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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL



Hitting the Heights

Royal St George's Open Preview



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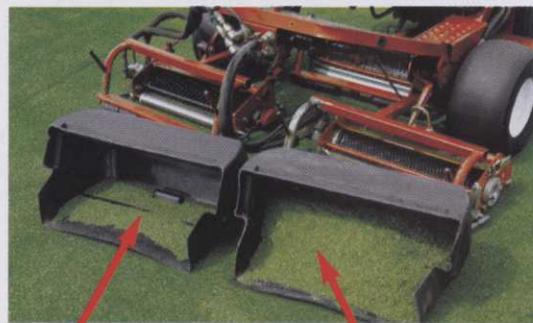
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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**WIN
A CASE OF CHAMPERS!**

Summer is the time for champagne. Whether it's a celebration, a BBQ with friends or just relaxing late into the evening, champagne is the ideal drink to get everyone in the right mood. You could win a case of champagne in this month's Buyers Guide competition sponsored by Greenlink International in support of their range of Nutri-Rational foliars.

See page 44

July 2003

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by 11 August 2003

REGULARS

News

Pages 4, 5 & 7

Education

Ken Richardson provides a detailed breakdown of Education and Training Department business including the list of entrants for the BIGGA Golf Environment Award sponsored by Scotts UK Professional and Syngenta Professional Products and the latest information on the Toro Student of the Year Award.

Membership

Including information on the new car leasing deal for BIGGA members.

Continue to Learn - Turfgrass Irrigation with Wastewater

Drs R. N. Carrow and R. R. Duncan, of University of Georgia, provide an overview of turfgrass management concerns related to wastewater use.



Letters

New Products

Managing a Golf Course - Controlling Finances

Duncan McGilvray continues his series on managing a golf course.

Letters

New Products

Around the Green

Features Listing

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

As I see it ...

BIGGA National Chairman, George Brown, passes on his compliments to those Course Managers who have already hosted televised events and prepares for the British Seniors Championship on Turnberry later this month.

FEATURES

Hitting the Heights

Scott MacCallum meets Neil Metcalf, Head Greenkeeper at Royal St George's, to talk about preparations for The Open Championship.

The Bunker Rake Debate

What is the perfect rake? Does it exist? Enter the great rake debate.

Machinery Maintenance

We take a brief look at some of the maintenance products and advice on the market today.

Mower Tales

Roland Taylor concludes his three part series looking at the development of mowing.

Legal Help is only a Phone Call Away

What benefits are there from BIGGA's Legal Helpline and how can it help you?

A Grass for All Seasons

Andy Newell poses the question, "Do bent grasses know what time of year it is?"

Cover photograph by Brian Morgan.



Welcome

LET'S LOOK AFTER OURSELVES

I read a column recently in the excellent American Golfdom magazine by Joel Jackson who was commenting on the number of American Superintendents who were being lost to ill health way before their time.

He said he knew of one who worked long hours, smoked but who hadn't been to a doctor for a check up in 24 years. Joel commented that he saw the irony of Superintendents taking care of their golf courses better than they took care of themselves.

The truth is that there is a particular breed of person who places work ahead of every other aspect of their lives. For the unfortunate few the consequences are shocking.

Pride in professional performance can come before a personal fall and it would appear that Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers often fit into the category of people who don't just go that extra mile to do a fine job, they complete a marathon - often from dawn to dusk and often for seven days a week.

And do you know what? There will still be a section of people who would still not be satisfied and demand more.

Of course we now live in a time of the Working Hours Directive when European legislation has been passed to ensure that people are not pushed beyond their limits. I applaud this as the correct way to go but probably like you I don't think that the Working Hours Directive applies to me. I've got deadlines to meet and if that involves jumping in a car; driving to the other end of the country; conducting an interview; jumping back in the car and driving home, arriving well into the evening so be it. If I had to turn a one day job into a two day job to meet the Directive I'd see that as complicating my life. Adding stress not removing it.

In your case, if you've got an important tournament coming up and want the course to be at its best you might want to put in a push in the weeks running up to it starting earlier and finishing later to ensure the course looks its best. Treating it as just another day is opening you up to criticism and with that comes stress.

