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# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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'THE TURFTIME TEASER'  
DETAILS ON PAGE 51

Cover picture by Brian Morgan



Welcome

## YOU DECIDE!

Are you getting as fed up as I am of the current requirement to have a telephone permanently stuck to your ear whenever you're watching television. "Tell us who you think is the Greatest Briton"; "Who do you want to leave the Big Brother House?"; "Who do you want to stay in the Fame Academy?". The list goes on and on.

There's hardly a programme nowadays which doesn't enlist the help of the general public. Even the news programmes are at it. As I write Cherie Blair has just been on television defending herself and we are being asked to vote on how well she did!

As well as being an obvious money-making racket I reckon it is an extension of the use of focus groups. I once sat on one such group for American Express where I was asked questions on a range of issues. I was told the idea was to form an opinion of the type of person who did or would like to have such a card. In a daft sort of way you feel quite important but it is completely and utterly meaningless and, in a negative sense, does result in a blandness.

When I worked on a couple of the mainstream golf magazines focus groups were brought in. What happened was that they became overburdened with instruction, holiday and equipment features. Now I have never met anyone who reads golf magazines for golf instruction but if I were asked I'm sure I would wrack my brain for a while then blurt out "Instruction". Of course what I'd really mean to say would be "More in-depth features on the lives of our top golfers and the hurdles they have had to overcome to reach the top". But that would be very complicated and too difficult to put in a tick box.

We end up with a "lowest common denominator" when the general public gets a say, while it is very easy to sway the telephoning audience to a particular point of view.

Can you imagine how it might effect your own professional lives.

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"If you think you should leave decisions regarding the well being of your course to a highly trained professional greenkeeper call 0800 3456789. Or if you think you have the right, just because you are a member of the club, to damage greens just because you have decided you want to play golf on your course whenever you want, even on particularly frosty days call 0800 9876543."

It might be a way for your club to bring in more money but let's not suggest it shall we?

Scott MacCallum, Editor

## ROAD HOLE BUNKER



The most famous bunker in golf also became the most talked about recently. The reconstruction of the Road Hole Bunker has resulted in the whole of St Andrews reported to be in "uproar" - you can see a snowy

image of the bunker on the front cover of this month's magazine .

The decision of the Links Management Trust to have Eddie Adams and his team rebuild the bunker came as a result of the bunker becoming too difficult for the best players in the world, never mind the 42,000 handicap golfers who play the Old Course each year.

The Road Hole bunker became known as the "Sands of Nakajima", following the five attempts taken by Japan's Tommy Nakajima to extricate himself during the 1978 Open while, in the

Millennium Open, David Duval took four to get out while still in runner-up slot behind Tiger Woods, on the final day dropping him down the field.

As a result the walls have been reduced by around two feet and the bunker has been moved back from the side of the green.

A local ex-Captain of the New Club in St Andrews was quoted as saying, "tampering with the bunker is going too far and its loss is a tragedy". This demonstrates the strength of feeling in the town but perhaps misses the point that a bunker needs constant attention and is always being rebuilt and remodelled.

The bunker to which David Duval fell pray would have been different to the one in which Tommy Nakajima suffered never mind Old Tom Morris.

That said, it was obviously a brave decision to make such a radical change.

Your comments on the matter would be most welcome.

Editor

## TEESSIDE GOLF CLUB

In this year of record rainfall and flooding spare a thought for Tony Smith, Course Manager at Teesside Golf Club, which is more prone than most to flooded conditions.

"The water table in winter is about 12 inches while in summer this drops to about 30 inches," explained Tony.

"Of the 130 acres of course, I have seen as much as 90 acres under water at any one time. This has happened several times over the past few years and seems to be a regular feature of the course these days with this so-called global warming."

Teesside G C is a very flat course, has an eight inch natural fall from the highest to the lowest point of the course.

"We also have two becks crossing the course, north/south & east/west as well as the Old River Tees which runs part way round the outside of

the course," said Tony who added that the Clubhouse used to be the old flower mill.

"When we get heavy rainfall the C S O overflow intercepts the excess water that can't get down the sewage pipe, which runs through our the middle of the course. When this happens it's then pumped it in to our becks, at flood times I've seen it come over the bank sides - and these are six feet high - on to the course.

"We also have to work with the tides to drain our course, which means that when we have a heavy rainfall and the tide is up it can take as much as 24/48 hours, before we see the beck levels drop down. Our water then starts to drain away it may not seem long but with a flat course and no wind this can seem a long time."

The picture is looking from the clubhouse down the 1st and 2nd fairways. Taken in May 2002



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# £500,000 BOOST FOR GREENKEEPING

The GTC has helped to secure £500,000 in funding for greenkeeper management training.

The successful bid to the European Social Fund was made in partnership with Plan-It Training, and will be used for the training of 200 Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers in the skills vital to maintaining and managing golf courses.

This is the first time that a programme of this nature has been successful in

securing ESF funding and it will further raise the profile of education within the greenkeeping profession. The funding will be matched from within the industry, adding up to a £1m investment in skills and personal development.

The project is the culmination of a ten-year

partnership between the GTC and Plan-It Training.

"This is great news for golf club employers and the many Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers out there who want to be better trainers, assessors and get to grips with the latest advances in greenkeeping technology, including IT. It is also a massive vote of confidence in greenkeeper training by the ESF and will be additional to the ongoing financial support from the GTC," said Education Director David Golding.

Lorraine Hatton-Downward, of Plan-It Training, endorsed this view adding that the overall aim of the programme was to introduce people to

the ethos of lifelong learning within the workplace, so that more people can fulfil their potential and use their skills and knowledge effectively.

"A flexible, adaptable and well-skilled labour force is vital to all golf employers," she added.

GTC Chairman Gordon Huddy was equally delighted.

"This is excellent news for golf and it is now for golf course employers to take up this opportunity to develop the skills of their Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper which, in turn, will benefit both the golf course and the other greenstaff."

## GREENKEEPER TRAINING LINK...

Fifteen Norwegian trainee greenkeepers and two tutors realised a dream thanks to an international link between two leading greenkeeper training colleges.

The group, which included three female greenkeepers, walked on Manchester United Football Club's hallowed pitch during a four day study tour when they were guests of Reaseheath College in Cheshire.

The visitors - tutors Agnar Kvalbein and Hakon Wergeland plus students from the Gjennestad College near Oslo - watched a game between Manchester United and Bolton Wanderers. They also visited the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Wirral, and played on the Cheshire course at Carden

Park and at the newly developed Wychwood Park Golf Club near Crewe.

The Carden Park visit was hosted by Andy Campbell, MG a member of the Greenkeeper Training Committee Liaison Panel which meets at Reaseheath twice a year to discuss greenkeeper training and education.

The partnership between the two colleges was formed at BTME 2001. Turfculture lecturer, Brian Jones, accepted an invitation to visit Norwegian golf courses and is currently working on a reciprocal work placement scheme for students.

Steinar Selle, Leader of the Norwegian Greenkeepers Association, inspects a rivetted bunker at the Royal Liverpool Golf Course

## ROLAWN



Russell Sheerman has joined Rolawn as Field Sales Manager Bulk Products and will be covering the south of England. Russell has over 12 years experience in field sales, most recently with

Marshall's Mono Ltd.

"We are extremely pleased with the tremendous success of our loam products in all sectors of the industry and are confident that Russell's expertise and experience will contribute to the development of sales of these products even further," said Terry Ryan, Rolawn's Sales and Marketing Director

## THE ANNUAL SCOTTISH REGION PATRONS' LUNCH AND AWARDS

The annual Scottish Region Patrons' lunch and awards at the Terraces Hotel in Stirling at the beginning of December was another great day enjoyed by all who were invited along.

Peter Boyd did a great job once again in his organising of the event this year - a great meal and a great after Dinner speaker in Mr Bill Lyall, of Newtongrange, who was superb.

I don't know how Peter does it but the speakers just get better every year. Well done to the 10 patrons awards winners two from each Section who all receive a book and a place on

the Scottish Region trip to BTME 2003. Congratulations to you all for being awarded this prestigious prize so kindly presented to the region by our patrons of the Region.

If it wasn't for the generosity of all the patrons in Scotland these awards would not be possible every year so to you all a big thank you from the winners and all your friends in Scotland.

To all the winners once again well done and we all hope you all gain something from your trip to the premier show in our profession.

Chris Yeaman

## NEW NAME FOR TEXTRON

Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products has changed its trading name to Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd.

Commenting on the change Managing Director, Steve Chicken said, "We have probably the two most recognised brand names in our industry sectors and with our US parent company, Textron Inc., changing the trading style of their subsidiaries on a global basis we felt that the heritage of the two famous brands should be reflected in our company name."

"Our parent, Textron Inc. is a \$12 billion multi-industry company, listed on the New York Stock Exchange and has more than 51,000 employees in 40 countries."

## RANSOMES JACOBSEN

The Ransomes Jacobsen branches in Selby and Mansfield have recently enhanced their product range and now offer a selection of Dori machinery for landscape and turf maintenance requirements.

The exclusive UK Dori distributor, Hancox Ltd, has appointed the two branches as official dealers of the well-known brand. Customers looking for small-scale maintenance equipment will find a variety of mowers and other grounds care accessories including scarifiers, cultivators, scrub mowers and pay load barrows.

## Royal Inverdivot GC...

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



## THE SOUTH EAST REGIONAL SEMINAR

A record number of delegates attended the South East Regional Seminar held at The Roehampton Club on November 27. A more perfect place for educational enhancement could not be imagined. Situated in South West London The Roehampton Club provided excellent facilities, peaceful surroundings (bearing in mind how close the A3 and the South Circular Road are!) and superb food. The Seminar had been put together by the Surrey Section Committee under the guidance of their Chairman, Anthony Freeman, with the bulk of the work being taken on by Daniel Lightfoot, Head Greenkeeper at Gatton Manor Golf and Country Club, who had chosen the theme of "The Search for Perfection."

The Seminar got off to a wonderful start. For the last year or so stories (and rumours) had circulated around the South East of the trials and tribulations that Ian McMillan had to face on his appointment (at almost the start of construction) as Course Manager at Queenwood Golf Club, one of the most exclusive golf clubs in the country. His appointment had coincided with the start of the wettest autumn and winter on record. Ian's talk illustrated by the most incredible slide show was nothing short of brilliant. Had time permitted the question and answer session could have gone on for hours. A hard act to follow indeed but Eddie Seaward, Head Groundsman at Wimbledon's All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, was up to it.

Eddie, a past Chairman of the IOG fascinated his audience with graphic accounts of preparing turf for one of the most prestigious sporting events in the world.

Eddie was followed by a most thought provoking talk on Health and Safety from Jon Allbutt and once again the questions and answer session had to be cut short.

After an almost gourmet lunch David Golding, from the GTC, soon got the delegates concentrating again when he illustrated the main reason that the first two Speakers and many other professionals like them had been able to cope with their jobs so well – Training!

To finish the day on a more lighthearted note Matt Lorenzo, from Sky Sports, told some wonderful stories about Golf and Life. Featuring often in both of these subjects was the Course Manager where Matt plays his golf, Surrey Committee Member, Geoff Woodward.

The Region's sincere thanks are due not only to the Speakers who donated their time, the Sponsors - Amenity Technology, Avoncrop Amenity Products, Golf and Turf Equipment, Grass Roots Trading Company, Rigby Taylor, Scotts and Sheerwater Leisure who enabled the Region to put on such a wonderful day but also to the 128 delegates who attended and supported the event.

Derek Farrington  
South East Regional Administrator



## SEVENTH COURSE FOR ST ANDREWS LINKS

St Andrews Links Trust has selected David McLay Kidd, son of Jimmy of Gleneagles fame, to design its additional public golf course at St Andrews, which is being created to meet rising demand at the Home of Golf.

David, 34, is an up and coming golf course architect whose recent projects include the highly acclaimed Bandon Dunes in Oregon, USA, recently chosen to host the 2007 US Mid-Amateur, and the new heathland course, Queenwood, in Surrey.

"We are looking forward to working with him on this truly exciting new project, which will create a whole new dimension to golf at St Andrews - as well as meeting the rising demand from our various customers," said Alan McGregor, General Manager of St Andrews Links Trust, which is responsible for the six public courses on the Links.

"I have always dreamed of being given the opportunity to design a course in my homeland, the birthplace of the game; however I could not have imagined it would be at St Andrews itself. The site selected by the Links Trust has exceptional potential, a mile or so of water frontage, gentle rolling topography and, fittingly, a breathtaking view across the bay to the 'Auld Grey Toon' of St Andrews itself," said David.

## INTURF

Inturf have recently supplied rain jackets to an U11 football team Bolden Colts in the Sunderland area. The team is coached by the Head Greenkeeper at South Shields GC, Glen Baxter, and play to a high standard playing teams like Sunderland AFC Academy.



## PESTICIDES SAFETY DIRECTORATE

### The Provision of Pesticide Mixing Services and the sale of Pesticide Twin Pack and Kits.

We are currently in the process of investigating a report of the alleged purchase of a non-approved mixed formulation. This is not the first time we have received such information. I, therefore, thought it might be helpful if I wrote to clarify the situation regarding purchase of these pesticide mixtures, mainly as amenity herbicides for use on such areas as golfing and bowling greens.

A mixed formulation is one where two pesticides or a pesticide and another compound

are mixed together. Such products should only be sold if they have an approval for sale, supply, storage and use. Where there is no such approval, golf clubs, parks or others who store or use such products are likely to be in breach of regulation 4 of the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 or regulation 4 of the Plant Protection Products (Basic Conditions) Regulations 1997, as they would be storing or using an illegal pesticide.

We are aware that some pesticide distributors may offer a mixing service. Purchasers using such services should ensure that any mixtures

offered to them are mixed only after sale and that only sufficient quantity for immediate use is purchased. They should not be purchased in bulk and stored for prolonged periods.

It should also be noted that mixtures stored for unnecessarily long periods may also be in breach of health and safety legislation in general.

I would be grateful if you would ensure that your members are aware of this issue.

Joan Reeves  
Pesticide Registration and Enforcement Policy



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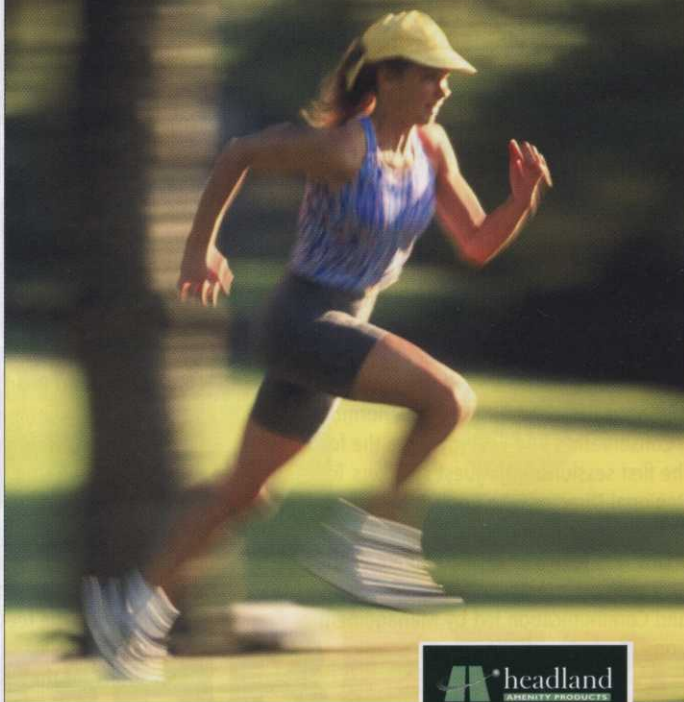
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## HARRY DIAMOND REMEMBERED



The Ayrshire Section has remembered the late great Harry Diamond by introducing a claret jug style trophy for their annual Champion. The trophy is competed for over the two outings with a combined Stableford points total. It is open to all Ayrshire Section members with a valid handicap max 18.

The trophy was donated and sponsored by local company Daval Industrial Products. The Ayrshire Section are extremely grateful for this kind gesture as no expense was spared to

honour the memory of an Ayrshireman who was a true stalwart of the Association.

The first winner was George Morrison, of Largs Golf Club, who piped his former colleague and doubles partner, Paul Tulloch, of West Kilbride Golf Club, on a last nine count-back at Moffat Golf Club.

Left to right, Derek Wilson, Secretary; George Morrison, Champion; Alex

Cruikshanks, Davat Industrial Products, and Iain Barr, Chairman. (Photo by Robert T Bruce).

## EGU FLAGSHIP EDUCATIONAL EVENT

The EGU's flagship educational event, the Greenkeeping Masterclass continues to go from strength to strength attracting 80 Greenkeepers/Course Managers to Woodhall Spa at the beginning of December.

The EGU were also pleased to welcome invited representatives from the R&A, BIGGA, the GTC and the Association of Golf Club Secretaries.

In his opening remarks, Colin Spurr Chairman of the Golf Services Committee, made it clear that the wealth of experience and knowledge in the audience combined with the guest speakers made the potential for learning enormous.

Conservation and Ecology were the focus for the first sessions with guest speakers Tom Tew, Regional Director with English Nature and Bob Taylor, Senior Ecologist, STRI.

This was followed by a complete change of tack with an interactive session on Leadership and Communication led by Management Consultant, Annette Heritage.

The opportunity for Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers to meet and share experiences should never be underestimated at these events and the overnight stay and dinner provided just that.

On day two, Independent Turfgrass Agronomist, Robert Laycock, took the class through the benefits and potential pitfalls of using soil and tissue analysis to help fine tune the management of Greens. This was followed by an excellent paper from Graeme Francis, Lely UK, on Lake and Pond Management. The final session was on Course Preparation for tournaments with talks from Geoff Marks, R&A Championship Committee, and Peter Wisbey, EGU Courses Manager

The aim of the Masterclass is to present a programme that is both technically challenging and imparts information on the wider issues affecting golf. The feedback from delegates confirmed this was achieved with some good suggestions for the next 'Masterclass'.

## 2006 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP HOSTS

Royal Liverpool Golf Club will host the 2006 Open Championship.

The Open was last played at Hoylake in 1967 when Roberto de Vicenzo of Argentina won his first and only major title.

In the years since that historic championship, the demands of The Open in terms of infrastructure, space and traffic management ruled Royal Liverpool out as an Open venue. Now, however, with plans in place as a result of the three-way agreement signed by the R&A, Royal Liverpool Golf Club and the Metropolitan Borough of Wirral, The Open will make a welcome and long-overdue return after a break of 39 years.

"Royal Liverpool is a club with a long and distinguished history and we are delighted that we are now able to bring the Open back to this wonderful course at Hoylake," said R&A Secretary Peter Dawson.

"I thank all concerned for their efforts and anticipate an outstanding championship at Hoylake in four years time."

Royal Liverpool Golf Club has a long and distinguished history. It was founded in 1869 and has hosted the Open no fewer than ten times. The players who have won the Open at Hoylake are ten of golf's best known names from the past and include Bobby Jones who, as an amateur in 1930 won the Grand Slam of the Open and Amateur Championships of both Great Britain and the United States.

Read more about Royal Liverpool's return to The Open rota and the superb work of Derek Green and his team in next month's Greenkeeper International.



## BTLIA

A nationally recognised Irrigation course and qualification is being developed with the help of the GTC.

The BTLIA is consulting the GTC about the new qualification, with the NPTC chosen as the Awarding Body.

The current BTLIA Diploma has been revised and part of this has been submitted by the NPTC to the Qualifications & Curriculum Authority for accreditation.

"This is a major step forward in improving the awareness of the use of automatic irrigation systems," said BTLIA Chairman Graeme Francis.

A meeting will be held during BTME in Harrogate between representatives of BTLIA, the GTC and chosen training providers to establish a structure for a training course to allow students to achieve the new qualification.

"Many golf clubs have invested heavily in state-of-the-art irrigation systems and to have a

qualified Irrigation specialist within the greenstaff is to have a great asset 'on-site'," said GTC Education Director, David Golding.

Courses for the BTLIA Diploma are currently available by contacting

David Halford on 07041 363130 or via email at [info@btlia.org.uk](mailto:info@btlia.org.uk)

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For details, please contact Neil Thomas on 01347 833800 or via [neil@bigga.co.uk](mailto:neil@bigga.co.uk)

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Ken and Sami would like to wish all of our readers a very happy new year. We to hope to see you during the Continue to Learn week at Harrogate. Please remember, that there will be a BIGGA Education and Training Stand in Hall M, this year, at BTME.

# OnCourse

Golf Course Management Software has, in the past, been seen by many greenkeepers as being too complicated for their course – that is until BIGGA introduced OnCourse, in 2000. Developed by greenkeepers, for greenkeepers, OnCourse is now being widely adopted by BIGGA members across Britain and Europe, from large, multi course facilities to the smaller private members clubs.

With the same underlying principles applying equally to both small course and large resort course greenkeeping facilities, the software is scalable to suit all situations. Andy Campbell, MG CGCS, the Estates and Golf Courses Manager at De Vere Carden Park has recently installed the system: "I have tried other programmes but OnCourse suits our needs best, it is the ideal package for our multi course operation".

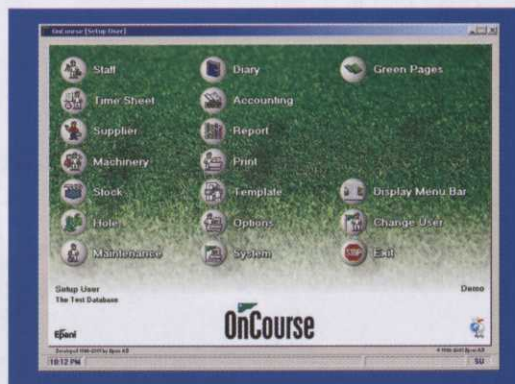
OnCourse has the potential to save a huge amount of time and paperwork for the Course Manager, allowing him to spend more time out on the golf course, managing his staff. Vast amounts of course management data (traditionally kept in dust-covered files) can be stored within the system, resulting in a more organised greenkeeping department, which requires significantly less administration: "It not only allows the Head Greenkeeper more managerial control but also allows all staff to see what is happening day to day, thus improving efficiency and control," added Andy.

