but never-the-less there were some excellent scores returned, none more so than David Leith, from St Andrews, who posted the winning score of 71 and was Scottish Champion for 2003 winning the SGGA Challenge Cup.

The Friendship Trophy for the Best Nett went to Paul Conway of Alyth with a score of 72.

The prizes were presented by George Brown, Chairman of BIGGA who welcomed everyone to Turnberry and hoped that everyone had enjoyed the experience of playing over the Kintyre Course. Archie Dunn the Scottish Chairman on behalf of the competitors thanked George and the Management of Turnberry for hosting the event.

Results:

SGGA Challenge Cup Scratch Scottish Champion. David Leith, St.Andrews, 71. Friendship Trophy Best Nett. Paul Conway, Alyth, 72; Ransomes Trophy First Class. 1. James Manuel, Goswick, 73 (BIH); 2. Douglas McIntosh, Cathkin Braes, 75 (BIH); 3. Paul Murphy, Downfield, 75. Pattison Trophy Second Class. 1. Richard Mullen, Oldmeldrum, 73; 2. Craig Pennyquick, Winterfield,



The prize winners



Scottish Chairman Archie Dunn presents George Brown with a memento



David Leith with the trophy

76; 3. Ian Donaldson, St Andrews, 78; STRI Trophy Third Class. 1. Joe Bell, Millport, 77 (BIH); 2. Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead, 77; 3. Colin Scott, Glasgow, 81. Dick Aitken Trophy Best Head Greenkeeper. Iain MacLeod, Tain, 73. M & M Trophy Best Assistant. Richard Love, Kilmacoll, 73. Souter Trophy Best Apprentice. Edmund Wood, Glasgow, 77. SIGGA Trophy Best Veteran. Duncan Gray, Pines, 75. St Mungo Cup Team Trophy (Best four nett scores)

Central Section, David Leith, St.Andrews, 71; Paul Conway, Alyth, 72; Paul Murphy, Downfield, 75; Archie Dunn, Auchterarder, 76. Total 294.

Patrons. Kevin Brunton, Greentech. Nearest the Pin. Iain MacLeod, Tain. Qualifiers National Championship. David Leith, St. Andrews and Paul Conway, Alyth.

NOVOZYMES BIOLOGICALS

Novozymes Biologicals has announced the acquisition of Roots Inc., a leader in the development and application of organic based fertilizers, mycorrhizal fungi, biostimulants, and micronutrients for the turf, ornamentals, horticultural, landscaping and agricultural markets. This acquisition is effective June 19th, 2003.

Novozymes Biologicals, part of the Danish company Novozymes A/S, world leader in enzymes for industrial use, has been developing and selling a range of biological products for the Turf Industry as well as the Home & Garden sector.

Roots and Novozymes believe that this

consolidation will provide many benefits to the market, including:

- A combination of technologies and products from both companies to accelerate new product development efforts.
- New manufacturing processes, equipment and know how to increase the ability to supply a wider variety of products and product forms.
- The creation of an "in the field" Field Development Group to accelerate Novozymes introduction of new plant care products and provide improved technical assistance to customers.

The acquisition of Roots reflects Novozymes' strategic commitment to the plant care market with a goal to greatly increase the use of environmental friendly products, to reduce dependency on chemical fertilizers and pesticides while delivering high quality compounds to the market.

Best example is Novozymes' EcoGuard Biofungicide, a novel fungicide for control of fungal diseases that has recently received US EPA approval for use on turf and nursery crops in February 2003.

Novozymes' research and development team has already initiated several key "synergy projects" designed to bring new product technology to the market.



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

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Ken Richardson describes his annual trek in search of this year's Toro Student of the Year finalists.

The TORO Student of the Year Competition 2003



When I started this job in 1994, nobody told me that it might involve walking through Glasgow at 11.30 pm on a Sunday night. It was all part of life's rich experience and I soon reached my hotel for the night and the venue of the Scottish Regional Final of the Toro Student of the Year Competition.

Now in its 13th year, the Toro Student of the Year Competition aims to find the top student greenkeeper from the 3500 greenkeepers under training each year. The Regional Finals, held in Glasgow, Manchester, Cheltenham and Harpenden, aimed to select eight candidates for the National Final, which will be held, this year, at BIGGA HOUSE on September 29.

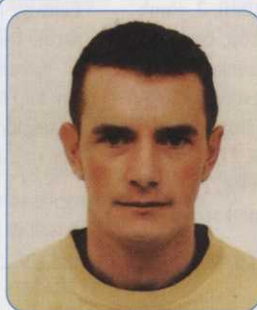
George MacDonald from Toro, Jim Paton and myself gathered together on Monday, June 30 to interview seven Scottish Student Greenkeepers. It was encouraging to see such a high standard of presentation from all seven candidates and there was little to choose between them. However, the judges had to make a decision and selected Paul Todd as the Scottish Regional Winner.

The Finalists from the North are Keith Scruton and John Talbot with Justin Waddell chosen to represent Ireland.



Keith Scruton is 29 and is the Head Greenkeeper at Colne Golf Club, where he has been since the beginning of 2003. Keith has been involved in golf course maintenance since 1989, starting with

summer work at Darwen Golf Club. Currently studying for an HND at Myerscough College, Keith has had to fit his studying around the demands of his young family. Another keen golfer, playing off 8, Keith has ambitions to manage an Open Championship venue.



Paul Todd, who is 27, is the Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Lanark Golf Club, where he has been for six years. Paul has been a greenkeeper since he was 16, starting as a summer boy. An excellent golfer, he currently plays off 1.7,

Paul feels that he has learned a great deal from his Head Greenkeeper, Jim Lyon. Currently studying Level 3 at Oatridge College, Paul has aspirations to run his own course and would like to work overseas.



John Talbot is a native of the North East and is currently the Head Greenkeeper at Ravensworth Golf Club. Currently studying for an HNC at Askham Bryan College, John wants to continue with his education and wants

to study for an MSc at Cranfield University. Another golfer, John plays off 8 and plays regularly in Competitions. John's ambitions include managing a top course in the United Kingdom.

A lengthy journey from Glasgow to York surrounded by a large group of noisy Russian teenagers and an early morning drive to Manchester Airport led to the next judging location where I was joined by Trevor Chard from Toro and Andy Campbell MG CGCS, vice Chairman of BIGGA. A long day of judging resulted in us selecting two candidates from the North plus an Irish Finalist.



Justin Waddell is a 24 years old Assistant Greenkeeper from Northern Ireland, where he works at the Fortwilliam Club. Justin has been a greenkeeper for six years, four of which have been at his current club. Justin has ambitions to become qualified to Head Greenkeeper standard by the time he is 25 and is currently studying Level 3 at Greenmount College. Justin plays golf off 16 and is an exponent of Kick Boxing.

Back in the car for another long journey saw me crossing the M6 five times in an attempt to bypass an accident at Mere, some 10 miles from Manchester Airport. I eventually reached Cheltenham, where I met up with Peter Mansfield, from Toro and Gordon Irvine MG to judge the candidates from the South West and Wales. Dylan Hughes and Bobby Vining were selected to progress to the National Final.



Dylan Hughes, as his name suggests, is a native of North Wales, and he works as the First Assistant at Pwllheli Golf Club, where he has been for seven years. Now studying for his Level 3 NVQ at Welsh College, Dylan has a range of other qualifications including an NVQ in Forestry. Dylan plays golf when he can spare the time from his project to renovate a 19th Century cottage. He wants to progress to be a Course Manager, running his own golf course.



Bobby Vining is a 23 years old Assistant Greenkeeper at Mendip Spring Golf Club, where he has worked for just under two years. A love of golf led Bobby to Mendip Spring where he has developed his skills under the supervision of his Course Manager, Ian Harrison. Currently studying NVQ 2 at Cannington College, Bobby is keen to learn about the full range of jobs on a golf course and see how greenkeepers cope in warm weather areas, where he may even be able to indulge another of his passions, American Sports.

The penultimate leg of my travels took me to Harpenden where Graeme Francis, from Toro and Ian Semple, joined me to judge the candidates from the South East and the Midlands. After a long day judging 10 candidates, we chose Martyn Gray and Robert George to progress to the National Final.



Martyn Gray is an Assistant Greenkeeper at Bramley Golf Club which is situated near to Guildford. Now 19 years old, Martyn began his involvement with greenkeeping through work experience when he was still at school. Martyn gained a National Certificate through study at Merrist Wood College where he has now completed his Level 3 NVQ. A relative newcomer to greenkeeping, he has ambitions to move quickly through the ranks to become a Course Manager.



Robert George is the Deputy to last year's TORO Student of the Year, Murray Long, at Coombe Hill Golf Club. A native of Australia, Robert decided to travel the World after a successful greenkeeping career 'Down Under'. As well as moving quickly through the ranks in the UK, Robert has got married and now has two children. He is studying his Level 3 at NEScot and hopes to become qualified this year. As well as playing golf off a handicap of 6, Robert plays National League Baseball, the highest standard in the UK.

The final leg of my journey was back home to North Yorkshire where I could recover from my tiring but, nonetheless, enjoyable week. Interviewing candidates for this competition has always given me a boost, confirming that I am contributing to the rapid increase in qualified greenkeepers. Standards continue to rise each year and the majority of greenkeepers now hold formal qualifications, present themselves very professionally at interview and have the full support of their golf clubs.

All eight candidates will assemble at BIGGA House on 28/29 September where they will again be interviewed by a panel of judges and be asked to conduct a survey of the Aldwark Manor Golf Course. The National Winner receives the Toro Scholarship which includes an eight week trip to the USA with six weeks at the University of Massachusetts and a visit to the GCSAA Conference and Show in San Diego.



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YOUR LETTERS ARE NEEDED!

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

Dear Editor

I read your welcome note in the June magazine and appreciate your candour about getting out on the wrong side of the bed but I am glad you brought up the fact that the turf grass profession takes regular hits from people like Mr. Humphries and nobody stands up for the profession in your country, except you.

I call this a profession because here in this country it is classed as a profession and recognised as a good career in part by constant information and media awareness being made available to anyone who questions the Superintendents role and how he or she may have got to that position. If someone of Mr Humphries' stature were to criticise the education and training of Superintendents I can assure you, there would immediately be a rebuff from the GCSAA in the national press the very next day or there would be plenty of information to back up and give credit to the courses taken by young superintendents. There is no industry rebuff given, (except by you of course).

If Mr Humphries thinks that these courses taken by the vast majority of future Superintendents in your country are so called "Mickey Mouse" courses then he is in turn insulting some of the best Golf Course Superintendent in America. Why? because right now four of the top ten courses in America have UK educated trainees on their courses. There are many other courses in the country including Pinehurst and Augusta that request British educated trainees every year from our Program here at The Ohio State University.

The recent US Open had a young man from Myerscough College on the course; Augusta had a young lady do an internship there in 2002 (refer to your article of April this year) and there will be another Myerscough student interning at The Ryder Cup in 2004. If, as Mr Humphries says, you need to get rid of these "Mickey Mouse" courses, maybe he needs to be made aware of how well respected the recipients of these courses are over here in the States. Maybe industry need to put their foot down and demand a little more respect from the politicians, after all, where would they go play their golf if the Superintendents went on strike and did not mow the grass !!! if that is all they think they do with this education ?

Michael O'Keefe
Via email

Dear Editor

I am writing this letter to you at present in a state of annoyance, having once again been rejected following yet another interview for a Head Greenkeeper's post somewhere in the country. I am actually Head Greenkeeper on a nine hole course at present, a post I have held for some considerable time. I have to say from the start that I certainly do not have any problems with fellow Greenkeepers being offered these positions instead of me, as I know there have to be other more qualified and experienced colleagues around.

I am actually writing to you for some advice from yourself and any other Greenkeepers who could possibly help. Please can someone tell me where I need to go to receive training in being a Greenkeeper who is capable of looking after an 18-hole course, rather than a nine hole course! I have probably had more interviews than years I have worked on golf courses, which amounts to quite a lot, and practically every response I get when I phone up after receiving the bad news is the same. "Thank you very much Mr X for coming along, everyone on the panel thought you were very good and came across really well - unfortunately you have not got the management experience required to run an 18 hole course."

In light of this I would like to ask if there are any colleges I could go to receive the type of specialist training that is obviously required in order for me to make the step up to an eighteen hole course. I already have heaps of training behind me but unfortunately I must have gone to the only Greenkeeping College in the country that specialises in nine-hole golf courses!

I look forward to hearing from these training providers soon. In the mean time on a more serious note I would ask any course who is looking for staff not to totally dismiss the large group of nine holers, such as myself. After all we are only half the size of you big boys with probably half or less staff, budgets and resources to look after the course. I am sure you will agree this makes us just as able, if not more so, to run and maintain an eighteen-hole course to the high standards demanded of us by all members and visitors alike.

Name withheld

Dear Editor

The article by two American professors on the use of 'waste-water' for golf course irrigation seems to me to miss a very significant point. It itemises all the extra 'manurial' contents of purified effluents/sewage etc. as if these are of benefit, though in fairness it does accept that such materials encourage algal bloom and others may be toxic.

What it does not state is that such content or contamination is undesirable or indeed harmful. The main problem with waste water is that it does contain many products with undesirable side effects. No reputable agronomist would dare to suggest that our golf greens (old or new) need trace elements. Good ones and good greenkeepers would agree that we want no phosphates, only controlled nitrogen and a little occasional potash.

The authors correctly state that most waste water, pre-treated for application to public sites are satisfactory (in the absence of better alternatives) for the irrigation of golf courses. I and many others would disagree that routine fertiliser management needs to be 'adjusted' - the problem with waste water is their 'contamination' with so called nutrients - all we want from our irrigation water is that it should be wet!

In passing could I also protest about the ever increasing use of the term 'fertilisation' - when what the perpetrators mean is fertiliser treatment. The former relates to reproduction not nutrition and grates as much as Greens committees which if they deal with anything are dealing with cabbages. It is the green - the whole course that greenkeepers manage.

Jim Arthur
Honorary Member



BIGGA's Membership Department would like to welcome 51 new members to the Association.



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

SEE YOU AT SALTEX

BIGGA are once again exhibiting at Saltext on 2nd - 4th September at Windsor Racecourse on Stand G01.

Gemma from Membership Services is going to be available on the stand to answer all your membership questions. Whether you want to renew your membership, change your address or employment details or collect new membership forms. As ever we will have cameras at the ready for any of you still to provide a photo for your membership card. Gemma will also be able to answer your questions on the new benefits introduced this year such as Lex Personal Car Leasing and the two Silverknight products.

Sami, from the Education and Training Department will also be on the stand to deal with any education queries including the BTME Continue to Learn Training

Programme, Master Greenkeeper Certificate and Continuing Professional Development.

If you wish to discuss advertising in Greenkeeper International or exhibiting at BTME and ClubHouse, Rosie Hancher, Sales Manager and Cheryl Broomhead, Sales Executive will be available from Sales along with Pauline Thompson, Exhibitions Organiser.

Also in attendance will be Deputy Executive Director, John Pemberton and Communications Manager and Editor, Scott MacCallum who will all be more than happy to answer any queries you may have about the Association.



Scott MacCallum

Position:
Communications Manager/Editor

What does your role involve?
Producing a magazine every month and handling the Association's press and public relations

How long have you worked for the Association?
Since April '95

Where were you born and brought up?
I was born in Banff in the north of Scotland and brought up in Cupar, Fife

Where did you work before you joined BIGGA?
I've worked for the Dundee Courier newspaper, Golf Monthly magazine, the PGA European Tour and Today's Golfer magazine

What are your hobbies?
I enjoy playing golf and watching rugby union. I don't enjoy going to the gym but I do it. I also enjoy reading

What is your favourite food?
Mexican and Indian

What is your favourite film?
The Shawshank Redemption

What was the last book you read?
Chance Witness by Matthew Parris

Who is your all time hero?
Gavin Hastings

What was the best event you've ever attended?
The 1984 Grand Slam decider between Scotland and France at Murrayfield and the final day of the 1985 Ryder Cup at The Belfry

What is your claim to fame? (None not acceptable)
I had a hole-in-one while on a press trip in Rapid City, South Dakota, and appeared on local television to talk about it and in the local paper as a result

We're giving away a fantastic digital camera to one lucky member. The camera features a movie facility and a multi mode flash. It has a 1.5" LCD screen and a picture resolution of 2 million pixels. The package also includes a memory card.

To enter the prize draw all you have to do is introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA. Make sure your name goes on their application form as the person who referred them and we will enter your name into the draw. Remember the more new members you refer the more chances you have to win!

The draw will take place on 1st October and the winner will be announced in the November edition of Greenkeeper International.

Call Gemma today in Membership Services on 01347 833800 to request a new member application form.

WIN A DIGITAL CAMERA



Message of the Month Winner

Our congratulations go to August's winner, Benjamin Allen from Queenwood Golf Club who's message was posted on the 1st July under the 'Education and Training for Greenkeepers' section. A fantastic FM desktop scan radio is on its way to you!

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Stuart Harker, East
Paul Lyon, East
Tony Mccourt, West

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Stephen Payne, East Midland
Jonathan Smith, Mid Anglia
M Varney, East Midland

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Robert Clare, Northern
John Firth, Northern
Philip Harman, North West
Adam Newton, Northern
Alex Noble, Northern
Craig Parry, North Wales
Richard Stubbs, North West
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Steven Bridgeman, Surrey
Daniel Brown, Surrey
Richard Gee, London
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Greg Southgate, Sussex
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Martin Gurd, South West
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Stuart Lee, South Wales
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AUGUST'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 August's winner, Geoff Smith of Abridge Golf & Country Club.

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Course Feature

The Lure of Woodhall Spa

Scott MacCallum travelled to Woodhall Spa to meet up with Peter Wisbey, a man who gave up the sunshine of Portugal to take on a great new challenge.



View of the 18th

Peter Wisbey

Ten years after taking the brave decision to move to Portugal at the age of 40 Peter Wisbey had made such an impact in his time on the Algarve, and enjoyed it so much, that those who knew him would have said that it would have taken one hell of a job to lure him back to his homeland.

The fact that seven years on from then he and I are sitting in his office, deep in the heart of Lincolnshire, and that the enthusiasm for greenkeeping he exudes says much for the position he now occupies.

As Courses Manager at Woodhall Spa, the English Golf Unions home and Centre of Excellence, Peter has all the challenges he could ever ask for - looking after the world renowned Hotchkin Course; the newer Bracken Course, which opened for play in 1998; a fabulous training academy, in addition to speaking at many of the EGU Road Shows and generally acting as the Unions front man on matters greenkeeping.

One of the attractions of returning to the UK was the chance to get back to traditional British greenkeeping.

I've always been a traditionalist. For example at North Foreland GC in Kent, where I was for 22 years before heading to Portugal, we produced our own compost and top dressings. Now we are doing the same here as well. The amount of micro flora and fauna it contains is, in my opinion, far greater than in any commercial product and aids the conversion to the finer grasses.