In Britain, making reference to the Working Hours Directive, or even, in some cases knocking off at the appointed hour, and you are made out to be some kind of wimp who can't hack it in the thrusting world that is modern day Britain.

However, common sense and the spirit of the Working Hours Directive, if not the detail, must begin to prevail. It is imperative that we look after ourselves and, perhaps more importantly, those around us much better. Working ourselves into the ground is not the answer.

I'd be prepared to wager that by doing so we'd end up doing our jobs better as a result! A satisfying by-product.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

ALLAN MCDOUGALL

The Greenkeeping Fraternity, both north and south of the border, was shocked by the recent sudden death of Allan McDougall at the age of 44, especially as it was only months since he buried his father, Bob. Both Allan and Bob put a lot into the Association, particularly in the early days of BIGGA, supporting Tournaments, seminars and other events.

Allan's career started under Jimmy Kidd, at the Glasgow Golf Club (Killermont), before taking up the position of First Assistant at Cawder Golf Club. He then moved on to become head man at Eastwood Golf Club before progressing to Stirling Golf Club. His next move was to Sandwell Park in the midlands before heading to Northern Ireland and Roe Park Golf Club then returning to take up the



position of Course Manager at the Royal Mid-Surrey, which he enjoyed so much.

No matter where he worked he made friends and we shall all miss those "catching up" moments at BTME. His life enriched many people's lives. We should not cry because it's over but smile because it happened.

He shall be missed by his friends, many from home and overseas, who attended his funeral, including The 'Machrie Misfits' of which Allan was President this year.

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to his wife, Janette, and his family, Mandy and Bobby, who is carrying on the family tradition of greenkeeping, as well as his mother, Jean, and brother, Donnie.

ROLAWN

Anyone passing close to one of Rolawn's turfing nurseries may be staggered to see the giant 21 gang mowers being used to cut the fields.

Developed and built by the company itself the mowers fold up onto a manageable road using size, but expand when working to be able to mow 60 hectares per day, which is the equivalent of 60 football pitches.

"We currently have four of the 21 gang mowers, a fifth one is under construction and a sixth one is planned," explained Terry Ryan, of Rolawn.



AU REVOIR BEN



Ben Petitjean, Sales Manager Barenbrug UK, is to return to his native country to take up the position of Commercial Director of Barenbrug France. He will be responsible for the commercial policy of the company in consumer, amenity and forage product groups.

Ben joined Barenbrug UK in July 1996 as Area

Manager for the Midlands and East Anglia. Quickly mastering the English language, he soon built up a loyal customer base throughout his trading area.

"During the last few years, Ben has taken on overall responsibility for our amenity business," says Paul Johnson, Managing Director of Barenbrug UK. "He and his team have increased our market share across the board substantially."

"All Ben's colleagues wish him every success in his new post, and, as he is staying within the Barenbrug Group, it is very much a case of 'au revoir' rather than 'goodbye'."

PASSES ALL ROUND



Two members of the BIGGA Headquarters staff have joined the growing band of staff who have attained the European Computer Driving Licence.

Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, is pictured with Rachael Foster and Gemma Lee with their qualification certificates.

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

WATCH OUT FOR BOGUS CARDS

Police investigating a theft have come across a BIGGA membership card included among a number of stolen store cards.

The card, pictured here, is an obvious counterfeit but carries enough relevant information that might persuade an unsuspecting Secretary or Club Professional to give courtesy of the course.

If anyone does come across a card they feel is suspicious here are some points to look for:

1. There is no such thing as Gold Key Associate Membership;
2. Cards are valid for one year and wouldn't be valid for more than a year.
3. BIGGA membership cards do not say "Free golf on this card".
4. BIGGA membership cards are now all in credit card form with the photograph printed onto the plastic.

If anyone does come across cards displaying this, or similar information, they are asked to contact BIGGA HOUSE Tel: 01347 833800 immediately.



NEW MEN AT TURFTRAX



TurfTrax, the Bedford-based turf, soil and grounds management consultancy, has appointed two new consultants.

Located in the Swindon/Cirencester area, Noel MacKenzie will provide agronomy

advice in support of the company's construction projects in S England and S Wales.

