



Welcome

## FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Well there we are, Harrogate has come and gone and we can look back on another week when the greenkeeping profession did itself proud.

From the Sunday afternoon, when delegates began to arrive for the National Education Conference, supported by the John Deere Team Championship, to the Thursday evening banquet when The Counterfeit Stones entertained everyone so royally, no-one could have anything but praise for the professionalism on display.

It has become almost commonplace to announce record attendance figures for BTME so you won't be surprised to hear that once again we had added to the numbers we announced last year. But the degree by which last year's totals were bettered augers well for the long term development of both BTME and ClubHouse, which made its Harrogate debut this year.

Over 5,500 people visited the Shows over the three days and, with many of those staying for more than one day, the overall attendance figure for the three days was well over 10,000. Last year we had just over 8,500, so that's a good measure of development.

But perhaps more importantly than the pure attendance stats were the comments from a large number of exhibitors about the level of business they had done during the week.

It would appear that, more than ever before, people were visiting the show with a view to placing orders, rather than merely investigating potential purchases. Exhibiting at Shows is an expensive business nowadays so if companies can look to the number of orders they took during Harrogate week they are more likely to make a decision to return next year, and not only that, perhaps increase the size of their stand.

It might be that the addition of ClubHouse to the mix has a lot to do with that as the people required to make large purchasing decisions may have been together during the week and decisions could be made much more quickly.

That is all good news for BIGGA as the more successful Harrogate can be the more the Association can plough back into the industry. And so it snowballs.

While it was good news just about all the way at Harrogate itself there was some extremely sad news which began to filter through the Halls from west of the Yorkshire town.

Jimmy McDonald MBE, who retired as Royal Lytham and St Annes Head Greenkeeper three years ago died in hospital following a short illness. There can be few men who have prepared a golf course for as many major events as Jimmy McDonald, and few men who have left such a positive impression on the industry they served. He had seen Open Championships, Ryder Cups, Curtis Cups, Senior Opens, Ladies' Opens and Amateur Championships and players in all of those events knew that they would be playing links golf at its best.

His legacy is carried on by the large number of Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers who were given their start by Jimmy and more than anyone, outside of his immediate family, they will miss him.

A full tribute to Jimmy McDonald MBE will appear in next month's magazine.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE IOG

This year's annual conference of the IOG at Leicester Hilton Hotel, April 12 -14, covers a wide range of issues reflecting the diverse nature of grounds management.

Among the issues tackled will be the reduction in availability of pesticides under new EU legislation, managing water resources and IOG-funded research into electrokinetic processes in the management of sports turf conducted by the University of Newcastle.

The keynote address will be by David Payne, Director of Investment for Sport England.

Other issues tackled will be grass seed quality, artificial surfaces, multi-sport grounds and facility management, by James Mead of Millfield School, and

the new national stadium at Wembley, explained by Noel Jeffs, the Director of Operations.

On the third day of the conference, Monday, April 14, there is a strong local authority input with a focus on Best Value and contractors, composting waste and managing a local authority pitch improvement project.

Among the visits planned are a study tour to Leicester City FC Walkers Stadium and Leicester Tigers Stadium plus a visit to Loughborough University and the new ECB National Cricket Academy.

For booking information Tel: Charlotte Lambert on 01908 312511 or e-mail: [iog\(ff\)iog.org](mailto:iog(ff)iog.org)

## RANSOMES JACOBSEN

Thanks to the support of Ransomes Jacobsen BIGGA has produced a Machinery and Work Equipment Training and Assessment Manual which gives guidance to Golf Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers on training, assessment of competence, training providers and on qualifications and an Individual Record of Achievement.

Each Manual will include a disk so that managers will be able to produce Individual Records of Achievement for each member of their staff.

"BIGGA puts greenkeeper training at the top of its list of priorities, believing that training should start as soon as greenkeepers commence employment and that it should continue throughout their careers," explained

BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson.

"Training in the safe use of golf course machinery is essential, not only to ensure high standards of golf course preparation and maintenance but also to ensure the safety of greenkeepers, golfers and the general public," he added

The Manual complements the recently introduced GTC Machinery Training Wall Chart and it will help to improve Health and Safety on the Golf Course.

Copies of the Manual will be distributed to all Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper members of BIGGA during February.