OnCourse provides total budget transparency for the Course Manager. The reports produced by the system allow the Club Management to see exactly where resources are being utilised on the golf course and how budgets are put together. Most importantly, they can provide the head greenkeeper with the justification he requires for budget increases and requests for large capital investment items.

Producing detailed reports from OnCourse couldn't be simpler. For the 'Green Committee', showing how much time was spent on certain activities is practically impossible with a paper based system. OnCourse, however, provides this powerful information in many different formats: by hole, piece of machinery, time frame or member of staff, as well as retaining all historical information for comparing course activity and tasks with previous years.

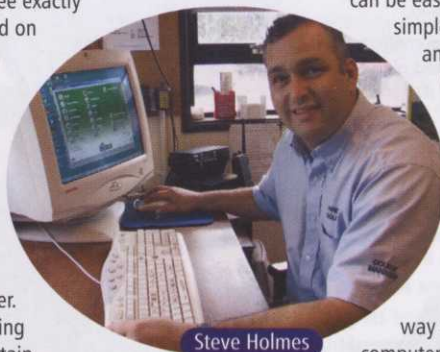
By using OnCourse the Course Manager can provide a Club Manager with peace of mind that the most expensive assets on the course are being utilised to the full whilst being maintained to the highest possible degree. OnCourse allows you to protect these investments and manage their rotation, replacement and depreciation.

"With ever tightening employee and Health and Safety legislation, OnCourse enables me to keep all staff records in one system, be they related to training, discipline or



Date	Time	Area	GR	IF	IF	Making
03/05/1999	Fertilize	Green	0.30	0.25	0.50	No
28/04/1999	Fertilize	Fairway	0.12	0.10	0.20	No
12/04/1999	Fertilize	Tea	0.30	0.30	0.60	No
26/03/1999	Fertilize	Tea	0.36	0.30	0.60	No
05/03/1999	Fertilize	Tea	0.68		1.90	No
04/03/1999	Fertilize	Tea	0.68		1.90	No
07/03/1998	Top Fertilize	Tea	22.00	3.00	4.00	No
05/10/1998	Sow	Tea				No
29/09/1998	Public	Tea				No
28/09/1998	Fertilize	Green	0.30	0.18	0.30	No
18/09/1998	Vertical Cut	Tea				No
15/09/1998	Fertilize	Tea	0.12	0.10	0.20	No
28/08/1998	Fertilize	Green	0.30	0.18	0.30	No
19/08/1998	Top Fertilize	Green	0.00	0.00	0.00	No
18/08/1998	Cutting	Tea				No

accidents in the workplace," commented Steve Holmes, the Course Manager at Hindhead Golf Club in Surrey. It only takes a minute per day for members of Steve's team to complete their daily timesheet. This involves nothing more than a few clicks with the mouse to record where they were working, for how long, and on what task or piece of machinery. By doing this, the data flows to all parts of the system, building up a comprehensive picture of greenkeeping activity and machinery use, all of which can be easily reported on. Using a cheap and simple cable to link his office computer to an old PC in the greenkeeper's canteen, Steve has maximised his system, by making it easy for his staff to access OnCourse at all times of the day. Each greenkeeper has his own logon password, which ensures that he only has access to areas of the system that Steve sees necessary.



Steve Holmes

"The system is easy to learn your way around – even for a self-taught computer user like me," added Steve. "I do a monthly backup of all my data to disk, and keep a copy of it in the Clubhouse safe as well as a copy at home. The more you use it, the better the system is."

The question that every head greenkeeper and course manager should be asking themselves this winter is: "With hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of assets under my control, can I afford not to manage my department without a computerised system that costs only £800?"

The winter months are the ideal time to install OnCourse, enabling you fully to reap the rewards come next spring. For further information, contact me at BIGGA House or visit the BIGGA Education Stands in Hall M or Hall D, at the BTME and ClubHouse Exhibitions, where you can also see demonstrations of OnCourse.

## Regional Courses

We have had some very successful one and two-day courses this autumn and there are a few places left on the spring courses which start in February. These superb courses are excellent value for money, especially if you can acquire Golden Key Company. Recent feedback from delegates include: Great venue, excellent courses. "Brilliant! Solely the best reason for joining BIGGA. Enjoyed the two days fully. Look forward to the next course.

Unfortunately, due to an administrative error all the dates for the March 2003 courses were listed as March 4 & 5 in the December edition of this magazine. Apologies for any confusion. The dates of the March Courses are:

Further Computer Skills	Berkhamsted Golf Club	4 and 5 March
Project Management	Ross on Wye Golf Club	5 and 6 March
Coaching Skills	Potters Bar Golf Club	6 and 7 March
Management Skills for Head Greenkeepers	De Vere Carden Park	18 and 19 March
Basic Computer Skills	Southerndown Golf Club	18 and 19 March
Presenting a Professional Image	De Vere Carden Park	20 March
Budgets and Finance	De Vere Carden Park	16 and 17 April



You have a few more days to book your place on Continue to Learn, which runs from 20 to 23 January 2003. Places at the National Education Conference and on Workshops must be pre booked. However, you can book places on Seminars 'on the day', by calling at the BIGGA Education and Training Stand in Hall M. Remember, the National Education Conference and Workshop Programme is supported by the John Deere International Challenge.

## Careers Fair

Remember to visit the BIGGA Careers Fair, in Hall Q at the Harrogate International Centre on 21, 22 and 23 January 2003. Supported by the TORO Company, the Fair includes information on careers in Greenkeeping and Golf Course Management, Golf Club Management, Agronomy, Machinery Sales and support, the Chemical and Fertiliser Industry, the Land Based Industries and Playing Golf.



## The Allen Hover Mowers Powered by Honda Engines

Three models are in the range each benefiting from the easy starting smooth and quiet running of the Honda power packs, which can go anywhere a 2-stroke can.

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45°

Rachael and Gemma from the membership Department would like to wish every member a very happy New Year and welcome 44 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

## A Warm Welcome Awaits

BTME and ClubHouse 2003 will be a first for both Gemma and I. We are both looking forward to meeting as many members as possible and hope to see you there. We will be on hand on the BIGGA Stand in Hall Q Stand Q69 to deal with all your membership queries.

Rachael and Gemma will be available on the BIGGA Stand to:

- Collect membership renewal forms
- Hand out replacement renewal forms
- Change Personal and Golf Club details
- Collect new membership application forms
- Hand out membership information
- Hand out field guides on production of your membership card
- Answer questions on your membership package
- Hand out details of the direct debit scheme and tax relief forms

Why not come along and find out more about the new SilverKnight benefits introduced this year and what else is new to your membership package.

As ever copies of the BIGGA produced education and training videos will be available for purchase as well as three of the most popular books borrowed from our library, Practical Greenkeeping by Jim Arthur, Golf Course Presentation by John Hacker and George Shiels and A Practical Guide to Ecological Management of the Golf Course by Bob Taylor.



Rachael Palmer



Gemma Lee



### Ken Richardson

**Position:**  
Education and Training Manager

**What does your role involve?**  
A wide range of tasks including: Arranging training courses for members and staff. Arranging Education Conference, Workshops and Seminars at BTME. Liaison with GTC. Controlling Education and Development Fund. Administering Student of the Year Competition. Administering Environment Competition. Administering Library. Introducing Field Guides. Producing and distributing Careers Information. Managing investors in People. Administering Master Greenkeeper Scheme. Selling and supporting OnCourse software. Running IT Training Courses

**How long have you worked for the Association?**  
8 1/2 years

**Where were you born and brought up?**  
Bradford, West Yorkshire

**Where did you work before you joined BIGGA?**  
Royal Air Force

**What are your hobbies?**  
Gardening, Walking, Reading

**What is your favourite food?**  
Steak

**What is your favourite film?**  
Joint: Great Escape/Battle of Britain

**What was the last book you read?**  
Apart from Jim Arthur's Practical Greenkeeping, Dad's Army

**Who is your all time hero?**  
Leo Lennon (My lecturer at college)

**What was the best event you've ever attended?**  
My wedding to Sandra

**What is your claim to fame? (None not acceptable)**  
Playing football at Valley Parade. Eating lunch with Princess Margaret. Introducing Sentry E3- D AWACS to service in 1991 (No, I've got no idea either - Editor)

## Keep your feet dry without wellies!



Have you ever wished you could banish your wellingtons and keep your feet not only dry but warm in more comfortable shoes or boots. Well Sealskinz have come up with the answer, WATERPROOF SOCKS. Yes they do really work. My husband, Stuart, is a keen cyclist and he absolutely swears by them. The socks are 100% waterproof and breathable and they can go in the washing machine on a 40 degree wash. They are absolutely ideal for any activity where you are out in the rain, be it at work, playing golf or indeed on your bicycle.



Sealskinz also produce waterproof gloves which are designed to offer excellent grip and dexterity in wet conditions and again they are machine washable.

BIGGA have teamed up with Sealskinz to offer members an exclusive deal on these unique products

**The socks usually retail at £20 per pair but we are offering them at £16.00 plus £1 p+p**

**The gloves usually retail at £22.50 but we are offering these at £16.00 plus £1 p+p**

**BUY ANY COMBINATION OF TWO FOR ONLY £29.50 plus £1.50 p+p**

Available from BIGGA House and the BIGGA Stand at BTME and ClubHouse 2003. For more details please contact Rachael Foster on 01347 833800.

### JANUARY'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 January's winner, Steven Curtis, of Richmond Park Golf Club.

## Message of the Month Winner



Each month the person who has written the best message on the BIGGA Bulletin Board, which is found on the BIGGA website [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk), receives one of these FM desktop scan radios.

Our congratulations go to January's winner Robert Holland, from Birchwood Park Golf Centre, whose message was posted on the 22nd November under the Education and Training for Greenkeepers section.

### BIGGA welcomes...

#### Scottish Region

Allan Bange, North

#### Northern Region

Benjamin Besau, Northern  
John Bond, North West  
David Gardiner, Northern  
Christopher Harding, North West  
Tim Randall, North West  
David Reed, North East  
Scott Robinson, North West

#### Midland Region

Paul Bowen, Midland  
John Crowe, BB&O  
James Nicholls, Midland

#### South East Region

Philip Collier, Surrey  
Nigel Downs, Essex  
Gregory Knight, Essex  
Peter Marney, Surrey  
Stuart Toop, London

#### S West/S Wales Region

Justin Austin, South West  
Richard Barter, Devon & Cornwall  
Jeffrey Diment, South Coast  
Kevin Noyce, Devon & Cornwall  
Dylan Rennick, South Coast  
Ben Scully, South West

#### International

Koen Verhelst, Netherlands  
Paul Kaufman, USA

#### Student Members

Eoghan Buckley, Rep of Ireland  
Craig Cameron, Central Scotland  
Neils Dokkuma, Netherlands  
Michael Ellis, Central Scotland  
Robert Tosh, Ayrshire

#### Associate Members

Timothy Cannon, East of England  
Wesley Emerson, N Ireland  
John Graham, N Ireland  
Tom Jones, South West

#### Corporate Members

Mark Booker, Rep of Ireland  
Gerry Coffey, Rep of Ireland  
Chris Faulkner, BB&O  
Dick Holgate, BB&O  
Jason Scott, BB&O  
Rod Townsend, South West

#### Golden Key Member

Gary Smith, West Scotland

# NEW MERCHANDISE RANGE

A new range of waterproofs and other merchandise is going to be available at BTME and ClubHouse this year. We are introducing a new mix and match waterproof range to suit your individual and Club needs. You also have the option of up to three lines of stitching on the garments which could include your Club logo and job title for example.



Samples of two new waterproof suits will be available at the show. The "Greenkeeper" suit is the more expensive of the two at £70 featuring a heavy duty Teflon coated microfibre outer shell and a high performance waterproof, breathable lining system. The trousers to the suit are available in differing inside leg measurements which ensure a more comfortable fit and boast extra long zips on the bottoms for 'easy on' over boots. The extra long length jacket has size adjusters. The suit has a two year waterproof guarantee and is available in two colours. The "Highlander" suit is available for £55 and boasts a Teflon coated microfibre shell and waterproof, breathable lining system. It has a 1 year waterproof guarantee and is available in four colours.

If you don't want to purchase a full suit then jacket and trousers can now be purchased separately. The two jackets available are called "International" priced at £48 and "Weatherbeater" priced at £42. Both jackets have a two year waterproof guarantee and whilst the "International" is a traditional front zip style the "Weatherbeater" is designed in a pullover style. They are both available in a multitude of colours. Trousers can be bought separately to complement the jackets in navy only. These are zipped trousers that hold a 2 year guarantee. They are available in 4 lengths and are priced at £40.

If full waterproofs are not what you're after then the 'Windblocker' sweater may be just what you're looking for. It's a Teflon coated wool acrylic sweater with a permlite waterproof lining. It's machine washable and showerproof and is available in three colours and is priced at £42. A cheaper option is the "Windbreaker" which is a shower proof lightweight V neck top that boasts anti wrinkle fabric. The "Windbreaker" is available in 8 colours and is priced at £25.

Further options include a "sleeveless breaker" which is a fully lined V neck garment, great to wear on and off the golf course and is priced at £22. A "half sleeve" breaker is also available at a price of £28.

Samples of these products will be available at BTME and ClubHouse on the BIGGA Stand in Hall Q. They will also be available to order from BIGGA House, phone Rachael Foster on 01347 833800 for details. £5 postage and packing will be charged on orders up to £100.



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# Course Feature

## WHEN IAN MET SALLY

When Ian Needham and his dog, Sally, were issued with the challenge of building a golf course they could not have imagined just how well they would succeed. Scott MacCallum travelled to Beedles Lake to meeting the human half of the partnership.



Together we'll jump aboard a time machine and transport ourselves back 13 years to a land fill site in Leicestershire where we can listen into a conversation between JCB operator, Ian Needham, and his boss.

Boss: Ian, we've had plans drawn up and we want you to build a golf course on this site for us.

Ian (in shock): You're the boss, but I've never even been on a golf course before, never mind know anything about the game.

Boss: We're sure you can do it.

Ian: Well, perhaps the first thing I should do is go to college and learn a little bit about golf and golf course maintenance.

This should be interesting. Let's get back into the time machine and see how it all worked out.

It's now the present day and Ian is sitting in the extensive Beedles Lake Golf Club clubhouse. He's Course Manager of the successful pay and play course which hosts around 35,000 rounds a year and a membership of around 400. On the wall behind the 9 handicap golfer is the board listing the Club Captains which carries the name "Ian Needham 2000", while a few yards away in the Lady Captain Board which lists "Janet Needham 2000".

If you think this is all a little far fetched and more like a Kevin Costner screenplay than an article you normally find in your

monthly greenkeeping magazine hold on to your hats as it gets even more amazing.

To say that Ian built the course single handedly, on behalf of Leicester building company Jelson, wouldn't be strictly correct. No, he built it with the assistance of his Springer Spaniel, Sally, who was with him every step of the way. To complicate matters further the rootzone Ian used was ash, which was imported from another company in the Jelson group and was against all the advice being given at the time.

"A lot of people threw there hands up in horror and told us it wouldn't work. It wouldn't hold the nutrients and it would be very stale. It was pure black ash" recalled Ian.

Ian's boss, Robert Jelley, who must now feel like the man who discovered Wayne Rooney, could not have envisaged that his decision to turn his JCB operator into a Golf Course Constructor, then Grow-in Superintendent then Course Manager could have borne fruit in quite the way it has.

"I've always been a believer that if you are going to do





The Beedles Lake team with new canine recruit, Rizzler

something you do it wholeheartedly and properly and that's why, at the same time as I was building the golf course, I was on a three year Brooksby College course."

The plans for the golf course had been drawn up by David Tucker, the father-in-law of Robert Jelley, who had already designed the back nine at nearby Lingdale Golf Club before tackling an 18 at Beedles Lake.

"We started by building the 9th and 18th greens and we tried two different types of turf to see which was best suited to the ash. Sally and I dug out all the drainage - between 250 and 500 metres of it - and then put eight to ten inches of clean two inch ash on top of the draining layer, then two to three inches of five eighths down to fines to act as the intermediate layer then 12 to 18 inches on top of that."

He also shaped the greenside bunkering at the same time.

"It was a real work of art to shape them. It was fairly fine so the only way I could find to work it was to get on my hands and knees with a six foot piece of board and drag it into the shape I wanted and then we had a light whacker."

Remember all this was being done by someone who until a few months previously had no knowledge of golf whatsoever.

"I knew where the fairways were coming in from but I should imagine when I started there was a large element of luck as to how it turned out," said Ian, with disarming honesty.

Of the two turfs that were selected for the greens, one on either green, it was that supplied by Greenkeeper Turf, Sheford, Notts, which prevailed.

"It had been grown on polythene and so had no soil on it when it came to us and we found that it grew a lot quicker and was more easier to maintain so, having built the 9th and 18th in October and November of 1991, we went full steam ahead in '92," said Ian.

He found as he progressed that his skills developed to the extent that he even tackled a McKenzie, two tier green. This was also aided by regular visits to other golf clubs to see established golf courses and Hoover up information visually and from the Course Managers.

"From digging out a green, installing the land drain and putting in the binding layers and the rootzone would probably take me a week all told while, as I developed, I was putting in more shape to the greens," he explained.

In the main Sally and Ian tended to follow the route of the course doing the tees and greens in order unless adverse weather made that difficult.


The 16 additional greens were all built and turfed in 1992 while the fairways were seeded and then Ian saw his job change from Constructor to Grow-in Superintendent.

"By now I was hooked on the job. I'd built something from scratch and wanted to get to the next stage and produce something for golfers to play on."

At this stage he and Sally were joined by Tim Needham (no relation), who was to become Deputy Course Manager and between them they planted quite a lot of trees on the course and started to shape the fairways.

"Initially it was wide straight fairways cut by gang mowers but

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# Course Feature

as our knowledge has increased and we have got better quality machinery they have got a lot better."

The course opened on the first of July 1993, just under a year from when the last green was built and with Ian as head man, Tim as his deputy and a part timer in the summer, he had completed the transition from JCB operator to greenkeeper.

"I started to play golf around this time and became a little more knowledgeable about the game and began to look at creating doglegs and putting more shaping into the course."

"We do get quite a few problems from that, occasionally dips appear because of subsoil settlement and, being on a flood plain, it can be very difficult to drain.

And those ash based greens?

Nine years on they are as good as they were when I laid them. They drain beautifully and we stay on them all year round even through frost. I used to top dress with Probase but eventually I thought that somewhere along the line I had to get a little bit of soil into them as none of the organic material was staying in them and nothing was keeping the thatch done. So we started top dressing with a traditional 70-30 mix which has improved them. The ph having gone down from between 8.2 and 8.5 to 5.7 and 6.4.

"They want a lot of water in the summer and we have a Toro system on tees and greens but not much meadow grass has got into them which is surprising for greens which have been down for 10 years."

He admits to some Take-All Patch early on but is confident that it has now run its course while the growth of the trees planted in the early days has seen a little more fusarium creep in.

"We do get quite a bit of trouble in the winter months from crows damaging the greens as they hunt chaffer grubs and leatherjackets but not much other than that," explained Ian, who comes from a farming family.

Looking back on his construction work with the benefit of 10

years greenkeeping experience behind him Ian does feel that mistakes were made.

"If I had my time again I wouldn't have as many greenside bunkers. We put in too many and they were too close to the edge of the greens which has caused maintenance problems with sand on the greens but we have already started on improving this and have filled in some of the bunkers," said Ian, who has also worked on enlarging some of the tees.

The excellent clubhouse was built shortly after the course opened and four years ago it was joined by a driving range which is maintained by the greenkeeping team which now numbers four, and which this year has been augmented on a part-time basis by BIGGA National Chairman, Richard Barker, who has put in the odd shift between Association commitments.

"It has been an honour having Richard here and it's been quite useful to be able to pick his brains occasionally," said Ian.

The club name comes from the 38 acre lake, excavated by barges in the 1950s, which the clubhouse looks over and which boasts some fairly sizeable carp and pike.

"One of Tim's jobs is to look after the anglers and he is here on Saturdays and Sundays collecting money from them, so he works seven days a week."

If there was a defining moment of just how far Ian has come since the day he first drove his JCB out onto the landfill site 13 years ago it would be when he and his wife, Janet, who only started playing four years ago and who already boasts a fine handicap of 19, were elected Captain and Lady Captain respectively for the year 2000.

"We had a fabulous year. It was a real honour to be elected and we thoroughly enjoyed it," said the man whose first handicap was 15 and who touched 8 last year before rising to a steady 9.

He joined BIGGA in '95 and has since become a regular attendee

Ian's digger with Sally posing in front

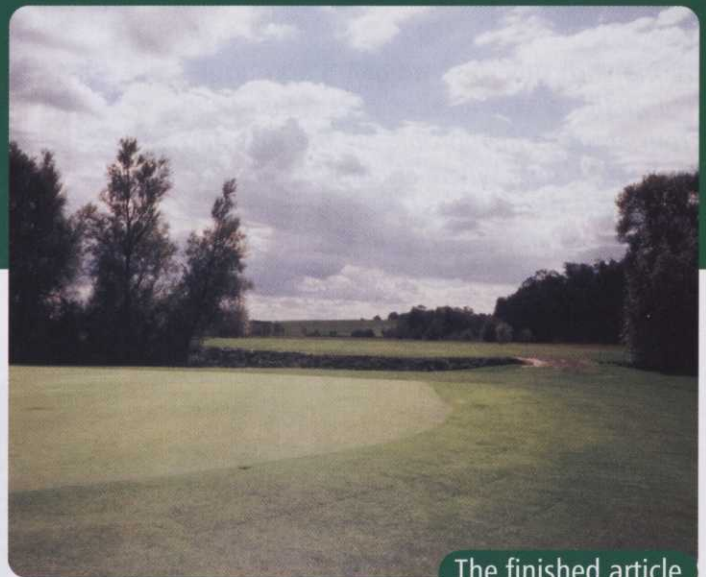


Laying a green





Ash was used as the rootzone



The finished article

of seminars and events at Section - he is Vice Chairman of the East Midland Section -, Region and Nationally where his thirst for knowledge takes him to Harrogate every year while the golf bug has seen him play in every National Championship since '95.