Noel joins TurfTrax from Grass Science where he was a senior agronomist and involved in in-depth resource and recruitment management for golf clubs and local authorities. Prior to this he worked with the STRI as a sports turf consultant in London

and the Home Counties.

James Welsh specialises in plant and soil interactions and has previously worked at Cranfield University on projects as diverse as electromagnetic scanning and interpretation, and precision farming.

Dr Welsh will work as a technical consultant, from the company's Bedford Offices' on drainage and pitch construction projects as well as turf agronomy.

"Both appointments further reinforce our turf management arm," says TurfTrax Managing Director, Justin Smith.

"While specialising on construction and renovation, we are now increasingly asked for and provide a strong aftercare package. This ensures our customers adopt best-practice management to ensure strong, healthy turf growth."

NAME CHANGE

Independent irrigation consultants, Wardle Consulting Engineers Ltd. have announced that they have changed their company name to Irriplan Ltd.

"The new name is part of an overall plan to revise the marketing and structure of the business and the name Irriplan has been chosen to better reflect our core business of irrigation planning, engineering, design and implementation," explained company founder Giles Wardle.

"Over the nine years since inception, the company has grown in reputation and with

Carnoustie, Royal Lytham, Turnberry, Gleneagles and Queenwood among our clients the company is firmly established as one of the UK's premier irrigation consultancies. Now the company needs to build on that success and the name change is the first step in a plan to re-structure and expand the business to new markets."

In tandem with the name change the company announces the setting up of a franchise for Scotland and Ireland. Irriplan Scotland is to be operated by Phil Langdon, former projects director of Wardle Consulting Engineers Ltd.

BIGGA'S LATEST RECRUIT...

23 year-old Katie Davies is the latest recruit to BIGGA HOUSE having taken on the role of Sales Administrator in the Sales Department.



Katie joins the Association from her role as Consumable Sales Manager for Dalesauna Ltd, a Harrogate company which sold chemicals to the leisure industry for use in swimming pools.

A native of Harrogate, Katie studied Primary School Education at Chester University before deciding on a change of career direction.

Listing her hobbies as socialising and good food and wine she boasts two fine claims to fame. At the age of six she won a talent competition at Pontins for her rendition of the old Spitting Image favourite "Hold a Chicken in the Air" while four years ago she was voted the "Sexiest Voice in Yorkshire" by the listeners of Galaxy 105 radio station.

GREAT PERFORMANCE

Scottish greenkeeper Glenn Campbell did the profession proud during the recent Amateur Championship at Royal Troon.

Glenn, 30, who works at Murrayshall GC, in Scone, Perthshire, under Ian MacMillan MG, reached the quarter finals of the event before eventually losing out.

Blairstown member Glenn, who at one time boasted the lowest handicap in Britain at +5 but was on +3 at the time of the Championship, received quite a bit of publicity during his run on three counts. One was for sharing a name with the American country singer, the second was for his hatred of practice and not hitting a ball in warm up all week and, finally as being the only one of the last eight who had a full time job.

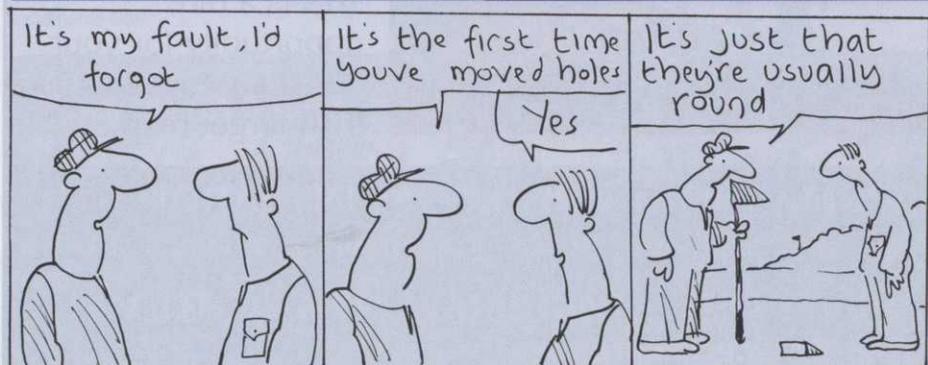
STAFF REACH THE MILESTONE



Three members of the BIGGA Headquarters staff celebrated 10 years with the Association recently. Pauline Thompson, Sami Collins and John Pemberton each reached the milestone and were congratulated by Executive Director Neil Thomas, who himself is the longest serving member of staff having 16 years under his belt.