It was part of my upbringing, working with Jim Arthur when North Foreland became an Open Qualifier in 1981 and 1985 reinforced my own

beliefs. I'm certainly a minimalist with the regard to the amount of fertiliser and water I use.

However, one of the things I learned very quickly at San Lorenzo and Pinhieros Altos, both in Portugal, was that growing in a new course is completely different to maintaining an existing one. You almost have to grow a crop," said the man who in his time on the Algarve managed all four courses on the Quinta do Lago Estate.

"I would liken it to bringing up a child. If you fed a baby as regularly as you fed an adult it would die, so you need to feed more aggressively and then, once you have proper cover, you can start greenkeeping.

"I loved the challenges that different grasses, climate and language presented.

That said it was good to come to such a great course and be able to get back into some good traditional British greenkeeping. We do a lot of aeration, particularly on the Hotchkin Course, in the months between the end of October and the end of March and we slit the greens and fairways, weather allowing every week. Whenever possible during this same period we use the Shattermaster and Vertidrain.



The Woodhall Spa team

We solid spike on a monthly basis throughout the summer as well as using the sorrel fitment on the Toro Sandpro as frequently as possible. We apply minimal nitrogen and potassium to the greens, something along the lines of 60-70 kilos per hectare every year on the greens and tees and we've got some good grasses. I'm also a great believer in Farmura and seaweed liquids and these we apply on a monthly basis."

Being in charge of the EGU's courses does bring its pressures. "One of the difficulties of working for a place which is so much in the public eye is that the majority of the golf played is visitor golf as opposed to local members - probably 80-20. There are some 800,000 EGU members and this is their home of golf. Some of them may only come here once and they come with very high expectations. We also have to keep the pricing structures fair so we probably offer the best value of any comparable course in the country."

The Hotchkin Course has been ranked in the top 30 in the world and is currently ranked as the number one inland course in England. If people come to play the number one course they expect it to be in the first class condition.

"We greenkeepers know that it is impossible to keep a golf course in prime condition all the time, and while I don't like peaks and troughs but more of a gentle ripple, there is always a little drop off from time to time."

Peter recalls a lunch he had with the then pro at Gleneagles, Ian Marchbank, who gave him some advice he has held on to ever since.

"He told me that clients will always go away and remember the course as it was on the day they played it. It's obvious really, but sometimes not until you are told. Golfers are not interested in how the course was last week or how it will be next week, and while at members clubs the members will understand, if it is communicated well, what you are trying to achieve and the benefits to them on the longer term, here we have so many visitors year round that cannot apply this philosophy to the same extent. It is the same at the likes of Turnberry and Wentworth."

Peter has become increasingly aware of the need to be customer focussed and has some interesting thoughts on the issue.

"You hear greenkeepers saying occasionally, 'If the golfer doesn't like it, well tough.' I'm afraid that's not a reality any more, if indeed it ever was.

We are living and working in a buyers' market. If a group of golfers are considering coming here but the package is not acceptable they simply go elsewhere.

"It is important to realise that we are selling time and if we don't sell it today, it's gone forever. It's not like selling mowers or tractors when if you don't sell this week you can sell it the next" said Peter, whose machinery comes from Toro, with whom, along with Lely, he has had a strong

relationship for many years and whose praises he sings loudly. "They consistently supply us with product and service that is second to none in my experience" he remarked.

With that in mind Peter, his Deputy Sam Rhodes, Head Mechanic, Bart Wilson, and their 16 strong team, work closely with the golf operations staff to ensure everything possible is done to ensure visitors have as enjoyable experience that maintenance operations are carried out to avoid conflict.

"We know the bookings two weeks ahead of time, major events at least two years ahead, and every evening the following days start sheet is faxed to me so the next morning we know who will be out on the golf course. I put a copy of this on the mess room tables so the guys know exactly where the gaps in play are so we can, wherever possible, work without interfering with peoples enjoyment."

Woodhall Spa is a remarkable golfing venue. From most directions it appears to be in the middle of nowhere and even within a couple of miles of the sleepy little village you would wager large sums against a world class golf course being nearby.

"People are amazed when they travel across the fenland and find this wonderful heathland golf course. It really is an oasis."

The original layout was by Harry Colt and when the Hotchkin family bought it. Colonel Hotchkin changed it to the present layout in 1920.

"When I first heard that the owner has redesigned it I did not realise that Colonel Hotchkin was a renowned architect. In partnership with Guy Campbell he designed West Sussex, Stoke Rochford, Leeds Castle to name but a few in this country, as well as five very good courses in South Africa. He wasn't just dabbling that's for sure."

The Hotchkin Course is a classic with every hole presenting its own challenge with very few running in the same direction. There are three fantastic par-3s with the 12th regarded as one of the best short holes in the world. The bunkers are fabled. There are many of them and they are known for their depth.

"They say a bunker should cost you half a stroke but these can do more damage than that. We had the English Amateur here four years ago and one guy came to the 12th three under-par and when he left he was something like 10 over! Without ever being unfair it can destroy the unwary."

From a maintenance perspective the Hotchkin is very labour intensive thanks to its very steep sided bunkers and tees. At least 80% of the tees surrounds cannot be mown with a ride on mower.

Therefore there is a lot of flymowing and strimming to be done. Scotts Shortcut has been a Godsend and reduced the frequency of this operation.

Course Feature



One of the infamous bunkers on the Hotchin Course

Another interesting element of the course is the fact that it is very natural and doesn't lend itself to over presentation.

"When people do come here it is a case of educating them as to what they should expect to find. We don't have fairway irrigation so when people visit from an irrigated golf course they are sometimes surprised by what they find. In the dry weather it's firm, brown and fiery. This is how we feel a true heathland course should be presented. The Officers of the Union are 100% behind us in this philosophy. It's about education," said Peter, who is often involved with the EGU Road Shows which visit about six or

seven golf clubs a year and talk to Chairs of Green, Secretaries and occasionally greenkeepers.

"There is a view as to whether we best serve the greenkeeping community by having greenkeepers at these events or whether they should be aimed solely at the committee and Club Managers. When it is a mixed audience the agronomists who speak can only talk at a very basic level and greenkeepers can go home disappointed, but perhaps the Chairmen of Green might have learned something which could result in less pressure or more support being given on their return."

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Course Feature



View of the 5th

When the EGU bought Woodhall Spa seven years ago it was felt that a second golf course was required and Donald Steel was commissioned to design the Bracken Course and it has turned into another fine test.

"At a lot of 36-hole complexes the second course is looked upon as the poor relation no matter how good it is. What attracts people here is the Hotchkin, but once they are here they find that the Bracken is a lot better than they were expecting," said Peter, who took the opportunity to put right the myth that Woodhall Spa is supported by the affiliation fees paid to the EGU, but that the golf course operation has to be self supporting."

The Bracken has given Peter more than a few headaches along the way however.

"It is built on clay and running sand. The land was mostly commercial woodland and very impoverished with a pH as low as 3.5 in some areas. You can maintain grass at that but it not easy to establish grass cover. But never say never, we had to use quite a bit of lime to get establishment in those areas and the soil is very aggressive with such a high acid content. Indeed we found that within five years some of the irrigation bolts have corroded and disappeared. The irrigation specialists said they had never seen bolts attacked so quickly. They are now replacing them all with stainless steel."

A main framework of drains was also put in, Peter felt more were needed and worked closely with David Shelton, of Sheltons Drainage Solutions, who coincidentally happened to be in the same Rotary Club as Peter.

"He showed me some of his equipment and we hired a gravel bander from him, eventually buying one ourselves. Now nearly all the fairways have been covered to 40cm centres with slits backfilled with Lytag. We can now play right the way through the winter with no stoppages or the need to take trolleys off."

Peter admits that they have had problems establishing the bent grasses in the Bracken greens and suffered with poa infestation.

We started by handpicking the poa but quite honestly it was like painting the Forth Bridge and now we try other ways of minimising it. Some people talk about not needing to add micro nutrients but we have very low magnesium and manganese levels and we have had to put those elements down.

We've had good results and I don't think we would be where we are now if we hadn't added micro nutrient packages almost on a fortnightly basis. As I said about the lime, I don't think you can ever say never.

The magnificent training academy is the equivalent of another nine holes in terms of work for the team, with 4,000 square metres of tee and 3,000 square metres of green but it is something special.

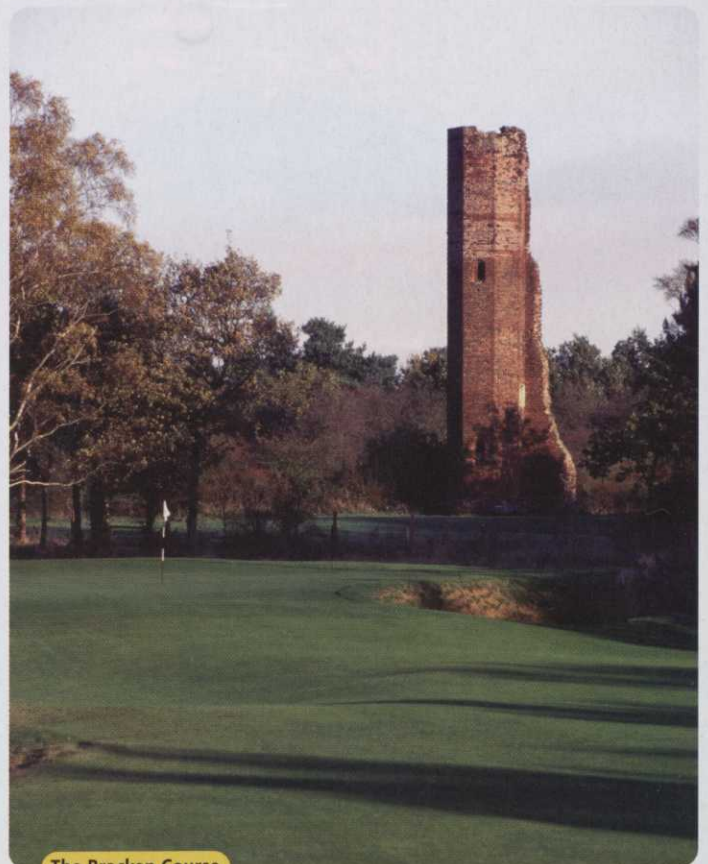
"We've got a large putting green, three chipping greens, bunkers, a

very large tee with five target greens each set at a different angle and any shot on any type of golf course can be replicated," said Peter, who explained that the facility was used by everyone from the England Elite squads through to county and even club teams.

He is well aware that as Courses Manager at the EGU's Headquarters he must be seen to be a paragon of good practice and he is quite comfortable with the spotlight on him.

"It is easy for people to be critical and I am there to be shot at, but we do try to make sure that correct practice is in place and an example set. This from record keeping, health and safety etc. right through to turf management. It's a state of affairs with which Peter is very happy and you can be sure that despite the fact that the weather is perhaps not Algarvian he is more than happy to be working back in England.

Photographs courtesy of Eric Hepworth



The Bracken Course

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AERATION...

what's on offer?

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*Continue
to learn*

Roland Taylor takes an extensive look at the various methods of aeration currently at a Course Manager's disposal

Out of all the turf maintenance operations that are carried out aeration is one of the most important. To substantiate this we need to look at the number of beneficial effects that aeration has to offer to the well being of the turf. A well aerated soil promotes strong healthy growth which in turn deters the development of fibre and thatch. Surface water is quickly absorbed into the rootzone. There is less likelihood of areas of stunted growth and bare patches occurring in which unwanted weeds and grasses can invade and become established. Soil micro-organisms beneficial to the breakdown of organic material thrive. Diseases and fungal attacks are less likely to occur on strong healthy growth.

In an ideal world the soil under the turf should always be friable and open. The roots then have the freedom to move and develop and there is always a plentiful supply of water, air and nutrients. Unfortunately, this is rarely the case and the chances of it lasting long are fairly slim. There are a number of contributory factors. The first major drawback is the increased level of players using the course and the fact that golf is now generally played all year round. Soil profile is another possibility; this is often the case where a course was built many years ago and as a consequence suffered from a lack of modern know how.

The key to good aeration is the size and consistence of the air pockets within the soil structure. Getting this right is the challenge. If a soil (sandy) is too open then any nutrients, water and air do not stay in it long enough to benefit the grass. With a heavy soil (clay) the air pockets are very small or non-existent. In either case the roots cannot develop and the plants are weak.

The aim is always to produce a good playing surface, but this is not just for the benefit of the golfers but also for the long term well being of the course. A strong sward acts like a cushion when it comes to compaction. Without this cover compaction and subsequent problems rapidly develop. This is often seen on areas of grass which have a considerable amount of foot traffic. Once the grass cover has been worn away the underlying soil quickly forms a hard crust as it becomes compacted. Eventually, virtually nothing can penetrate this crust and certainly very little can grow in it. If a similar situation was occurring under a sparse layer of turf then it would not be long before the effects become evident.

RUBBER CRUMB

To help overcome this problem a number of clubs now use rubber crumb as a top dressing. This is worked into the turf and onto the soil surface - soil where it is said to protect the crowns, rhizomes and stolons. Firstly, any existing compaction problem should be dealt with. An initial dressing of no more than 6mm of crumb is worked into the turf making sure it reaches the soil surface and the crowns. After three weeks another application can be made followed by further ones at intervals until a depth of between 15mm and 19mm is reached. Like all top dressing little and often is recommended. The turf needs to fully recover before foot traffic is allowed over the area. Clubs that have used rubber crumb are reporting satisfactory results. A further extension of the use of this material has taken place during 2003 with a number of companies offering turf grown with it in the root zone.

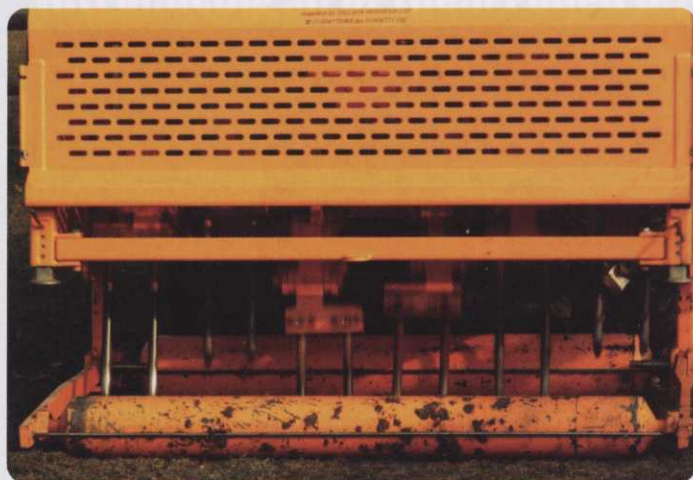


MECHANICAL AERATION

There is little evidence that any form of aeration was practised until the 1930s. If any was carried out it was probably done using a fork. One of the first pioneers of the practice of aerating the soil to improve the quality of playing surfaces was William Hargreaves. He founded the Cheshire based company of Sisis and worked closely with RB Dawson, of the STRI, in developing machines capable of opening up the soil. These early models were either a hand fork or an aerator mounted on a wheeled hand frame. They were suitable for small areas but it became obvious that a much larger unit was required. Sisis' answer, the first horse drawn aerator, was sold to Doncaster Racecourse. The Royal Liverpool Golf Club was later to buy the first tractor towed unit.

AERATION...

what's on offer?



Like the development of the mechanical mower, golf clubs were reluctant to fund new innovative products. It was not until 1964 when Sisis launched a motorised version of the pushed aerator.

One question that does arise from those early days was that were the tines actually penetrating enough to have any beneficial effect? The answer is probably no, although breaking up any surface crust must have helped.

Today, a wide range of machinery and systems are available to provide all round aeration for most types of soil.

TINES

The early machines were fitted with a solid tine but in 1950 Sisis introduced a flat tine which produced a larger hole giving a greater area of soil exposure for the intake of moisture, air and water. This type of tine was said to have another benefit. Its action prunes the roots and thus encourages new growth.

The hollow tine is the third type that is now available and whilst this helps relieve compaction its main purpose is as a method of soil exchange. Because soil is removed in the form of cores they have to be cleared up. Machines are now available specifically designed to carry out this task plus some leaf sweeping units are also capable of collecting cores. There is the possibility that if hollow tining is carried out too frequently a soft and not very resilient sward is produced. Another problem that has been known to occur is that the holes created can become breeding grounds for weeds and unwanted grass species.

Tines have their place in aeration but one aspect that tends to be overlooked is that by their action of punching a hole in the soil they do in fact cause a certain amount of compaction. However, the benefits of frequent tine aeration far outweigh the side affects.

Over the years designers have perfected ways of getting the tines into the soil. The simplest system uses some form of rotor to which a number of tines are attached at given intervals. The more sophisticated machines punch the tines into the ground using a form of cam drive. With the wide tractor operated units it is now possible to aerate large areas of turf in a relatively short period of time.

There are now over 36 companies offering various forms of aerators here in the UK.



SAREL OR SORREL ROLLER

In the early days back at the beginning of the last century some greenkeepers used a roller with spikes as a simple form of aeration. In fact this type of unit which became known as the sarel/sorrel roller has a very beneficial advantage. Used on a regular bases it breaks up any crust that tends to form on the soil's surface and allows the air, nutrient and especially water to start its journey down to the roots. One of these units is ideal to complement irrigation as it allows water access and minimises run off. A number of these units are now available including attachment cassettes for certain makes of mower.