"It is indescribable what you get out of BIGGA. I wouldn't be where I am now without meeting the people I've met and helped me over the last few years."

Life has certainly changed for the unassuming 45 year-old, since he was issued with that job assignment 13 years ago.

"I certainly couldn't have envisaged my life turning out this way. There is something out there that I've built and can't be taken away from me. There is a huge element of pride and satisfaction and it

was quite an honour to have the trust of the Jolly family placed in me as they had invested a lot of money in this project."

He still has ambitions for the golf course with the possibility of a nine hole pitch and putt course whetting his appetite for construction work again.

But sadly, when he does climb back onto his JCB, he will do so without Sally who died last October and who is buried on the 18th fairway.

"Sally supervised me during the original construction. She was the boss," signed Ian.

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**10% Bardot** – Browntop Bent

**10% Heriot** – Browntop Bent

This is the most successful mixture used today. Bar 2 includes Europe's No. 1 slender creeping red fescue, making it ideal for density, disease resistance, drought tolerance and close mowing. It's the perfect mix for golf greens, bowling greens or croquet lawns.

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Along with superb shotmaking and tight competition, what makes a PGA European Tour event so memorable are the stunning golf landscapes where championships are contested. The dedicated teams of managers, superintendents and greenkeepers who create these lush, challenging courses count on Toro – and so can you. The same equipment, irrigation systems and support Toro provides to its partners at PGA European Tour sites is available to golf courses everywhere. Whether large or small, new or old, every golf course with the desire to provide memorable golf experiences has a willing partner in this pursuit: Toro. Count on it.



**Peter Nyberg**

General Manager  
Kungsängen Golf Club, Sweden

*"The best part of Toro is they are so up to date with their new technology. If there's anything our greenkeepers are discussing or may need, they know that Toro is always in the front."*

*Toro equipment allows the staff to prepare a course to meet the demanding new standards of the tour. Nowadays you need to have such a wide range of equipment to maintain a course, and you know that Toro has the equipment you need."*



**Steve Taylor**

Course Superintendent  
Druids Glen Golf Club, Ireland

*"We find the machines give a quality cut. This, coupled with an excellent mechanic, means the machines perform at the highest standard."*

*The Toro units offer easy maintenance, and I don't just mean easier to work with, I mean they get less and less complicated, easier to work on, easier to set up and adjust."*



**Eddie Bullock**

Managing Director  
Woburn Golf and Country Club, England

*"Toro has listened and they've become a part of Woburn Golf and Country Club. They're team members."*

*... and when things are not going right, that Toro team member is right there, listening and working with you."*



**Theuns Van Niekerk**

Superintendent  
Houghton Golf Club, South Africa

*"The service that we get from Toro in South Africa is excellent. If we're in trouble, they'll lend us machines and help us out. They fix things at quite a fast speed. The support is very good."*

*There's not one machine in the whole range that I think is inferior to anything else available."*

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**David Garland**

Director of Tour Operations  
PGA European Tour (pictured above)

*"Not only did Toro have a full and diverse range of equipment that we required, and the majority of the Tour's top venues were already committed Toro users, but the endorsements and plaudits we received from the Course Superintendents, in our opinion the men who really count, were so numerous the decision was easy."*



## Golf Special

The new British Seed Houses Grade A Amenity and Wild Flora Seed Mixtures catalogue is out now.

Pick up your copy from stand A10 at BTME



## Inside...

- WIN a Berghaus Jacket or FREE Golf at Celtic Manor
- Putting Surface Dilemma?
- The Green, Green Grass of Wales
- Providence Plugs
- Golf Boost for the A Team
- FREE Training & Golf Day



- Greenkeepers joining the Grade A Club receive discount off the cost of approved training courses. Call 01522 868714 for details.



JANUARY 2003

# Roots



A SEEDS • SERVICE • SOLUTIONS PUBLICATION



**SO-GREEN** – the unique new ‘stay green’ grass developed by the British Seed Houses turfgrass breeding programme at the Institute of Grassland & Environmental Research (IGER) and launched as seed in 2002 – is also now available as turf, offering a faster route to a year-round greener course.

According to British Seed Houses Amenity seeds manager Jon Chippendale, golf courses now have access to the perfect ryegrass-based tee and fairway seed mixture.

“IGER trials this summer comparing Grade A26 **SO-GREEN** with normal turf have clearly demonstrated that if greenkeepers use **SO-GREEN** – based on the new ‘stay green’ ryegrass AberNile – they can expect reduced turf yellowing and improved summer and winter greenness. And that’s in addition to other key technical benefits such as wearability and high shoot density sought from a normal ryegrass-based turf. What’s more AberNile is also very resistant to crown rust,” he says.

“We are already fielding enquiries from some of the most prestigious tournament golf courses in the country and maybe one day, sun-bleached Open Championship links courses will be a thing of the past.”

Trials at the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) have also confirmed that incorporating ‘stay green’ perennial ryegrass within a seed

mixture can increase both the visual and objectively measured greenness of turf.

According to Andy Newell from STRI, the ‘stay green’ phenomenon is certainly a significant turfgrass development: “Our trials have shown that ‘stay green’ grasses differ from traditional grasses in respect of increased greenness and reduced yellowness. There’s no doubt that they can increase the perceived visual quality of grass mixtures,” he says.

It is these trial findings that have resulted in the launch of both **SO-GREEN** seed and turf – exciting new proven turfgrass products that will deliver ‘stay green’ grass to improve the year-round visual appeal of golf courses.

Golf greenkeepers and landscapers can now purchase stocks of the new turf product from key turf producers, with plenty more available from spring 2003.

## See us at BTME 2003

For further details on Grade A26 **SO-GREEN** seed and turf, see us at BTME 2003 (stand A10) or call 01522 868714. Alternatively, you can visit our website at [www.britishseedhouses.co.uk](http://www.britishseedhouses.co.uk)

# Grass Cuttings



Jon Chippendale BSc Hort dist.

As newer, finer, higher shoot density ryegrasses start to find their way onto some UK golf greens because of their exceptional wear tolerance, British Seed Houses amenity seeds manager Jon Chippendale reviews the full range of putting surface grasses now available to the UK greenkeeper.

The putting green is where golf matches are won and lost. And around 40% of all golf shots take place on this vital surface – so it's no surprise that the greens are the most intensively managed areas on a course. The membership wants them perfect!

Greens must be consistently fine and true for putting, yet receptive enough to reward a good approach shot. Oh, and there's the no small matter of being able to sustain the tens of thousands of rounds that take place on UK courses trying to cater for the golfer wanting both summer and winter play.

The grasses that make up golf greens influence significantly the playing quality and wearability of the putting surface. Traditionally, the quest for perfection has been tackled with fescue and browntop bent grass mixtures. Fescues produce hard and fast greens that bounce an approach shot forward, but wear tolerance declines in the winter. Year-round harder-wearing bent grasses produce fast and true putting surfaces that are also receptive to approach shots.

## BEST SHOOT DENSITY

Fescues and the browntop bent species are cost-effective and widely available, but the tenuis bent grasses (eg. Duchess) have the best shoot density and colour.

In the USA, there's no doubt that the widespread use of creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*) varieties on USGA specification greens and others with a high sand content does produce fantastic putting surfaces. But the maintenance requirement is high. Increased cultivation and top dressing are required to counter thatch production, but where budgets allow well-maintained creeping bentgrass greens are hard to beat.

Unfortunately, the latest bentgrass from the States will not necessarily work in the UK. Many bentgrasses developed abroad have not passed UK DUS standards and the UK climate is totally different. So beware the latest fads from overseas.

Velvet bentgrass (*Agrostis canina*) is a much-maligned species because of the poor performance



of old varieties. One variety, Kingstown, gained a bad reputation because it went dormant during the UK winter. But modern varieties such as Avalon are much better and easily surpass the performance of even creeping bents, particularly for UK soil-based greens.

Avalon possesses tremendous shoot density and wear tolerance, and maintains a dark green colour even under low fertiliser and irrigation regimes. Properly managed, the result is a stunning putting surface.

The new idea for UK golf greens – fuelled by the sheer number of rounds being played on our courses in all weathers – is the introduction of perennial ryegrass to the sward to boost wear tolerance.

This would not be possible without the development of newer, higher shoot density ryegrasses such as the IGER-bred AberImp that will tolerate close mowing – traditional ryegrass turf simply is not dense or fine enough.

Time will tell whether this new type perennial ryegrass will take a significant share of the golf greens market in the UK, but we are certainly monitoring closely mown AberImp trial plots. If any ryegrass can, AberImp can and the trial results will certainly help us advise our greenkeeper customers on whether amenity perennial ryegrass really can deliver an effective compromise between wearability and the perfect putting surface.

# The Gr

The Welsh Open at Celtic Manor



BRITISH SEED H



Come the Ryder Cup the Wentwood Hills Celtic Manor in Wales ready. And the use of SO-

is part of the preparation Jim McKenzie – Director of Golf Operations and Management at the New resort – will oversee the fairways on the Wentwood course with SO-GREEN spring. And if all goes biggest team prize in golf contested on grass that st all year round.

"When we built the Wentwood Hills course in 1997 we used British Seed Houses have continued to use Providence creeping bent

## Golf B

Gary Fitch, John Sturges and Ian Whibberley have joined British Seed Houses as technical advisers. All three will be responsible for providing technical support, as well as the full Grade A Club amenity turfgrass and seed mixtures.

Myerscough College science graduate Gary Fitch will cover the North of England and North Wales. With a ba

## BTME 2003 GREEN SEED OFFER

Bring your voucher to our stand (A10) at BTME and claim your discount!  
Order your Avalon and Providence at the show and get 15% off – equivalent to £3 off for every kg you buy. Minimum order two bags. Grade A Club members also gain extra TCS points.

# Green, Green Mass of Wales



in 2010, greens and the IGER-bred ryegrass varieties on the tees and fairways. And naturally, as hosts of the

ector of Courses port golf tees and od Hills in the well, the f will be ys green

entwood sed seed ses, and se their t on the

Wales Open in August every year it's great to be able to use top performing sportsgrass varieties that are bred in Wales," he says.

"I've been to IGER and seen the development of SO-GREEN at first hand. Apart from the new 'stay green' benefit, it also offers everything else we want from a ryegrass-based seed mixture for the tees and fairways. With such a prestigious event like the Ryder Cup in 2010 to be prepared for, anything that enhances the visual presentation of the course has got to be worth doing," Jim enthuses.

Preparation for the Ryder Cup also includes building eight new holes; a development that will help boost spectator capacity from the current 35,000 to 50,000, Jim says.

## Providence Plugs

CELTIC MANOR keeps its greens in top condition using Providence creeping bent plugs. Whenever annual meadow grass encroaches, the contaminated turf is replaced with two-inch circumference plugs of Providence taken from the resort's own turf nursery.

"The system is far better than trying to weed out meadow grass by hand," points out Jim McKenzie. "With hand weeding it's difficult to

get all the root out and then you have the hassle and time delay of sanding and re-seeding small areas. Plugs are a great idea because it only takes two or three seconds per plug for an instant result!"

As a further precaution against meadow grass encroachment, Jim also re-turfs a 22-inch collar around each green every year using Providence turf supplied by In Turf.

## Boost for the A Team

ttard and e recently ouses as hree will lf course ll as sales range of wild flora

turfgrass Fitch will land and ckground

in professional golf, Gary brings valuable golf sector experience to the team as well as strong, all round turfgrass technical expertise.

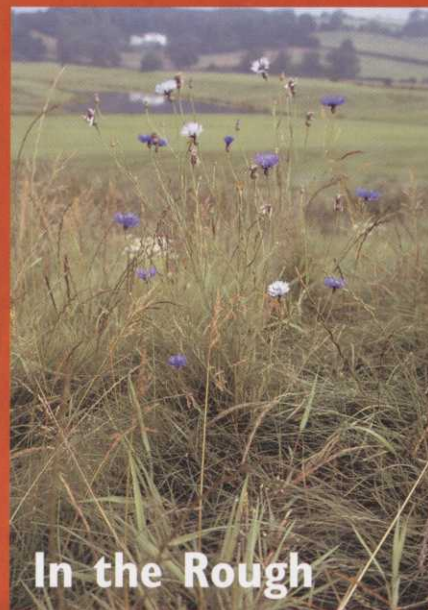
John Stuttard looks after Scotland, Cumbria and the North of England. A qualified greenkeeper, John joins the team after posts at golf courses in the UK and, most recently, in Norway.

Ian Whibberley is the new technical sales adviser for the

South East of England. Joining the Grade A team after 3½ years with Derbyshire County Council, Ian brings a landscape contracting background to his new role. He is a former county cricket head groundsman and has a good all round knowledge of the amenity and private sector within landscape construction and maintenance.

See the back page for their contact details.

## In Brief...



### In the Rough

British Seed Houses recently extended its range of Grade A golf mixtures with a fescue-based product for creating rough that will enhance any course. Grade A 12R helps cultivate the right conditions for wildlife as well as deliver a challenging layout.

The introduction of Grade A 12R means greenkeepers now have a proprietary wildlife-friendly mixture for roughs. What's more, the combination of fescues within the product means management is simple whatever the maintenance programme. Call 01522 868714 for more details.

## New Turfgrass List

The new 2003 buyers guide to quality amenity turfgrasses is due out shortly. The new booklet is produced by The British Society of Plant Breeders in conjunction with the STRI. Pick up your copy from our stand (A10) at BTME.

## New Wild Flora Manual

British Seed Houses is revising its wild flora manual and copies will be available soon. The guide shows you how to develop a low maintenance, wildlife-rich golf course natural environment and highlights the importance of using only UK native wild flowers. Call 01522 868714 to reserve your copy.

## Order On-Line

Don't forget that you can find more information on the full range of Grade A golf course and wild flora mixtures at [www.britishseedhouses.co.uk](http://www.britishseedhouses.co.uk)

# Come to the FREE Grade A Club Training and Golf Day

Here's news of a great way to combine business with pleasure next spring.

Call in at our stand (A10) at BTME 2003 and not only will you be able to take up our great discount offer on Avalon and Providence, you can also register for the Grade A Club training and golf day in late March.

FREE for Club members (£25 for non members), the first Grade A Club Educational Golf Day will be held at Trentham Golf Club, Trentham, near Stoke-on-Trent on March 25th. And what a great training day out we've got planned.

Join us in the morning for a golf

course seeding educational seminar – independent speakers include Trentham course manager and committed Avalon velvet bent user Phil Gates and Ken Richardson from BIGGA. After the seminar enjoy a buffet lunch before taking the option of working out any winter rustiness from your golf swing. We will have courtesy of the course during the afternoon for a Stableford competition, following a shotgun start at 1.00pm. Why not see first hand just how well Avalon velvet bent greens perform!

See us on stand A10 at BTME for more details.



Join the Grade A Club at BTME 2003 and go one up! Grade A Club members gain discount off the cost of training and educational materials based on the volume of Grade A seed mixtures purchased from British Seed Houses. Purchases of Avalon and Providence also qualify for training credit points. Partners in the training scheme include BIGGA, STRI, IOG, LANTRA, TGA and BAGMA.



## Caption Competition

Send us an amusing caption for our photograph and you could win a Berghaus Activity Jacket worth £60, or a FREE round of golf on the fabulous Wentwood Hills course at Celtic Manor – venue for the 2010 Ryder Cup. Entries must be received by 31st January 2003 and the senders of the three best captions as judged by the Roots editorial team will each win a jacket – or the golf, depending on preference.

- If I win, I would prefer a jacket as my prize  
 If I win, I would prefer the golf as my prize

Your Caption No more than 25 words

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Please send me more information on Grade A26 SO-GREEN turf and the Grade A range of amenity seed and wild flora mixtures.

I would like to register for the Grade A Club.

I would like more information on the Trentham training and golf day.

Please do not send me any information.

Mark your entry 'ROOTS Competition' and send it to:  
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## Up close and personal...

A seed mixture is as good as its blend of proven grass varieties. But we believe in the right blend of expertise and service too.

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When choosing a seed company to work with make sure you pick the right mixture.

Call the Lincoln office, or your local British Seed Houses adviser today.



**Simon Taylor**  
 Director and Unit Manager

Tel: 01522 868714  
 Mobile: 0788 7578801



**Jon Chippendale**  
 Amenity Seeds Manager

Tel: 01522 868714  
 Mobile: 0788 7578805



**Gary Fitch**  
 North West England and North Wales

Home: 01524 35443 or  
 Mobile: 0788 7578807



**Ian Whibberley**  
 South East England

Home: 01246 431136 or  
 Mobile: 0788 7578804



**John Stuttard**  
 Scotland, Cumbria and North East England

Mobile: 0788 7578802



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**Jaime Ortiz Patino**  
President  
Club de Golf Valderrama, Spain

*"Having received recommendations from specialists in the field of golf maintenance of the quality of Toro equipment, I was fortunate since the day I purchased Valderrama in 1985 to go exclusively with Toro.*

*I do not regret this choice, since the use of Toro equipment has always given me optimum results and their technology is always at the forefront. The durability of Toro equipment makes it more economical in the long run."*



**Klaus Peter Sauer**  
Course Manager  
Golf Club St. Leon-Rot, Germany

*"The machines are always good, especially the Greensmaster Flex 21. There's no other possibility on the market at the moment to cut sloped greens down as low. You can get better speeds on the greens, which makes the course much tougher.*

*When they deliver the machinery, they always have the time to demonstrate the equipment to my staff.*

*When they come out from the factory, you see there was a lot of thought put into the machine."*



**Bill Warwick**  
Superintendent  
Saint-Nom-La-Bretèche Golf Club, France

*"Going into the tournament, I don't worry about equipment. I'm worried more about the golf course and the weather. I don't even have to think about the equipment. I know it's going to be reliable. It's one less thing I have to think about. I know it's going to start and work well.*

*All machines break eventually, every superintendent knows that. But the support you get when your machine's down, when you need it most, that's what is great about Toro. That's why we are Toro. That's why we don't have any other colour here."*



[www.toro.com](http://www.toro.com)



**Chris Kennedy**  
Director and Golf Courses Manager  
The Wentworth Club, England (pictured above)

*"We prepare for three televised golf tournaments annually and since coming to Wentworth 13 years ago I've done 32 televised golf tournaments using Toro equipment and irrigation. It is simply the best equipment for the preparation of golf tournaments.*

*Toro is still the only company that has the aeration equipment you can use the day before the tournament. Certainly for tournament presentation, the Toro range of product is second to none."*



**Count on it.**

# Constructive Advice

**Roland Taylor dispenses some fine advice if you are thinking of undertaking any construction work**

However natural a golf course appears it is still man made and is constantly subjected to both geological changes and the vagaries of the prevailing weather of the area in which it is located.



For some readers it is a continual battle against erosion and the forces of nature. Just one example of what can happen is a well known links course where the first tee had been lost to the sea on numerous occasions plus high tides regularly caused flooding. This type of problem is not common place but it does illustrate that when the course was first established (many moons ago) these types of possible problems were not taken into account. Closer to the present is the fact that throughout the 70s and 80s the big hype was that golf was about to take-off. Courses began appearing across the country like mushrooms as many thousands of acres of land, which had once grown cereals or provided fodder for cattle disappeared, to be replaced by fairways, tees and greens. This generated considerable business for the construction industry, but unfortunately like all situations where there is the slightest hint of money to be made it also attracted the cowboys. As a result some courses were not built to the high standards that they should have been. Eventually, sanity prevailed and

organisations sprang up designed to protect the clients/customers from the fly-by-nights. One such body was the British Association of Golf Course Constructors, which was formed at the end of the seventies. Its inception was as a result of increasing concern that people and companies were not maintaining standards regarding various disciplines within the golf course industry. The aim was, and still is to bring together like-minded people from companies who have high standards in all the disciplines relating to the building of courses. It is not one of those organisations where paying your dues automatically makes you a member. From the onset anyone joining had to be invited plus be able to satisfy their peers that their company could meet all the laid down standards. These include experience, professionalism and quality workmanship.

Twenty plus years on the present members of BAGCC are recognised as a formable source of specialist expertise when it comes to all aspects of golf course construction and its related activities. In addition, to the membership there are the



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associates. They play a vital role in the organisation and are made up of experts in many field and disciplines. Combined they have a wealth of knowledge spanning many years in wide range of subjects. Like the members these specialists are invited to join and their participation means that members have a readily available source of information and advice relating to their services and products. This is of considerable benefit not only to the membership, but also their clients and customers. The BAGCC has a code of ethics, which is rigorously upheld.

In recent years, full golf course construction has tailed off and a lot of the work now being carried out is of a replacement nature or modifications to parts of the course.

The game itself has also undergone considerable changes. The design and use of modern materials for clubs and balls, plus higher standards of play, have meant greater distances are being achieved than in the past. For some courses this may result in the replacement of existing tees or greens to provide a greater challenge.

One of the biggest changes is as a result of the present climatic conditions. Higher rainfall can result in an alteration of the water table level causing flooding, and the existing drainage systems could be inadequate to deal with a large influx of water. There is also the increasing problem of compaction, which adds to the difficulty of the removing surface water.

During the boom time dubious materials were used and suspect practises carried out on some projects - the results of these, can surface at any time.

If new construction is required there are guidelines that need to be addressed from the moment the decision is made to go ahead. In fact, some of these should be considered when the idea is first raised as a possible project.

The success or failure of any construction hinges on the planning. It is not just a question of "that is a good idea lets do it now". No doubt some readers have heard this type of comment when dealing with a greens committee. There will always be a number of questions that have to be answered before work begins. While the project satisfies club members requirements, how will it fit into the present course management programmes? Is it going to require specific needs and would this incur extra maintenance costs? This could



# Constructive Advice



certainly apply to a new green built to modern specifications, which is sited amongst older ones. Another factor that needs thorough investigation is, will any construction work effect the playing facilities? Disgruntled golfers may be a major problem and there is always the possibility they will go to other courses, thus depriving yours of revenue.