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After a comparatively dry Wentworth and an exciting finish Volvo-PGA winner Ignacio Garrido is pictured here with Chris Kennedy Course Manager and the volunteer Greenkeeping Support Team.

EXPANDED ROLE FOR LELY

The Toro Company has appointed Lely (UK) Limited to distribute its consumer products in the UK.

Effective from September 1, the development will see the distribution of all Toro consumer products move from the American company's offices in Bournemouth to Lely's base in St Neots, Cambridgeshire.

Toro says this change is in line with its business model to have its entire product range distributed by one distributor. Lely has distributed Toro Commercial equipment, such as professional turf mowers, aerators and utility vehicles, since 1983. And last year it added the distribution of Toro irrigation products to its Toro portfolio.

"This development is in line with Toro's goal of supporting its valued dealers with the world's finest consumer lawn care products and to provide them with the highest level of customer services. Lely UK has been the distributor of Toro commercial machinery for almost 20 years and irrigation

products for just over one year," said Dennis Himan, Toro's Vice President and General Manager International Business.

Lely has begun the process of setting up a new business unit for consumer products, which comprise Toro pedestrian recycler mowers and Wheel Horse riding mowers and tractors, as well as associated hand-held products like trimmers and vacs.

Lely UK Managing Director, Graham Dale, welcomed the move to expand the Lely-Toro partnership.

"Lely is delighted that Toro is entrusting us with yet another important part of its business. We are formulating our plans to provide a full sales and technical support service and it's our intention to include key staff appointments of current Toro staff members as well as new appointments. The Toro division of Lely UK is a major part of our overall distribution business," said Graham.

RANSOMES JACOBSEN SEMINAR AT DONNINGTON VALLEY

A seminar to recognise and celebrate the work of the recipients of BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen was held at Donnington Valley Golf Club last month.

In keeping with Ransomes Jacobsen's aim to be the environment friendly company in the industry, the seminar had an environmental theme and took in a number of papers covering those issues.

Richard Hayden, of the Institute of Technology, Tralee, discussed environmental management systems and the progress that has been made in producing fuel from domestic waste.

Dean Cleaver, of FEGGA, outlined the Federation's work in producing a Blueprint for Sustainable Golf.

David Withers, of Ransomes Jacobsen, spoke on Environmental Golf & Greenkeeping, while Barry Ohrman, of Calor Gas, reported on his company's alternative fuel.

David Stubbs, of the Committed to Green, updated the audience on the work of the programme while after lunch Ken Richardson, BIGGA, described the various routes open to greenkeepers hoping to further their careers.

The seminar closed with a paper from Peter Jones, of Peter Jones Associates, who is one of the recipients of a scholarship award and he spoke on the research work this had enabled him to undertake at Cranfield University.



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21 JAN

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- Rain Bird Europe
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- Sheppy Humber Palmers
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Clive A Archer; Douglas G Duguid; Robert Maibusch MG; Elliott R Small; Steven Tierny; Richard Lawrence; Clive Osgood; David Robinson; Richard Stillwell; Stephen Dixon; Ian Semple; Paul Jenkins; Robert Hogarth; R Steele; Lee Relf; Raymond Warrender

Competitions are the main areas of work for the Education and Training Department as the TORO Student of the Year regional Finals have taken place and STRI have begun to judge the entries for this year's Golf Environment Competition.

I included some brief information in the June edition of Greenkeeper International about some changes that would be taking place at Harrogate in January 2004 and I have repeated the information below. Make sure that you book your accommodation as soon as possible to ensure a room in your chosen hotel.

Continue to learn 2004

ACCOMMODATION

BIGGA HOUSE no longer has the capacity to handle hotel bookings as the number of visitors has continued to increase. Therefore, all Continue to Learn packages will be sold on a non-residential basis (ie. without accommodation) and delegates will need to book their own accommodation. This can be done direct with hotels or, much more easily, through our booking agents Reservations Highway, who can offer preferential rates. They can be contacted by phone on

01423 525577 or on www.reservation-highway.co.uk using the access code 'bigga'.