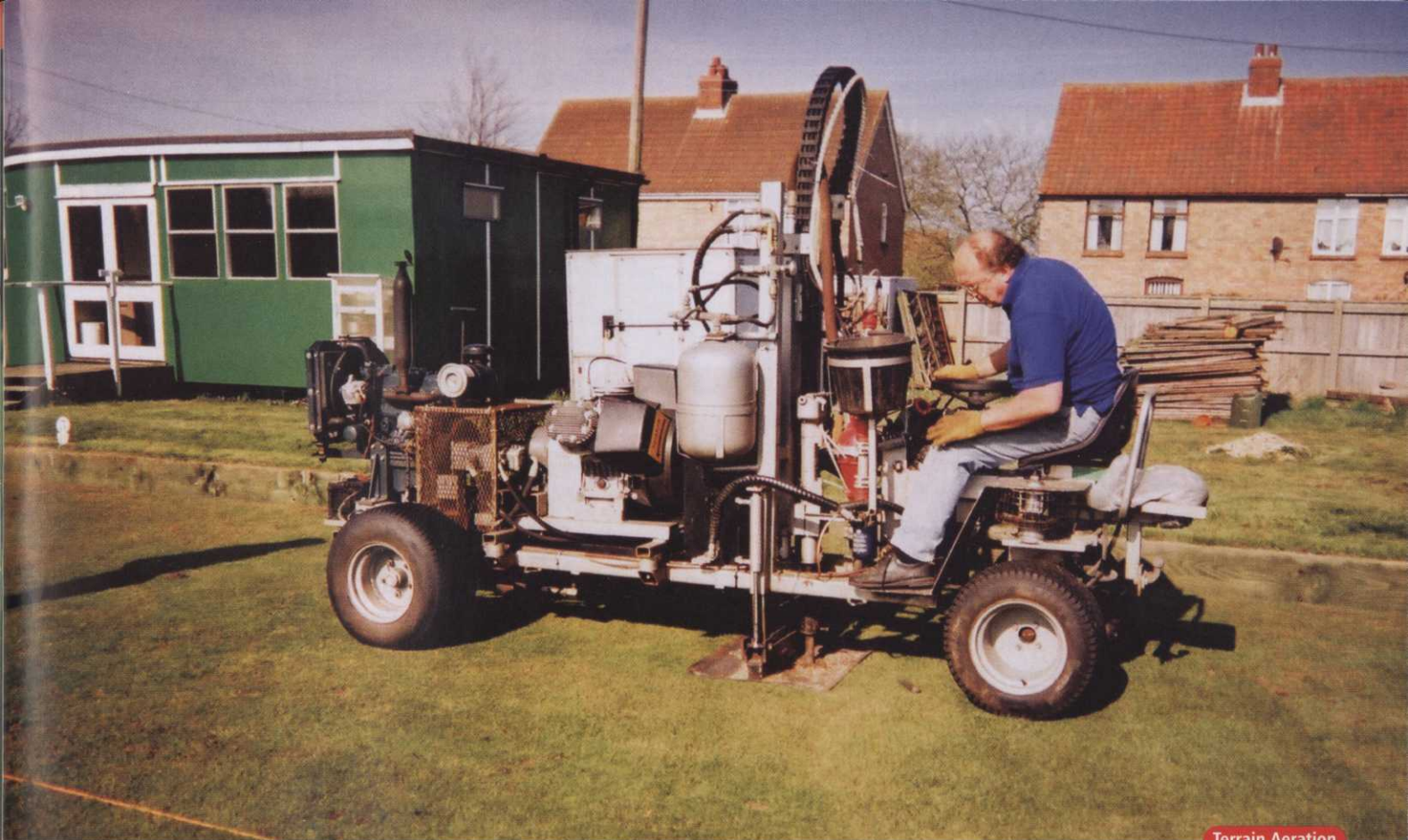
VERTIDRAINING

The biggest change in aeration occurred with the introduction of the vertidrain in the early 1980's. Up to this point you could say aerators had been barely penetrating the rootzone layer and deep compaction was still a problem. The vertidrain principle is relatively simple. The tines are driven deep into the soil structure and a heave or levering action, similar to that of a fork when digging, is applied. The amount of lift can be adjusted to ensure any surface disturbance is minimal. Below the surface the compacted layers are broken up leaving pockets into which the plant's essential elements can percolate.

Another advantage of this type of deep aeration is that top dressing can be introduced into the holes providing extra drainage. Conditions need to be right. If the soil is wet there is a much greater chance of smearing the holes and where the soil is dry penetration is impaired. The machine also has to be operated at the correct speed otherwise surface damage can easily occur. There is a skill to good vertidrain and when the operation is carried out is important to its success. For this reason a lot of golf courses have invested in a vertidrain rather than waiting in a queue for a contractor.

Fortunately, vertidrainers are now more competitively priced, which brings their purchase within most golf course budgets.

Vertidrain is not always the answer and for very deep compaction an alternative solution for breaking it up needs to be sought.



Terrain Aeration

COMPRESSED AIR PROBES

A method of deep aeration that has been used by a number of clubs over recent months uses a hollow probe which is hydraulically driven into the soil to a depth of one metre. The process is then repeated at two metre intervals in a grid pattern. Once the probe is at the correct depth compressed air is introduced. This creates a network of lateral fissures in the soil structure. Slow release nutrients can also be injected by the same method.

The suppliers of this equipment say there is very little surface disturbance and that drainage is improved by filling the holes with an aggregate.

WATER AERATION

When a droplet of water is virtually fired into the soil its velocity makes it behave similar to a bullet, shattering virtually anything in its path. This is another method of aeration that has become popular in recent years. One of the benefits is said to be that there is virtually no surface disturbance and therefore no hold up in play.

SUB AIR

This system was the brainchild of a Marsh Benson, a Golf Course Superintendent. It uses the green's drainage system. A blower creates an airflow which permeates the gravel layer, passes into the rootzone and is then finally released into the atmosphere via the turf. The airflow provides oxygen to the roots and transfers moisture vapour from the water table to where it is going to be of most benefit. The gravel layer is said to be at a constant temperature and as the air passes through it travelling upwards it adjusts the levels in the rootzone and turf above. This process is claimed to be highly beneficial when the air temperature over the greens is high. Likewise when the rootzone cools down in winter it can be warmed from the gravel layer.

Change the sub air unit to suction and the airflow draws excessive water down from the surface. Trapped gases and any build up of salts in the soil can also be removed.

Because the soil is constantly aerated, it has been found that this system controls the build-up of black layer, which forms as a result of low oxygen levels, the presence of organic material and anaerobic microbes.

The greens need to be USGA specification and have a suitable drainage system in place.

As was stated, early aeration is a very important part of the turf management programme and there is equipment available for virtually every situation.

In a month's time SALTEX will be held at Windsor. It is also the time of the year when most aeration is carried out. This exhibition provides an ideal opportunity to talk to companies, who supply the type of equipment mentioned in this feature, about your specific requirements and problems.

Getting aeration right is a major factor in growing strong, healthy, hard wearing turf.

See the Buyers Guide on page 64 for more aeration companies.



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25% Strong Creeping Red Fescue, 5% Browntop Bent

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- Low fertiliser requirements
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The team conquer the famous Himalaya bunker on the Sunday evening



The team awaits its briefing at the University of Kent

A TRIUMPH!

Ben Curtis wasn't the only winner at this year's Open Championship

The Open at Royal St George's was a triumph. Not just for Ben Curtis, who produced what must rank as the greatest shock in the Championship's history - he had never played in a Major Championship before; had never claimed a top 10 finish on the US Tour was a 500-1 shot before the start and even 80-1 on the Sunday morning - but for the course; Neil Metcalf and his team and the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.

The course and its condition received universal praise and while the weather leading up to the Championship made fast, brown, running conditions possible Neil, his Deputy, Graham Royden, and the team made the most of those favourable conditions to produce a perfect test of links golf. The fact that one under-par won proved that a quality golf course in testing conditions can be the equal of the modern technology.

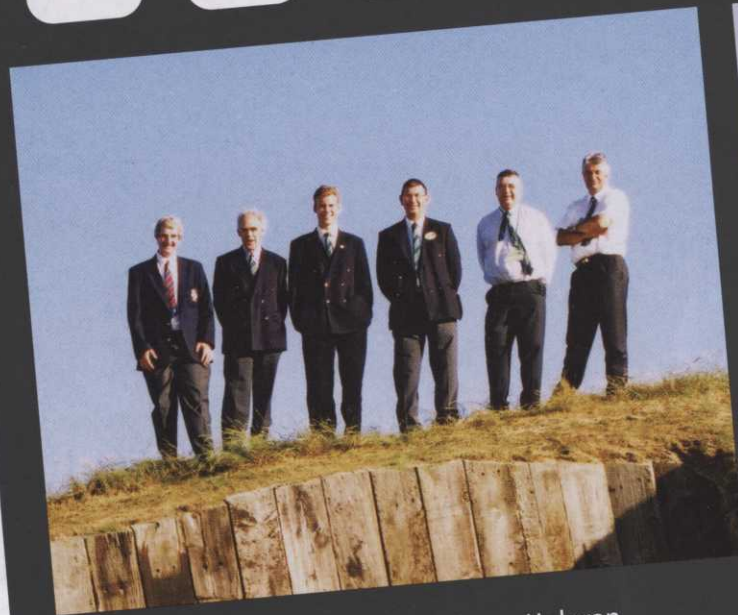
This year the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team was more involved than ever as, in addition to its regular duties, it was given the responsibility of raking all the bunkers before the start of play each day. Now, as the light goes earlier in the south of the country it meant an earlier than usual start of play and with the R&A wanting the two hour job completed half an hour before the start a team of 14 had to leave for the course at 3.15 am. The next bus left at 5am with the remainder following on a short time after. The last bus didn't return home until around 10.30pm.

The advance party on each of the four days was led by George Barr and Ian Semple and the R&A were delighted that the pre-play job was carried out in such a professional manner.

As usual members of the Support Team were rewarded by the players with souvenirs in the shape of balls, gloves and hats which will become treasured mementos for years to come.

News titbits: as supplied by the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team

- Although Hennie Otto was the first day leader coming from the first group on the course on Thursday it was his playing partner, Christopher Smith, who was actually the first player to find a fairway during the round - on the 5th hole! - Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team Member, Steve Smith, of Gillingham GC.



The Staff team with BIGGA starter Ian Holoran.
From left, Tony Cocker, Brad Anderson,
John Pemberton, Scott MacCallum and Peter Boyd



Ronan McKeown strides out

- Former Champion David Duval endured a torrid time during his first round and his patience was not helped when he was forced to wait for a butterfly shaped balloon which flew down the middle of the 16th fairway - Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team Member, George Barr, of Ham Manor GC.
- Jerry Kelly's opening round got off to a dreadful start with his 11 down the 1st but he didn't lose his sense of humour, punching the air when he made a 4 down the 2nd - Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team Member - Stuart Hogg, of Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC.
- Sergio Garcia was forced to wait on the 18th tee for a weasel which wouldn't vacate the tee - Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team Member, Kevin Hodges, of Weston Park GC.
- Vijay Singh and Rich Been got their timings all wrong playing the 17th. They both played at exactly the same time and the two balls collided landing short of the green - Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team Member, Ian Semple, of Old Fold Manor GC.
- Former Champion Paul Lawrie was obviously a little unprepared when he got to the 1st tee having to ask Ivor Robson if he had any spare spikes in his box - Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team Member, Richard Saunders, of St Neots GC.
- US Amateur Ricky Barnes topped his drive off the 9th tee, knocking it 20 yards. He then hit it 40 yards further left into long rough and eventually made 7 - Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team Member, Mark Ellis, of Stocks Hotel G & CC.
- Such were the weather conditions on Thursday, the flag blew off the 9th pin while players were approaching the green. It was replaced by a marshal - Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team Member, Richard Barker.
- Souvenir hunting reached new heights in one of the last matches out when the young scoreboard carrier picked up a ball which had been played by the match following. He was called back from the next fairway to replace it - Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team Member, Tony Woolley, of Piltdown GC.
- Royal St George's Deputy, Graham Royden took his 10 year old son, Louis, to the Championship on the Wednesday.

"The only golfers Louis knew was Tiger and Ernie and I had the chance to bring him on to the putting green on the Wednesday to watch Tiger putting for a while. I spoke with Tiger's manager and he said he'd introduced us to Tiger. We met in the R&A compound and we spoke about the course which he thought was in great condition but very tough he'd hit some straight shots which were penalised but he knew that that was links golf. He said it was fantastic and congratulated me on it," said Graham.



Philip Hales takes time out to pose during the final round



Graham Royden, St George's Deputy, chats to Andrew Miller



Iain Gunn chats to a scoreboard carrier



Gavin Robson. Followed by a film crew!

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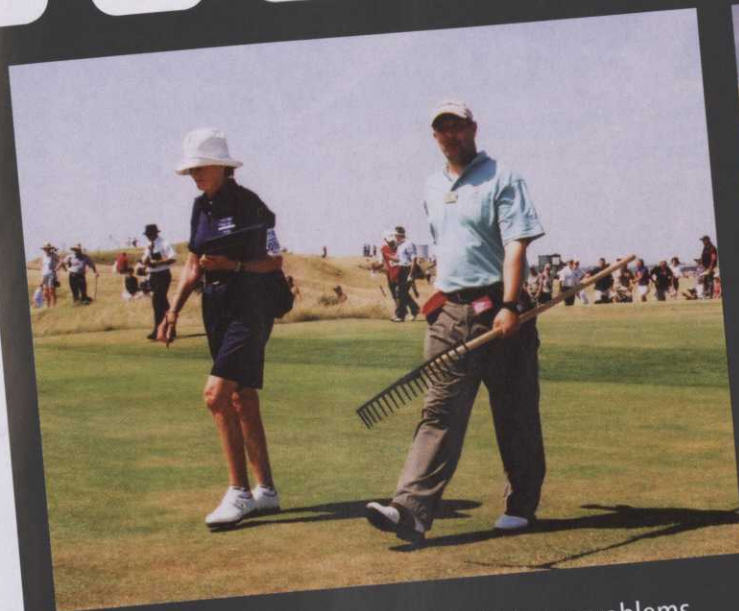
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Stuart Hogg before he encountered blister problems



Neil Burchett, John Keenaghan and Alan Magee watch how it's done before they set off!

He then took time out to speak to Louis, signed his programme and autograph book.

"When he left he said goodbye to Louis, who was still in a daze, so I told him that Tiger was saying goodbye. He turned round and Tiger gave him a little wave and said "Bye Louis". He was absolutely stunned and couldn't wait to get back to school to tell his pals. He'll remember the moment forever, and so will I," said Graham.

- The 2001 Champion, David Duval, was watching St George's Assistant Andrew Howarth, hand watering the 11th tee on Tuesday afternoon.

"It was late and the green wasn't clear and he was waiting so I asked if I could pose for a picture with him. I took off my sunglasses and said I knew he never took his off but he whipped them off and went 'Da! da!' We took the picture and he then asked if he could operate hose. He was very good, had a good arc but asked what would happen if he put too much on. I told him he'd be playing it."

- Alan Halfyear raked for Ben Curtis in the third round and learned before it became known in the Media Centre that he was using John Bickerton's caddie who'd called IMG when Bickerton had failed to qualify and asked if they knew of anyone looking for a caddie.
- Ben Curtis' father, Bob, is Superintendent at Mill Creek Golf Club, in Ohio. Ben's parents weren't at the Championship but were looking forward to watching the final stages on satellite until it broke down. They listened to their son clinching The Open on radio!

- Andrew Acorn, of Acorn Equipment, got closer to the action even than the Greenkeeping Support Team. He caddied for Tony Sproston, a qualifier, who was out in the final game on the Thursday and as a result was one of those who had to return early on Friday to complete the final two holes. Tony missed the cut but gave Andrew the thrill of a lifetime particularly as they were partnered by one of the up and coming stars of the game, Australian Matt Goggins, who finished fairly high in the field.

Andrew also managed to pick up a new nickname while in Sandwich when the other caddies christened him The Squirrel.

Ping sponsored the Great BIGGA Bunker Competition this year for the first time offering a wonderful wedge system to the press person and Support Team Member who was closest in his or her prediction as to how many bunkers were found during the course of the Championship.

The winner of the press prize was Sue Montgomery, of the Independent on Sunday with Paul Jenkins claiming the BIGGA prize.

Paul was only two out with his estimate of 2125 but spare a thought for Gavin Kyle who was also only two out with his guess of 2121 - a margin of error of less than 0.25 only to lose out on a card play-off when the daily estimates for the first three days was taken into account.

Daily prizes of whisky were won by Gideon Brooks, of the Daily Express, who won the first two and was equal first on the third day but the Editor decided to give the third day prize to Philip Reid, of the Irish Times to preserve Gideon's liver.

The Support team whisky was won by George Pitts and Bert Cross, on the first day (tied); Bert Cross on the second and Mark Lewthwaite on the third.

Our thanks go to Ping for the generous sponsorship of this well established Open competition.



Head Greenkeeper, Neil Metcalf, demonstrates how he wants the bunkers raked during the Wednesday evening meeting



The Home team

BUNKER HISTORY

Year	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03
	St A's	Ly'm	Troon	B'dale	C'stie	St A's	Ly'm	Muirfield	St G's
Bunkers	112	185	84	117	115	112	197	148	106
Rd 1	214	501	344	355	539	148	557	359	388
Rd 2	201	577	272	406	468	164	547	372	405
Rd 3	130	269	107	226	202	65	224	175	149
Rd 4	156	271	136	153	265	71	257	169	181
Total	701	1618	859	1140	1474	448	1585	1078	1123

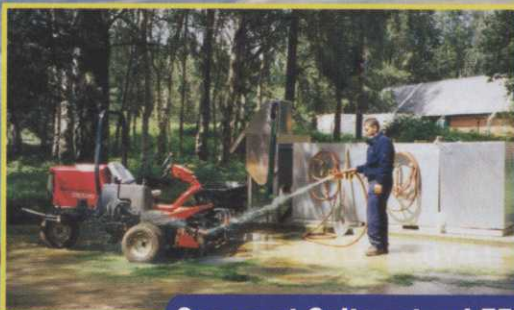
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Where Does the Wash-Water Go?

By Dave Moore Clerk of Works at STRI

Groundwater Regulations have been introduced recently in the UK in response to the EC Groundwater Directive. The legislation is directed at controlling pollution of groundwater, with special emphasis on drinking water. The impact of this new legislation will be far reaching as, for example, it places a limit on Pesticide contamination of one part pesticide to 10,000,000,000 parts water. The Environment Agency advise that just 250 grams of pesticide could be enough to exceed the permitted limit in the whole of London's water supply. With water consumption projected to increase at 2-3% per annum over the next decade it is essential that we preserve this fundamental resource to conserve it and avoid polluting it.

In the past decade the quality of our rivers and coastal waters has been transformed by major investment in wastewater treatment, but increasing knowledge is highlighting new threats. There are concerns that the quality of water in the natural environment is declining. Pollution, depletion of water resources, climate change and bad planning decisions are all contributing to a deteriorating water environment. Nitrate and pesticide levels in many British waters, both ground and surface waters, are increasing. This pollution means that as well as harming the water environment, water companies have to clean pesticides and nutrients from drinking water before supplying to consumers.

The Joint Agency Groundwater Directive Advisory Group (JAGDAG) has been established to consider whether substances fall into any of the generic groups of substances in Lists I and II and also to consider whether the toxicity of specific substances in List I meet the criteria for low toxicity to enable them to be considered in List II. List I substances must be prevented from entering groundwater, and List II substances must be controlled to prevent pollution of groundwater. Oil, grease, petrol and diesel are classed as hydrocarbons and all fall into List I. All pesticides are classed as either organohalogen or CMT (carcinogenic, mutagenic or teratogenic) and are also categorised under List I. Ammonia, nitrites, nitrates, and biocides are categorised under List II. To ensure that the environment is protected, there is a European Commission proposal to make polluters pay for remedying the damage they cause. This means you, and your employer could be held liable for all the environmental damage caused.

We are all responsible for our environment in ensuring that the risk of pollution is minimised. One of the concerns that should be ringing alarm bells with anyone who uses grounds maintenance equipment is the effluent produced when washing off after use. The responsible person should have carried out a risk assessment, identified what is potentially in the washings, where the washings go, and evaluated the potential risk to the environment. Wash-off water from the daily cleaning of equipment contains contaminants such as oil, grease, diesel, petrol, detergents, top dressing, traces of chemicals and fertiliser, as well as the large collection of grass clippings, which are nutrient-rich containing around 5% nitrogen.