Once the decision has been made to go ahead it is then down to formulating and producing a design that encompasses all the requirements. Depending on the work to be carried out it is likely at this stage that specialist advice is necessary. The design must be specific and leave no room for any misunderstandings. The plans should include key information and details of any existing drainage, irrigation systems and other service facilities such as electric and water supplies.

As the site is likely to be in the vicinity of sensitive ground surfaces access routes for bring in materials and equipment need to be clearly shown so any damage to the turf or ground is minimal. In instances where the work is being carried out close to buildings and there is the possibility of contact with the general public the contract needs to clearly show the contractors obligations and any safeguards necessary to protect him, the client and the general public.

It is now time to decide on a suitable contractor and as already mentioned members of the BAGCC are the best starting points. While price, in most cases is going to play a major part in who is chosen there are other aspects that need to be taken into account. If the price difference between tendering companies is significantly large it requires a detailed explanation. Word of mouth is a good indicator of the

competence of a company, especially if the bottom-line figures are close.

Once the contractor has been appointment it is important to immediately establish a strong line of communication between all involved parties. This is critical if everything is to run smoothly and the work completed within the agreed time scale. The contractor should appoint an on-site manager who can be contacted at any time. Where the main contractor is employing sub-contractors then there needs to be an easily accessible representative of the main company whose responsibility it is to sort out any problems quickly and efficiently. By establishing this network before work commences, time, frustration and money can be saved should any difficulties occur.

The question arises regarding the materials used, it could be tempting to try and save money or use an alternative specification, but decisions of this nature can result in the failure of a construction project. If this situation occurs at a later date one will probably ask, why did I allow it to happen? Today, prices generally reflect what you are actually getting so a few pounds saved could very well create considerable hassle in the future.

All materials used should be regularly check. If a shipment of turf arrives, ensure it is at the same standard as the original samples and to the correct specifications that was ordered. By used well-known established suppliers, while not a hundred percent foolproof increases the chance of it being close. The marketplace is highly competitive, so it is in a company's interest to ensure customer satisfaction.



#### SUMMARY

- Draw up comprehensive plans and specifications.
- Select a contractor who has a very good track record for the type of work required.
- Use the best quality materials possible.
- Work out with the contractor, schedules that are achievable for the work to be completed within the time scale, taking into account possible variations in climatic and ground conditions.

- Ensure there is constant supervision of all the work carried out during the construction.
- Where work is being done 'in house' ensure any equipment hired or bought will do the work efficiently and is reliable.

One of the secrets of success of any contract is for the client's representatives, consultants and contractor to become a working team that regularly communicate with each other. The project then has every chance of being carried out efficiently, to the standards the clubs requires and within the budget and time scale. The whole operation is less frustrating and stressful - on completion everyone walks away satisfied.

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# REBUILDING Golf Greens

By Steve Isaac, Senior Turfgrass Agronomist, STRI Scotland

## Why rebuild?

Most courses have a few greens that perform badly compared to the others, usually in relation to drainage and winter playability. With the increasing demand for year-round play and the uncertainty over climate change, though it does seem to be getting wetter, the need to rebuild inferior greens is greater than ever.

The latest weather data from the Climatic Research Unit and the Hadley Centre demonstrates that the climate has changed due to the inevitable effects of global warming. The data shows that total annual rainfall has increased but, more importantly, the amount of precipitation during the winter months has increased hugely (see figure 1).

Further analysis shows autumn rainfall has increased hugely, compared to the total amount of rain during August, in the past ten years. During the period 1961-1991, the percentage difference in September and October rainfall compared to August rainfall was 2% and 12% respectively. In the past ten years the difference has increased to a staggering 23% and 28% respectively, essentially meaning our autumns are much wetter than they ever used to be. This has major implications of year-round playability of golf greens and our ability to work on them to increase winter usage.

There are plenty of options to try before resorting to reconstruction, but when years of Verti-Draining, Drill & Fill or drainage options such as Fin Drains and gravel banding have failed to provide a permanent solution, reconstruction is the final answer. Whenever the subject of rebuilding a green is raised during an advisory visit, we usually get one of five responses:

- The members will not accept the disruption.
- The Club can't afford it.
- A new green will play in a wholly different way to the others on the course.
- We've tried it before and it failed miserably.
- Yeah! Let's go for it!

Whilst the last response is always the one we hope to get, there is a good answer to all of the others.

How much disruption are members prepared to put up with? If a green is a candidate for reconstruction then it probably takes little, if any, winter play and is slow to develop in the spring. It may be one of the better greens through the summer, wet greens usually perform well when it's dry, but 3 months of decent quality on an annual basis is not generally acceptable these days. If a rebuild is planned properly,

Figure 1 to show the difference in monthly rainfall during the periods 1991-2001 compared to the data from 1961-1990.

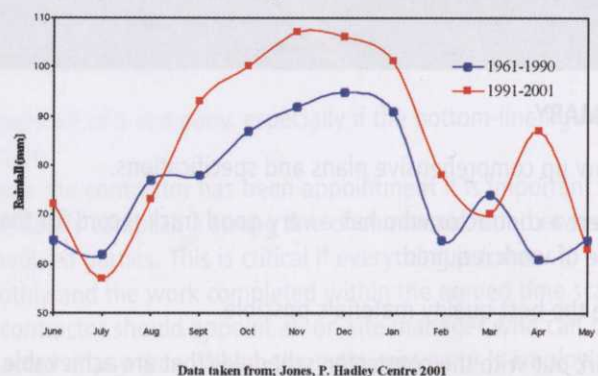
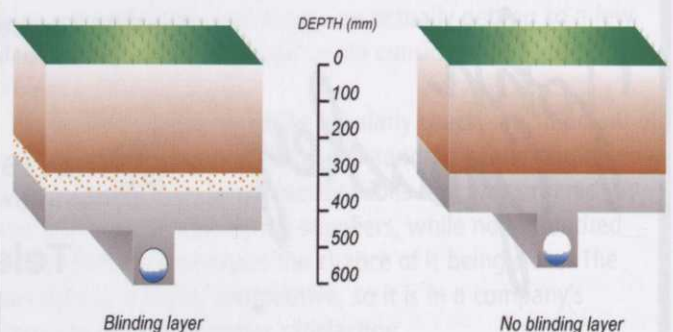


FIGURE 2

## THE USGA SPECIFICATION OF GOLF GREEN CONSTRUCTION



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the green may be out of commission for 6-7 months for just 1 year, and this assumes that it is going on the same site as the existing surface.

Cost is a factor. If you employ a contractor you could be looking at a figure of £35,000 for a new green and surrounds. However, we have seen in-house builds of quality being produced for as little as £12,000 (materials only).

A new surface can react differently to a mature one. The most frequent comment is that the new green is much firmer and less receptive to an approach shot. In some respects this is exactly what reconstruction is about, producing drier and firmer greens that will take winter play. This potential problem can be overcome by turfing rather than seeding and by relaying the original turf, which restores a surface that is likely to be far more compatible with the others on the course than might be the case if imported turf was used.

If you have a rebuilt green on your course that performs just as badly, perhaps worse, than its predecessor then it is probably due either to the use of poor construction technique, bad materials or inappropriate grow-in maintenance. To achieve a quality finished product you have to follow accepted guidelines and this includes quality materials and a greenkeeper who appreciates the difference between managing a new green and the mature ones on the golf course.

## HOW TO GUARANTEE SUCCESS

There is plenty of science in golf green construction. Indeed, there has been for over 30 years. This is how long the USGA recommendations for golf green construction have been around. The USGA Spec – as it is commonly known – has been much maligned over the years. Many so-called USGA greens have failed but, in my experience, this is because they are **not** USGA greens. Often they do not conform to the basic profile or the materials used do not comply with the stringent laboratory testing required or they are managed in an inappropriate fashion. If you follow USGA guidelines you will produce a green that will drain well and ease grass maintenance, enabling the development of a quality, year-round (frost and snow permitting) putting surface.

# REBUILDING Golf Greens

The USGA green profile is, basically, layers of free-draining materials built up over a pipe drainage scheme. Figure 2 (page 24) shows this profile for the two variations of the recommendations that are currently available.

The laboratory testing of the gravel, blinding (if used) and rootzone is critical to the success of the construction. All selected materials must conform to specific requirements and, if the blinding is omitted, the gravel and rootzone must be proven to be compatible.

## THE GRAVEL CARPET

When the blinding layer is used, the gravel must have the following properties:

- Not more than 10% of its particles in greater than 12 mm diameter.
- At least 65% of particles between 6 mm and 9 mm
- Not more than 10% of its particles less than 2 mm

And the blinding material must have at least 90% of particles between 1 mm and 4 mm.

If the blinding is omitted the spec for the gravel is tighter:

- No particles greater than 12 mm.
- Not more than 10% less than 2 mm.
- Not more than 5% less than 1 mm.

In addition, the gravel has to comply with a Uniformity Factor that puts a strict limit on the range of its particle sizes, often eliminating gravels that do not fit a tight 2 mm to 6 mm grade. The gravel is then tested against the rootzone to ensure that there will be no migration, with subsequent contamination, of the rootzone into the gravel (the Bridging Factor) and also to ensure that water will move readily from the upper rootzone into the gravel (the Permeability Factor). These factors are calculated from grading curves of the gravel and rootzone, which show the percentage of particles passing through a series of sieves. Figure 3 shows the grading curve for the sand component of a golf green rootzone. Sands falling within the grey region of the graph would be acceptable in terms of their particle size distribution.

Any similarity to the Hayter FM524

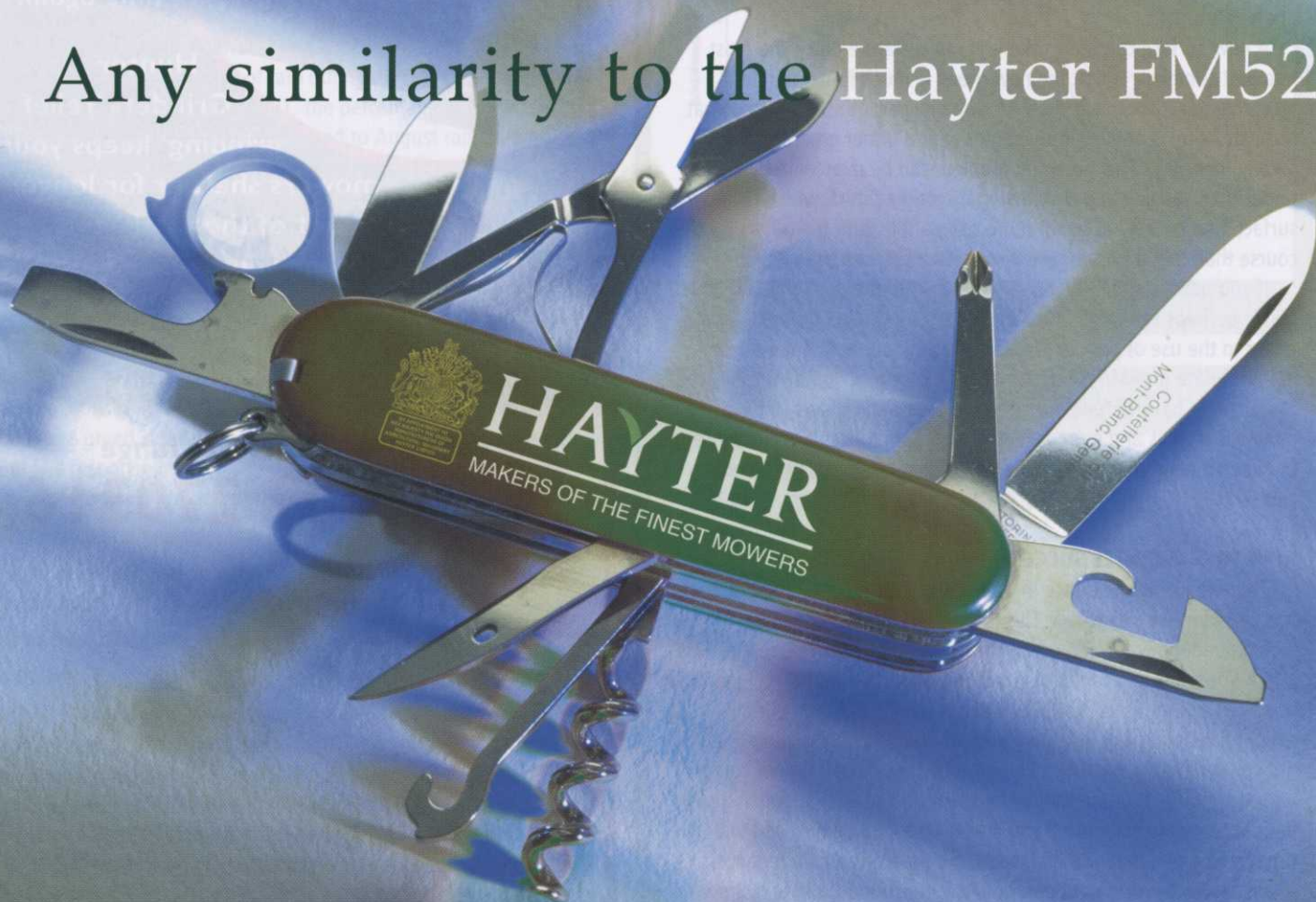
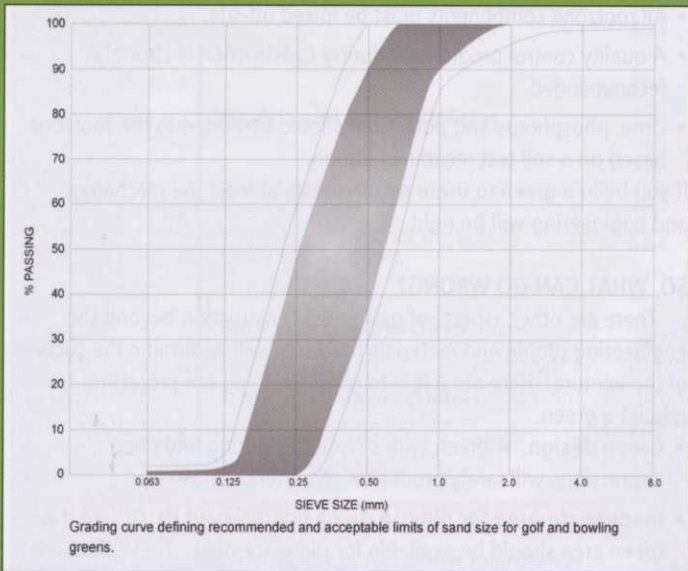




FIGURE 3.



### SELECTING ROOTZONE

There are quite a few ready-made rootzones on the market that purportedly conform to USGA recommendations. Be careful. Some do and some do for only the particle size parameter. For a rootzone blend to conform to USGA standards it must fall within the following particle size distribution:

Fine gravel including	2.0-3.4 mm	Not more than 10% of total, a maximum 3% fine gravel.
Very coarse sand	1.0-2.0 mm	
Coarse sand	0.5-1.0 mm	Minimum 60% in this range.
Medium sand	0.25-0.5 mm	
Fine sand	0.15-0.25 mm	Not more than 20%
Very fine sand	0.05-0.15 mm	Not more than 5%
Silt	0.002-0.05 mm	Not more than 5%
Clay	<0.002 mm	Not more than 3%

Total fines (very fine sand, silt plus clay) not to exceed 10%.

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# REBUILDING Golf Greens

Having passed this first test, the rootzone must then comply with further analyses that determine the physical properties of the mix. These tests determine the total space between solid particles within the rootzone (Total Porosity), that filled with air (Air-Filled Porosity) and that retaining water around rootzone particles (Capillary Porosity). Drainage rate can also be tested (Hydraulic Conductivity) and the rootzone must also contain a certain amount of organic matter. Table 1 lists the figures that the selected rootzone must comply with if it is to be used (as per the 1993 Revision of the USGA recommendations).

TABLE 1. PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF THE ROOTZONE MIX

Total Porosity	35-55%
Air-filled Porosity (at 30 cm tension)	15-30%
Capillary Porosity (at 30 cm tension)	15-25%
Hydraulic Conductivity (mm/hr)	150-300 (Normal) 300-600 (Accelerated)
Organic Matter Content (by weight)	1-5% (ideally 2-4%)

The two ranges for hydraulic conductivity reflect the tremendous range of circumstances that the USGA recommendations have to cover; after all it is the means of building greens worldwide. Higher drainage rates are required in tropical and sub-tropical areas and where recycled or highly saline irrigation water is used, where greens have to be flushed out now and again to get rid of contaminants. In the UK the Normal range is the one to aim for.

The USGA recommendations are not right for every situation. A different approach would usually be taken if rebuilding a green on a links course, but this is one of few exceptions.

So, there are very tight guidelines for selection of materials and it is this that helps guarantee success. However, even if you follow all of these parameters things can go wrong.

## MORE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE USGA?

The USGA Recommendations are more than just a series of laboratory tests. The document produced by the USGA Green Section (the US agronomy service that plays a similar role as STRI) covers many other aspects of green construction. It is not a specification as such but there is more than enough advice in its pages to ensure a quality rebuild.

A selection of important, additional information includes:

- The subgrade, i.e. the soil base beneath the gravel carpet, need not conform to the general slope of the finished grade, but its shaping must reflect its purpose to facilitate water movement to the drainage system.
- The drainage design should ensure that the main line is placed along the line of maximum fall and lateral drains shall be spaced no more than 5 m apart.
- Drain lines shall be laid to ensure a minimum positive slope of 1 in 200.
- The surface of the gravel blanket must conform to the proposed finished grade.

- Materials suspected of lacking mechanical stability or of questionable weathering stability should not be used.
- All rootzone components must be mixed off-site.
- A quality control programme during construction is strongly recommended.
- Lime, phosphorus and potassium should be added to the rootzone, based on a soil test recommendation.

If you build a green to these requirements at least the mechanics and engineering will be right.

## SO, WHAT CAN GO WRONG?

There are other aspects of golf green construction beyond the engineering profile and materials used that will determine the success of the venture. Here are a few to consider if you are proposing to rebuild a green.

- **Green design.** A green with severe contouring and deep depressions will rarely produce a consistent surface.
- **Inadequate area for play.** A rough figure would be 70% of the green area should be available for pin placement. These days we, generally, look for greens with an area of at least 500 m<sup>2</sup>.
- **Capping of the rootzone.** The means of establishing a grass cover to the green will be a major influence on the final outcome. If you cap the sandy, free-draining rootzone with clay or silt brought in with imported turf or a thick layer of dense thatch from the original turf then you immediately compromise the USGA spec. Seeding is the preferred option for establishment but this assumes that you have plenty of time before the green has to come into play and a seeded green will react differently to the mature turfed greens on the golf course.
- **Inappropriate grow-in maintenance.** Broadly speaking, a new USGA green will require more fertiliser and irrigation than mature greens. The grass will have to be nursed through its first year or two in use, possibly with less aggressive mowing heights and verticutting regimes. Over-zealous top dressing can strangle a new green at birth.

## GET ADVICE – DO IT RIGHT

Rebuilding a green can be a nightmare or a sweet dream. There is an awful amount of information to consider and you must have access to laboratory facilities to get it right. STRI have the expertise to help you get it right the first time. From explaining the perceived problems of reconstruction to your members, through the materials selection process and into the grow-in programme, STRI can smooth the path to a successful rebuild.

**Steve Isaac is a Senior Turfgrass Agronomist with STRI and their Area Manager for Scotland & Ireland.**

**STRI have two agronomists based in Scotland:**  
Steve in Blairgowrie: 01250 875805 e-mail [steve.isaac@stri.co.uk](mailto:steve.isaac@stri.co.uk)  
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# THE FUTURE OF TURF MANAGEMENT

In the first of a monthly series of articles to appear under the "Continue to Learn" banner Barry Beckett outlines his view of how the industry may progress over the next few years.

Imagine a world without mobile phones, the Internet, CDs, microwave ovens and satellite TV. It wasn't too long ago that any of these existed; yet now they're part of everyday life and not given a second thought.

Now think of a greenkeepers' world in which robot mowers controlled by GPS technology carry out cutting operations throughout the night when players are asleep in their beds – and not right up behind you as you do your early morning mowing!

Far fetched? Not at all, according to some. For this scenario might well prove to be one of many technological innovations that will come to revolutionise the way in which greenkeepers maintain their golf courses in the future.

The world moves on apace and leading turf maintenance equipment manufacturers like Toro have to be actively thinking about the future of golf in, say, 10 to 15 years down the road. Questions about what technology greenkeepers will need and how this should be developed and brought to market as commercially viable products that work in practice are a constant source of challenge.

What is certain is that things will change. And for the greenkeeping industry, one of the greatest changes around the corner is the emergence into the profession of a new generation of men and women born and brought up with computers, people who will insist on using the benefits of computer technology to its fullest extent in their work.

Some changes we shall immediately embrace, others we may resist – but changing how we do things, not necessarily what we do will be at the heart of our future.

Not all changes and technologies are matched to market conditions. Some are far too ahead of their time and fail miserably.

Remember the Sinclair C5, the little car, that's now a collector's item!

It's hard to imagine that in 1970 there were no cordless let alone mobile phones, no CD players, microwave ovens, video cassette recorders, smoke detectors or even TV remote controllers.

Alternatively, not everything we need is necessarily new. For example, battery/electric-powered products are widely talked about today as something for the future in all aspects of the 'vehicle' industry including the turf industry.

But battery-powered products have been used in the UK for many years. In fact in 1912 there were 34,000 electric vehicles (lorries, vans, buses) registered, which was 35 per cent of all vehicles. The milk float was one of the more lasting.

The lawnmower industry flirted early on with electric power on some contraptions. And ever willing to try something new, the industry has also employed steam to power lawnmowers!

Embracing change and being prepared to learn new ways will be fundamental to all of us – otherwise we shall be left behind.

Looking to the future, factors that drive the market will be increased: leisure time, disposable income, life expectancy, increased TV coverage, and higher player expectations. Golf is a game for life.

For greenkeepers, factors driving our needs will be led by environmental pressure by way of regulation, consumption of resources (water, fuel), and emissions (air, water, noise). Added to this will be the issue of labour – its cost, availability and quality.

Future power sources we might see as well as battery and electric power include hybrids (petrol/diesel plus electric), alcohol fuel distilled from corn, solar power/regeneration, and rechargeable energy cells.