## JOHN DEERE

John Deere dealer Godfreys from Sevenoaks, Kent, has entered a three year preferred supplier agreement with The Royal St George's Golf Club, host club of The 2003 Open Championship. This means John Deere will have supplied course maintenance equipment for three consecutive Opens, in 2001 at Royal Lytham & St Annes, in 2002 at Muirfield and now again in 2003.

Godfreys delivered its first machine to the club last October, a 2500 triple greens mower.

Two further 2500s, a 3235B fairway mower, a 2653A mower for tees & bunker surrounds and a 48hp 4700 compact tractor are also now being delivered. The club will seek to add to its range of John Deere equipment as existing machines need to be updated.

Having conducted extensive trials with John Deere and Godfreys over the past few months, the club has been impressed by the quality and reliability of the machines, as well as the support service offered.

"These factors, alongside John Deere's performance

at major championships, have helped clinch the deal," said John Rolleston, Godfreys dealer principal.

Course Manager, Neil Metcalf, said "We have been most impressed by the reliability of the John Deere machines, their high quality of cut and their adaptability working over our undulating links fairways and greens."



Past Chairman Richard Barker, a guest at the East Anglia Section Turkey Trot and AGM with Section Chairman Steve Millard, the winner of the Ernie Hart Award Peter Howard and Section Secretary Ian Willett. Richard was amazed at the Section's support of the event with 80 attending. To see the results of the Texas Scramble see 'Around the Green'.

Email press releases and new product updates to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

## DEVON AND CORNWALL SECTION



An impressive turnout of Devon and Cornwall members met at Okehampton Golf Club for the Section's annual Christmas tournament and meal.

Snow greeted the golfers but once they had completed their rounds they were soon warmed by the fine meal and the humour of the Section's resident comedian Tank Sherman.

The occasion also featured the final event administered for the Section by Richard Whyman before he took up his position of Course Manager at Burnham and Berrow Golf Club and the occasion was marked by a presentation to Richard made by Section Chairman, Cary Rawlings.

## STRI AWARD

Following an assessment in December the STRI has been awarded the Investors in People Standard.

The formal assessment included a full review of the STRI's planning processes and training and development systems. Very positive feedback highlighted details of good practice within the STRI across the entire range of principles set by the standard.

The Assessor praised the STRI's strong commitment to staff development and its policy of equal opportunities.

"People within the organisation feel that their contribution to the STRI is recognised and that they are valued; during interviews I was told many times that people enjoyed working at STRI"

Dr Gordon McKillop, the Chief Executive, praised all STRI staff for their contributions and sustained commitment over the last few years in working towards achieving the award. He also expressed his considerable gratitude to Linda Howell of Business Link for West Yorkshire for her guidance, support and encouragement throughout the entire process.

## SISIS



Jason Briggs, Midlands Territory Manager for SISIS Equipment has been named as "SISIS Territory Manager of the Year".

The annual award is given to the member of the Sales Team who proves his excellence in territory management and shows the biggest improvement in sales.

The photograph shows Jason receiving a cheque from Joint Managing Directors Roger and William Hargreaves.

## TERRY BUCHEN TO TEACH AT HARVARD

He has grown-in more than 13 golf courses, consulted on nearly 100 others and worked as the agronomist for the PGA Tour as well as some of the country's top golf and country clubs. Now, Terry Buchen, CGCS, MG, will teach what he has learned over the past three decades to Harvard University students.

Buchen, President of Golf Agronomy International in Williamsburg, Va., will teach at Harvard Design School's Golf Course Design and Development Institute on March 25. He will speak on golf course maintenance costs and how to evaluate a maintenance operating budget in relation to a course's size and how it is designed. Addressing staffing levels, wages and

benefits, equipment and irrigation repairs, utilities, drainage and key items like fertilisers, chemicals, grass seed and sod, Buchen will also present a number of cost-saving tips — something he is well-known for in the golf industry.

"Teaching at Harvard is a unique experience that I look forward to, especially to interact with the Design School students about real-world playing conditioning standards and how design influences golf course maintenance operating costs," said Buchen, who has spoken at regional and national conferences around the country and in Great Britain, where he is a favourite of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association.