This wash-off effluent enters either sewers or sumps, ultimately ending up in watercourses and rivers. But how many greenkeepers are aware of where the drain goes which carries all the machinery wash off? Is it a foul-water or surface-water drain? It is illegal to discharge anything but clean water down a surface water drain, as you get from a downspout from the gutters of your buildings. Furthermore you must have a licence to discharge wash off water down the foul-water drain. It has also been noted that some use another illegal dumping area for foul water, by having



A stream contaminated with oils and clippings from a wash off pad
(Courtesy of Tim Earley Waste2Water Europe Ltd)

a wash off pad that slopes away so that effluent eventually reaches a surface waterway. The aim of wastewater treatment is to discharge treated wastewater with minimal impact on the receiving watercourse.

Guidelines are clearly defined by the Environment Agency in their Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPG's). The guidelines are an introduction to both pollution prevention and are produced by the Environment Agency for England & Wales, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and the Environment and Heritage Service in Northern Ireland.

Equipment available for pre-treating wastewater on the scale required on a sports facility includes sealed septic tanks, oil-water separators, evaporators, and biological treatment plants.

A Septic tank is a multi-chambered system, which retains sewage from a property for sufficient time to allow the solids to form into sludge at the base of the tank, where it is partially broken down. The remaining liquid in the tank then drains from the tank and is usually disposed of by soakage into the ground, provided that the disposal does not generate a pollution risk to surface waters or groundwater resources (underground water). Environment Agency consent may be required for a discharge to a soakaway. Areas of heavy clay, steeply sloping sites or sites where the water table is less than one metre below the bottom of the soakaway are not suitable sites. Clean, uncontaminated roof or surface water must be excluded from the septic tank as this effectively reduces the tank's capacity and can cause solids to be flushed out of the tank, contravening the Agency's consent and impairing the efficiency of the soakaway. Septic tanks must be desludged and serviced every few months to ensure their effective operation. This work is expensive, and must be carried out by an operator registered by the Environment Agency for the handling and

Where Does the Wash-Water Go?



disposal of such waste. The main problem with septic tanks is that they fill very quickly when washing off equipment with copious amounts of water. Further information can be obtained from The Environment Agency's PPG 4 (Disposal of sewage where no mains drainage is available) <http://www.sepa.org.uk/guidance/ppg/pdfs/ppg04.pdf>

Oil-water solids separators generally used a coalescing medium, which encourages the oil to float to the top of the water where it is skimmed off into an oil decanter. This is then ready for safe disposal with your waste oils and lubricants. The system has been available in the UK for a number of years now, and is well suited to washing down garage service areas, lorries, and heavy earthmoving equipment, but is not designed to be used for treating pesticide rinsings, or remove nutrient-rich grass clippings. Even if you use an oil/water separator, where both basic and enhanced oil separators are designed for the settling of heavy solids and separation of free hydrocarbons, it does not have the technology to deal with:

- Chemical contaminants such as, pesticides, fungicides, herbicides etc.
- Emulsified hydrocarbons (resulting from the addition of detergents or any water miscible compound, including heavy metals and totally dissolved solids (TDS).
- Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD). The amount of oxygen needed to degrade the organic matter contained in effluent biologically. The BOD is determined by the level of organic matter in the discharge into a watercourse. If the nutrient level is too high, the bacteria and other micro-organisms expand rapidly. In turn this uses up the available oxygen supply causing fish and other aquatic organisms to suffocate.

Evaporators are designed to heat large metal drums in an insulated chamber, thus evaporating off the water and allowing further contaminated wash-water to be added. Eventually the drum becomes full of a solid dried material that you would then seal and dispose of through a registered waste trader.

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Small biological wastewater treatment units have been available in the United States for several years now but have only been available in the UK for the last two years. The size of the unit you would require depends on the amount of equipment you wash off, and the amount of pesticide rinsate that requires treatment. The two types that are available are the closed loop system that treats, re-circulates and re-uses water, and the discharge system which discharges to the foul water sewer system after a once through treatment. The most environmental friendly system is the closed loop system that takes wastewater, cleans it, and continually re-uses it, avoiding any risk of groundwater contamination. The closed loop system is the type the Environment Agency would prefer us to use, as there is a saving of up to 90% in the wash-water requirement.

Biological Wastewater Treatment Systems are aerobic bio-digesters, which incorporate the following simple process that enhances the ability of naturally occurring bacteria to break down and eliminate waste:

Screening: Wash water enters the Wastewater Treatment Unit via a sump; this water is then pumped up through a stone separator and grass clipping/sand strainer that prevents any large particles from entering the Unit. The screened effluent then enters a settlement chamber thus allowing finer particles to settle out. Further sumps can be added in chemical mixing areas, and refuelling points, and the outlet for these is directed straight into the biological treatment area, but at a slow rate thus not overburdening the demand on the microbes.

Aeration: The displaced liquid travels into the aeration chamber which contains a large concentration of active fixed-film aerobic bacteria that consume the organic waste material in the wastewater. Air is provided to the chamber by an air blower system and is used to ensure a constant flow of water to pass over a honeycomb material that supports the aerobic bacteria. The fixed film bacteria digest the organic contaminants fuels, oils, and pesticides, and the resulting waste is now carbon dioxide, water, and harmless detritus, which fall to the bottom of the tank where you find anaerobic bacteria that break down the nitrate.

Clarification: The displaced liquid travels into the clarification chamber where the fluid is kept as still as possible, allowing the sludge to flocculate and settle to the bottom. This settling process separates the sludge from the clear liquid, allowing clear water free of waste to escape out of the chamber to a foul water sewer (or on a closed loop system, recycled through a pressure system and discharged via wash-off hoses).

Disinfection: Some units are available where the effluent is disinfected with ozone, a very strong antiseptic, prior to final discharge.

The Closed Loop: The treated water is now ready for re-use and is pressurised ready to deliver wash water through hose points. The clarified water is then filtered and made available for continual re-use via the wash-off hoses, which provide an excellent wash-off facility delivering 70–250 Litres min⁻¹ (15–50 gpm) at a pressure of 3.3 bar (50 psi).

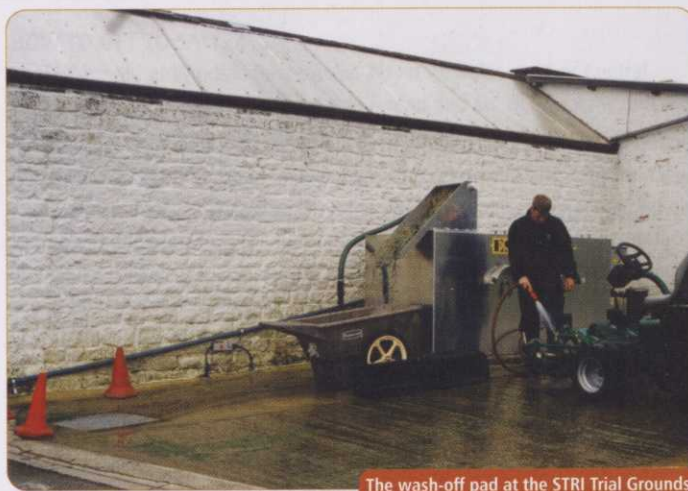
One of the first closed loop biological wastewater units from ESD Waste2Water to be installed in the UK, was at the STRI Trial Grounds for us to evaluate and demonstrate. It is now two and a half years since the unit was installed, and during that time we have found it to be very reliable. The system rapidly digests fuels and lubricants that enter the system through the normal daily washing of equipment, and totally digested an accidental 1-litre hydraulic oil spillage within two days. All the equipment used on the Trial Grounds is washed off on the wash-pad, including tractors, mowers, fertiliser distributors, and spraying equipment. Microbes are added to the unit at intervals between seven to ten days so that we have highly efficient bacteria at all times.

Spraying equipment is always rinsed out prior to cleaning with the washings sprayed onto areas adjacent to the treated areas, thus only traces of pesticides are added to the recycling unit during wash off. This presents no problem to the microbes. The hardest part was believing in what you were doing, as after many years of very careful spraying of several washings per spraying session, to ensure that the containers were thoroughly cleaned in an environmentally safe way, we now washed it down a drain albeit into a water recycle plant. The time saving using this

new wash-off method could be significant for many clubs in addition to following Health & Safety best practise.

The latest addition to these closed loop biological treatment plants units are specialist chemical sprayer wash off pads. They are basically a large grid covered collection tank area on to which you drive your tractor and sprayer onto, designed for the collection of any spillages whilst chemical mixing takes place, as well as a designated chemical wash off pad. The contents are metered overnight into the bio-digester at a trickle rate so the microbes rapidly digest the chemical without being harmed, thus not turning the whole unit into a possible pesticide wash for your maintenance equipment.

The unit installed on the Trial Grounds was one of the early designs,



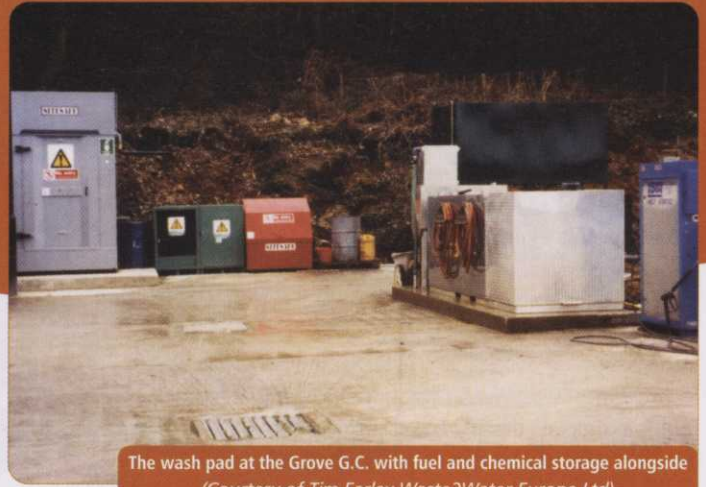
The wash-off pad at the STRI Trial Grounds

and consequently later models have been much improved to bring them into line with EEC regulations. Since installation ours has been updated to the latest electrical specifications, including the introduction of high-level water top-up inlet (as the original breached European water regulations, which if used could have contaminated the water supply). Ball valves have also been fitted to each of the chamber outlets to enable easy access to draining the system, or recycling chambers as necessary. The latest design incorporates a security cover which I am told gives frost protection, thus allowing the system to be used all year round. A dedicated grass separator and dirt settlement tank has also been added as a first sediment chamber, which improves water quality and allows the sediment to be dropped directly into a wheelbarrow placed underneath. Sediment from the different chambers can be used in compost production as it is rich in microbial matter and free from harmful contaminants (providing the unit has been left to cycle for a couple of days prior to being emptied, and cleaned out).

During the winter months we have thoroughly cleaned the system by emptying the water and removing the polypropylene medium. This allowed us to shovel about 100 mm depth of sludge from the base of the chambers, and check the aeration parts for damage. Some of these were replaced due to cracks appearing in the rubber covers, and I would recommend these be checked as part of an annual maintenance programme. The sludge was used after testing for harmful contaminants, in our leaf mould heap to speed up the breakdown of the leaves. The polypropylene filtration medium was reinstalled and the tanks filled with water from the irrigation system borehole, reducing any effects of chlorine and chloramines, which could impact any microbes added within the first 48-hour period. A double dose of microbes were then added as you would when first starting the unit, and the air supply turned on to give a light aeration to the water.

You may remember a previous article in Greenkeeper International, where the forethought of one greenkeeper in the positioning of chemical and fuel storage adjacent to his newly acquired water recycling plant saved an environmental catastrophe. Thieves tried to steal his diesel, but

Where Does the Wash-Water Go?



The wash pad at the Grove G.C. with fuel and chemical storage alongside
(Courtesy of Tim Earley Waste2Water Europe Ltd)

ended up spewing the contents over the top of the fuel tank bund onto his wash-off pad. The microbes consumed several hundred litres of diesel and no harm was done. With environmental risk assessments for groundwater contamination, thought should be given to all areas of possible environmental catastrophe, and whether it be accident or malicious act you could still face court action against you, as taking no action will land you in deeper trouble. At the Grove GC fuels, oils, and chemicals are all located adjacent to the wash-off pad, so any spillages will automatically be collected and biologically treated, thus showing they have assessed the risk and taken all action possible to safeguard the environment.

The Environment Agency has been given powers to intervene ensuring potential pollution incidents are prevented. No longer do they need to find pollution before they act. They are now able to issue enforcement notices requiring any business to install, upgrade, or replace, effluent treatment

plant that has caused pollution incidents in the past or has been a persistent source of pollution. Businesses that breach enforcement notices face fines of up to £20,000 in the Magistrates Court and their directors face up to three months in prison. If an incident is sufficiently serious to prosecute in the Crown Court, businesses face unlimited fines and up to two-year jail sentences for directors. Even if a case is not taken to court, the costs of damage repairs still have to be met by the polluter. For example, restocking of fish can cost many thousands of pounds and you will find that the general policies of many insurance companies' no longer cover the costs of pollution clean up. Sports facilities are not exempt from these new regulations, so if you have not already done so, I would recommend that now is the time to review your current working practises and plan for the future, before the authorities do it for you.

For further information contact the STRI on www.stri.co.uk

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IOG SALTEX

2-4 SEPTEMBER 2003

Windsor Racecourse, Berks

IOG SALTEX, Europe's flagship event for the open space management industry, is being held this year on 2-4 September at Windsor Racecourse, Windsor, Berkshire.

Offering a comprehensive overview of the latest products, technologies and techniques for effective and efficient open space management - as well as a definitive free seminar programme featuring key speakers from the industry - fine turf and sports, turf maintenance equipment, children's play and safety surfacing, commercial vehicles, leisure and facilities management and software as well as security equipment.

A series of round-table 'Groundsman Live' debates is the latest attraction planned for the Show Staged every lunchtime during the three-day event and sponsored by The Groundsman magazine, the Question Time-type discussions will feature a panel of industry experts who as well as voicing their opinions on a different topical issues will also be inviting audience participation.

BIGGA will again be strongly represented and will be happy to meet members and prospective members at their stand - G1.

HOW TO GET TO SALTEX

SALTEX is held at Windsor Racecourse. About 20 miles west of Central London, Windsor is easy to reach by rail, road and air. Heathrow is only a 15 minute drive away; Gatwick and Luton are within an hour's drive.

BY ROAD

From the M25. Leave the motorway at Junction 15, where you'll join the M4, heading west.

From the M4: Westbound -- leave M4 at junction 6. Eastbound -- leave M4 at junction 8/9. Then follow brown and white signs for Windsor racecourse.

BY RAIL

From London Paddington: Leave the train at Slough and join the local service to Windsor and Eton Central Station. Approximate journey time is 35 minutes.

From London Waterloo: Leave the train at Windsor and Eton Riverside Station. Approximate journey time is 45 minutes.

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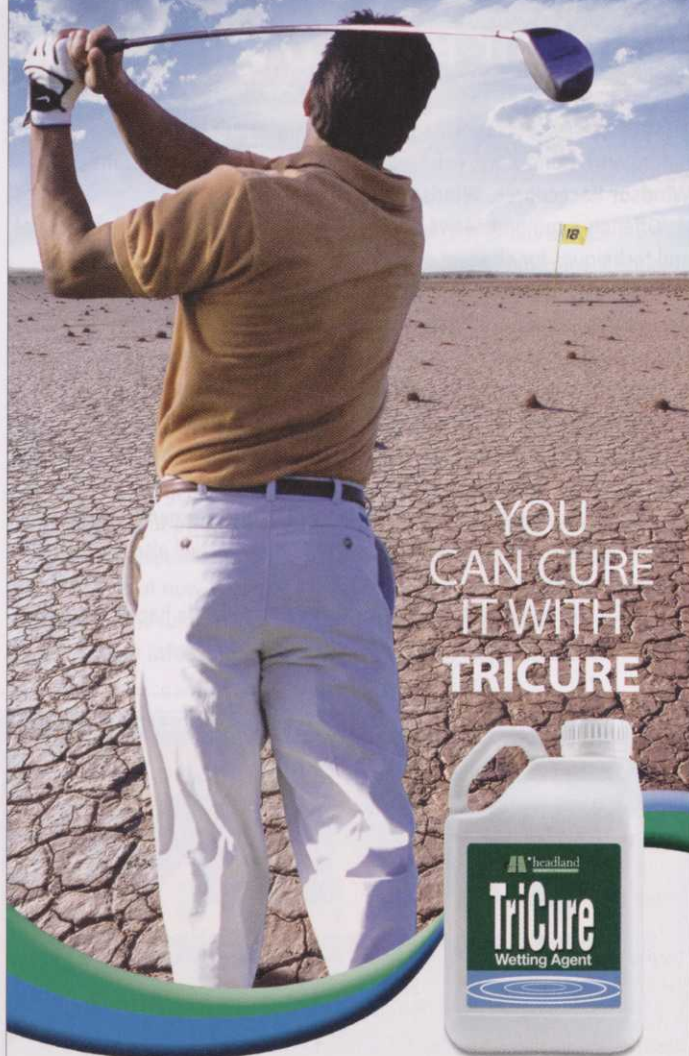
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Email: www.gemprofessional.co.uk
Website: www.gemprofessional.co.uk

Hayter Ltd Stand W09



Hayter commercial products are designed and built in the UK for Northern European grass cutting conditions and demanding municipal applications. They are the first choice for discerning users whichever market they operate in.

A comprehensive selection of ride on and tractor drawn equipment will be displayed. The LT322 and LT324 triples and T424 five unit have proved to be market leaders. So have the TM549 and TM749 tractor drawn gang mowers which will cope with the largest areas quickly and efficiently. Also being shown will be the R314 triple deck rotary and FM524 fairway mower. All of these products have easy access for maintenance, so important for commercial and fleet users.

A representative selection from the Hayter pedestrian rotary range, suited for both consumer and commercial markets, will be on display. There is a Hayter pedestrian rotary to suit every application.

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Email: sales@hayter.co.uk
Website: www.hayter.co.uk

John Deere Stand V01



JOHN DEERE

John Deere will be featuring Europe's biggest single brand range of commercial and consumer equipment, including walk behind and ride on cylinder and front rotary mowers, the new 4010 Series compact tractors with their innovative electronic transmissions, the popular and versatile Gator utility vehicles, pedestrian and tractor mounted aerators, and new machines such as the 72in Flex-deck attachment for 1400 and 1500 Series front rotary mowers, and the CP48 core pulveriser. The John Deere golf and turf range has supplied course maintenance equipment for the last three Open golf championships, including this year's tournament at Royal St George's in Kent. The John Deere brand name is backed by industry leading investment in research and development, manufacturing facilities and customer support. In addition, there's a range of flexible finance programmes available from John Deere Credit, including a new budget calculator to help you manage your annual equipment needs more easily and cost effectively.