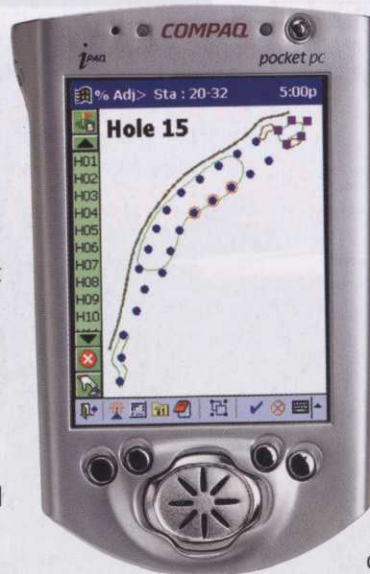
New materials used in the manufacture of products will bring benefits through new lighter weight, stronger plastics that also give fuel savings, ceramics for the hardest of mower blades, fibre optic cables, and recycled and recyclable compounds.

Grasses and fertilisers will both be part of this change process, with new grass hybrids that resist disease, heat and cold and can be cut shorter without stressing the plant. Grasses with a deeper natural green colour will be among other advances.

New fertilisers will include those that can be applied in micro-doses through irrigations systems.

Computers will revolutionise the greenkeeping industry and become part of everything a greenkeeper does. Some ways in which they will save time and money are:

- Linking irrigation systems to national weather centre computers to control watering.
- Measuring a machine's performance and self-diagnosing problems before they arise.
- Using bar coding as part of your spare parts usage, for automatically reordering replacements.



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Computers will also be at the heart of sophisticated tracking systems that have the ability to track and display the location of all essentials on the course. For example: equipment, players, staff, tournament officials and TV cameras.

Systems already exist in the agricultural industry to track the progress of things like harvesting operations. Toro is among companies that are developing this technology, and is confident it will come about in greenkeeping in the not too distant future.

The system relies upon a remote or palm-held device rather like a PDA (personal data administrator), which is used to collect and plot data for storage and display on a computer. Tracking systems will have the ability to plot and display all areas and operations on the golf course. These include areas that have been cut or are uncut, where spraying has been carried out, what has been watered, and parts that are, say, under repair.

So simply by looking at a map on a computer screen greenkeepers will have a snapshot of pretty well everything they

need to know about what's going on around the course.

Another innovation set to herald big advances in the future of turf management is the use of spectroscopy. This is officially described as the science concerned with the investigation and measurement of spectra produced when matter interacts with or emits electromagnetic radiation. Think of the spectrum of colours in a rainbow representing the different parts of light.

Spectroscopy in our case is about using this light source to produce data about elements out on the course that cannot be seen by the naked eye or known how else. For example plant tissue and soil conditions.

Toro and others are working on this and the technology could be no more than five years or more away. In practice, current thinking is that a light source device will be used to collect data and load it on a computer. This would be a portable instrument, but developers are also looking at a much larger machine for 'real time' data gathering and volume analysis.



The data would be used to analyse plant tissue to show its composition, nutrient deficiencies, to custom-mix treatments, and, say, to establish the 'local needs' of an area of the course.

Information would be plotted on a computer for many purposes that would aid the greenkeeper. These start with, for example, for storage and reference, and go on to help with development of treatment programmes and compiling records. For even greater detail, this method could be combined with data from infrared aerial photography.



The biggest driver for change here is the need to better conserve and manage water. The increasing cost of water and tightening restrictions on its availability will drive technological advances in all systems aimed at eliminating its wastage. Out of excessive watering come other associated problems such as leaching of fertilisers and other chemicals used in turf treatments.

Spectroscopy technology will help here, too, as it will be used to target and control use of items such as fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides. Ultimately it will map your whole golf course.

The internet will completely change the way we communicate and run our businesses in a number of ways, including:

- Hand-held compact computers will give live access to libraries for reference information.
- video conference links will play a bigger part in training.
- all purchase orders will be placed via the internet.
- all manuals, videos, management programmes will be capable of being downloaded.
- archives/videos of case-studies, as well as presentations.

Among new methods that will evolve will be that future generations of greenkeepers will be totally computer literate and will demand the use of technology.

Work will no longer be just in 'daylight'. GPS systems will allow night mowing; repair work and maintenance will also be done at night.

Other new techniques, which combine many of the new technologies described here, will evolve. One example might be what is called Precision Turf Management. This is a combination of technologies using GIS (global information systems that map the Earth's layers, contours, features and soil types); GPS (global positioning system that accurately plots any location on the globe); sensors; and VRT (variable rate technology).

In broad terms Precision Turf Management is based upon two key principles, as follows:

- Soil conditions vary across large sections of land.
- If you can better manage the variability, then optimised economics and a cleaner environment will result.

Technologies are creating new opportunities to micro-manage inputs for production, as follows:

- Water, seed, nutrients, chemicals, soils.
- Manage smaller sections of land rather than average needs of a whole 'field'.

Information is the key. We would have access to much more data. The challenge would be creating 'information' from data.

Currently, greenkeepers essentially have only their eyes and experience to go on when it comes to turf management operations like, say, irrigation. Sprinklers are switched on and left to run for maybe a couple of hours – and that usually does the trick.

But with Precision Turf Management, where micro-management is being practiced, sensors under the turf hooked up to a computer would tell greenkeepers categorically whether the ground on any particular part of the course was wet, damp or dry and what watering if any was

needed. There would be no guesswork – and no wastage or unnecessary costs incurred.

The same devices as part of a micro-management system might also be used to measure sound, motion, heat, light and pressure. This would bring into play the management of other 'controllable' aspects of turf management such as compaction, mowing, pesticides, nutrients, hybrid grasses, thatching and fungicides.

Who knows how this may all evolve?

But we can be sure that technologies and systems such as those illustrated in this article will become widely used in our industry.

We shall still need people. The greenkeeper (you'll by now be glad to know) will not disappear. The function will however change from what we know it as today.

But while we speculate on 'what will be', manufacturers like us at Toro all still have to deal with real people and meet their needs for a product.

**Barry Beckett is Senior Marketing Manager, International Division, for The Toro Company, based in Minneapolis, USA**





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# JOHN DEERE

# Team Championship

**BIGGA Chairman, Richard Barker reports on the Brokenhurst Manor's challenge for the John Deere World Team Championship in Arizona.**



I am sure that you are well aware that Great Britain & Ireland were included in this year's John Deere World Team Championship for the first time. The World Team Championship are now in their 16th year and several teams from the USA and Canada, plus one each from Germany, Sweden and Australia have normally contested the finals before. However, this time Great Britain and Ireland were also included.

Well as for qualifying approximately 20 local qualifiers were held up and down the country hosted by John Deere dealers. Each of these winners then competed around the Brabazan Course at The Belfry just prior to the Ryder Cup knowing that a winning score would secure them a trip to Scottsdale, Arizona, and a place in the World Cup finals.

The format for the event was unique throughout as a John Deere Dealer made up a four man Texas Scramble with the professional playing his own ball. There were one or two other rules but that was the basic format and the best score of the two was to be recorded, so the scoring was always going to be low. A magnificent 17 under par (nett) was the winning score at The De Vere Belfry which was posted by Brokenhurst Manor Golf Club who then had three months in which to prepare themselves to meet the other finalists.

That time soon passed and on a cool November morning I met with the team comprising of Ed McCabe Course Manager; Bruce Parker, Professional; Paul Clifford Secretary/Manager; Charles Letchworth, now past Captain, and David Harrison, the John Deere representative from New Forest Farm Machinery, at Heathrow for the

eight hours journey to Chicago with a further two and a half hours across America to Phoenix.

Any fears of packing incorrect clothing were soon put to rest as the first sign we noticed read: "Welcome to the valley of sun" and upon leaving the terminal the heat just hit you.

So on to the hotel in Scottsdale and a good night's sleep before rising for the practice grounds. The tournament was played at Greyhawk, home to the 1997 Anderson Consulting Matchplay Championship. Over their two courses the Talon and Raptor. Practice was Thursday, Friday with the Championships held over the weekend.

On arrival at Greyhawk we were literally speechless – golf clubs were collected from the car, placed on one of the 160 buggies and taken to the 1st tee for the allotted tee time. The Clubhouse was magnificent as were the surrounding gardens. As for the golf course, well the only grassed areas were the playing areas, ie. tee's, fairways and greens and the rest was desert comprising of shrubs and mainly cacti, which you didn't want to get too close to! But the first real test came on the greens. They were fairly undulating and quite simply lighting fast and also true, the two practice rounds were most useful but we still struggled with speed.

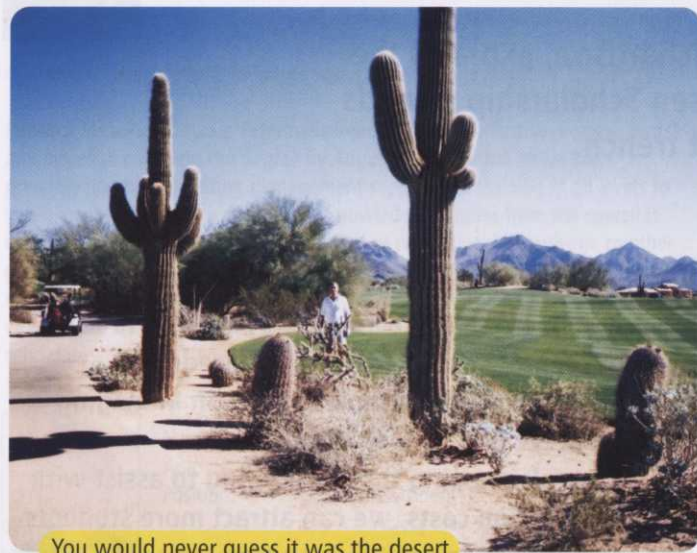
So on to the tournament proper. With five shots to play with we - I say "we" as for the Championship I was a self appointed Brokenhurst Manor cheerleader - set off in a confident mood and scored 11 under on the first day. Not bad you may think but we were eight behind the first round leaders, Beacon Hall of Canada. But with spirits still high



Reasons for taking control  
 Why has taken a year out of employment to  
 hope will help him fulfil his ambition to become involved in business  
 consultancy and research. He hopes to be a professional in the future  
 with the industry. He has been a BPGA member since 1992 and has already  
 achieved a National Certificate in Greenkeeping, at Stroud College and a  
 Higher National Diploma in Golf Course Management at Hereford College.  
 He has worked at the Herefordshire Golf Club where he occupied the position of  
 Deputy Course Manager.



Name: Peter Cook  
 Age: 45  
 Position: Course Manager



You would never guess it was the desert

we started the second day very well. After nine holes we were 7 under for the day but regrettably could not maintain the momentum. It was during this front nine flat that Brokenhurst dropped the only shot in the four rounds they had played from the qualifying to the final.

However we did finish on 10 under for the day and a second round total of 123 – (21 under par). With the worst score being a 130 we far from disgraced ourselves and finished about mid-table. But at the top of the leaderboard it was the Gallery Golf Course, from the USA, (55-56) and Beacon Hall, from Canada, (53-58) who tied on 111 – 33 under par.

Instead of the last 18 holes counting to decide a winner each team member had to play an 84 yard pitch from the 10th tee over the water to the 18th green with the two best shots counting (distances added).

So after an exciting finale it was the Gallery Golf Club, from Oak Harbour, Washington State, who lifted the 16th John Deere World Team Championship Trophy.

In all fairness, however, I believe everyone there was a winner it was a truly superb trip which was organised very professionally by John Deere. Thanks must go to all at John Deere for making us most welcome from start to finish. It was an experience that I won't forget in a hurry.

Thanks also go to Brokenhurst Manor who represented themselves and the Association so well, and to everyone else that supported the



The British Team

tournament. Remember that John Deere paid £25 to our Association for each team entered. This amounted £9,300 and will be spent on the Education Programme at BTME later this month.

Hopefully John Deere will continue with this event so if you weren't successful this year try again next year. IT COULD BE YOU.



The Winning Team

# RANSOMES JACOBSEN<sup>LTD</sup>

A Textron Company

## The Key to Knowledge

BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, explains the background to the new BIGGA/Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship Awards and highlights the lucky beneficiaries of the first trench.

Since its formation in 1987, BIGGA has always placed the Education and Training of its members as its highest priority. As the range of further and higher education courses has increased, many more greenkeepers have wanted to improve their knowledge and, therefore, their ability to produce the playing surfaces required in an increasingly competitive market. Higher education does not come cheap and most greenkeepers would struggle to find the fees demanded by colleges. BIGGA has, for several years, helped greenkeepers to pay for education and training through its Refund of Fees Scheme which is supported by its Education and Development Fund, which, in turn, is funded by contributions from its Golden and Silver Key Members. However, refunds from this scheme are limited to £250, far below the costs of most Higher Education courses. Now, thanks to generous support from Ransomes/Jacobsen, BIGGA is able to offer BIGGA/Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship Awards to its members. Scholarships are awarded to BIGGA members who are on or about to start a course of Higher Education ie N/SVQ Level 4, Higher National Certificate, Higher National Diploma, First Degree and Masters Degree. The amount awarded depends on individual need but usually meets half the cost of the course.

"At Ransomes Jacobsen, we are committed to the future of our business and the industry as a whole. By

setting up this new scholarship scheme with BIGGA, we can help existing greenkeepers continue to learn, carry out research and obtain recognised qualifications," said Ransomes Jacobsen Managing Director, Steve Chicken.

"We are also hoping that by offering to assist with further education costs, we can attract more students into the business and in the long term, raise the profile of greenkeeping as an exciting and interesting career choice," he added.

The first scholarships, totalling over £8000 have been awarded but Ransomes/Jacobsen have provided further funding for 2003 and 2004. Application forms for Higher Education Scholarships are available from BIGGA HOUSE.

### SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Name:	Mark Zealander
Age:	25
Position:	Deputy Course Manager
Golf Course:	Botley Park H,G&CC

Course Undertaking: BSc Turfgrass Science and Technology, Cannington College

#### Reasons for taking course:

Mark is keen to study the science behind the industry and will build on the knowledge he developed while taking his National Diploma. He also hopes to use the qualification to assist other greenkeepers in their development and training and promoting the need for better education within the turf industry.



Name: Barry Dore  
Age: 26  
Position: Full time Student

Course undertaking: MSC in Sports Surface Technology, Cranfield University

**Reasons for taking Course:**

Barry has taken a year out of employment to undertake the course which he hopes will help him fulfil his ambition to become involved in turfgrass consultancy and research. He hopes to be a pioneer of future developments within the industry. He has been a BIGGA member since 1993 and has already achieved a National Certificate in Greenkeeping, at Elmwood College and a Higher National Diploma in Golf Course Management at Reaseheath College. He has worked at the Hertfordshire Golf Club where he reached the position of Deputy Course Manager.



Name: Peter Jones  
Age: 45  
Position: Consultant

Course Undertaking: MSC in Sports Surface Technology, Cranfield University

**Reasons for taking Course:** Peter has already passed the first year of the course and hopes to complete the degree by August. He feels that as his work primarily involves providing management support and training at all levels to greenkeepers across the country the knowledge he gains from the course is enabling him to pass on a greater amount of professional knowledge to other greenkeepers which, in turn helps them in their work. Peter has been a BIGGA member for almost 20 years and has lectured at many BIGGA seminars and workshops - including BTME - and supported over 30 NVQ modern apprentice candidates.



Name: Allen Blizzard  
Age: 27  
Position: Full time Student

Course undertaking: MSC in Sports Turf Technology, Cranfield University

**Reasons for taking Course:** Allen has always strived to take his career as far as possible and so far it has taken him to Los Angeles and Australia! He started work at The London Club and then was First Assistant at Royal Blackheath GC before taking part in the Ohio International Turfgrass Program during which time he worked at the Los Angeles Country Club and Pinehurst. He also undertook some courses at Pennsylvania State University before travelling to Australia where he worked on a newly constructed Greg Norman course. He returned to the UK to extend his studying in the UK with a view to becoming a top Course Manager.



Name: Laurence McCrory  
Age: 39  
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper  
Golf Club: Mentmore G&CC

Course undertaking: HNC Golf Course Management, Elmwood College

**Reasons for taking Course:** With seven years in greenkeeping behind him and having acquired the basic underpinning skills to be a competent greenkeeper Laurence now feels it time to take the next step in his own development to further and secure his future career. He believes that the HNC will ensure that his practical skills are backed up with sound technical knowledge which will ultimately enable him to be more professional.



Name: Peter Lacey  
Age: 36  
Position: Head Greenkeeper  
Golf Club: Pennard GC

Course undertaking: HNC, Pencoed College

**Reasons for taking Course:** Peter feels that continual professional development is a must for all forward thinking turf professionals as the industry advances at such a pace. It is therefore essential to keep up with modern technology and to further one's knowledge on relevant matters, while not forgetting the proved and time tested traditional methods. The afternoon/evening course, asked for by Head Greenkeepers and provided by the college will enable Peter to continue his education while at the same time being on hand to provide the high standards expected by his golf club members.



Name: Darryl Smethurst  
Age: 34  
Position: Head Greenkeeper  
Golf Club: Saddleworth GC

Course undertaking: NVQ Level 4 Sports Turf (Fast Track), Reaseheath College

**Reasons for taking Course:** Throughout his career Darryl has understood the importance of further work related education and since moving to Saddleworth in 1990, he has been given the opportunity and encouragement to pursue this through college, BIGGA and other training providers. A D32 & D33 Assessor he is also able to provide support to other members of his staff at the beginning of their careers, while the NVQ Level 4 will allow him to advise others who may be considering taking that level.



Name: Lee Bridge  
Age: 31  
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper  
Golf Club: Seaford Head GC

Course undertaking: HNC Golf Course Management, Elmwood College

**Reasons for undertaking course:** Lee is a great believer that education should play a part in the life of every BIGGA member. He sees his course as an ideal stepping stone to a position as Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager in the future as well as proving invaluable to him in his current position. He also feels that environmental management is the key to the future of the industry and that his education will support his thinking on the subject.

Name: Ian Somerville  
Age: 39  
Position: Course Manager  
Golf Club: Heaton Moor GC

Course undertaking: MSC in Sports Surface Technology, Cranfield University

**Reasons for undertaking Course:** The course will enable Ian to achieve a higher understanding and gain more knowledge of sports surfaces. In addition to benefiting Ian himself, he feels that BIGGA also benefits for having higher qualified members, thus giving the Association a higher profile within the industry. The scholarship enables Ian, who is married with four young boys, to take on the course when otherwise financial restraints would have made it impossible.

# NEW PRODUCTS

## POWERBRUSH COMPANY

A brush and collector which is at home whether sweeping hard surfaces or grass areas is exclusively available from the Power Brush Company.

Built to a robust construction, Power Brush produces two commercial sweepers, the "850" for narrow pathways and the "1010" for more open areas.

Power Brush Machines are fully hydraulic on traction and brush drive which keeps maintenance to a minimum. A differential on the drive axle provides pinpoint turning, allowing Power Brushes to quickly and efficiently clean in and around obstacles where larger units, such as brush attachments on tractors, simply will not go.

Forward and reverse is a feature of Power Brush Machines, which have sufficient power to pull a ride-on-seat and operator where large area coverage is required. Hydraulic powered side brushes can be fitted to Power Brushes to provide close edge cleaning and gully brushing.

When collectors are fitted a lever and pivot mechanism ensures minimal physical effort is required to empty without removal.

Several brush options offer vigorous or gentle brushing ability. Equally at home cleaning car parks, roadways and paths, Power Brush Machines when fitted with grass tyres and grass rollers are increasingly being used by grounds workers to cope with such tasks as collecting thatch, rabbit droppings and soil cores from grass areas.

For further information Tel: 01204 465434 or email [sales@powerbrush.co.uk](mailto:sales@powerbrush.co.uk) web: [www.powerbrush.co.uk](http://www.powerbrush.co.uk)



## SUPERVAULT MH

With the launch of the Supervault MH in Western Europe there is now a feasible above ground alternative available for bulk storage of petrol, long the province of below ground tanks.

Traditionally petrol has been required to be stored underground, but this system has recently encountered a variety of scrutiny mainly relating to accessibility for fire control and the product's inability to absolutely guarantee the prevention of soil and groundwater contamination in the event of a tank leak. Although modern electronic monitoring equipment can indicate the presence of a leak, the earliest warning of a problem is when the leak detector activates, usually signifying that ground contamination is already underway, leaving excavation and replacement of the leaking tank as the only option.

In an effort to eliminate the concern for potential environmental contamination, and the associated liabilities, many end-users have started opting for the benefits of aboveground storage tanks. The Supervault MH is a multi-hazard rated, fully bunded tank developed in the USA in response to environmental concerns.

The attractions of an above ground facility are evident in that it is not only clearly visible at all times but also dramatically reduces the disruption and costs of the extensive civils works associated with below ground tanks.

The Supervault design is fundamentally different in that true secondary containment is achieved utilising steel inner and outer tanks with the interstitial space filled with a lightweight, concrete based insulation. Such is the reduction in weight that units up to 70,000 litres are readily transportable.

The Supervault MH is the first tank to pass the stringent safety requirements of the US Uniform Fire Code Standard A-11-F1 and the South West Research Institute Standards 95-03 and 95-01, achieving both multi-hazard and 4-hour fire rating.



## GLENMAC INC

The Harley Tractor Power Box Rakes measure 60, 72, and 80 inches. Mounted on a tractor of 18 to 75 hp, they offer the ultimate in maneuverability in site preparation.

Manufactured by Glenmac Inc the Harley units attach easily to tractors with a 3-point hook-up and a quick hydraulic coupler. It simulates the action of a box scraper by dropping heavy-gauge plates at each end of the roller to trap and gather stones and debris for piling and pick-up.

Its bi-angular construction permits windrowing to either the right or left, speeding up the job of site preparation.

It can be used for a variety of time-consuming tasks gathering debris and stones for piling and pick-up, de-thatching, and removal of old sod. Harley's power roller system is equipped with pure carbide teeth that easily bite into compacted soil.

With one pass, the rakes create a soft, fluffy final finish that makes an ideal seed bed.