## NEW COMPANY

Bob Cook, previously known for his work with Parkers, spanning over two decades, and then more recently for Farmura, has announced the launch of his new company, T Parker and Sons (Turf Management 2003) Ltd.

Bob stated that the new Parkers has a few similarities to the old company being that it will still be a family run business with himself and his daughter Nickola and that also, as before, Parkers will be providing quality products coupled with efficient and effective service.

The Parkers name was chosen by the partnership because of Bob's close links with the original company and also the already excellent reputation that Parkers has gained.

Bob will be concentrating on Kent and parts of Sussex and Surrey to supply a wide range of products for all your turf care needs.

For sales or more information please contact Bob on 07798 866345 or 01233 642646

## VITAX



Vitax has appointed Stephen Millar as the company's new Technical Representative for Scotland.

Stephen, brings 17 years greenkeeping experience to the post, and comes directly from East Boldon Golf Club, in

Tyne and Wear, where he was Course Manager for over five years. He is looking forward to the challenge of selling new products, and those which he has used himself over the years and knows well.

As a married man with three children, Stephen is also looking forward to settling back into his hometown of Forfar, near Dundee for good.

"I was born here, my family are here, and I trained at Forfar Golf Club before taking my first professional greenkeeping post at Hartsbourne Country Club in London," he explained

"I've been back and forth from England to Scotland ever since, and now, with responsibility for the whole of Scotland I have the chance to travel in my own country."

Clive Williams, Sales and Amenity Manager for Vitax said that Stephen's greenkeeping background coupled with his strong, regional roots made him the ideal candidate to develop the company's interests in Scotland.

## ROLAWN



Davina Turner has been promoted to the position of Distribution Manager. Davina joined the company in January 2001 and has successfully worked towards increasing efficiency while building a more flexible and customer friendly operation.

Phil Cuthbert, Rolawn's Distribution Director said, "We can maintain and build on our success only by meeting the challenge of providing excellence in customer service. Doing so against a background of increased volumes and new transport legislation has created the need for change within Rolawn's Distribution Department. As Distribution Manager, Davina's role will be paramount in driving forward the future development of the company's logistics strategy."

## MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE



Myerscough College has launched Myerscough Turf Management (MTM) a complete advisory and consultancy service to the Sports Turf Industry.

The service will build on the expertise built up at Myerscough through some 20 years of

education and training in sportsturf. A wide range of skills and knowledge will be utilised, complemented by the superb range of specialist sportsturf equipment at the College's Turf Technology Unit. Allied to this will be the College's extensive mix of facilities ranging from state-of-the-art information technology equipment to fully-equipped laboratories for analytical purposes.

Wayne Roberts, of Myerscough Sportsturf, who will lead the new service, commented, "This is an opportunity to develop existing and new relationships with members of the industry, by providing a complete 'one-stop' service for all sportsturf surface

requirements from introductory training through to research and development."

Wayne adds, "This work will complement our existing educational provision and allow us to deal effectively with the ever increasing demands made of us for this type of service which we have previously only been able to resolve on an ad hoc basis. We see our service as complementary to those already existing in the industry, within which we have established numerous commercial links."

The 'one-stop shop' approach will allow agronomy-based visits and on-site testing where existing work practices, maintenance regimes and good practice can be developed and enhanced, fully supported by laboratory and analytical services where required.

For further information on Myerscough Turf Management, contact Wayne Roberts on: 01995 642447/642222 or e-mail: wroberts@myerscough.ac.uk.

## TURFTRAX

TurfTrax, is hosting a number of regional workshops to provide baseline solutions to solve turf troubles.

The events, to be held throughout March, at venues between Cheltenham and York, are for all those involved in sportspitch and golf course management and the renovation decision-making chain, from senior club or local authority managers, to greenkeepers.

"We estimate that the UK sports industry from school playground level to the Premier League loses between £600-800 million every year as a result of poor playability or postponements," says TurfTrax Managing Director, Justin Smith.

"However, most of this could be avoided through simple planning and adopting scientifically sound, remediation and management practices, which in many cases need not cost a fortune.

"There simply is no reason why sports turf shouldn't be able to cope with extremes of weather. Anyone who is experiencing problems at present needs to re-examine their pitch or course construction, or drainage system."