Contact: David Hart
Tel: 01949 860491 **Fax:** 01949 860490
Website: www.johndeere.co.uk

Scotts UK Stand E01



WEATHER-WISE

Visitors to SALTEX will be able to assess a tool that can make Integrated Turf Management actually work in practice. Most greenkeepers know the ITM theory, but making it happen is another matter. Now Scotts (stand E 01) will launch the answer – the innovative Scotts iTurf system.

iTurf is a technological triumph; a system that will measure everything that can potentially have an effect on turf growth and turf health, and then collate and present the information so that the turf manager can make the right cultural decisions.

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Contact: Dave Steward
Tel: 0871 2205353 **Fax:** 01473 830386
Email: prof.sales@scottscs.co.uk
Website: scottspromotional.co.uk

Ransomes Jacobsen Stand V15



Not just green, but seen to be green

Once again a major theme of the Ransomes Jacobsen stand V15 will be that of alternative energy with environmentally sensitive products on display. These will include the Ransomes Highway LPG triple mower for the municipal sector, the Jacobsen E-Walk electric pedestrian greens mowers and the electric version of the new Jacobsen Tournament Cut, the most flexible floating head pedestrian greens mowers available.

Also on display will be the new Ransomes ZT220D, zero turn diesel powered rotary mower and the production version of the super compact, but powerful tractor, the Iseki TXG 23.

Taking centre stage will be the new Ransomes Frontline 960 rotary mower, with a its 60hp diesel providing bags of power for municipal mowing and contracting operations.

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GOLDEN KEY EXHIBITORS AT SALTEX

Toro Commercial Products Stand S31



At its new site – Stand No S31 – Toro is launching the new Groundsmaster 4100-D, which features an out-front three-section cutting deck that makes it the only fully out-front mower in the 11ft rotary market segment.

The deck produces a beautiful aftercut appearance at high work rates on sports grounds and golf course roughs and semi-roughs.

The machine has a powerful 60hp Kubota turbo diesel engine and an overall cutting width of 10ft 4in.

Also being unveiled is the Workman 2100E, an electric version of Toro's popular Workman 2100 petrol utility vehicle. The new model features Toro's unique 'twister' suspension system that provides for unrivalled traction.

Contact: Peter Mansfield
Tel: 01480 226800 Fax: 01480 226801
Email: toro.info@lely.co.uk
Website: www.toro.com

TurfTrax Ground Management Systems Limited Stand F27



TurfTrax Ground Management Systems Limited is part of TurfTrax Group Limited, which was founded in 1997 to commercialise research undertaken in conjunction with Cranfield University.

TurfTrax Ground Management Systems Limited meets the selection criteria stipulated by the Sport England New Opportunities Fund, Playing Fields and Community Green Spaces Programme for appointment as a recognised and approved soils and turfgrass consultant. TurfTrax are also recognised and approved by The Heritage Lottery Fund, The Football Foundation, the Football Association and the England and Wales Cricket Board. We have the expertise necessary in order to achieve the requisite Performance Quality Standards (PQS).

Contact: Colin Hood
Tel: 01234 821750 Fax: 01234 821751
Email: sarah.mason@turftrax.co.uk
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SILVER KEY EXHIBITORS AT SALTEX

Bernhard & Co Ltd Stand P36



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WOLF Proline Stand F12



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Our team of specialist representatives look forward to welcoming you on our stand F12 at SALTEX, where you can obtain detailed information and literature on our range of products and services, make an appointment or discuss your future requirements.

Contact: Richard Smith
Tel: 01495 306600
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WHO'S EXHIBITING?



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Don't Make the Rest Lincsgreen with Envy

Lincsgreen showed the rest of the field how it is done once again at the annual BIGGA Golf Day.

Last year we praised the achievements of the Lincsgreen team in the annual BIGGA Golf Day for a remarkable feat of scoring in difficult playing conditions.

Well, we appear to have our own BIGGA version of Groundhog Day because this year was virtually an exact replica.

In winds which certainly left their mark on some of the teams the Lincsgreen team - Philip Wilkinson, Graeme Macdonald, Les Howkins and Richard Owen, who replaced Mike Love from last year's winning line-up - compiled a nett score of 53.75, which meant that they negotiated the 18 holes in a 14 under-par 58. Last year they were also 14 under-par but the course was then playing to par-71 so they shot a gross 57.

It means that in 36 holes the Lincsgreen team, who are all low handicappers, have played a measly 115 shots!

On this occasion they were pushed all the way by a fine performance from the Rolawn team who finished just over a shot behind with the Haifa & Hortifeeds team in third place.

Longest Drive went to a mammoth effort from Board of Management member Ian Semple, the Nearest the Pin to John Carter of the Rolawn Team, who was 59 inches away on the last hole, while the putting competition was won by Terry Adamson, of Alpha/Acorn Amenity, on countback from Walter Woods, who had both scored 14.

The Golf Day, the seventh the Association has held since the first in 1997, was again sponsored by the Harrogate A Group of Hotels with Aldwark Manor Hotel again proving to be a wonderful venue with a fine golf course and excellent food and drink throughout the day.

1st team - Lincsgreen No. 1 - Philip Wilkinson, Graeme Macdonald, Les Howkins, Richard Owens. 53.75

2nd - Rolawn - Dan Rogers, John Carter, Richard Hughes, Richard Eyen. 55.0

3rd - Haifa & Hortifeeds - Scott Garnett, Chris Norris, Alan Davis, Greg Holden. 56.75

Nearest the Pin Winner - John Carter, Rolawn.

Longest Drive Winner - Ian Semple, EGU Team.

Putting Competition - Terry Adamson, Alpha/Acorn Amenity.



The victorious Lincsgreen Team



Runners-up, Rolawn

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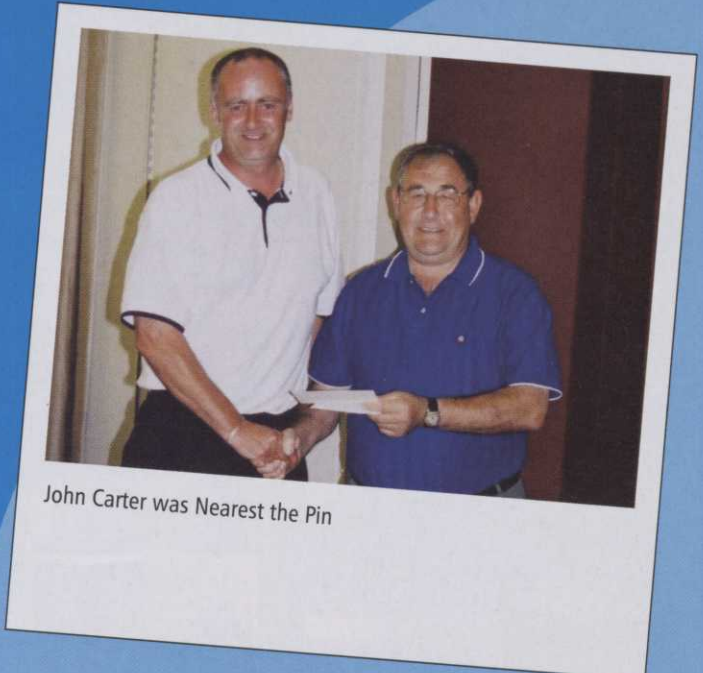
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Haifa & Hortifeeds finished third



John Carter was Nearest the Pin



Ian Semple won the Longest Drive



Terry Adamson won the Putting Competition



Ian McLeod puts at the 15th watched by Neil Cockbill and Neil Hayward, of the EGU

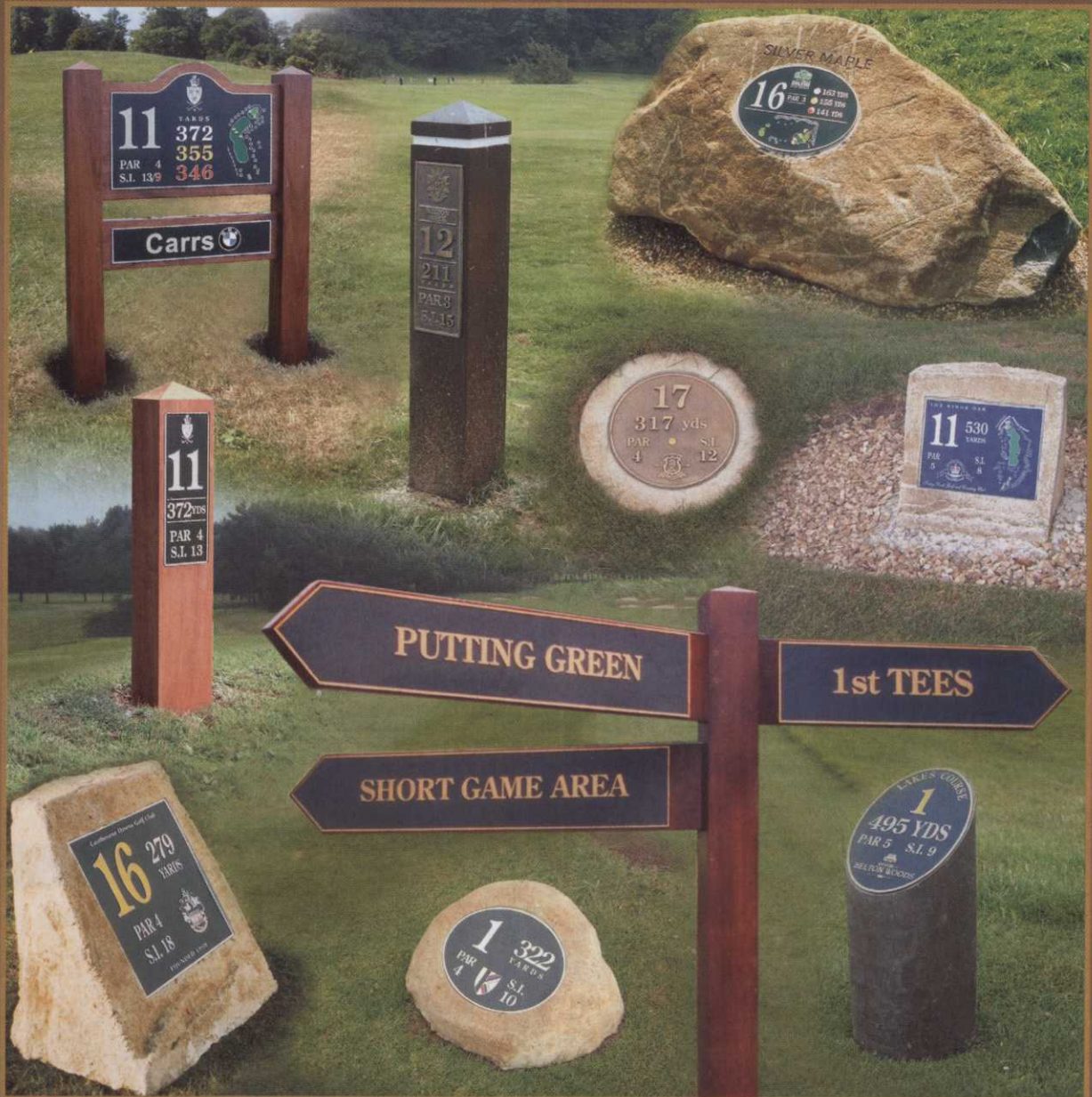


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Philip Armitage, of Glen Farrow, enjoys a cooling drink after his round



BIGGA Sales Manager Rosie Hancher shows her putting skills, but really needs some proper footwear!



National Vice Chairman, Andy Campbell, goes close with this chip shot



&



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BOOKING FOR HARROGATE MADE EASY...

As we mentioned in last month's article, BIGGA HOUSE no longer has the capacity to handle hotel bookings for visitors to the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibition and BIGGA has chosen Harrogate based Reservation Highway to handle accommodation requirements for both visitors and exhibitors.

Offering preferential rates at many hotels in Harrogate, Reservation Highway are your one stop shop for booking your accommodation.

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4. Enter the access code: **bigga**
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6. Select your date of arrival making sure you change the year to 2004
7. Select the number of nights you wish to stay
8. Select the type of room you require (or leave as "all types", as this will then list all room types within your price range)
9. Input your budget (this is per night)
10. Click on: **the Search button**
11. You should now have a list of hotels that have rooms available and are within your specified budget
12. Click on: **the hotel name for further details on the location and facilities offered**
13. When you find the hotel you wish to stay in click on the **BOOK NOW button on the left hand side of the screen** (this will take you into a secure booking system)
14. Read the instructions on the screen (it may be helpful to print them out) and click **Next**
15. Complete the details requested on screen and click **Next**
16. Input your Credit Card details and click **Next** (this is only to guarantee your booking and no charge is taken from the card provided you take up your room. Don't forget, in the event of non-arrival or very late cancellation the hotel may make a charge to the card. If you need to change the booking at any time contact Reservation Highway)
17. • Input your first delegate name
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Scholarships

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WHY AN MSc?



Ian Somerville, Course Manager at Heaton Moor Golf Club, talks about his decision to undertake an MSc in Sports Surface Technology.

I have thought for many years about how to improve my knowledge and my career while staying in full time employment.

It was not until January 2002 while attending BTME in Harrogate that I was intrigued to find out more about possible courses available. I decided to attend one of the seminars with Alex Vickers, of Cranfield University, as the speaker. I listened intently with great interest about the MSc in Sports Surface Technology. After the seminar I came out thinking to myself this is just what I and the industry of sports management/maintenance has needed for many years.

A Masters Course designed for the sports industry that is flexible enough to either complete as a full time course in one year, or fit in as a part time course over a number of years – up to five years. I hope to complete the course in three years. The next step was to find out how to apply for a place on the course, as I had made up my mind that this was the course for me.

I contacted Alex Vickers who arranged for me to visit Cranfield University, Silsoe. Alex, kindly showed me around the campus, which I must add, was absolutely fascinating and second to none. He then looked through my portfolio and discussed the course over coffee.

I was over the first step, what now? Do I tell my employers at Heaton Moor Golf Club of my intention to attend university or wait until I find out if I have obtained a place on the course? I decided to wait. The letter

arrived informing me that a place was available for me at Cranfield, along with the tuition fee costs for the course. Do I tell my employers now? No - I decided to wait, as I now had to find a way of funding the course. I did not want to build my hopes up until I had been able to raise the funds for the first year, at least.

I decided to write to the R&A, BIGGA and the IOG to see if any funding was available through them. The R&A were unable to help me but Ken Richardson at BIGGA informed me that there was a possibility of funding from monies donated by Ransomes Jacobsen to help in the further training and education of its members. I was overjoyed when the news came from Ken that David Withers of Ransomes Jacobsen had been in touch and a part sponsorship was to be awarded to me from Textron. Along with this I was able to obtain a part bursary from Cranfield for my first year. I am

currently waiting to hear whether or not I have been successful in obtaining some funding from the IOG 2000 fund towards my second year fees. Also, any companies wishing to help fund my course further – would be greatly appreciated. Details available from Ken Richardson.

Without the help of funding, it would have been impossible to take up my place at Cranfield - so many thanks for the financial help so far. I would like to think that other companies might look into the possibility of sponsorship schemes in the way Ransomes Jacobsen have.

Funding has in the past been directed at the under 18's, so this is a great step forward for any mature student. The industry needs to be recognised as having highly qualified and educated managers just like any other industry, and not just referred to as (grass cutters).

Once I had received confirmation of the part funding for my first year it was time to sit down with my Greens Chairman and explain my intention to undertake my MSc. I told him that I had obtained a place at Cranfield University to undertake an MSc in Sports Surface Technology along with part funding. However, I now needed the time required to attend University. The Chairman's response was very positive and he agreed to put it before the general committee at their next meeting. The morning after the meeting I received a phone call from the Captain, who then informed me that the committee was unanimous in their decision to allow me the 20 weeks over three years, with pay to undertake my MSc. I was so pleased that I could now accept my place and the proposed funding offers.

The course consists of two-week modules that run concurrently starting in October through to March each year. I was able to choose the modules that fitted in with my winter work programme at Heaton Moor Golf Club. The modules cover everything from irrigation and drainage to soil/plant/water relationships.

The course is very interesting, but intense, and at times mind boggling. It is the first time since leaving school that I have used π^2 (pi squared). I found that the course was beneficial due to the fact that the students are of all ages and many different backgrounds within the sports industry from Course managers/Grounds managers through to top dressing manufacturers, all of whom are able to give their own first hand experiences of different situations within their specialist areas. This also gives the class an insight into how others deal with similar problems, thus broadening their knowledge, not just from the lectures but the other students as well.

I hope that anyone reading this will look closely at the possibility of applying to do their MSc at Cranfield. The more students that enrol on the courses will enable it to go from strength to strength, and the more professional the respect for the sports industry will become as more and more students qualify at MSc level.

My first year is now over and the results of this year's case studies are awaited with baited breath. I have learnt a lot over this first term, not only from the course but also about being a student on campus living on pot noodles and cuppa soups and the odd beer. It only remains for me to thank Alex Vickers, Cranfield University, for his support and enthusiasm; Ken Richardson, BIGGA, for the help in obtaining funding; David Withers, Ransomes Jacobsen for the sponsorship provided; To Heaton Moor Golf Club for the full support, backing, forward thinking and the time to attend the University along with my staff for keeping up with the work on the golf course in my absence.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank: Derek Green, Links Manager, Royal Liverpool Golf Club. Bob Goodwin, Course Manager, Ashridge Golf Club - retired. Bill Lawson, Course Manager, Heswall Golf Club - retired.

It was a great privilege to work for the afore-mentioned, where I gained a great deal from their knowledge and expertise, leading to me obtaining a place at University – many thanks.

I would like to add my congratulations to Derek Green and his staff at Royal Liverpool Golf Club for securing the 2006 Open Championship – well done and good luck.



Managing a Golf Course

The **fourth** of a series of five articles by Duncan McGilvray detailing duties of the modern day Course Manager

Managing Staff

Managing staff - easily said - easily written about - extremely difficult to carry out successfully and effectively.

In every advertisement for the position of Course Manager you will read the words "must be capable of managing/motivating/leading staff". Without doubt your employer views this aspect of a Course Manager's work to be by far the most important - so we have to get it right. It has often been relayed to a yet-to-be-appointed Course Manager that the staff which he/she is about to inherit are lazy/untrainable/stupid or even worse!

In my experience I have found little fault with the staff but lots of faults within their management.

Managing staff is about understanding people and there are no two people the same, although strangely some (probably most) believe that they should be treated equally - in practice, and under closer analysis, people prefer to be treated individually but tell you they want to be treated equally! Strange, but that is what we are like and as soon as we accept that as Managers then we realise that a great deal of understanding and effort has to be put into managing staff-recruiting, training, assessing, appraising, listening, and simply keeping them happy, which will ensure you get the best from them.

When I analyse my workload as a Manager a large proportion of my time is taken up thinking and acting on ways to keep staff happy because I know that I will get much more effort in return. This in turn ensures standards on the golf course continually improve - it therefore makes good sense.

I do not believe there are any hard and fast rules in managing staff but what I hope to convey within this month's article is what I have learned, so far, through personal experiences, advice from colleagues, management trainers and even psychologists.