For further information Tel: 800/437-9779, Fax 701/252-1978, e-mail: [sales@glenmac.com](mailto:sales@glenmac.com)



## BLAKEDOWN

Rootzone modification and drainage improvements are being achieved where 'Nutrovate – Ecological Turfgrass System' – is being installed into all sports turf surfaces.

Nutrovate is a natural mineral possessing a Cation Exchange Capacity greater than 150 milliequivalents/100 grams (meq/100 gm) of product.

Nutrovate has a molecular structure of aluminium and silicate that is microporous with an extensive internal surface area that is responsible for its high performance characteristics.

Nutrovate assimilates nutrients held (immobilised) on soil colloids and also by the affect that pH has on the availability soil nutrients. This moderation reduces nutrient deficiencies caused by high or low pH levels.

Improved efficiency of plant food utilisation and reduced leaching of nutrients optimises fertiliser material and application costs.

The addition of Nutrovate improves the CEC, drainage/moisture retention and soil texture without increasing the the organic matter content. A 10% inclusion rate added to a pure sand rootzone increased the CEC by over 25%.

Working to a depth that connects into existing drains improves and maintains infiltration rates; likewise, when a compacted surface is relieved and an open surface created movement of water and air is enhanced.

For further information Tel: 01295 266600 Fax: 01295 277700  
marketing@sportandplay.co.uk www.blakedown.co.uk



## COURSE CARE

Already proving very popular in the USA, the Smoker's Cease Fire has been launched in the UK and is being marketed by Course Care.

It is an attractive, yet safe way for people to discard their cigarette ends and, being designed to accept these and no other waste, reduces the risk of fire hazards. The Cease Fire also eliminates the need for containers full of sand or drums that are often used as rubbish bins, increasing the chance of fire.

Available in five colours to tone in with surroundings, the Smoker's Cease Fire incorporates an innovative design that limits the flow of oxygen to safely and effectively extinguish cigarette ends. No need to stub them out – just drop them in!

Made from flame retardant material needing little maintenance, The Smoker's Cease Fire is available by mail order from Course Care at £90 + VAT delivered.

For further information Tel: 01535 611103 Fax: 01535 611546  
e-mail: info@highspeed.co.uk



## HYDROSCAPE

In recent years there has been an increased use of irrigation systems to maintain sufficient plant-available water, particularly on sand dominated golf greens. Much of the irrigation water used in the UK is of an alkaline nature, having a higher than neutral pH level while holding high levels of carbonates and bicarbonates and its regular use causes a significant increase in root zone alkalinity. This, in turn, leads to problems of drainage, fungal disease, weed grass growth and surface casting by earthworms. Such alkaline water can be used safely if acidification of the irrigation water takes place as a means of maintaining soil pH within the optimum range for fine turf growth.

Traditionally, this practice has been carried out using acid injection systems that have proved expensive to both run and install, with the added Health and Safety issues created by the handling of acids.

Development of the Sweetwater system can now revolutionise the way golf course management approach this problem, with both a lower initial investment and running costs, a safer environment and more precise control over pH levels.

Designed as an add-on to existing irrigation systems, the Sweetwater Solution unit comprises of a sulphur dioxide generator linked to the water extraction source, albeit a borehole, reservoir, lake, pond or storage tank, enabling the modification and control of pH levels in water used for irrigation purposes and, subsequently, absorption into the fine turf root zone. If, for example, the golf course is built on alkaline soil and/or the irrigation water has a higher than neutral pH, the Sweetwater Solution generator will, by modifying the characteristics of the water, improve the characteristics of the soil, encouraging deeper root penetration and creating ideal conditions in which acid loving grasses will thrive. In addition, the Sweetwater Solution generator reduces the need to apply fertilisers by helping grasses use nutrients and micronutrients more effectively and provides sulphur, the fourth major nutrient, in a soluble form. Ultimately, as the soil plant water relationship becomes more efficient the volume of water required to irrigate successfully is reduced. Tried and tested, sulphur dioxide treated water not only improves water penetration it also helps relieve topsoil compaction and minimises the use of wetting agents.

In addition to reducing soil pH the sulphur dioxide treated water controls algae growth in reservoirs, lakes and ponds, not only improving their appearance, but also reducing the risk of algae build up in irrigation pumps, valves and sprinkler heads.

For further information Tel: 01425 476261 Fax: 01425 472380 E-mail: peterr@hydroscape.co.uk



# TALKING HEADS

## CHEMICAL APPLICATIONS

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE

# 1

Which one pesticide/herbicide/fungicide makes the biggest difference to your work?



Name: Kenneth Harper  
Course: Meldrum House Golf Club  
Region: Scotland  
Course Type: Parkland 18 holes, plus large practice areas  
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus six, plus three in summer

Relay Turf, a herbicide which controls all broad leaved weeds.



Name: Mike Goodhind  
Course: The Tytherington Golf Club  
Region: Northern  
Course Type: Parkland 18 holes  
Staff: Course Manager, plus five

A difficult question, but I would say a herbicide. We use a number of different weed killers, among them Relay. Spraying is done cheaply and quickly by contract.



Name: Kim Blake  
Course: Fulford Heath  
Region: Midland  
Course type: Parkland  
Staff: Course Manager plus five

A herbicide called Headland Relay which controls clover exceptionally well in addition to other broad leaved weeds. It is relatively cheap.



Name: Craig Fudge  
Course: Kendleshire Golf Club, Bristol  
Region: South West and South Wales  
Course Type: Parkland, 18 holes  
Staff: Course Manager, plus seven

Intrepid, a herbicide which sorts out all the broad leaf weeds. I use Tritox on tee banks.



Name: Chris Toop  
Course: Langley Park Golf Club, nr Beckenham  
Region: South East  
Course type: Parkland 18 holes  
Staff: Course Manager, plus five, plus mechanic

Rimidin to control fusarium, coupled with Integrate, a Mascot product which improves soil condition, aeration and water percolation which has made a big difference to our course.



Name: Paul McFadden  
Course: Strabane Golf Club. Co Tyrone  
Region: Northern Ireland  
Course type: Parkland, 18 holes  
Staff: Course Manager plus three

A fungicide called Daconil which controls fusarium. Without it we would be wiped out. I spray two to three times a year.

# 2

**Has the removal of any particular chemical product from circulation made a real difference to your ability to maintain your course?**

I use very few chemical products, concentrating instead on aeration, spiking and feeding. I use chemicals as a last resort to control disease.

A long term worm killer. I understand the reasons for banning such as chlordane, the best of the lot, but nothing has replaced it. I use carbendazin, but this isn't as good.

No change. We began to practice cultural ideas such as aeration and scarifying about five years ago but use a fungicide for fusarium once a year.

Not really. I used to have Touchdown LA and I have replaced that with Roundup which does the same job.

Something to replace chlordane. We have had nothing anywhere near as effective since then. We have a bad worm problem and a product as good as chlordane would be a major help.

Without a doubt chlordane, which so far as I am concerned was the only product to control worms effectively.

# 3

**What product are you waiting for someone to develop, and why?**

I would like to see one developed to suppress grass growth. There are chemicals about but they can be improved on. One to control poa annua would be welcome.

I am sympathetic to environmental products, so a microbial product would be useful. I have used this sort of thing for three to four years with some success. It improves tolerance to disease and stimulates plants in their natural defensive mechanism.

A worm suppressant. Nothing has replaced chlordane which we used once every three years before it was banned. Now we really need to spray once every six months.

A fungicide to control Take All on greens. I understand there is a product called Heritage which is being used in the United States and should arrive here in the spring.

We need something which will deal effectively with fusarium by one application a year. At the moment I am spraying two or three times.

A chemical to deal with fusarium on a once a year basis, plus the problem dealt with in the previous question.

# 4

**What do you think the future would hold if all chemical applications were banned from golf courses?**

I would love to see the day when they are banned as long as the course doesn't suffer... and as long as we don't get more hassle.

We have to modify our management regime and become more reliant on cultural products, correcting the cause rather than treating the symptoms.

The golf course would become very costly in terms of maintenance with more brushing, spiking and aeration.

It might be very difficult with some diseases. We may have to use more organic ideas and fertilisers to try to prevent disease coming.

A total collapse of the game of golf. We would have greens covered in disease and it would take all summer to get things back to normal. Worms, leather jackets and weeds would be a huge problem and it would be very labour intensive.

I suspect it would be utter chaos and it would make the greenkeeper's job very tough to say the least. The courses would suffer, it would be much more work intensive and we would obviously, need more greenkeepers.

# 5

**Have you changed your maintenance regime in anticipation of it possibly becoming a reality?**

I already practice in anticipation of the eventual banning of chemicals, which I think will come, as it has already in Germany for example.

I am more observant towards the possible future banning of chemicals and avoid using an excess of nitrogen. I also keep a careful check on possible over-watering.

Yes. Our machinery is a lot bigger now in anticipation of having to do more aeration and spiking. We began this programme four to five years ago.

We haven't changed very much at all. We aerate a lot as we have USGA greens. As for chemicals being banned, some people will say it will come and others not.

Not at the moment. I just hope it will never happen. If I see any proof that it will, then I might change a few things.

No. We brush the greens every morning to keep them as dry as possible. We verticut a lot and also cut back the trees to provide as much air round the greens in a bid to prevent disease.



**SCOTTISH REGION**  
Peter Boyd  
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

On Tuesday 4 March 2003 BIGGA Scottish Region present their Annual Conference at the Business Learning Centre, Lauder College, Dunfermline. From a cross section of the fine turf industry we have attracted speakers from throughout the UK.

Speakers include Andy Campbell, Estates & Course Manager, Carden Park, on "Facing Change," Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent, St. Andrews Links Trust, the title of his talk will be "Fulfilling peoples expectations at the home of golf", Steve Isaac, STRI Scotland, on "Turf culture in New Zealand, half a world away, but so close to home." From Turftrax we have Dr Richard Earl and the title of his talk is "Optimising Golf Course Drainage Designs." We also have Mark Gordon, of Eamonn Wall & Co, Woodland Design & Management Conservation & Arboriculture, plus the Managing Director of Golf Finance, Ian Henderson and finally Tim Earley, of Waste2Water Europe Ltd. The Conference has always been well supported and with first class facilities on offer and easy access to the Conference Centre it is an ideal location.

Application forms will be available in the early part of January 2003 and will be posted to all members within the Scottish Region. Ticket price is £28, which includes morning coffee/tea and lunch.

Peter J. Boyd

## North

No new members to report this month, a quiet time of year perhaps?

On a sadder note, I am sure every member of our section wishes Ross Macrae and his family a speedy and complete recovery from their recent and well publicised illness. Ross, who is Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Oldmeldrum GC, must have experienced every parents nightmare when it happened, so fingers crossed, a full recovery will be made.

The new Head Greenkeeper at Oldmeldrum is Richard Mullins, formerly of Swanston GC. A start you could have done without Richard.

The seminar at Nairn GC went down well, with a fair turn out of greenkeepers as well as club representatives. The topic discussed was the effect the changes in climate will have on the maintenance of our golf courses. The speakers were Jonathan Smith, from Scottish Wildlife; Steve Issac, from STRI, and Kevin Weir, from the SGU.

The winters are certainly becoming wetter, and creating more problems for the drainage systems on our courses, and the summers are due to become drier. The rain storms are, when they occur, so heavy they are leaving behind a lot of damaged paths and areas around the course, which then need attention to tidy up, and therefore putting more pressure on the workforce. The inland courses are the worst affected by these conditions, and several courses will have to change their maintenance programs in order to deal with these conditions. There are courses in our Section which have had many days of closure over the last few seasons due to extreme weather, and this is a valuable loss of revenue they could well do without. Every course's aim is to try and stay open as many days as is possible in the year, so this particular seminar was very relevant to what the greenkeeper faces on a daily basis.

Harrogate is on later this month and I am sure it will be as big a success this year as it is every year. The attendances keep going up every year, which is a credit to all who organise the week and keep the interest going. Anyone going down I am sure will have a good time.

The outings have yet to be finalised for this year, but we should have confirmation shortly.

Well, I hope everyone's New Year went well and all our members have a successful 2003 and may your courses stay open and dry.

Iain Gunn

## East

Happy New Year to you all and we hope you all had a great time over the festive period and Santa was good to you.

Well welcome to the first column of the year, or you may call it the Chairman's newsletter. The Section held its annual dinner dance at the Kilspindie House Hotel on November 30 and it was, yet again, a great night and thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance. It was good to see some of our trade members in the company enjoying themselves and also a pleasure to have our Scottish Chairman, Archie Dunn, and his wife Karen, with us on the evening. They both enjoyed themselves and we look forward to having them along with us again this year. A big thank you to all the members and our friends in the trade who brought along raffle prizes. Also a big thanks to the patrons who do so much for the Section every year because if it wasn't for you we wouldn't be able to stage some of the events throughout the season, so all the best for the next 12 months to you all. So, back to the dance. We will be holding it again this year and the committee will be sitting down soon

to see if there needs to be any changes etc to the format so if you have any ideas let me know as soon as possible. During the dance we presented Ian Aitchison (Duns Golf Club) with a crystal decanter and glasses and flowers for his wife in recognition of his retirement as Head Greenkeeper at Duns after 10 years service to the club. Ian retires in mid December and we would like to wish him all the best in his retirement and we hope to see you at all section events in the coming months.

So, all the best Ian from all of your friends in the section and in the trade. Also thanks to Archie Dunn for making the presentation to Ian. Congratulations to the winners of the patrons awards this year, they are Graham Davidson, Glencorse GC, and Gary Rodger, Kingsknowe GC. Well done to you both and we hope you enjoy your time at BTME Harrogate 2003 where you will be going as ambassadors of the Section. So, on your return, I will be looking for a small article about your time at BTME which will be printed in a future edition of Greenkeeper International.

A big thank you to the patrons of the Scottish Region for providing these awards which are very much appreciated by all the lucky winners. Details coming up next month BTME report, outing details, social events and any other Section news.

If you are going on the annual pilgrimage to Harrogate I'll see you there. If not I will be back in this column once again next month.

Chris Yeaman

## Ayrshire

Happy New Year to everyone, hopefully you've all enjoyed a Merry Christmas season and are looking forward to getting back to your winter programmes.

Scotsturf seems to have been well received once again with the milder weather also helping.

Being a bit quiet this time of year I'll just close by wishing those travelling to Harrogate this month a safe and pleasurable trip, mine's a pint of best bitter if you can see me. Cheers!

Denis Tweddell

## Central

I hope everyone has recovered from the festive period and are settled back into work for the coming season. Hopefully it will be drier than last year but at the time of writing the rain is still pouring down with more forecast for the coming weeks. Never mind, it doesn't matter if it rains at Harrogate.

Trophies! Would all members who have golf trophies in their possession, please arrange to



have them returned to me as soon as possible in order that I can have the engraving brought up to date before the spring tournament. While I am on about golf tournaments this year the spring tournament will be held by courtesy of St Andrews Bay Golf and Spa Resort with the autumn tournament being held by courtesy of Alloa Golf Club, both dates have yet to be finalised. We are looking for venues for future tournaments so if you fancy hosting one at your course please get in touch.

At the moment only 58 members have sold their allocation of Club 2000 tickets, two members returned theirs unsold leaving a total of 225 members still in possession of tickets, names and numbers in February's news! I know I keep going on about the lack of support for the Section's only fund raiser but surely it doesn't take much to buy/sell your allocation of tickets (2) or if you can't be bothered or don't believe in that sort of thing, please just stick them in an envelope and send them back then we will know whether they have been sold or not. It's the same few stalwarts who support all Section events when in fact the Section is there for the benefit of everyone.

John Crawford

## NORTHERN REGION

### Sheffield

On November 25 the Sheffield Section visited Rotherham Golf Club to compete in our Christmas golf tournament. Luckily for all our competitors the mist and fog that was lingering started to clear so that it was more pleasant for a good game of golf.

As always Rotherham Golf Club was at its usual high standard for the time of year and special thanks goes to Rotherham Golf Club for giving us courtesy of the course and to David Chappell and his team for presenting the course to such a high standard.

The results for the competition are as follows: 1. A. Sampson, 30pts; 2. R. Needham, 28pts; 3. R. Tyson, 26pts; 4. J. Lax, 24pts; 5. M. Crawshaw, 24pts; Best Trade. D. Smith, 25pts.

On behalf of the Sheffield Section I would also like to thank our main sponsors for the day, Rigby Taylor for donating all the wonderful prizes for our prize table. I would also like to thank all the other trade members for their support in donating prizes not just for the day but throughout the year.

PS. Remember if you have any useful or important news please let me know via e-mail on [chris.astle1@btopenworld.com](mailto:chris.astle1@btopenworld.com) or by telephone on 07752883290.

See you all soon.

Chris Astle

### North Wales

Happy New Year, hope you all had a good one and maybe over did the Christmas cheer, well it is allowed. Just to give yourself a three week break before it starts all over again in Jimmy's oops I mean Harrogate. Yes it's time to re-train for a week of frivolity letting your hair down without the other half and perhaps saying a few things you regret for the rest of the year to your fellow counterparts. But don't worry because they will be doing the same thing as well.

The BTME seems to go from strength to strength, now plus the ClubHouse exhibition, it may take you a week to walk around it.

Back to Section business. Our North Wales Christmas competition was held at Caldycott GC and, with its new high-tech drainage system in full flow, the day turned out dry and sunny.

With a field of 65 playing the winners were as follows: Members 1. Danny O'Neil, 36pts; 2. Jez Hughes, 36pts; 3. Andy Peel, 36pts; Guest. Phil Bailey, 34pts and Under 21 Also went to Danny O'Neil. Trevor Johnson collected Nearest the Pin and the Aggregate Trophy went to Andy Peel. Trade was Terry Adamson 33pts on a card play off.

Many thanks to Caldycott for their hospitality; to Ian Farrel and the lads for the fine presentation of the course and to the catering staff for the excellent Christmas meal and to the trade sponsors ALS, Acorn (UK), Alpha, Am-Tech, Walker Eng and Gem.

The AGM took place and out of our 186 strong membership a turn out of 20 attended including the committee who were re-elected en-block with Steve Roberts standing down and the addition of Wendy O'Brien elected on.

The Cornes, Adamson skin's game was back to all square after an Adamson defeat at Caldycott. The decider will now take place in February in Atlanta Georgia at the Harbour Town Links GC. For those of you wishing to come along there is still time to book a flight and while you are there you could also visit the GCSAA Atlanta show in the conference centre 13th 14th 15th Feb. On a par with Harrogate, the show boasts worldwide exhibitors and a full seminar and lecture programme. A meeting point for all North Wales members will be on booth 4387 in Hall B5, hope to see you there.

A couple of extra thank you's go to Am-tech who are once again sponsoring the coach to BTME on Jan 21 and to ALS who have again sponsored the programme of events for the 2003 season and finally congratulations to Jez Hughes for getting through the selection programme for the Bernards / Bigga trip to Atlanta.

Any views, news or information, please contact me on: Home 01925 263394  
Fax: 01925 269622 Mob: 07778 162162  
e-mail [acorn@supanet.com](mailto:acorn@supanet.com)

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn

### North West

I was sad to hear this week of the death of one of the Section's retired members, Jack Rhodes. Jack worked at Bolton Lostock Golf Club for 27 years, starting in 1958 until his retirement in 1985. His wife, Nellie, told me he had been ill for some time, but always enjoyed reading his magazine. Our thoughts are with Nellie, and daughter, Christine.

Thursday, December 5 was the date for the AGM and to play for the President's Cup at Wilmslow Golf Club. Steve Oultram and I were a little anxious about the weather as we had plenty of rain during that week, but we had no need to worry, after an early frost the sun shone all day, making it a great success. The course was as usual in superb condition for the time of year, and all credit must go to Steve and his staff. It was interesting that during our round of golf we were able to see how much winter work is going on, especially with the ponds on the course. Steve appears to be specialising in turning dirty overgrown pits into very respectable ponds, which not only look pleasant but also act as a drainage point. Well done Steve, I feel sure you will win the environment award eventually.

The winner of the President's Cup was Paul Pearse, playing off scratch, with 32 points. The Longest Drive winner was Steve Johnson. The Nearest the Pin winner was Michael Davie.

Both the Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin prizes were donated by Rufford Soil Technology. Everybody brought a bottle for a prize, so we all took a prize home.

The AGM was short and sweet with everybody apparently happy with the way the Section is being run. The committee were voted on for a further year, with two more members joining the committee. The North West Committee are: Chairman. Mike Davie; Secretary. Bert Cross; Treasurer. Bill Merritt; Vice Chairman. Paul Eddlestone.

Chris Sheehan, Steve Oultram, Adrian Holt,

Paul Walker, Clive Poole.

The day was completed with a fantastic meal provided by the caterers, Roger Waring and Christine Cunningham. Our thanks to them.

I will close with a reminder that the "Mere Seminar" is on March 18. With some interesting speakers in attendance. So come and support the seminar, and bring your Secretary and Greens Chairman along also.

Any news or views ring me on 01517 245412 or on mobile 07761 583387 Bert Cross

## Northern

Hope you're all moving freely after your over indulgence this Christmas and you have all survived the party season!

What a ball all the competitors had at Crosland Heath Golf Club, which was the venue for the section's Christmas golf day. A truly fantastic course was played in magnificent condition for early December, a great testament to Phil Haigh and his greens team. The caterers and bar staff looked after all the boys' needs as most over indulged in both food and drink. Sponsorship of the day was from The Greenkeeping Supply Company, thanks to Liam and Rick for their support. Special thanks to Farmura for sponsoring the coach that took us and brought us home after a night out in Huddersfield. The competition was a four-man team event with every team receiving a prize. The winning team consisted of Ian Pullan, Andy Clark, Richard Harris and myself. If all the above was not enough for everyone an impromptu golf competition through Shipley was played to finish the night off by some!

All golf events in 2003 will be at the new price of £16. You will still get a bacon sandwich and coffee on arrival and a three course meal after your round. I will publish a cut off date for each event in these notes, please could you ensure I receive your payment by this date. So if you did not play in any of the golf events last year you really are missing out. Why not make it your New Year's resolution to join in the fun this year?