The BIGGA Headquarters Hotel will still be the Majestic Hotel which will also host the Education Dinner on Monday 19 January and the Exhibition's Banquet on Thursday 22 January.

Remember, you can choose your own accommodation, but so can every other delegate so book early to avoid disappointment.

The National Education Conference and BTME/ClubHouse Seminars

Due to the continued poor state of repair of the Royal Hall, the BTME/ClubHouse Seminars 2004 will be held in Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre. The National Education Conference, whose theme will be 'Golf, Sport and Business', will take place on Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 January 2004. The BTME/ClubHouse Seminars will take place on Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 January 2004.

Watch out for further updates on speakers, subjects and booking information in future editions of this magazine.

Continue to Learn Workshops

There will be three - one-day, Continue to Learn Workshops in January 2004. They will cover Health and Safety at Work, Water on the Golf Course and Influencing Skills - How your Golf Club Really Works.

BIGGA Golf Environment Competition



The first stage of judging in this year's BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, sponsored by Scotts UK Professional and Syngenta Professional Products has begun and details of successful clubs will appear in future editions of Greenkeeper International. Twenty six clubs have entered this year and they are:

Fortrose and Rosemarkie	Wetherby
Gullane	Worthing
The Duke's Course	Loch Lomond
Pedham Place	Downfield
Beaconsfield	St Andrews Links
Charnwood Forest	Fulford
Worsley Park	Winter Hill
Thorpeness	Allerton Municipal
Notts	Cottesmore
Bedale	Kenwick Park
Wilmslow	The York
Gog Magog	Minchinhampton
Blackmoor	Brighouse Bay

Student of the Year Competition

The TORO Student of the Year judges selected eight National Finalists from the 34 Regional Finalists during the first week of June. Details of successful candidates will appear next month.



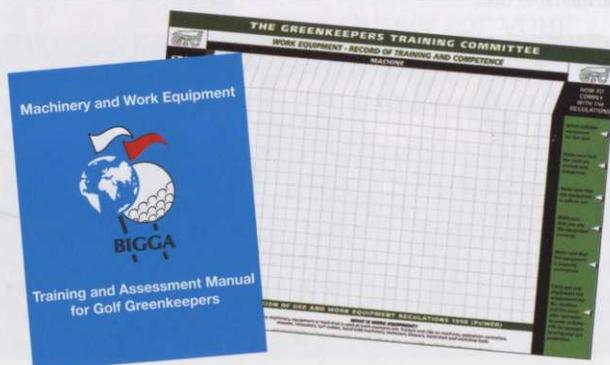
Regional Training Course

We have received training requests from six Regions/Sections so far this year. There is still time to ask for low cost, high quality training to take place in your local area. Contact Sami or Ken at BIGGA HOUSE for further details.

Machinery and Work Equipment Training Manual

All Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper Members of BIGGA should have received their copy of the BIGGA Machinery and Work Equipment Training Manual sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen. Please contact BIGGA HOUSE if your copy has not arrived.

The Manual complements the GTC Wall Chart that was sent out earlier in the year to all golf clubs in the UK. If you have not received your copy then contact the GTC on 01347 838640.



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Rachael and Gemma from Membership Services would like to welcome 91 new members to the Association and introduce a personal car leasing package following requests from members.

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JULY'S MEMBERSHIP DRAW WINNER

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People

How well do you know the people who work for the Association?

In this new series we give you a chance to learn a little more about a member of BIGGA's Headquarters staff



Gemma Lee

Position:
Membership Services Assistant

What does your role involve?
Processing annual renewal subscriptions and new member applications. Prepare data for the mailing of 'Greenkeeper International'. Provide Regional Administrators and Section Secretaries with member lists and all relevant statistical information and data. Provide advice and guidance to members as required.

How long have you worked for the Association?
Just over a year

Where were you born and brought up?
Bradford

Where did you work before you joined BIGGA?
Norwich Union

What are your hobbies?
Going to the gym, swimming, socialising with friends on a weekend down at the local pub

What is your favourite food?
Spaghetti Bolognese and Steak!

What is your favourite film?
Bodyguard

What was the last book you read?
Don't really read books. I should, I know!