SUPERVISING AND ASSISTING IN THE TRAINING/DEVELOPMENT AND RECRUITMENT OF STAFF

SUPERVISING

The "supervision" of staff is so often mistaken for watching over staff which I have already stated in a previous article to be a total waste of the Course Manager's time and therefore the golf club's resources. Supervision is about ensuring staff carry out tasks successfully, safely, and within the limits/restrictions the Course Manager sets.

It is important to remember that the course staff are under the supervision of the Course Manager at all times, including times when the Course Manager is not there for whatever reason - that is why it is vital that staff are managed in a way which encourages self motivation.

TRAINING

The training and development of the course staff is the responsibility of the Course Manager.

It is his/her duty to ensure that there exists sufficient funding and provision for on course practical training as well as arranging for external training providers to supply any area of training which may not be possible on the golf course so that each member of staff can advance to his/her maximum potential and capabilities.

It is not fair to the staff or to the golf club not to do so.

The favourite excuse not to train staff is "why train them - they will only leave for a better position?"

This is an extremely narrow minded view which at last is being said much less often than in the past.

The advantages of good training and support are numerous in terms of staff commitment, self motivation, enthusiasm, good working atmosphere and work output, which all combine to give us a better maintained golf course - it is therefore very cost effective!

The support now given to Course Managers from both the GTC and BIGGA is exceptional - if you are in any doubt whatsoever regarding the training that is available for both yourself and your staff, contact them - it could not be easier.

RECRUITMENT

I have now had considerable experience from both sides in an interview situation and I am not surprised when I hear that mistakes are made when hiring staff.

The experiences range from unbelievable intimidation of candidates to inappropriate questioning linked to failure to check on previous references.

The costs of failure in employing the right people are high - I therefore spend considerable time in preparation for interviews to minimise the chance of taking on the wrong people.

When recruiting course staff from Deputy Course Manager down to Apprentice the Course Manager is the most important interviewer - the Course Manager will after all be the successful candidate's future Head of Department.

My experience tells me however that the Course Manager needs assistance in making decisions, particularly when selecting prospective candidates for employment.

Following the short list selection process, which would include a personal profile as well as a task based assessment of possible candidates, three interviewers should be involved (fewer than three is thought to be too few for accurate assessment and more than three is thought to be too intimidating).

The interviewers would ideally be:

- Course Manager (Department Head) - technical detail/education and candidate capabilities.
- Club Manager (Head of all staff) - employer conditions, club structure and relevant information.
- A.N. Other (Course Liaison Officer/Chairman of Course Committee/Committee Member) - general questions of a more personal nature to put the candidate at ease.

In this way the right person for the position offered is more likely to be selected and when the successful candidate takes up the position they will have a clear understanding of how the club is managed and who they will be responsible to.

If there is any difference of opinion on selection, the final decision must rest with the Course Manager - if the course suffers because of a bad decision it is the Course Manager who takes full responsibility.

ENDEAVOURING AT ALL TIMES TO IMPROVE SUPERVISOR AND STAFF RELATIONS

For some reason small groups of staff (2/3 to 7/8) which is common on golf courses seem to give more problems than large groups.

The Course Manager must not only be aware of this but endeavour to set systems in place to lessen the chance of staff friction/tension becoming a serious threat to the efficiency of the course staff as a whole.

Appraisal systems work extremely well in situations such as these and should be an important part of the staff structure within the club.

In short and simple terms an appraisal is time set aside for staff and managers to communicate in a positive way in an atmosphere such that both parties can air their respective views in a calm and non intimidatory way.

Following appraisals I have always found staff to be more focussed and enthusiastic which ultimately improves golf course conditions - I have also learned a lot about myself which is difficult, but necessary!

Appraisals should not however be used to delay any discussion on poor staff performance on the course.

More and more over the years I have made time available for staff to be more involved in the decision making process and have certainly not regretted it.

Open staff discussion forums on standards, work schedules/programmes, major projects, health and safety matters, better ways of working etc. should be allowed for at appropriate times of the year.

It gives any member of staff the opportunity to discuss any problem area and solutions are found collectively.

I am continually and pleasantly surprised at just how much staff are prepared to contribute to the running of the golf course.

At this stage I cannot over emphasise the importance of appropriate training in handling both staff appraisals and group discussions - I will cover this under the sub heading of "personal presentation" in my last article entitled "Communication".

DELEGATING EFFECTIVELY

How successful you are as a Course Manager will be dependant on many factors and the art of delegation is a key area.

Delegation releases you to manage - which is what you are employed for.

When I speak to young Course Managers they have a tendency to do extremely important tasks themselves eg. changing pin positions, application of fertilisers/weedkillers etc.

This ties the Course Manager down at those times and does not allow reaction to anything which may crop up - as it invariably does at the most inconvenient time!

It also has the effect of staff feeling that they cannot be trusted to do important tasks and therefore demotivates - which is the opposite of what you want.

Delegating is not passing on a duty which the course manager cannot



From left to right: Dean Seare, Tony Hawes, James Morriss, Adam Smale, Colin Adamson and John Dennis

be bothered to do, but is about entrusting a duty or responsibility to a member of staff who is suitably qualified - it is not easy to get right but when you do the results from all aspects of course management are exceptional.

Delegation is a management tool, which if handled properly has a profound effect on the staff and the way they view their position, which helps to create a good positive working environment.

To conclude I have accumulated the following various truisms which I believe are particularly relevant to the management of golf courses.

- Always lead by example.
- Respect has to be earned.
- Never ask anyone to do what you would not do yourself.
- People are not machines - they should therefore not be treated as such.
- Involve all staff in decision making and problem solving.
- You cannot motivate staff - you can only create an atmosphere in which staff choose to motivate themselves.
- The stick or carrot method only works in the short term.
- You are only as good as your staff allow you to be.
- Take time to listen.
- Never blame staff for any deficiencies - you are after all the one who is responsible for their management and training - it is therefore your fault, not theirs!

NEW PRODUCTS

SURF WITH CHARTERHOUSE

The latest website initiative from Charterhouse Turf Machinery makes looking for grounds care and landscaping equipment as easy as visiting a local department store. It also enables browsers to purchase certain items from the company's wide range at discounted prices, including machines aimed at landscape contractors and hire shop managers.

A key element of the new website, which can be found at www.charterhouseturfmachinery.co.uk, is the Trade Direct initiative. This lists equipment from the company's Professional Pedestrian Machinery range and the Charterhouse Richmond divisions, the former offering items for landscape contractors, estate managers, hire shops and homeowners with large gardens, and the latter fulfilling the needs of foresters and grounds care professionals.

Trade Direct allows visitors to order on-line and enjoy savings of up to 35% on machines such as wheeled brushcutters and trimmers, pedestrian rotary mowers, chipper/shredders, and dagger soil compaction relievers, as well as lawn scarifiers, turf cutters and post hole borers. Savings up to 60% can similarly be made on consumables like trimmer lines and lapping paste. Most products are delivered from stock within three days and are backed by a 14-day, no-quibble refund guarantee.

The website also gives quick links to information on other Charterhouse Divisions, such as the Professional Division that handles turf care equipment like the Verti-Drain deep aerator, and the Antonio Carraro Division that distributes its range of high work-rate tractors.



CHAFER GRUB CONTROL

Chafers can create devastating damage to turf. Direct damage is caused by the larvae (grubs) feeding on roots and indirectly by predators feeding on the grubs. Grubs feeding on roots create characteristic yellowing and browning of the turf, furthermore, the damaged turf can easily be rolled off since much of the root system has been severed. Even slight damage can make the turf vulnerable to desiccation. High infestations of grubs in the soil provide a very attractive diet for predators. Badgers, foxes and crows will focus on infested areas, tearing away the turf to expose the grubs.

There have been no products available to deal with this pest. Until now...

New Nemasys G became available in July specifically to combat this pest. Nemasys G contains nematodes (*Heterorhabditis* sp.) which are natural predators of these grubs. These aggressive organisms actively seek out grubs in the soil and enter them through natural body openings. Once inside they quickly kill the grubs (see picture) and the nematodes reproduce to release a new generation of infective juveniles which disperse in search of further prey.

Nemasys G, supplied by Avoncrop Amenity and Aitken's Sportsturf, is in a water dispersible formulation which can be applied through standard spray equipment. Applications should be made in August to September – at the time when the grubs are active and are close to the soil surface.

Nemasys G is a biological product that is safe to applicators, course users and the environment. There are no restrictions in use and no re-entry interval required.

LIGHTWEIGHT TRIMMERS FROM CLAYMORE

Claymore Grass Machinery have introduced four new lightweight trimmers to their range of Solo Outdoor Power Equipment. All the new introductions feature easy-start primer systems, assuring quick and safe starting even after the engine has been switched off for long periods.

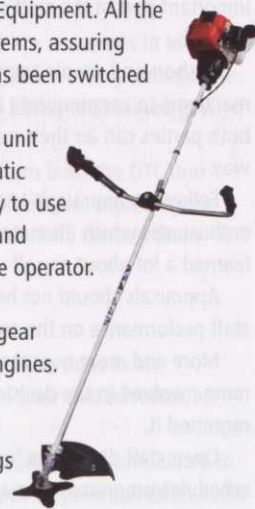
Model 105-L is a Solo 25cc 0.95hp powered unit with a curved shaft complete with semi-automatic nylon cutting head. A loop handle makes it easy to use for domestic trimming jobs around the garden and weighing only 4.1 kgs means less fatigue on the operator. Safety goggles supplied as standard.

The 106-L and 106-B are both straight shaft gear drive trimmers powered by Solo 25cc 0.95hp engines. The 106-L is equipped with a loop handle and weighs 4.3 kgs with a semi-automatic head.

The 106-B has bicycle handles, weighs 4.7 kgs and has a 4-tooth grass blade. Both models are supplied with nylon head, harness and safety goggles.

The fourth unit is the 106-R powered by a Robin 4 stroke 25cc engine rated at 1.1hp. Supplied with a loop handle, the new trimmer is gear driven and weighs 5.5 kgs. Standard equipment is a semi-automatic nylon head, shoulder harness and goggles.

RRP including Vat 105-L - £189; 106-L - £199; 106.B - £219 and 106-R - £249



NEW ATP LAUNCHED BY POLARIS

Polaris Britain launched its new All Terrain Pickup at The Royal Highland Show. The ATP breaks the mould of traditional ATV design and takes it to a new level of innovation and practicality.

"The new turf & amenity specialist" is how Jack Ford, General Manager of Polaris Britain, the new UK subsidiary formed last year by US based Polaris, sums up the qualities of this new machine.

"It embodies many of the design principles and proven components of the latest generation Polaris ATVs but then builds on these to create a unique new machine that will have particular appeal to users in turf & amenity markets."

The ATP has been designed to carry more and, with a unique new rear tipping box, to do this more easily. For convenience, the box has a tipping lever on both sides of the vehicle and a gas assisted shock for easier tipping.

The ATP is available powered either by the 500cc HO engine from the company's Sportsman ATV, which is liquid cooled and comes with Polaris EBS (engine braking system) as standard, or by its new 330cc engine.

Power is handled by the latest drum shift version of the proven Polaris Variable Transmission (PVT), which has a splice-less belt that carries a



limited lifetime guarantee from Polaris.

Polaris has also introduced its Versatrac electronic rear locking differential. This gives the ATP a 20% tighter turning radius when loaded, reduces steering effort and reduces scuffing on fine turf. The

Versatrac system is electronically controlled from a convenient switch on the handlebars that enables the operator to shift on the move from a turf setting to a locked setting providing solid rear axle 2WD or on to AWD whenever required, giving the ATP genuine all-terrain capability.

Carrying capacity and storage is exceptional in the ATP. A sealed storage box takes the place of the front rack, which takes loads inside and on top, where additional D-rings can be used to secure the load. A further 18 kg of sealed storage is available in compartments in the rear wings with hinged doors to protect the contents. Overall, the ATP can carry up to 231kg and pull a further 556kg taking it to a new level of all round performance.

The ATP became available at all Polaris utility ATV dealers in July.



TWO NEW HEDGE CUTTERS

Allen Power Equipment have introduced two petrol hedgecutters from Komatsu Zenoah.

The first is the eHT601D, a double sided, double reciprocating professional quality unit powered by a 21.7cc Komatsu Zenoah engine with the e-start easy starting system. New ergonomic design incorporates a rear handle adjustable through 180 degrees, and at 4.35kg is the lightest petrol hedgecutter in the world.

The second introduction is the eHT751S, a professional single sided double reciprocating blade unit, again powered by the 21.7cc Komatsu Zenoah engine.

The 750mm (30in) blades have a resin receive plate for a cleaner debris-free finish. Latest Komatsu Zenoah technology uses maximum power to weight ratio and at 4.45kg is the lightest in its class.

RRP including Vat eHT601 £429.95 and the eHT751S £459.95.

SUCCESSFUL ASSESSMENT

Nutrovate, developed by Blakedown Sport & Play for drainage and rootzone improvements, has been assessed by at the STRI laboratory at Bingley.

STRI's initial laboratory studies were designed to evaluate the performance of Nutrovate, and to assess optimum application rates of Nutrovate in sand and sand/soil mixes for use in sports turf areas.

In summary the tests confirmed:

- An amendment of 20% Nutrovate to two grades of sand and a sand/soil mix increased the cation exchange capacity in a medium course sand by up to 27 times.
- Total porosity, capillary porosity and air-filled porosity all significantly increased with the addition of Nutrovate to a rootzone. Tests suggest that Nutrovate amended rootzones show greater water retention and improve growing conditions in situations of water stress.
- Hardness and bulk density are significantly reduced by the addition of Nutrovate to rootzone. This has important implications for the playing quality of Nutrovate amended sports turf areas.
- It was established that sand/soil mixes incorporating Nutrovate can satisfy the criteria for physical performance outlined by the United States Golf Association (USGA).

IS IT SUNNY?

Dynamax has introduced a new sensor to measure solar radiation components. The Sunshine Sensor, model BF3, is a device that contains an array of photodiodes under a shaded dome, and calculates whether the sun is shining.

The special pattern of clear and opaque areas on the acrylic dome enables at least one photodiode to see an unobstructed solar disc, and at least one is always in full shadow.

The onboard processor calculates the direct, diffuse and total solar radiation values. The sensor provides two analog outputs corresponding to the diffuse and total components, and a digital output of sunshine presence.

In addition to meteorology, good applications include plant, crop, and forest canopy analysis.

The sunshine sensor is a major improvement because there are no electromechanical assemblies, burning paper to record sun tracks, nor need it be oriented towards north. Data from the sensor is easily recorded by Dynamax dataloggers and hand held computers.





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East

Welcome to this month's column. I can't quite believe it's August already but it is and the season has been good to us so far compared to previous years, so long may it continue. There hasn't been much Section news over the last few months so that's why these pages have been blank. Also I have not had a lot of time due to my son, Christopher, being in Hospital in Birmingham having his second liver transplant at the beginning of June.

I am glad to say so far everything is going very well and we all hope that's how it carries on. The good thing about his transplant this time was before it he was reasonably fit and well which was good for him and is aiding his recovery. He had his transplant on the 2nd of June and was back home on the 11th, which is one of their quickest ever for Birmingham. We would like to thank all our friends in the Section for their best wishes etc as it's good to know that so many people are thinking about you in those tough times, so a big thank you to all.

Well down to Section business. The Section held its Spring tournament at Kingsknowe Golf Club on May 14. A great day was had by all with a number of new faces along on the day which is good for the Section and hopefully they all enjoyed themselves and we will see them at future events. I would like to thank The Captain and his Board of Directors for the use of their course and the courtesy on the day; all the Clubhouse staff for the way they looked after us (ps the fish was marvellous), Course Manager, Steve Dixon, and his crew for the superb condition of the course which was a credit to them all. We would like to thank the trade for bringing along raffle prizes etc once again

The weather was great with warm sunshine until the last four or so groups had a severe downpour which started just as I was walking into the clubhouse! What a shame! (Chairman sniggers). It is a number of years since we were at Kingsknowe and hopefully it won't be as long 'til we are back again. The last time we were there was for the Scottish National Tournament. If anyone knows when that was please write it on the back of a £10 note and send it to yours truly.

There was some very good golf played on the day which is reflected in the scores. They are as follows: Scratch Boyd Trophy. I. Elliot, 75 (bih), First class. Souters Cup. R. McCulloch, 80-9-71; 2, D. Murray, 75-3-72, 3. A. Holmes, 78-4-74, 2nd Class. Lothian Tractors Trophy. A. Campbell, 76-12-64; 2, C Yeaman, 78-12-66; 3, R. Prowse 84-11-73 3rd Class Turfcare Cup. J. Nesbit, 92-18-74; 2. J. Neilson 100-21-79 bih; 3, S. Gray, 104-28-79. Best Nett. Ocmis Cup. C. Yeaman 78-12-66. Veterans' Prize. J Robertson, 94-20-74. Trade Prize. Patrons Cup. M. Dennis 82-12-70, New Members' Prize. G. Burnett, 79-6-73, Highest Score. R. McDonald 133, Longest Drive. D. Murray, Nearest the Pin at 9th G. Burnett. Nearest the Pin at the 18th, S. Poole.

Well that's it all for the Spring Tournament, so a big thanks to the Match Committee for making the day run smoothly and Craig (Pennyquick) for his starting duties on the 1st tee. Cheers to you all for making the day run even more smoothly. Don't forget the Match Committee will be altering handicaps from the spring tournament in readiness for the summer outing.

Next tournament on the agenda is the Summer Tournament at the Glen at the end of July so let's see a big turnout for this one. As the tournament will have passed by the time you read this, a full report will be in next month's column.

A notable new member last month is Willie Blair who has just rejoined the Section after a few years away. Willie is the Head Greenkeeper at Lundin Ladies Golf Club in Fife. As most of you will know Willie was the Section Secretary for a number of years, so its good to see him back and hopefully he will be at the summer tournament at the Glen GC, as that is where he attended his last outing a few years back. Welcome Willie and also a warm welcome to all our new members and we hope to see you at future Section events.

The membership of the Section is increasing all the time which is good for us and the Association. As you are reading this the summer tournament is passed. You will have received your summer entry form and also your fixture card for this year and

the start of next. Sorry they are slightly late but we had a few technical problems but you have now all got one so let's see you all at the future events throughout this year.

At the Spring Tournament the Section invited Jackie Dalrymple along as guest of the Section to celebrate his retirement after 44 years at Baberton Golf Club on December 13. In recognition of all those years at the one club and his support of the Section the committee made him guest for the day and during the prize giving presented him with a golf bag, an umbrella and a nice pair of golf shoes. Jackie, we know you enjoyed your day and all your gifts so all the best in your retirement from everyone here in the East Section and we hope to see you at the up coming events. Ps with all this free time for golf I can see Jackie's handicap heading downwards.