The Annual Dinner dance is taking place at Otley Golf club on March 1. Full details will be available soon, so put it in your diaries and why not treat your loved ones to a night out with some of your colleagues.

Congratulations to Telford Jarvis and his wife on the birth of their son, Roman. I have also heard on the grapevine that Martin Heggie is to get spliced this year!

The Textron trip I mentioned last year will be taking place on February 25 and 26 so if

anyone is interested please get in touch, as places are limited.

I look forward to bumping into everyone at BTME and hope you all have a great week.

16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West Yorks, BD2 2NJ. Tel: 01274 640739

Mob: 07976876264 E mail ;

Dthackray@aol.com

Dave Thackray



**MIDLAND REGION**  
Peter Larter  
Tel: 01476 550115

## Mid Anglia

I hope everybody has had a good Christmas and New Year and looking forward to what the rest of the winter has in store.

The Christmas Meeting was held at South Beds Golf Club on December 6 with 88 members playing a Texas Scramble sponsored by Avoncrop Amenity. The weather was very kind to us with clear blue skies and the course in excellent condition. The results were as follows:- 1. B. Allonby, R. Jackson, J. Hartley and C. Asprey; 2. G. Bruce, A. Grew, S. Proudfoot and N. Rees; 3. G. Simkin, S. Mason, R. Bufroy and S. Moss.

Winner of Nearest the Pin was M. Towler and the Longest Drive was J. Hartley.

Our thanks go to South Beds for their warm welcome, the Christmas dinner was of the highest order and Paul Lockett and his staff must be congratulated on the condition of the course. After the presentation of the prizes a presentation was made to Paul Lockett who, at the AGM in October, stepped down from the Committee after 14 years and our thanks go to him for all his time and effort serving the Section. Congratulations also to Steve Mason who was presented with the Golfer of the Year Trophy.

Looking towards the coming months we are hoping to organise a course visit to The Grove, on the outskirts of Watford in February or March. On March 4/5 the Section is running a Further Computer Skills course at Berkhamsted Golf Club. It is restricted to six people and anyone interested should contact me on 01442 877345. Fixture lists will be with you shortly with our first golf event being played at The Bedfordshire Golf Club on May 16.

Gerald Bruce

## BB&O

How quick another year rolls by, marching to the golfers tune of Why? Why? Why? There will be no change in that direction but hopefully you have all feasted well and pickled parts of the body only alcohol has a right to do. Unfortunately I have to start with bad news. An excellent greenkeeper called Mike Holland passed away in November, leaving a big hole in the lives of all who knew him. He had a passion for greenkeeping having left Turnberry GC many years back to be the right hand man to Gordon Irvine at Mill Ride GC. On behalf of the Section may I pass on our condolences to Mike's family, friends, Gordon and his team. I would next like to wish Robert Woodward all the best in his move to the Lake District having put in a sterling effort helping to raise the profile of the Berkshire college.

May I also wish the very best in future endeavours for Ray Clark, at Harleyford GC, and David Gower, at the Oxfordshire GC. Both businesses have recently changed hands and I know from experience it can be a tough time getting to grips with a new regime.

Unfortunately the Turkey Trot event at Southfields GC was a complete washout. Most players showed up and made the most of socialising with friends as we waited in vain for the rain to stop. This event was not rescheduled due to the close proximity of Christmas but the club would like to see us back so we will look at this in the future. Two events in 2002 were washouts so I would like to think we will have better luck in 2003. May I thank all those who turned up and urge you to hang in there for the better days to come.

I attended the Midland Regional Seminar in November and had a most enjoyable time. There was a good range of speakers with Peter McEvoy giving delegates plenty to think about with regards to the future of golf equipment, course conditions and the athleticism of young golfers. We are all in for more challenging times as the boundaries of what can be achieved get pushed further from what we have now. I was lucky enough to attend the inaugural National Turfgrass Foundation in Southport. This was aimed squarely at research and what it is doing for us greenkeepers. I would urge you join this fine organisation and receive the newsletters that will contain many articles from eminent professors in the various fields of research. The dates and venues for this year have now been finalised and go as follows: - May 28, spring tournament, Magnolia Park GC; July

1, summer tournament, Donnington Valley GC; August 11, autumn invitational Tournament, Buckinghamshire GC; November 20, Winter Turkey Trot, Frilford Heath GC.

You will be receiving a fixture card in February so please place this somewhere visible and plan to join us for some good olde fashioned fun. We have considered the idea of putting together an educational evening for our section next winter. We will only do this if there is a desire for this to happen amongst the members. I would like to hear from you about what topics would interest you and what speakers would get you interested in leaving family and friends for a social evening. Please contact me on 07778 765021 with any suggestions you have.

I would like to wish my Club Manager, Terry Jackson, at Maidenhead GC, all the best in his appointment at Burnham Beeches GC. We have worked well together for five years and achieved some good results for Maidenhead GC. Finally, on behalf of our Section, we wish Gordon Child a speedy recovery from his recent health problem. I am sure Marion has the strength to ensure both come through this difficult time and look forward to seeing you both out next year at one of the BIGGA functions.

New members for this month are: John Crowe of Cherwell Edge Golf Club

Chris Faulkner of Lister Wildner Ltd, Corporate Member, and Dick Holgate of Lister Wildner Ltd, Corporate Member.

David Haskell-Craig MG

## East Midlands

On November 6 and 7 at Beedles Lake Golf Centre the Section ran a very well presented Essential Management Skills course, with Frank Newbury. Although we could only muster eight delegates for the course it was still a successful two days. I would also like to thank BIGGA HQ and our Section Chairman, Adie Porter, for organising the course; Frank Newbury for running it and Beedles Lake Golf Centre for hosting. One more word of thanks should be extended to Andy Humble, of Toro, who kindly sponsored one of the delegates. Please remember with your suggestions and support we can organise a lot more of these training courses, so let your committee know what you want. We are hoping to organise a Basic Chainsaw course and a Grinding course, so if you're interested please let me know as places are limited.

This year's AGM was held at the delightful golf course of Sherwood Forest on November 14. The day started at 10.30am with a three-man Texas scramble. The weather for the day, however, was quite awful with several teams

walking in from the course. However this did not deter some members from producing some fine scores.

The scores were as follows 1. Kevin Kinzer, Pete Larter and Keir Taylor; 2. Steven Mackie, Jeff Dickinson and Russell Latham; 3. Ian Needham, Mark Bindley and Adie Porter.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kim Kirkham and his staff for presenting the course in such wonderful condition for the time of year. I also would like to thank all those committee members who helped out with the smooth running of the day, and the stewardess for a really great meal. A special thank you should also be extended to Roger and Beryl Barker for travelling all the way to Sherwood Forest to bring the prizes. Finally, I would like to thank Vitax Ltd for sponsoring the day.

Onto the serious business of the AGM, the following members were voted onto the committee, Chairman. Adie Porter; Vice-Chairman. Ian Needham; Secretary. Antony Bindley; Treasurer. Richard Barker. Additional committee members, Steve Goode, Jamie Bedford, Gavin Robson, Jeff Dickinson and David James.

The 100 draw results are as follows 1. No 9, Kevin Kinzer, £60; 2. No.30 Adie Porter, £25; 3. Andrew Astle, £15.

This year's Regional Seminar was held on November 27 at Hinckley GC. and again proved to be a successful event, including several good quality speakers. I feel that all those members who turned up for the day were not disappointed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Larter for all his hard work in organising the day.

Finally, I would like to wish Frank Kempster all the best in his new venture. Frank has worked at Glen Gorse GC for the past ten years and prior to this Scraftoft GC. He has always been a very popular member of the Section and a much respected Greenkeeper. Also congratulations should be extended to Derrick Foster, of Cosby GC, on achieving his NVQ level 3.

Antony Bindley

## Midland

Trust all had an excellent Christmas coupled with copious amounts of cheer, and that the ensuing delirium tremens and expanded waistline has now gone.

On a serious note however, you are all aware that our Section Chairman, Mr P. Richmond has stood down so as to afford younger blood their opportunities. It is hoped that you shall do so! The Committee, and I'm sure all Members, would like to convey their expressive and most sincere thanks to Peter

for his great efforts over the last 16 years as a Committee Member. A true gentleman and ambassador of the profession. Your learned counsel shall be sorely missed Sir.

Furthemore, thanks must also go to the fine efforts of Mr K.T. Blake, Treasurer, for looking after the Section's finances so well. Also gratitude to Mr P.Gates, Mr M. Hughes and Mr S. Wood for their contributions.

On a lighter note, congratulations to E. Stant upon reaching his 30th Birthday. Welcome to the Club. It's downhill from here chap, trust me I'm a surgeon (tree at least). Your anatomical studies at Rhino's University of Biology shall provide you with the frustration of memory only.

This year's golfing fixtures are provisionally set for, spring: Vale of Evesham GC. summer: Blackwell GC. autumn: Halesowen GC. winter: Enville GC. Our thanks to the afore mentioned Clubs for their kind gratuitous affordance. Rhys has yet again excelled in securing such great venues. Play well folks.

During the next couple of weeks you shall be receiving a questionnaire requesting your thoughts and ideas on educational trips/courses, non-golfing social events, and any other pertinent considerations you may have. So get your thinking caps on, and please respond. Remember, this is your organisation. Committee can only serve your wishes if known. Your input and support is of paramount importance. Thanks to P.McCrainor for sponsoring the above postal run.

I've just been advised that Morton Morrell College should have sent you a list of their current courses, ranging from Higher Diplomas to the Use of Abrasive Wheels. Considering the above paragraph, perhaps food for thought! A. Smith shall be investigating all possibilities on your behalf, and reporting ideas forthwith.

It doesn't seem like five minutes since last year's BTME, and it's here yet again. This year, ClubHouse has joined forces with us, and perhaps offers the opportunity to show your Club's Committee Members just how dynamic and professional our profession and organisation is. A great public relations opportunity.

Finally, good luck and congratulations to C. Beet in securing the Deputy's position at Stourbridge GC.

Wishing you all a successful and happy new year.

Sean McDade



**SOUTH EAST**  
Derek Farrington  
Tel: 01903 260 956

## Kent

Happy New Year to you all, yes I have been persuaded into another year of writing this column. I hope for a better response from you lot this year. November 27th saw our Turkey Trot comp at the very dry North Foreland down in Broadstairs. The conditions were very tough with a cold strong wind off the sea. The course was in fine condition and a big thank you to Steve Suttle and his staff for presenting a great course. I would also like to thank my playing partners on the day both from royal St George's, Andy "Scouse" Howarth and Jo "Jutter" Silcock for a very enjoyable day. There were a couple of extreme golf moments both on par 3's. The first was Gary Debenham on the 14th when he somehow hit his 8-iron onto a house roof which hit several walls and no windows and stayed on the roof. Next up on the 16th I witnessed Barry Bradshaw hit his 7-iron onto the road and then hit, with some force, the D in the Captain Digby pub sign. He has never been good at keeping out of pubs. Onto the results and, as I said earlier, the conditions were extremely tough and only the very best could really compete. The winner of the Scotts Shield with 37 points was ME.(2 blobs). Second place Chris Wright 34 and third place John Fullagar 33 points. Thanks to Craig from UAP for donating a top DVD player for the raffle which was won by John Thompson. Also a big thank you to all the other sponsors. Thanks once again to all the staff at North Foreland for making us so welcome and feeding us so well.

Other news is that Bob Cook is now working for himself with his own company called T. Parker and Sons (Turf Management 2003) Limited. Those who know Bob will know he can offer a broad range of products. You can call him on 07798 866345 for all your turf care needs.

Sorry to Mark Smith for the spelling mistakes the other month. He was strimming not striking when he damaged his eye while using a strimmer not a striker.

I hope to see you all this year at all the golf days which will be announced soon.

Call or e-mail me with news on 01732 875020 or jrbatkhgolf@aol.com

Jason Bean

## Surrey

Welcome to 2003. I'm sure you've all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and following an October, November and December that was as wet as wet can get you must all be praying for a dry start to the New Year. Let's hope your dreams come true, along with an understanding membership, a bottomless budget and a lack of disease that will throw the fungicide reps into a frenzy of woe.

November 2002 will be remembered for two very successful events, the Surrey Turkey Trot on the 21st and the South East Region Seminar on the 27th. Banstead Downs Golf Club was the venue for the AGM and Turkey Trot and, in weather that was slightly damp, over 60 players thanked Barry Robertson's lucky stars that Banstead sits on top of well draining chalk. The whole course was in tremendous condition and we thank Barry, his Greenkeepers and the club for allowing us to play. Thanks also to the caterers for treating us to an excellent and traditional Christmas dinner.

The Surrey Section AGM followed the golf and all went very smoothly including the vote that resulted from the only letter that was received prior to the meeting. The letter from Barry Robertson proposed that the trade and guests should be allowed to win any of the prizes available and not just a separate 'Trade Prize'. A vote was taken and the almost unanimous decision was "yes" to the proposal. As no new committee members were proposed the present committee were re-elected en masse. The dinner followed the AGM and the prizes for the day were distributed to the winners, 1. Jochiem Holgersson, Richmond GC, 40pts; 2. Adie Locke, Hindhead GC, 36pts; 3. Gary Rowe, Banstead GC, 35pts; 4. Dave Goddard, Sunningdale GC, 35 pts; 5. Rob George, Coombe Hill GC, 34pts. Nearest the Pin. Ian (Jelly Hands) Sellars. Longest Drive. Dave Langheim, Foxhills GC. At this stage we must give special mention to the unlucky person who would have won the Trade prize, had the trade prize not been withdrawn due to the AGM vote. On reflection, due to his breaking down in dismay after learning he had won nothing, it is probably better to let Gary Ogilvie remain anonymous. The sponsors for the day were Tacit and a big thank you to them for the gallons of Champagne given as prizes.

The South East Region Seminar was Surrey Section's responsibility this year and from the massive and fully subscribed turn out it was a huge success. Thank you Roehampton Club

for looking after us so well, providing excellent facilities for the seminar and the lunch. The quality speakers included Ian McMillan, Eddie Seaward, John Albutt, David Golding and, from Sky Sports, Matt Lorenzo. Their topics were diverse and made the day both memorable and informative.

Dan Lightfoot was seconded onto the committee after volunteering to help organise the day and, together with Anthony Freeman and Derek Farrington, they really did produce a seminar that was not to be missed.

Adie Locke now gets a second mention in this edition, for this month's congratulatory paragraph belongs to him and his wife Tracy. Their son Alden Joshua 7lbs 3ozs was born on October 22.

Brian Willmott



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

## Devon and Cornwall

A happy new year to you all, I hope you have had an enjoyable festive season. The Section's first meeting of the new year will be held at East Devon Golf Club on Thursday, January 16, Please make sure your entries are sent to Steve Evans 32, Canons Way, Tavistock, Devon PL19 8BJ. The day will once again be sponsored by Barenbrug Seeds and start with a singles Stableford golf competition with start times from 8.30am. For non golfers the course walk will leave the club house at approximately 10.30am. After lunch our educational talk will be presented by Jeff Mills on his recent trip to the States. The Devon Garden Machinery-sponsored November meeting was held at Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club on Wednesday, November 13. This meeting was also the Section's AGM.

The day started with Rob Guntrip, of DGM, starting our golfing members for the Toro Trophy, which was played in a foursome format. After an excellent lunch Alan Dommatt from Devon Garden Machinery presented the prizes on behalf of Toro and DGM to:- 1. P.Newcome, East Devon, & J.Mills, Taunton, 41pts; 2. T.Clark, Crediton, & R.Cook, Bowood, 41pts; 3. A. Gawman, St Mellion, & D.Bagio, St Mellion, 40pts.

The Section would like to express its gratitude to the day's sponsors, Devon Garden Machinery, for their support and to Bude & North Cornwall Golf Club for allowing the Section use of their excellent facilities and to all of Bude & North Cornwall GC staff for

making the Section so welcome.

The Section's AGM followed the golf presentation and was opened by the Chairman, Cary Rawlings. The Administrator started his report by informing members present that he would be standing down from the post of section administrator after over thirteen years on December 31 due to his appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Burnham & Berrow Golf Club.

The Administrator thanked members for their support shown to him over the years with this meeting being typical as over 70 members attended the day.

He also thanked all the Section's trade associates who have supported the Section over the years of change, without their support the Section would not be as strong as it is today. But it's a two-way thing as our sponsors are only too willing to support the Section because of the truly superb membership attendance at our events.

The Administrator informed members that he has always tried to represent the membership at both Regional and National levels and he assured members that their views had been heard.

The Administrator moved on to the balance sheet for the year ending September 30, 2002. The balance for the year-end of £1357.57 shows a loss of £284.87 compared with last year's balance sheet. There had been an outstanding bill of £289 to the printers from last year's balance sheet for the 2001-02 fixture cards which has been paid within this financial year. Also the Section had only recently received an outstanding £100 sponsorship fee. In real terms the Section made a profit of £100 compared to the real term loss of £110 last year.

As mentioned earlier the section remains indebted to all the trade Companies who have sponsored our section meetings over the last year.

Aventis, Avoncrop, Barenbrug, Devon Garden Machinery, PJ Flegg, Roffeys, Rigby Taylor, Supaturf. The administrator thanked Phoenix Irrigation for sponsoring the fixture cards for the first year of their two-year sponsorship package.

The Chairman opened his report by informing members of the sad loss of John Breyley this year and the illnesses of Gordon Child and Paula Humphries and wished Gordon and Paula a speedy recovery. He advised members present that the Section's educational officer, Shaun Getson, had left the industry and wished him well in his new career. He continued by informing members that the next 12 months will see major

changes to the Section. As mentioned earlier the Administrator, Richard Whyman, will be stepping down after 13 years, he hoped that a new Administrator could be found from members present and members will support him / her by returning entries on time. The Chairman, concluding his report, thanked the Section committee for all the efforts over the last year.

Jeff Mills, reporting on regional matters, informed members of the planned events the Region were holding and hoped the members would support the Region by attending the Seminar and BTME trip. He informed members of the new Futures Sub Committee set up to review the Association with any changes being put forward to the National Board for consideration. The Region's representative is James Braithwaite and if any member has a constructive point please inform your Section committee.

Election of officers: C.Rawlings, Chairman; R..Shapland, Vice Chairman; J.Mills, Regional Board; B.Mitchell, R.Wisdom, J.Bullen; S.Evans, Section Administrator; C.Ralp, President; D. Hunt, Trade, B.Spratt, Trade. Richard Whyman

## South Coast

I hope you all had a good Christmas and no doubt many of us will be trying to keep to those New Year resolutions. Seasons and years seem to come and go so quickly that life can become a blur. One thing is for sure, the pressure on us to continue to produce quality golf courses under ever trying conditions. Our old adversary, the weather! It seems to throw us new and more difficult challenges every year. But we all accept and rise to these fresh challenges, but then I suppose we don't know any other way! At the start of this New Year be positive and make a determined effort to support every Section event this year. Being part of BIGGA is not about reading your magazine once a month! The more time and effort you put in the more rewards you will reap! So make that effort and make that difference!

Our thoughts are with some special friends of the section who are currently under treatment for illnesses, Regional Administrator, Paula Humphries, and Amenity Technology's, Stuart Ashworth. Our best wishes go out to them and their families and we look forward to seeing them in better health very soon.

December saw the last gathering of the year as the section arrived at High Post Golf Club for our Turkey Trot which, as ever, was sponsored by New Forest Farm Machinery

and Sheerwater. The course was in superb condition and a credit to Lauchlan Millar and his team and even the weather was good. Winners on the day were: Kevin Glass, 38pts; Paul Cooper, 36pts; Alex McCombie, 36pts; Trade Prize. Colin White, 34pts; Nearest the Pin. Martin Samuel. Longest Drive. Joe Newman.

Many thanks for all who turned out and made it such a great day! It was also great to see Paula Humphries and also her husband, Mike. Thanks on the day must go to High Post Golf Club for their superb hospitality; to Lauchlan Millar and his team for all their hard work; the caterers for a superb meal and, last but no means least, to New Forest Farm Machinery and Sheerwater for their support. Dare I forget Chris Sturgess our hard working tournament organiser? Of course not! Well done Chris, another great day!

Don't forget the Section Seminar at Canford Magna Golf Club on February 26. Details will be with you very soon.

It just leaves me to thank all of our sponsors for their support over 2002. Without their support our Section wouldn't be the same so let's make their support for 2003 worth that much more by making that extra effort to attend!

There will be many of us venturing North for BTME this month, to meet old friends and make many new ones too. A full report will follow.

Until next time.

Alex McCombie

## South West

I hope everybody had a jolly good time over the Christmas New Year break. As I'm writing this report the Christmas do at Cirencester has not yet happened, so I can't tell you who won. You will have to wait for the next thrilling episode. Whoever does win it will undoubtedly be very worthy winners!

The South West Section would like to welcome to our ranks a new Head Greenkeeper. Congratulations to Richard Whyman who has just taken up his new post at Burnham & Berrow Golf Club. We all look forward to having Richard in our area!

Also, well done to Wayne Vincent, the new boss at Cotswold Hills Golf Club. It is Wayne's first Head Greenkeepers job. We all hope you enjoy your new challenge.

As you read this in January let's hope the weather is not too wet and work is moving forward well towards the new season.

Robin Greaves

## Re: Comments on the hollow tine theory

The last two weeks of August, 28 holes to hollow tine and top dress, four greenkeepers, no big budget, a little sweat and great results. Sidney Mercer's comments on Gordon Child's article, I feel are wide of the mark. We at Taunton Vale have, over the last five years, maintained exactly as Gordon and Richard Windows suggest and for us, has proved a far superior method than the late September dates we previously used. I'm sure if we can manage to cope so can other Clubs but 'each to their own' and realise that every situation is different.

**Steve Welch**  
Course Manager  
Taunton Vale Golf Club  
Somerset

## In response...

In response to Mr Mercer's letter in the November issue of Greenkeeper International I offer the following comments.

The aim of the article was to explain a philosophy with regard to obtaining maximum results from deep aeration. In our increasingly wetter climate, the autumn months – the conventional time for such work – have become far wetter than they used to be. In order to optimize performance of deep aeration treatment we must, therefore, look to other times of the year when the soils are likely to be drier and thus more receptive to the task, both in terms of drainage improvement and surface recovery.