Who is your all time hero?
My Mum and Dad

What was the best event you've ever attended?
Blue concert

What is your claim to fame? (None not acceptable)
At the time (1992) I was the youngest person to climb the three peaks, Whernside, Pen-y-ghent and Ingleborough, in the Yorkshire dales area. I was nine years old at the time

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ACTIVITY DAY WINNER



When your membership is due for renewal you will receive a newsletter which contains details of how to win an activity day of your choice. Activities are held all over the country so there should be a centre near you. A winner is selected every three months so it does not matter what time of year you renew your membership.

This month's winner is Graham Gardner from Tadmerton Heath Golf Club who has a choice of at least 20 activities to choose from ranging from Ferrari driving to powerboating. Congratulations Graham!

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, receives an FM desktop scan radio.

Our congratulations go to July's winner, Michael Branson from Keswick Golf Club whose message was posted on the 19th May under the 'Education and Training for Greenkeepers' section.

Course Feature

Hitting the Heights

Royal St George's is known for the bunker known as the Himalayas but, as Scott MacCallum found out, in all other respects as well the course is hitting the peaks in preparation for this year's Open Championship



The daunting challenge facing golfers on the 4th tee

Fifty years ago last May the pinnacle of the Himalayas was finally climbed when Edmond Hillary and Sherpa Tensing stood atop Everest. This month the Himalayas will again be in the spotlight when the world's top golfers converge on Royal St George's Golf Club on the south coast.

Confused? Well, in this case, the Himalayas is the name given to the immense, mountainous bunker which faces golfers playing the 4th and, with a new tee in place for this year's Open, it is a near certainty that several unfortunate players, along with their "sherpa" caddies, will be forced to make reluctant assaults on the face of the bunker.

One of the abiding memories of the 1993 Open - other than the fact on the final round it boasted a leaderboard littered with the top players of the day and Greg Norman's final round 64 was one of the finest ever to win a Major Championship - was of Australian, Mike Harwood, tangling with the Himalayas.

"His ball stuck in the face of the bunker and he tried to go forward, failed, then tried to go backwards before going forward again," recalled Head Greenkeeper, Neil Metcalf, who was Deputy Head at the time.

The famous bunker, which has a twin at St Enodoc Golf Club, was revamped about five years ago with new sleepers installed and a huge digger used to dig it out.

Although the most famous of the course's 106 bunkers Neil and his team have ensured that most of them have been brought up to tip top condition for July.

"We began working on the bunkers in 2001-2 when we took on 50 of them - our own team doing half and BSP Landscapes doing the other half. It is no easy job as our bunkers are very steep with steep faces and each one was a major job in itself.

"Then over the last winter we did all the bunkers on the 1st, 18th, all the par-3s and any others that we identified as being in need of attention," explained Neil, who became Head Greenkeeper on 1 January 1996.

Royal St George's has a superb Open pedigree with a roll of honour which includes some of the game's biggest names. Greg Norman won the last Championship and Sandy Lyle the one before that in '85 to become the first British Champion in 16 years. Other Champions include Bill Rogers; Bobby Locke; Henry Cotton, in 1934, during which one round inspired the famous Dunlop 65 ball; Walter Hagen; Harry Vardon and JH Taylor.

The club learned that it would be hosting the greatest Championship in the world in 1998 and they have been working towards July 2003 since then. Neil's preparations started in earnest in the year 2000 when work on fairway width and definition began.



The Royal St George's Team

"The R&A gave us a guideline that they wanted the width of fairways to be between 25 and 30 metres and it was up to me to go out with a machine and shape them after that. There are exceptions where, because of specific bunkering, the fairways will be 40 metres wide," explained Neil, who was also pleased to be able to retain more generous widths on the regular members' landing areas.

"It actually differs quite a bit from '93 when the fairways were very wide and I'll be very interested to see the final video footage from this year's Championship and compare it with then. There will be many metres difference."

Players will be relieved that Neil was quick to point out that Carnoustie-like fairway widths were not on the agenda.

"If we did that many of our bunkers would end up 30 yards into the rough," said Neil, whose team have been working flat out in the run up to the Championship.