As I said in my last report, the winners of the First, Second and Third classes would join the Chairman to make up the Section team for this year's Norrie Whytock Memorial Tournament at Auchterarder Golf Club later in the season. They are as follows: C. Yeaman, R. McCulloch, A. Campbell and J. Nesbit, so I look forward to playing with you lads to try and win back the trophy that the Section team won a few years ago.



Well, that's it once again for another month and I will speak to you all again in September (where does the time go?). If you have any news for the Section please let me know so that I can get it into print next time in Greenkeeper International.

Normal phone nos, Addresses, Fax and e-mails for any relevant info. So come on let's hear from you. 'Till next time.
Chris Yeaman.

Ayrshire

A warm welcome to a new member Mark Hodgson, Turnberry.

Ayrshire committee man, Barry Crawford, recently won the Ayrshire Matchplay at St. Nicholas Golf Club. Congratulations!

Michael Byrne returns to Ayrshire from Wentworth Golf Club after three years. He joins the team at Turnberry.

The Scottish Championship held at Turnberry's Kintyre Course fielded close to 80 players from courses all over Scotland and Northern England. A special mention to David Leith, St Andrews, who shot a level par 71. Duncan Gray, The Pines, won the Veteran's Section.

If you want your news included you have to call me on 01292 478606

Dennis Tweddell.



NORTHERN REGION

North West

Good news, we now have a Regional Administrator. Since Doug Bell died 12 months ago, the Northern Region have been without a Regional Administrator, making it difficult to hold a regional seminar, mainly due to finances being frozen. But now we are back on course. Peter Larter, the Midlands Administrator, has taken the Northern Region under his wing, and I for one welcome this move.

This weekend, July 5, we have a Regional Board meeting and Peter will be there where we can discuss what is required to keep the region running smoothly, and hopefully improve the Region's education programmes.

On Thursday, June 12 we played the Summer Tournament at Deanwood Golf Club and this time we were lucky with the weather, unlike the Spring Tournament. The day started not looking too promising but as the morning drew on the sun came out and we had a glorious day to follow. Arrangements for the tournament had been made when Chris Watson was Head Greenkeeper, but about a month before we played Chris had moved to the South of England as Head Greenkeeper. The club honoured the arrangements and the course was in excellent condition due to Steve

Owen and his staff. Steve was Deputy to Chris and he had done a great job in preparing the course. The newly appointed Head Greenkeeper also played with us on the day and met the guys from his new Section. He is Duncan Smith, and I believe he has moved up from the Gloucester area, welcome to the N/W Duncan.

I would like to thank Deanwood Golf Club for allowing us courtesy of playing their fine course and the caterers for the excellent meals.

The result of the Tournament was:

Winner of the Reg Vickers Trophy: Peter Hogan; Guest Prize: Andrew Acorn and Phil Dewhurst. Nearest The Pin: Mark Kofoed. Longest Drive: Peter Hogan.

The Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin were sponsored by Rufford Technology. The prizes stretched to 10th nett thanks to support from our sponsors: Oliver Brothers, Cheshire Turf Machinery, North Staffs Irrigation, SISIS, Joseph Metcalf, Andrew Acorn, John Greasley, plus Amenity Technology, Bathgate, Aitkens and Vitax.

The qualifiers for the regional final are: D. Wheeler, W. Merritt, P. Hogan, C.

Sheehan, M. Kofoed, T. Wilkinson

The final to be played at Middlesbrough on August 13.

I also require a team of 12 for the "Roses" match also to be played on the August 13 at Cleckheaton Golf Club so if you are available please contact me as soon as possible.

That seems to be it for now, any news ring me on 0151

724 5412 or 07761 583387

Bert Cross



Northern

Hope you're all keeping ok. The Section managed to have another sunny day to play golf on for President's Day at Pike Hills. The day was sponsored again by our friends at Scotts, which was appreciated by all who played. Dave Truby was on hand to present the prizes. The course was in pristine condition and congratulations must go to Robin and his greens team for that. After the golf we all enjoyed a great meal and shared a few beers. Many thanks again to all at Pike Hills who helped us make the day go so well. The winners are as follow Div 1. 1. T. Arana, 37 pts; 2. A. Baxter, 34pts; 3. D. Collins, 33pts. 2nd Div. 1. T. Jarvis, 34 pts and winner of the Bill Mountain Claret Jug; 2. J. Walsh 34 pts; 3. A. Speight; 3rd Div. D. Cockburn (President) 34 pts; 2. D. Thackray, 34 pts; 3. J. Baxter, 33pts. E. Carter 37 pts won the trade prize with N. Schofield with 36pts in second. S. Heaton (off a tree and a rake stand) won the Nearest the Pin while the Longest Drive was a monster from J. Watts.

You will probably be reading this a week or so before the Roses match at Cleckheaton on August 13. At the time of writing there are 18 names down and only 12 places so I am afraid some of you will be disappointed. This has been done on the number of tournaments attended throughout the season basis only and not on the strongest team. Good luck to all involved.

Our next golfing event is Invitation day at Wetherby golf club. Tee off from 1.30 pm on September 10. This is on a first come first served basis, as there are only 60 places, with the criteria of your guest being one of your club's officials. The sponsors of this event are Rigby Taylors.

At the last committee meeting it was decided to run a trip to the dogs at Pontefract. The date of this event is Friday October 24. The price of this event is £18 which includes coach travel, first drink free, chicken and chips, and a race programme. The first pick up on the coach will be in Keighley at 5.30pm. If you are interested in going please get in touch with any of the committee. This event is also open to any of your friends if you want to bring them along.

Last but by no means least, a warm welcome to Shaun Drum from Bridlington golf club who has joined our Section this month.

16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West Yorks, BD2 2NJ. Tel: 01274 640739 Mob: 07976876264 E mail ;

Dthackray@aol.com

Dave Thackray



North Wales

Well what about these colour photos of your Section columnists then, " what a handsome bunch we all are", I did ask BIGGA HQ if they could do a little bit of digital enhancement, so as the readers did not think it was Mel Gibson in the picture, I can say they have done a fair job. Good on you. It is a pity you couldn't help the others out!

Congratulations this month go to Richard Walker, from Royal Liverpool GC, and his wife, Rebecca, who has given birth to twin girls, Hannah and Charlotte. Ever so thoughtful of you, Richard, to get the baby business out of the way before the real business begins.

Simon Ashley from Carden Park has completed his HND in Golf Course Management and Douglas Neilson has returned from Royal Dornoch.

The Section team to represent North Wales in Middlesbrough has now been cancelled. The next date for your diaries will be October 1 for autumn at Wallasey GC and December 3 for Christmas at Abergele GC.

Vale of Llangollen have a new assistant starting this month called Dillian Dullan.

At a recent Regional Board meeting at BIGGA HOUSE it was passed that the new Administrator for the Northern Region would be Peter Larter, a man with a fine rugby background and a vast knowledge of the greenkeeping industry. He will be available for an informal meeting at Carden Park in August, (date to be confirmed). If you can make it along, Peter would like you to tell him just how good are the Welsh at this national sport. 'Rugby' that is.

We currently have no dates in our diary for the 2004 season so we would like anyone with proposals to host a BIGGA golf day at their respective clubs to please give the committee a ring.

Richard Littler has raised a point, that while he backs education 100% he would like to see these courses and seminars on during the autumn and winter months and not have to let assistants go on day release during the busy competition season especially during major events. Richard will be glad to know North Wales are doing just that and our education classes start in the autumn.

I would just like to give praise to Royal St David's and Carden Park for hosting the European Tour Seniors' events last month and a credit to both courses for their presentations.

Just one final note across the borders as I would like to congratulate all the greenkeeping teams at the Regional Open qualifying courses. I personally went across on the day to Stockport GC which was a credit to Course Manager, Warren Bevan and the lads who, incidentally, slept over a couple of nights within the maintenance dept so they were all on hand at first light to prepare fully the course for the day's play. Well done guys.

Any news or views give us a call

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e-mail acorn@golf@supanet.com

Mesen Cymru

Andrew "The Squirrel" Acorn





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MIDLAND REGION
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

East of England

The Section's second golf day took place at Kenwick Park in Louth. The event was sponsored by Burdens and Norman Burden was on hand to oversee the prize giving. Thanks to Burdens and Kenwick Park for staging a well attended day.

Geoff Henderson and staff prepared the course in excellent condition and all who attended played a testing and attractive course.

The Burden's Trophy went to Graeme Macdonald, of Newark GC, 75-5-70. Second on countback Simon Bossett, of Burghley Park GC, 98-28-70 and third went to Derek Beba, of Tydd St Giles GC, 87-16 71. Nearest the Pin. Russ Moody Lincoln GC and Longest Drive went to Daniel Wells, of Burghley Park GC.

The medal scores of Kenwick added to the medal scores at Burghley gave us the members who will represent the East of England Section and Midland Region at the National Championships to be held at Hollinwell and Coxmoor. They were split into handicap categories. Div 1 winner G. A. Macdonald 74+70=144. Reserve Div 1 R. Welford 76+73=149. Div 2 winner D. Salisbury 79=80=159. Reserve Div 2 G. Poole 82+87=169.

Div 3 winner F. Cobb 74+74=148. Reserve Div 3 B. Hicks 75+78=153.

The golf day at Market Rasen GC was sponsored by Toro and we would like to thank Nigel Lovatt for putting up a new trophy which will be played for annually. The winner was Alan Buckley, of Newark GC, 38 pts, second on countback Graeme Macdonald 38 pts and third Tim Robert, of Boston GC, 36 pts. John Hewson and staff had the course looking great and the four new holes blended in superbly.

The Amenity Technology Plate was played for by the East of England Section of BIGGA at Norwood Park golf club in Southwell where a good turnout enjoyed a challenging new course in excellent condition.

The weather was sunny and the food was great, so all in all everybody had a superb day.

Thanks to Henry Starkey, Course Manager of Norwood, for their friendly welcome and courtesy of the course.

1. Russ Moody, Lincoln GC, 37 pts; 2. Bruce Hicks, Boston GC, 36 pts; 3. Graeme Macdonald, Newark GC, 34 pts 4. Daniel Wells, Burghley Park GC, 33 pts; 5. Alan Buckley, Newark GC, 32 pts; 6. Adrian Kitchinson, Lincoln GC, 31pts. Longest Drive was won by Stuart Clayton. Nearest the Pin was won by David Smith. Trade prize went to Peter Larter 35 points.

On the education front Bob Bean of Humberstone has successfully passed his NVQ 3 exams at Myerscough College. Any ideas of talks/ visits you would like for the Autumn, please call me. Ideas always welcome.

Garry Cooper has also moved jobs, from Tower Chemicals to Turfcare. Good luck in the new job.

Graeme Macdonald

BB&O

I am pleased to write that after printing last month I had some interest in the training courses that can be arranged through BIGGA at local Section level. It is quite likely that all the allocation of funds for this coming autumn will be gone. Bookings can now be arranged for the Spring, 2004 so please contact me if you have any training requirements at your golf club and I will help as best I can. With the current weather conditions giving excellent growth I know everyone is now flat out keeping their own backyard in order for great golf. Luckily a few of us managed to find time to attend the Summer competition held at Donnington Valley Golf Club on July 1. This was a resounding success with the miracle of the day being heavy rain passing over before play and not returning until the last players were in the showers. It was our lucky day! Thanks go to Clive Parnell, from Gem Professional, for his time and support on the day. The prizes sponsored by Gem were excellent so well done to the winners. Thanks to Alec MacIndoe and his staff who presently face a huge up-hill battle to bring on this new course but conditions were excellent on the day. The



results of this Stableford were as follows: 1. Ross Wilson, Parasampia GC, 34 pts; 2. Brian Payne, Burnham Beeches GC, 33pts; 3. Carl Small, Ellesborough GC, 31pts; 4. John Bowness, Deanwood Park GC, 29pts; 5. Ray Tapper, Retired, 26pts; 6. Alec MacIndoe, Donnington Valley GC, 26pts. Nearest the Pin. Alec MacIndoe: Longest Drive. Carl Small. Trade Prize, Mark Day, Tacit, 31pts. Many thanks go to the great organisation at this club on the day with great food to end a marvellous day.

Our next golf fixture comes around very quickly and I hope that by the time you read this you are already booked to be a part of this special day held at the Buckinghamshire GC on August 11. This must be pre-booked before the event as I am sure this establishment will not take kindly to any major shift in player numbers on the day of the event. I have no Section news from around the block so I bid you well in the height of summer and hope all is well in each and every camp.

David Haskell-Craig



Midland

As I sit here considering what to include in this month's Section notes, I find myself thankful that I am no longer contemplating the outcome of college exams. I hope that all awaiting results shall be victorious. Please let me know if you or your staff have been so. It would give me no greater pleasure than to praise such achievements within our lines. With such in mind: Congratulations to Robert Writtle (Penn) on passing his NPTC spraying test. Now all you have to do Rob, is learn how to spray!

Well friends, did you spot last month's error in our notes? My personal secretary is obviously far too used to golfing related English. I must however confess that I also made the same embarrassing error many years ago, but the other way around. So if you did spot the mistake, then I hope such gave you the same wry smile as it did me. If not, then please let one enlighten. "Course Fishing" would be somewhat difficult, if not impossible. However, angling for "Coarse Fish" is one of the most enjoyable and rewarding pleasures to be experienced. I've been lucky enough to have done so in five different countries, and am looking forward to our fishing event at Middleton Hall, near the Belfry on 21-9-03. The event is, as you know, being sponsored by Allen Southam, of Hanson Aggregates. After speaking with Allen, he informs that the Fishery has over the last few years undergone an extensive restocking programme. Following the fishing, in the on site Club House, there shall be a buffet with a few beers during the prize giving ceremony. All of which is sponsored. Free private fishing, grub, beer and prizes. What more do you want? Please remember such is open to all greenkeepers, not just BIGGA members. To book your pegs please call me on: 07816-410552, or: 01902-338569 to leave a message.

It gives me great pleasure this month to welcome Graeme Stevenson to our fine Section. We all look forward to meeting you at our many differing events Gream.

Now for a further event for your diaries, on both an educational and socially enjoyable aspect. It's great when the two go hand-in-hand. Alpha Amenity in conjunction with Johnsons Sport and Amenity Grass Seed are holding an informal education afternoon at their plant in Inkberrow, just south of Redditch. The afternoon shall start with a short introduction and tour of Johnsons seed production plant and trial areas. Following such, lunch shall be provided with a clay pigeon shooting event after. I've never tasted clay pigeon, but I am assured by Nigel Tyler that such makes fine eating. All interested please call Nigel on: 07989 548058.

Until next month folks, sharp shooting and tight lines.

Sean McDade



WIN A DIGITAL CAMERA

We're giving away a fantastic digital camera to one lucky member. The camera features a movie facility and a multi mode flash. It has a 1.5" LCD screen and a picture resolution of 2 million pixels. The package also includes a memory card.

To enter the prize draw all you have to do is introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA. Make sure your name goes on their application form as the person who referred them and we will enter your name into the draw. Remember the more new members you refer the more chances you have to win!

The draw will take place on 1st October and the winner will be announced in the November edition of Greenkeeper International.



CALL GEMMA TODAY IN MEMBERSHIP SERVICES ON
01347 833800 TO REQUEST A NEW MEMBER APPLICATION FORM

East Midlands

Not a great deal to report on this month, other than to say if you would like to renew your number for the 100 ball draw please get in touch with Gavin Robson and Jeff Dickinson. There are several numbers still available at £6.00 a number. This year's AGM will take place at Kibworth GC on November 12, 4:30pm. The Christmas Tournament will be held on December 11 at Kilworth Springs Golf Club at 10:30pm. If you would like an entry form please contact me nearer the date.

Antony Bindley



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South West

Dear Members, Hot, dry, wet, hot, dry, wet, if my predictions are correct by the time you are reading this it should be Hot, Hot (scorchio) and we are expected to keep immaculate surfaces under these conditions. I wonder if golfers back at their desks are constantly judged as harshly as we are on a day by day basis. Unfortunately my moaning is not going to stop here. More of that later.

Summer tournament, venue Minchinhampton. Has anyone heard the story of the golfer in America whose ball missed the fairway, landed in the river on a piece of driftwood and continued on its merry way. So did the golfer. He grabbed a nearby canoe paddled along side the driftwood swiping madly at it until he finally connected with it two miles down stream managing to hit it onto a nearby road, he then proceeded to play the ball back to his golf club and finally down the hole he was originally playing and putted out, with a final total of 137 for the hole - the most shots ever played on one hole. It's at this point you are most probably wondering where this is all going. Well a certain person who shall remain nameless. Yeah you wish Matt (The Badger) Hawker. Twenty bloody one on the 2nd, six packets of Hamlet later he is in the hole. Needless to say this poor performance was in no way a reflection upon the course, which was in truly outstanding condition (see scores below). I personally loved seeing the bunker faces kept long, getting away from the norm of perfect lies in and around bunkers. A true links style challenge. Our thanks go to Paul and his team.

Results: 0 - 10 1. Marc Haring, 70 - 65; 2. Shaun Richards, 71 - 67. 11-19 1. Wayne Vincent, 82 - 67; 2. Graham Percival, 81 - 69. 20+ 1. Mathew Lesson-Magri, 94 - 66; 2. Mathew Worster, 91 - 71. National Championship Paul Jenking, Gross 69.

Do you remember earlier in the article I mentioned moaning? Well here I go. For a start all of the above article is only relevant to a small percentage of our membership. For instance there were 40 at Minchinhampton one sixth of the Section membership. One of the reasons for non-attendance used to be if you didn't play golf there was nothing else. Well, that has been rectified with the course walk and if truth be known it was a complete failure. For example at Minchinhampton the agronomist Robert Laycock was on site along with Roger Davey, of Irritech, for all you irrigation queries and Paul Worster for a walk and Q & A session. It is also an Open qualifying course. Attendance zero, walk was cancelled. Now is it me, or is it lack of information, apathy, or you are all so busy you can't get away, but after all this is what the Association is all about Education AND Learning or have I got it all wrong?

Another example the day here at Bath Golf Club. Toro, Agronomist, Aboriculturist free lunch just turn up and be entertained and educated. Enquiries so far - four. Doesn't exactly inspire me. Golf days are nearly always fully booked for those playing, it's the education side that is lacking. Devon and Cornwall for instance get as many on the walk as they do the golf. I personally learnt a lot at Minchinhampton far more than if I played the course. For example I visited both courses, chatted to the agronomist, Roger, the lads, the Mechanic, know their aeration programme, top dressing, fertilisers, machinery, water system and how they implement all these factors to become an Open qualifying venue. I wonder how apparent all this was to those playing golf?

I am not going to apologise for the tone of this article. All I want for this Section is

some conviction to at least ask or tell me what you want and perhaps stimulate some discussion and feed back. I am not prepared just to be a results service for a few elite members.

Good luck to Duncan Smith whom I wrongly accused some months ago of employment at Weston super Mare GC. He's off up north to Deanwood GC. from Cotswold Hills; John Keenaghan moving from the Kendleshire to Chipping Sodbury as Deputy Course Manager and also Nick Wilson leaving Kendleshire to set up his own landscaping business. Robin Greaves is back into sales again selling turkey s**t.