TurfTrax is hosting the six free regional workshops to present those facing up to the problems of poor playability with some answers. They will identify what are the top-ten turf-troubles and provide some simple solutions to avoid these recurring.

They will also help decision-makers draw up a simple strategy to follow when sourcing contractors and agreeing specifications for remediation or reconstruction. Finally, it will give delegates a chance to air and discuss their own problems with TurfTrax's consultative team.

The workshops, which start at 9.30 and finish with lunch, are at:-

Leicester City Football Club	11th March
Haydock Park Racecourse	12th March
Twickenham RFC	17th March
Wyboston, St Neots	19th March
BIGGA HOUSE, York	20th March
Cheltenham Racecourse	25th March

For an invitation, please contact Sarah Mason, on 01234 821750, or e-mail sarah.mason@turftrax.co.uk.

## CHARTERHOUSE



Charterhouse Turf Machinery has promoted Nick Darking to Sales Manager. He has many years' experience of the turf machinery industry, and his appointment at Charterhouse comes during a period of strong, ongoing growth for the business.

"One of Nick's first tasks now is to help devise the company's strategy for launching an exciting line-up of new products being introduced early in 2003," says Charterhouse Turf Machinery Director, Philip Threadgold.

"The last 12 months have seen tremendous growth for the company, as more and more turf professionals appreciate the benefits of the high work-rate machinery we offer."

Celebrating their 20th Anniversary this year, Charterhouse Turf Machinery are renowned for having introduced to the UK the Verti-Drain deep aerator, penetrating compacted ground to depths of over 40cm (16in). The product portfolio also includes overseeders, scarifiers, corers, core collectors, pedestrian turf aerators, and drift-free chemical applicators. Most recently, Charterhouse unveiled a new range of powered post hole borers.

In a separate development, Charterhouse Turf Machinery continue to grow their operation in the USA, with Paul Hollis recently having been appointed as Sales Manager of the company's US subsidiary.

## ALPHA PLUS GROUNDSCARE

Alpha Plus Groundcare at Inverurie, near Aberdeen, is the latest recruit to John Deere's nationwide grounds care dealer network, covering north and north east Scotland.

The John Deere range of professional and golf & turf equipment will now be sold by Alpha Plus to golf clubs, local authorities and contractors in the area.

The business was established in 1991 by Managing Director, Steve Matthews, primarily to sell facilities management equipment to municipalities throughout Scotland, from its head office in West Lothian.

"The opportunity to take on the John Deere range of machines came at a time when we were looking to expand and set up premises in Aberdeenshire," said Steve.

"The timing couldn't have been better, and we now have the facilities to extend and develop our customer base. Our aim is to become the major supplier of grounds care equipment in the north of Scotland."

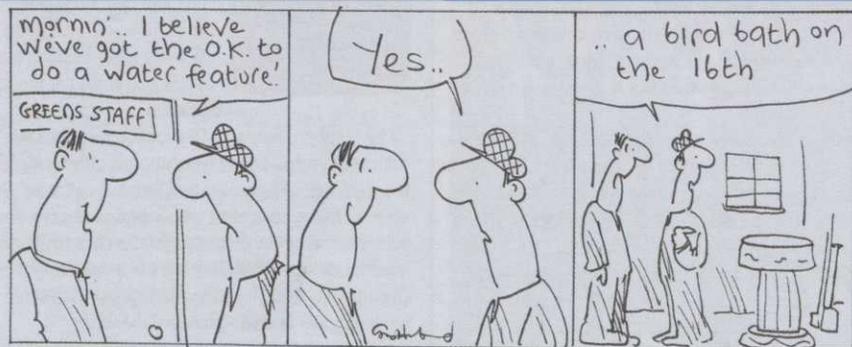
Alpha Plus employs about 30 staff between the two premises. An experienced team is responsible for John Deere equipment, sales, parts and services support at the Inverurie site, headed by Dealer Manager Raymond Warrender.



Scottish Region Patrons together with the winners of the 2002 Patrons' Awards at the annual lunch held in Stirling just before Christmas.

## Royal Inverdivot GC...

Strip Cartoonist of the Year [www.tonyhusband.co.uk](http://www.tonyhusband.co.uk)



Can you name this well known Head Greenkeeper and Section Secretary? Answers on a postcard to Mr Steve Dixon, c/o East of Scotland Section