Such a generic philosophy may not be achievable or even required in some cases and our advice in this regard would of course be site specific and only administered after appropriate discussion with the turf manager/committee etc, following a course review. Obviously, describing every such eventuality (eg. soil type, requirement of the club etc.) in the constraints of a relatively brief article is impossible.

Finally, there is no doubt that the climate is changing. If we as an industry are to adapt to this change, which we surely must, we have to adopt the best management practices to ensure the best possible surfaces are provided for the golfers.

**Richard Windows**  
STRI

## Many Thanks

I would just like to thank all members, staff and trade personnel who have so kindly sent their best wishes to me over the last few weeks.

Unfortunately at the time of writing I am still in hospital awaiting my turn for the operation. I suppose, at least Marion knows where I am as they won't let me escape.

Meanwhile I look forward to the time I can thank you all in person, and once again enjoy your company.

**Gordon Child**  
Churston

## Jim Arthur 1

I am writing in response to the letter from Jim Arthur entitled 'How can we Progress?' published in last month's issue.

I have read this letter a number of times now and I am still searching to find the connection between Scott MacCallum's article on St Andrews Bay and the one from Neil Thomas. There cannot and is not a comparison to be made between the two, how can projects like ours be blamed for Chairmen of Green sacking perfectly competent greenkeepers. Surely this is down to educating the membership and as Derek Green said "properly defining the role of the Chairman". This is surely a more sensible line of action than blaming "the golf course down the road" because they dare to do something a little different.

I can also find no comparison to be made between a guy who has been voted onto a committee for a term of office and someone who spends \$50,000,000 of his "own" personal fortune. Which one do you think has the right to dictate how their golf course should look? Answers on a postcard to Mr J. H. Arthur, Budleigh Salterton, etc.

**Neil Ballingall**  
Golf Course Superintendent  
St Andrews Bay  
Fife

## Jim Arthur 2

It gladdens my heart to read another letter from Jim Arthur in our magazine - Greenkeeper International December issue.

I have, for more years that I care to remember, been a supporter of Jim's ideas and methods as have a lot of greenkeepers, many of who would support but not necessarily be able to carry out.

I have been a retired Course Manager now for four years but still take interest in what is happening as regards greenkeeping. Jim's letter let us all know what greenkeepers are up against in the world today.

How many golf courses today do we visit where we have an abundance of natural grasses? We see swards of thick meadow grass with pop-up heads not far away, lush wormy areas and fescue and bent swallowed up.

Like Jim I am not knocking Head Greenkeepers. This is what most have to do either directed or for a quiet life. Very few are able to do their own thing.

Jim Arthur has been a consistent help to the greenkeeping profession, never afraid to voice his opinion. This doesn't mean he's never wrong but time continuously let's us he's more right than wrong.

He has stood by his ideals throughout his life, never wavering and this is why at times he courts controversy as very often people don't like to hear the truth.

**John Nudds**  
Hunstanton  
Norfolk

P.S. What has happened to Sludgecombe Municipality? I miss its humour

LETTERS CONTINUED ON OVER THE PAGE...



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### Jim Arthur 3

It is not often these days that I have the opportunity to be involved with greenkeeping or golf management related issues outside of my full time position of Regional Golf Course Superintendent and Superintendent at my own 54 hole, golf facility. However, I am currently recovering from minor surgery and find myself at home with time to respond and help Mr J. H. Arthur with his query in "How can we progress?".

Perhaps it would be easier to at first think in terms outside of golf and greenkeeping to any industry or product that has evolved & progressed through a long and successful history. We are, whether we like it or not, caught up in this all of the time, as sure as tomorrow will follow today. Think upon this, when I was a young lad I wanted to grow up and own a Ford Cortina Mark II. A great car for its day, 30 years ago, but today I transport my family around in a modern, safe, smooth, economical family-sized hatchback. Both cars, each in their own day though. If Ford still made Cortinas, no one would buy them. Commercially they have been superseded. You could go on and on, think of LPs and Compact Discs, mobile phones of 10 years ago compared to those of today, your Sinclair BBC Basic computer compared to today's latest Windows gizmo.

I now return to golf. I am a bit of a traditionalist. I would like to think I know some of golf and greenkeeping's history, and their traditional theories and practices. In fact I base most of my professional beliefs in these, but I would be an out of touch and out of work Course Manager if I did not continually learn, study, practice and monitor greenkeeping science, grasses, fertilisers, machinery, practices and, perhaps equally important, the golf market, as an industry/business and the golfer's - or can I use that word that is often forgotten by some - CUSTOMER'S expectations.

It is true that Links, Heathland or Downland golf is a fantastic and enjoyable experience, but one that the vast majority of golfers in the UK do not partake on a regular basis for reasons of location and, if truth be known, they are probably not good enough, find it too difficult, and the presentation of the course does not meet with their perception of what a golf course should perhaps look like. In the commercial world, whether an inland private or proprietary club, trying to meet the expectations of your golfing customer are fairly important. - Otherwise you go out of business!

Modern techniques, dwarf rye grasses, fertilisers, machinery etc. are tools to allow the manager of that business to strive for higher standards, improved quality, value for money for the customer, address problems of wear and playability during winter months, and contribute to the success of the business.

Take this as an example. Ask 100 golfers in December whether they want to play off a tee mat next to a tee of 300 square yards of pretty cold, poorly presented and recovering bent/fescue turf that is out of play to recover for the following season (reality may dictate that the turf is just sick poa), or actually playing off a 300 square yard grass tee of dwarf rye grass that is regularly fed, divoted, aerified still takes a mowing once a week, and does this week in, week out, throughout the year. - I know what answer you would get.

Take this further. Two courses located next to each other. One has tee mats and temporary greens in the winter, the other one has grass tees and main greens through properly applied modern management techniques. I do not need to tell you where the majority of golfers will be playing. As a side issue the owner of the course that has all the golfers, is making more money and potentially can be charging a higher rate. If it is a private club it will have many happy members that are proud of their course, club and maintenance staff.

This is the modern reality. I am sure that those behind St. Andrews Bay have done their homework and it is unfair to criticise their objectives to make money and fulfil a gap in the market with a modern style, playable golf course that offers something slightly different in an area of traditional Links courses.

It is true that some other high end "Championship" courses built in recent years have failed, but this is often down to poor market research, absurdly difficult design by a well known "Your pro that "Joe Average" just finds too hard to play. A design that is also too difficult and expensive to maintain and with grasses that are simply not tolerant of the climatic conditions or could ever cope with the amount of play needed to sustain the course as a viable business.

In summary the answer to the question of "How can we progress?" is fairly obvious. We are market led and it pains me somewhat to say that we do not as a professional body or individual greenkeepers have a modern enough understanding of our industry or business. That understanding should be complete, armed with the traditional values and practices of the past, but with the skill and professional management techniques to satisfy a modern golf industry. Perhaps we again go back to training. It pains me to say that at present we do not have enough greenkeepers with the full armoury of skills required to carry this out in the 21st Century. This may be because we have spent too much time looking back. It is perhaps also that we need to work closer with the game's other bodies to develop fully an environment that skilled greenkeepers wish to work in and receive the recognition from a more enlightened golf club operator, private club, or employer. It often disappoints me to hear what cannot be achieved on a golf course in terms of playing conditions as opposed to what can, and this often from greenkeepers. Some golfers seem to have accepted this as a norm, while some are frustrated and vent their feelings on the much-maligned Greenkeeper, who is forced to leave or is sacked. I am afraid that both parties, some greenkeepers and some golfers (club officials) are equally guilty of lack of knowledge and modern understanding.

Well after my rather long and rambling reply I am not off to bulldoze flat every Links course in the country, or over feed and water it into a stinking bog. I may just go up to work, open my locker and clean my clubs. Oh yes they are the old bladed ones I have had for nearly 20 years, with the exception of my wooden woods, with regular steel shafts. I wonder how many Greenkeeper International readers play with the latest cavity backed wonder weapons, with graphite shafts and woods that are some strange metal alloy about the size of a house brick. Perhaps that is just progress.

**Paul Copsey  
Hawley  
Kent**



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## FELIXSTOWE FERRY GOLF CLUB

### Require a **COURSE MANAGER**

Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club is a private members club, founded in 1880. It is situated on the sea front with 900+ golfing members and has an 18 hole 6260 yard course and a 9 hole 2986 yard pay and play course.

The successful applicant will have a proven ability with the appropriate qualifications and experience in course maintenance and management. Knowledge of Health and Safety issues including Risk Management is essential as is the ability to motivate and work with an established hardworking team.

Accommodation is not available; salary is negotiable and dependent upon experience; an established golfing handicap is desirable, although not essential; closing date for applications Sunday 23 February 2003.

Applications with full CV in writing only please to:-

The Club Manager, Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club,  
Ferry Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9RY

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Be capable of managing resources efficiently to present & maintain both courses to the highest standards, whilst working within defined expenditure budgets.

Apply in writing to: Golf Course Director,  
Powerscourt Golf Club, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

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Applications in writing with C.V. to:

Green Chairman, Handsworth Golf Club Ltd,  
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Apply in writing to:

The Course Manager, Moor Allerton Golf Club, Coal Road, Wike Leeds LS17 9NH



## SHERBORNE GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of

### HEAD GREENKEEPER / COURSE MANAGER

The successful applicant will be a "hands-on" professional with a proven track record and the appropriate qualifications. Self-motivation and the ability to manage and enthuse a small team is essential together with personal skills to plan and monitor course maintenance programmes and operational budgets.

Sherborne Golf Club is a private members club and the course has recently been extended to 6,414 yards with a new Practice Range and Golf Academy.

Applications in writing to include full C.V. to:  
The General Manager, Sherborne Golf Club Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 4RN



## LAMBERHURST GOLF CLUB

### Require an ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We are a friendly members club with a beautiful 18 hole parkland course and are looking to recruit a hard working dependable greenkeeper to join our existing team in a progressive environment.

The successful applicant will hold NVQ Level 2 and be keen to expand their experience.

Applications should be in writing accompanied by current CV to:

The Secretary, Lamberhurst Golf Club, Church Road, Lamberhurst, Kent, TN3 8DT  
[www.lamberhurstgolfclub.com](http://www.lamberhurstgolfclub.com)



## HEAD GREENKEEPER



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Desert Springs is Europe's first and only North-American style desert golf course (as in Scottsdale, Arizona and Palm Springs, California). It is constructed to USGA specifications and opened in April 2001. With the golf course now grown-in and established, the Construction Superintendent departs in early 2003 and we now need a **HEAD GREENKEEPER**.

Responsible to the Director of Golf for maintenance of the desert golf course and its extensive landscaped areas, you are likely to be between 27 and 40, very committed and demanding of yourself in meeting the highest maintenance standards, and have excellent inter-personal skills (a knowledge of Spanish and/or willingness to learn, and previous work experience in Southern Spain will be very advantageous).

#### You will need:

- Knowledge of turf-grass management and awareness of current thinking, methods and trends; including a total understanding of rye, penn cross and A-4 grasses and their maintenance and irrigation in hot dry conditions.
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- An ability to continue the on-going training and motivation of a complete maintenance team recruited locally.

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Interested candidates should forward a full C.V., including salary history, in confidence to:



The Director of Golf, Desert Springs S.L.  
C/o The Almanzora Group, The Manor, Boddington,  
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## STOCKSBRIDGE & DISTRICT GOLF CLUB

### Require a HEAD GREENKEEPER

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

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

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

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

Salary to be negotiated. No accommodation available.

Please apply in writing, including a full C.V. (including current salary) to:

The Secretary, Stocksbridge and District Golf Club,  
Royd Lane, Deepcar, Sheffield, S36 2RZ

## THE WARRINGTON GOLF CLUB

### Require a HEAD GREENKEEPER

Minimum Qualifications required include NVQ to at least Level 3. PA1, PA2 & PA6 Spraying Certificates.

The successful applicant will be an experienced motivated team leader with a proven record.

The salary package will reflect the importance of the position with a prestigious Club celebrating its Centenary in 2003.

Written applications with CV to:

The Secretary, The Warrington Golf Club,  
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Applications are invited for the position of

### COURSE MANAGER

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Salary is negotiable dependant on qualifications and experience.

Applications in writing to include full C.V to:

The Secretary, Ulverston Golf Club Ltd, Bardsea Park, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 9QJ

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## WOKING GOLF CLUB

Requires an

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Applicants must have minimum qualifications to NVQ2 plus PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates. Candidates must also have at least 1 years experience with up-to-date practices.

Salary will be based on age and experience.

Please apply in writing with full C.V. to:

The Secretary, Woking Golf Club,  
Pond Road, Hook Heath, Woking, Surrey, GU22 0JZ



## STOKE ROCHFORD GOLF CLUB

Invite applications for the position of

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Stoke Rochford is an attractive and interesting 6300 yd 18 hole, parkland course set behind trees and an estate wall about 4 miles South of Grantham off the North bound carriageway of the A1.

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Have budgetary skills and be able to oversee health and safety issues including risk management. Salary negotiable in accordance with experience.

Closing date for applications: 31st January 2003.

Apply in writing with CV to:-

The Secretary, Stoke Rochford Golf Club,  
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**February 2001;** BTME2001 review; Winter Mowing; Irrigation; Broadstone GC; Hedges; Security

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**July 2002;** Open preview; Turf; Steve Isaccks; 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



# And so I close

With Christmas out of the way I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and a successful 2003 whatever you may be doing. With BTME and ClubHouse just a couple of weeks away this will be my last article as Chairman so I would like to bring you up-to-date on the last month and reflect on the year just passed.



At the end of my last article I reported on Gordon Child's hospital stay, well regrettably Gordon is still waiting for a decision as to when the operation will take place. The frustration of not knowing when must be worse than that of a committee decision at the Golf Club but I am sure if you were still there at Christmas you must have made a great Santa Claus Gordon!

I also reported on a forthcoming trip to the States and the John Deere World Team Championships. Well a few days after writing the last article I made my way to Heathrow Airport and met with the English winning team Brockenhurst Manor prior to making the 10 and a half hour flight to Phoenix, Arizona. Once over there we were not disappointed, the temperature was in the mid 80's, the accommodation out of this world and the organisation similar to that of a Pro Tournament.

As for Grayhawk Golf Club where the tournament was played that was equally impressive as it was situated in the desert. All aspects of the course were excellent in particular the greens which were lightening fast and very undulating. With regard to the tournament, well the team practiced Thursday, Friday with the competition held over the weekend. Unfortunately they only finished mid-table despite being 21 under par but nevertheless represented the Association impeccably.

As for John Deere a big thank you to all who made it such a memorable event and to everyone else who made it in the qualifiers it is definitely

worth having another go next year.

So, to the year that has passed so quickly. Well despite it being a difficult year economically for all businesses the Association has kept its head well and truly above water. It is true that advertising revenue is down but contrary to belief the magazine is still making a healthy profit and the Association is in the black. Membership has stabilised but we are still looking at new ways of recruiting members and BTME is alive and kicking so much so that we have been able to purchase the ClubHouse exhibition which will now run alongside BTME. The year also saw the formation of the Futures Sub Committee and it was to conclude, I wish George Brown all the best next year and hope you will give him the same support that you have given me.

And finally I must thank Ian Needham and Robert Jelley, of Beedles Lake Golf Club, and the lads, Tim, Paul and Wayne, without your support I would have been unable to have enjoyed the year so much. Thank you all.

Richard Barker  
National Chairman



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Federation of European  
Golf Greenkeepers Associations

*"With 65,000 Rounds over 27- Holes on 12,500m<sup>2</sup> of greens we require Aeration throughout the year. Combined with our Hollowcoring Programme in Spring and Autumn linear Aeration with the Graden has given consistency to our surfaces, improving Drainage leading to Firmer Faster Greens.*

*With the wet Year we experienced in 2002 our Greens performed superbly, so take a bow Graden.*

Course Superintendent  
Hollystown Golf Club, Ireland

**"I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THE GRADEN TO ANYONE WHO WANTS A BETTER PUTTING SURFACE AND HEALTHIER TURF."**



Rick Elyea, Director of Golf and Marketing for tee-2-green has witnessed the benefits of the Graden while working with their Penn varieties of Creeping Bent Grasses.

"I was introduced to the Graden unit four years ago at a Tee-2-Green roundtable discussion. I was impressed with the performance of the machine and what it can do to revitalise the turf grass plants. I have found that the machine allows the golf course superintendent the ability to vary the depth of blade penetration, width by blade size or removal of blades. It has been very helpful in removing



the grow-in layer on greens, excessive biomass, almost twice as much as aeration and provides an excellent seedbed.

I have seen more golf courses use the graden to renovate

their greens. They are able to adjust the penetration depth to a maximum depth of 1 3/4" (45mm) with most greenkeepers targeting the area from 1/4" to 1/2" or 0.6mm to 12 mm.

They then follow the machine by dropping seed into the grooves, dragging the greens mix or sand back over the seed and wait for the new seedlings to emerge.

I have seen courses do this once a month through the growing season with very good success and little disruption of play to the golfers.

I highly recommend the Graden to anyone who wants a better putting surface and healthier turf."

# AT LAST "THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB"

Using the Graden on cricket squares is now increasing in popularity in the UK. Keith Kensett of Turfmasters and also an experienced contractor, always felt strongly that cricket clubs would benefit greatly from the machine, and demonstrated it to the English Cricket Board. The blades cut easily through the harder clay surfaces, removing thatch and fibre, without the need to pre soak, and being from Australia, has already proved itself on Australian cricket squares.

Following the success Worcestershire County Cricket Club had with the Graden, many other cricket clubs at county, league and village standard have now followed suit. These include County Cricket Grounds such as Northampton, Sussex, Hampshire, Warwickshire, and Somerset County Cricket Clubs plus many others. This widespread use of the Graden has lead one leading cricket groundsman to say "I can't imagine a cricket ground anywhere in the world that could not benefit from this machine"

David Bates, Head Groundsman at Northamptonshire CC and Chairman of the First Class Headquarter Groundsman Committee stated: "I believe the Graden has revolutionised the process by which cricket groundsmen remove unwanted fibre and debris. The power, and when needed, the severity, enables the control and reduction of thatch layers for all standards of playing surfaces.

Roger Ward, an ECB advisor saw a Graden demo at Cheam Cricket Club along with Chris Woods, and their combined comments that this machine would completely change the way cricket groundsmen treat their squares has become true. Cricket groundsmen are amazed that they can scarify their squares so effectively without first watering.



**CHRIS ROBERTS**  
Course Manager  
**LUDLOW GOLF CLUB, UK**

"We have used the Graden with 2mm blades 4 times on our worst greens, this has dramatically reduced our thatch layer in less than 5 months. It has also eradicated a black layer problem we had and has made the greens a lot firmer and free draining.

The other noticeable difference after using the Graden was the root development, two weeks after the first operation new white roots were seen following all the way down every groove. After the four times we have used it, we have turned one of our weakest greens into one of our strongest".

## 'GRADEN ON TRIAL'

### CULTIVATION OF SAND ROOT ZONES J.T. VANINI, J.R. CRUM AND J.N. ROGERS, III MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

At Michigan State University we are conducting research to evaluate two cultivation methods on turfgrass surfaces. We are using a standard hollow-tine core cultivator using  $\frac{3}{8}$ " (0.95 cm) tines on a 2" x 2" (5.1 x 5.1 cm) grid spacing and a Graden GS04 using 2 mm blades on 1 inch (2.5 cm) spacing.

Details of procedures and Results from this study will be published in the 2003 Michigan Turfgrass Conference Proceedings, but there are some initial observations. Although the Graden can be more labour intensive in cleaning debris (due to debris being scattered versus "nice" clean plugs), twice as much surface area is cultivated with the Graden as compared to standard core cultivation. Aggressive cultivation needs to be done on very high sand content root zones because with the accumulation of organic matter, the average soil pore-size is decreased. This creates a zone at the near-surface that holds much more water and decreases aeration in the soil. Also, a smooth surface is easier to produce with the use of a Graden as compared to a core cultivation unit.

We have seen dramatic improvements to golf and athletic fields with the use of the Graden and expect to see the same results with our experiments.



## AERATION THROUGH DEEP SCARIFICATION

BY STEVE ISAAC, STRI AREA MANAGER FOR SCOTLAND & IRELAND

Everyone accepts the importance of a good aeration programme to develop quality turf playing surfaces but the vital area 12-30 mm beneath the turf base, where thatch formation can severely impact on surface water drainage, is often neglected by conventional aeration techniques. This is where deep scarification can play a major role in getting air into the grass roots and the main zone within the soil profile where the plant respire and where moisture and nutrient are taken up by the grass. Experience has clearly shown success in developing firmer surfaces and encouraging new white root growth to scarification lines where the technique has been applied in appropriate conditions. Information from the USGA highlights the greater impact on surface area using the Graden compared to traditional hollow coring, with up to 14.1% area impacted using the 3 mm blades compared to only 4.91% with 12 mm coring tines set to produce a 50 mm by 50 mm hole pattern.

The benefits to aeration are enhanced if quality sand-based top dressing can be worked into scarification lines, though this does necessitate that the operation be undertaken in dry surface conditions, with the 3 mm blades proving most effective in achieving incorporation of the dressing material.

**Steve Isaac works from Blairgowrie ( 01250 875805 or e-mail [steve.isaac@stri.co.uk](mailto:steve.isaac@stri.co.uk)) and his colleague Richard Windows is based in Glasgow ( 0141 334 4262 or e-mail [richard.windows@stri.co.uk](mailto:richard.windows@stri.co.uk)).**



**NEW FOR 2003**

**'DIESEL'  
GRADEN ZERO-TURN MOWER**

2003 will see the launch of the exceptional 'Diesel' Graden Zero Turn mower, this fast and highly maneuverable ride on mower is powered by a 26hp Yanmar Diesel engine and is ideal for cutting cleanly and quickly through tight, restricted areas. The Zero-Turn mower has a forward top speed of over 15Kph and with having the rear wheels independently controlled this give a turning radius of ZERO and gives the operator full control for maneuvering in any situation. There are 2 cutting widths available, 62" and 72" with an option of side or rear discharge.

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