Our thanks to T H Whites Nigel Howe and Mike Harris for the sponsored team polo and sweat shirts.

No replies yet for that free trip to Harrogate, Just a note to say why you think you should go, don't be embarrassed someone's got to win, It might as well be you rather than the idiot sat next to you. Guy Woods 078123 80936, 01225 483486, 01225 333928 e-mail greenkeepers@bathgolfclub.fsworld.co.uk

Guy Woods



Devon & Cornwall

Our Summer meeting, sponsored by Symbio, was held at Trethorne Golf Club on Tuesday, June 17. There were 40 members present, with 30 contesting the afternoon golf match and the remaining members attended our customary course walk.

After a superb evening meal our sponsor, Martin Ward, from Symbio, presented the prizes for the Stableford competition to: 1. John Roberts, Woodbury Park, 38 pts; 2. Jeff Mills, Taunton and Pickeridge, 36 pts; 3. Simon Coombes, Dainton Park, 34 pts

The Section would like to thank Symbio for their support and Trethorne Golf Club for allowing us the use of their excellent facilities. The golf course was in excellent condition and a big thank you to Mike Davey and his team.

The Vitax Matchplay competition is now well into round three and if you have any outstanding results, please pass them onto me as soon as possible.

Congratulations to Alan Gawman, of St Mellion GC, who is the new South West Counties Champion and also to Mark Evans and the Devon County Team who "cleaned up" at the recent championships held at Burnham and Berrow.

I would like to assure all our members that the problems at Cannington College have now been resolved and the outlook is very good for the future. If anyone has any queries you can contact our GTC liaison officer, Jeff Mills or David Golding at the GTC.

At our recent meeting at Trethorne Golf Club on Tuesday, June 17, a presentation was made to mark the retirement of Paul Bullen, of Newquay Golf Club. Paul has been at Newquay for 42 years and has been an ardent supporter of the Devon and Cornwall Section since 1981. Paul was presented with an engraved claret jug from the Section and a petrol strimmer from the Section and trade companies. The Section would like to wish Paul a long and happy retirement and look forward to seeing him at our education/golf days.

Steve Evans



South Wales

Our summer tournament was played at Cardiff GC on June 20, the sponsors of the day was RS Bird's and it was good to see Heather and Steve (cliffy), who attended the meal and presentation. Winner of the Birdie cup was Peter (Tiger) Lacey; 2. Richard Pattison; 3. Emyr Lewis. Nearest the Pin prizes went to Adrian Panks, Russell Anderson, and Phil Thomas. Longest Drive went to Peter Holstrom.

Our thanks go to all at Cardiff GC for a very enjoyable day, especially Russell and his staff for the first class preparation of the course, and to the caterers for an equally good meal. Thanks again to Birds for sponsoring the day.

On Saturday, June 28 I attended Pencoed College open day, along with Dave Ward and Julian Bartlett Jones. We took over one of the classrooms and set up the BIGGA boards in the hope of attracting some interest from students and passers by. Although we were not particularly busy some people did pop in for a chat and were made aware of BIGGA and the South Wales Section.

Adrian Panks

Around the Green



SOUTH EAST
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Kent

On my travels, I can see that everyone is well into their summer maintenance programme. Most of you are busy preparing for competitions and battling the elements to produce a course that will meet the expectations of the ever demanding golfers!

On the news front, Lee Sayers has moved from The London Golf Club to take up the position of Course Manager at Mid Kent Golf Club. The Section wishes you well at your new club.

I must congratulate Melvyn Tassell, Deputy Head at Sittingbourne Golf Club on the successful completion of his NVQ Level 3 at Hadlow College, well done.

Now a momentous achievement. Terry Lord, Deputy Head at Westerham GC, has finally passed his NVQ Level 3 at Plumpton College. As anyone that knows Terry will tell you, he has been studying for a long time. Not only did he pass, Terry has been awarded The Cup and Tankard that is sponsored by the Sussex Golf Union for his achievements.

Please don't forget that the Kent Section's next golf day is on August 21. This is the guest day and will be held at Lydd Golf Club.

If anyone has any other news, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Phil Belton



East Anglia

Here we are again then Happy New Year, 70+ turned up at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club. This time we had some posh Nomads with us as it was Greenkeeper Captain Competition played in the usual jolly manner on a very well presented course. Thanks to Steve Millard and his crew. The winners were: Bob Boyce and Tony Harvers with a combined score of 70 points. The rest were as follows: 0-9. 1. Nick Brewster, 40 pts; 2. Mike Virley, 38 pts; 3. Bob Barnes, 33 pts. 10-18 1. Kevin Hodges, 35 pts; 2. Sam Sylvester, 29 pts; 3. Glen Rayfield, 29 pts. 19-28 1. Chris Murphy, 35 pts; 2. Martin Mison, 31 pts; 3. Keith Titshaw, 30 pts. Trade. 1. Tony Harvers, 39 pts; 2. Gary Turner, 37 pts; 3. Mark Day, 34 pts. Longest Drive. Chris Murphy. Nearest The Pin - 8' 4" (if you want metric I'm not the one to ask) Geoff Holmes. Then came the loo seat bringing up the rear, as it were, which was won and not forgotten by Richard Fulford. He did actually forget the hole-in-one prize, which was a workman's twister. He did however travel a considerable distance to go and get it and for that noble act we won't mention his score (which was four points). All the prizes were presented by Jim Cole, the Club Chairman, and donated by Toro and Lely UK.

Seoul Nassau (Mike Fance gave me his card I hope it's not a rude word), Norfolk Turf Machinery, Bartram Mowers, Rigby Taylor, Rushbrooks, C.M.W., Atherton and ELS Consultant Clarkson and anyone else who knows me. I must admit I lost the list of sponsors and apologise for anyone missed out. As my probation officer used to say "Try harder next time" (Sorry). It was good to see Lyndon Upham the Wesley Wizard after a few years of absence. His golf was not effected by the break, he's still naff. But he did win the raffle. And finally (nearly) contrary to popular belief Mark

Day is not pregnant but his wife gave birth to a bouncing baby girl who weighed 6lbs 10 oz. (No metric) whose name is Christina, Ah ain't that nice. Congratulations to them all. Did Mark and Larry drink from the same tap? I ask myself. That's nearly all folks except to thank you, Bury St Edmunds Golf Club, for a super day and Kevin Leech for the halfway house pub. To all the cockneys everywhere "Cheers mate".

Mick Lathrope



Essex

Well here we are August already. Wimbledon and The Open have been and gone with a new football season starting early for the first time for some teams (especially for those West Ham supporters).

Time also to catch up on Section events. First back in April we held our Spring Tournament and a belated thank you to the following:- Benton Hall GC, Scott Clark the General Manager and his staff; Graeme Gallimore and his Green staff and our main sponsor Vitax and Joe Crawley. Also for his personal input Craig Brisley. Overall winner on the day was James Morgan.

Despite the windy conditions there were some excellent scores with our representatives at this year's National Championship coming from Channels GC, Dominic Rodgers best gross and Ray Clark best nett.

The main sponsors for the day were Tacit and a big thank you to Tim Webb and Mark Day for providing the prizes. Our thanks also to Bishops Stortford GC, Barry Collins the Club Secretary, their staff, Keith Rowley, the Course Manager and his team for having the course in excellent condition despite a difficult season.

Overall Mick Dillaway, Nett 70; Cat 1 1. Richard Hare, 72; 2. Anthony Kirwin, 73; 3. Steve Crosdale, 75. Cat 2 1. Martin Forrester, 74; 2. Mark Stopps, 75; 3. Martin Guy, 76. Trade. Richard Lewis, 73. Nearest The Pin. Ray Clark. Longest Drive. Ian Denny

We would also like to thank the following trade for donating raffle prizes: - Banks Amenity, Collier Turf Care, Driving Force Leisure, Gem, Rigby Taylor, Tuckwells and Sheriff Amenity Services.

Enjoy your summer holidays.

Martin Forrester



Surrey

With hot sunny weather sprinkled here and there with warm showers it must be that summer has arrived and the majority of greenkeepers that I have met over the past weeks are the happiest that I have seen them for a long time. I use the word majority because there are always exceptions and in this case it was Paul Weston. Paul's team must have worked hard at this year's venue for the Surrey Section's Summer Tournament to get The Drift Golf Club in such an excellent condition. The whole course was beautifully manicured and with fast and true greens it was a pleasure to be among the 45 members who turned out. Mark Bellamy, Head Greenkeeper at The Drift, told me that Paul had been practising every day over the past weeks and was expecting to copy Derek Cunliffe's home win at Old Thorns Golf Club the previous month.

Unfortunately it was not to be and after the game I spoke to one of Paul's threeball, Pete Broadbent, who informed me that although Paul was playing well enough as soon as the electrical storm reached the area Paul's compass went haywire and it was not until the prize giving was over that he managed to find his way back to the clubhouse. We all thank Ted Styles for volunteering to head the search party but by the time a new compass was found, Paul had followed the sounds of clapping and arrived back safely just in time for dessert. Hard luck Paul but good luck to the winners.

1. Tony Bremer, Dorking GC, 40 pts; 2. Paul Bacon, Petersfield GC, 40 pts; 3. Brian Willmott, Tacit, 38 pts. Nearest the Pin, Nigel Colley, Roehampton GC. Longest Drive. John Mathis, Southwood GC. Sponsors for the day were Gem International and we thank them for the very good quality prizes.

The next golf competition is the McMillan Tankard at Sunningdale on August 6 followed, on September 25, at Richmond Golf Club.

Please let me know of any news for the congratulation paragraph and as this month it is empty I would like to give a personal Thank You to Tony Worsfold RAC GC for his expert driving skills when chauffeuring my youngest daughter, Celia, and my new son-in-law Peter on a tour of Epsom Downs after their marriage on June 21.

Brian Willmott

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This competition is not open to BIGGA Staff or non-members. The solution to the July Turftime Teaser was 'John Greasley Limited'. Well done to those of you that spotted the 'deliberate' mistake and sent in the correct answer! The lucky winner of the fantastic case of champagne is Gary Britton of Notts Golf Club - WELL DONE!

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BRORA GOLF CLUB

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER REQUIRED

Applications are invited for the position of Greenkeeper at Brora Golf Club. Terms and conditions are negotiable.

Please apply in confidence by writing to the undernamed, enclosing a C.V.; references; and a letter of introduction outlining experience to-date and the contribution that you will bring to our important James Braid traditional links course.

Closing date set as Friday 22nd August, 2003

Susan Smith PRESIDENT, Brora Golf Club, 43 Golf Road, Brora, Sutherland, KW9 6QS
Telephone: 01408 621417 email: secretary@broragolf.co.uk

THE GLAMORGANSHIRE GOLF CLUB



require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

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Brian M Williams, Secretary/Manager,
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RETTFORD GOLF CLUB

Require a **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Retford, a private members club formed in 1920, is an 18 hole course in Woodland area, par 72, SSS 72.

The successful applicant will be responsible to the Greens Committee to carry out course policy and present the course in the high standard expected by the members.

The applicant should have the following qualifications and attributes.

- Ability to develop, lead, motivate and manage a team.
- HNC or NVQ Level 3 with PA1 & PA2
- Experience of current Health & Safety Regulations
- Budgetary control techniques
- Some knowledge in machinery and irrigation maintenance.

Closing date: 1st September 2003

Salary by negotiation.

Please apply in writing with full CV including current salary to:

Secretary/Manager, Retford Golf Club,
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Please send a CV to:

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PONTEFRACT AND DISTRICT GOLF CLUB

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The following qualifications and attributes would be an advantage but not essential:

- A minimum of 3 years relevant greenkeeping experience
- Qualifications to NVQ level 2 or equivalent
- Holder of spraying certificates PA1, PA2 and PA6
- Practical knowledge of golf course equipment and machinery
- Be enthusiastic, highly motivated and committed

Apply in writing with full C.V. to:

Mr D Mulholland, Pontefract and District Golf Club,
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- NPTC Spraying Certificates PA1-PA2-PA6

Salary by negotiation

Apply in writing, including CV to:

Mr. Pat. Crosby, Head Greenkeeper
Marconi Golf Club, The Grange, Off Binley Road, Coventry CV3 1HS

ROMFORD GOLF CLUB

Requires a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will be responsible to the Greens Committee to carry out course policy and present the course in the high standard expected by the members.

Candidates should have the following qualifications and attributes:

- Ability to lead, motivate and manage an established team
- HNC or NVQ Level 3 with PA1 and PA2 Spraying Certificates
- Experience of current Health and Safety Regulations
- Budgetary control Techniques
- Knowledge in Machinery and Irrigation maintenance

Salary by negotiation. Please apply in writing with full CV including current salary to:

The Secretary, Romford Golf Club,
Heath Drive, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex RM2 5QB

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This position would be suited to a candidate who has minimum of 5 years experience in greenkeeping and be capable of demonstrating a professional approach to other members of staff.

He/She would be qualified to a minimum of NVQ level 2, and be preferably working towards Level 3.

An understanding of computer controlled irrigation programs would be advantageous.

He/She must also possess PA1, 2 & 6.

1st ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

This position would suit a greenkeeper with a minimum of 3 years experience, who wishes to further their career.

Experience in all aspects of greenkeeping would be required, as would NVQ Level 2 and PA1, 2 & 6.

Own transport is essential for both positions.

These are ideal opportunities for someone wishing to expand his or her skills. Salary negotiable depending on age and experience.

Closing Date: 1st September 2003

Please visit the web site for more info on the club: www.sswgc.com

Please send current CV to:

The General Manager, Salisbury And South Wilts Golf Club,
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WHITEFIELD GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Whitefield Golf Club is about to embark on a major development project which would involve a new clubhouse, together with significant course changes. Founded in 1932, Whitefield Golf Club is a private members club with the reputation of being one of the best courses in the area.

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- The necessary qualifications and/or experience for the position
- The ability to train, motivate and manage staff
- A sound understanding of Health & Safety requirements

Please apply in writing with your CV to:

The Vice President, Whitefield Golf Club,
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The Slieve Russell Hotel Golf & Country Club

1st Assistant Greenkeeper

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**For details call: Ken Barber, Golf Course Manager,
The Slieve Russell Golf Club, Ballyconnell, Co Cavan
Tel: 00353(0)49 9525094 Fax: 00353(0)49 9546474
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WOODCOTE PARK GOLF CLUB

Currently have a vacancy for an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant should be qualified to NVQ2 or equivalent and preferably hold PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates, but these are not essential.

Accommodation may be available.

Please apply with current CV to:

Mr W Macey, Captain, Woodcote Park Golf Club,
Meadow Hill, Bridle Way, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 2QQ

Surrey Downs Golf Club

Invites applications for the position of **Assistant Greenkeeper**

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3 years + greenkeeping experience
Educated to NVQ Level 2 or higher
Hold Pa1, Pa2 & Pa6 spraying certificates

Knowledge in the management of USGA spec Bent grass greens and modern irrigation systems would be advantageous.

Please send your CV and covering letter to reach us by the 31st August 03 to

**Tony Kyle, Head Greenkeeper,
Surrey Downs Golf Club, Outwood Lane,
Kingswood, Surrey, KT20 6JS.**



SURREY DOWNS
GOLF CLUB



Feature listing from August 2001

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

November 2002; Toro Student of the Year; National Championship; Drainage; St Andrew's Bay; Autumn Problems

December 2002; BTME & ClubHouse Preview; R&A Golf Course committee; Dr Kate Entwistle; Pennard GC

January 2003; Beedles Lake Profile; Talking Heads - Chemical Application; Rebuilding Golf Greens; Constructive Advice

February 2003; BTME/ClubHouse Review; Royal Liverpool Profile; Irrigation; Nematodes

March 2003; The Berkshire Profile; Meloidogyne; Overseeding Golf Greens; Talking Heads - Health & Safety

April 2003; Oakmere Park GC; Spraying; Golf Course Security; Bernhards Delegation; Ransomes Jacobsen Profile

May 2003; Cardrona Golf & Country Club; Poa Annua; Rough Mowers; Mole Control; Rootzone; Green Construction

June 2003; Irrigation; Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarships; Fertiliser; Fairway Mowers

July 2003; Irrigation Water; Greens Mowers; Bent Grasses; Course Management; Rakes



A Trip Down Memory Lane



Halfway through the season already and until recently still just as difficult to keep our grasses looking healthy. On the West Coast of Scotland we have had an unusually dry summer, when we have had rain it has come in downpours for a few hours but soon burns off with some sunshine and stiff northerly breezes.

During a rare visit to the east coast where I had the pleasure of playing the Eden Golf Course at St Andrews, I was surprised to see how green and healthy their golf courses looked, as normally it is the East that has the drier conditions. What an amazing piece of property, the Links Trust manages five 18 holes plus one nine hole children's course, it really is a pleasure and a privilege for the public to have the opportunity to play these wonderfully kept golf courses.

Having an hour or two spare during my visit I had a brief peek at the new St Andrews Bay and then a quick visit further up the road for a machinery demonstration with my friends at Kingsbarns. Indeed St Andrews really is a Golfer's Paradise!

I write this before I head down to Royal St George's and I look forward to meeting many of you at The Open at Sandwich. It is incredible how many people from different parts of the world visit The Open. It would probably take months to meet the same people if one made a special visit to their home patch. It will be a tough week for all concerned, and if the wind blows none more so than the players, I believe the golf course will be one of the most demanding challenges that they will have encountered this year.

Having just returned from the Championship and reread the above I'm quite proud of my prediction. One under par winning and everyone praising the quality of the course. Well done to Neil Metcalf and his fine team.

It was over 50 years ago that I first played golf at Royal St George's and at the time there was great rivalry among the local caddies from the Deal and Sandwich area. My father was Caddie Master at both the Sandwich Golf Courses for many years so I have many fond memories and friends in the area. It was while I was a member of St

George's Permit Holders that I won the Kent County Championship.

I must say there were some very fine golfers around at the time, both Deal and Sandwich caddies teams could host several scratch players for their annual challenge match. To make the team one had to be a single figure golfer and, of course, be able to drink endless pints of beer! Many caddies were characters that would tell endless tales of hardships and also humorous stories about the clients they had caddied for.

It was in my early years that I was a member of all of the caddies' clubs. We used to pay 10 shillings (the equivalent of 50 pence) per year for the privilege of playing each of these marvellous Open Championship Golf Courses - Cinque Ports at Deal; the Princes and Royal St George's at Sandwich. The only stipulation was that we had to tee off after five and before eight in the morning. Three Championship Golf Courses for £1.50 a year, how times have changed! I am looking forward to going back to renew some old acquaintances, providing they are still standing on the right side of the turf!

Finally, I would like to offer best wishes for a speedy recovery to Neil Thomas, BIGGA's Executive Director. Neil has been off work for several weeks and is currently undergoing treatment. He hopes to be back behind his desk in due course

George Brown
Chairman



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