The other guidelines he is working to are two metres width for the first cut of rough at two and a half inches, then another two metres of second rough cut at four inches.

In addition to the tighter fairways players will find themselves facing a significantly longer golf course.

"It started with the par-5 14th which runs to the left of an out-of-bounds line. We raised the green and moved it back, closer to the out-of-bounds which lengthened the hole and enabled us to move the 15th tee back as well to also lengthen that hole.

"It has made the 14th a much better hole which threatens on both the tee and second shots," said Neil of the change that was implemented five years ago.

Other changes, including that previously mentioned at the 4th, have been combined to ensure that the challenge of Royal St George's can match the increased armoury the modern day player carries from 10 years ago.

The next phase in the long term preparations for the Championship came with the installation of a new state-of-the-art Rainbird irrigation system which, as the Law of both Sod and Murphy would dictate, heralded the arrival of flooding which had the nearby White Cliffs of Dover unsure of the direction in which they should be facing.

"It was the flooding which affected much of the country in 1999. Thousands of homes in the area, and nationally, were suffering and we were no different," recalled Neil.

"When the rain came, it came down in a monsoon fashion that I hadn't seen before. We just couldn't get the water off the land quick enough and the course just couldn't cope with the amount of water it was holding. Over the winter period we pumped between 50 and 55 million gallons of water off the course and into the nearby North Stream," said Neil, who said that ironically the club has an abstraction licence which allows them to take up to 25 million gallons out of the self same stream.

"We were in credit by 25 million gallons!"

It was around this time that rumours abounded about Royal St George's long term problems, the more malicious of which cast doubt on the club's ability to recover fully to the extent that The Open might have had to be moved. Among those was one that the Environment Agency had proposed that the water table in the area had to remain at a specified level which would have had a detrimental affect on the links golf played in the area.

"There was no truth in any of the rumours that were flying around at the time and, indeed, had The Open been here in the July of that year we would have been able to host it comfortably as the course was back in fine condition," said Neil firmly.

The freak conditions which contributed to that flooding haven't returned since and the only long term consequences have been that Neil has found that grass growth has been a lot quicker. The ground is still getting rid of water and the water table is still high so the grass is reacting to the moisture in the ground.

When he took over the reins of the course in '96 Neil was keen to instigate his own maintenance policy which entailed upping the vertidrain programme - in the winter he likes to create fissures under the soil to encourage the root systems of the fescues and bents - reducing the fertiliser input and starving the grass of water. But knowing the pain barrier that the course would have to go through he waited until after the Amateur Championship which was held later that year.



Neil Metcalf

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Course Feature



So it was after the Championship, which was won by fellow Scot Craig Watson beating Trevor Immelman in the final, that the programme was put in place.

"The members and the Chair of Green were very understanding because they knew what we were wanting to achieve. I did say at the outset that we probably wouldn't see any real difference for at least five years while we went through the process of starving the meadow grass out and obviously the more it starves the more it flowers because it is hungry," said Neil.

It was ironic that having almost completed the process the flooding arrived, but three years further on the course is in good shape and Neil can't wait for the third week in July. Together with his Chairman of Green, Michael Attenborough, they have been heavily involved in the preparation work which goes towards hosting such a huge event.

"Fortunately we have a lot of land outwith the golf course and a lot of the hospitality areas are off the golf course, but we have to liaise with the on-site contractors to ensure damage is kept to a minimum before, during and after the Championship."

To prepare for everything Neil spent some time with Colin Irvine, of Muirfield, quizzing him on what to expect.

"I went up to Muirfield in April last year and again after the Championship and Colin helped me a lot by telling me about potential pitfalls and aggravations," said Neil, who is a former North East of Scotland golfer, who despite playing very infrequently manages to maintain a handicap of 3.

He is sure that he will feel immense pride when he is standing at the prize table alongside the 2003 Open Champion.

"It is the Championship everyone wants to win and it will have been played over my golf course. It will be the pinnacle of my career," said the man, who for that moment will experience how Edmond Hilary felt 50 years and two months before.

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See page 6 for details on how you can place your bets



TURFGRASS IRRIGATION WITH WASTEWATER

*Continue
to learn*



The focus of this article is to provide an overview of turfgrass management concerns related to wastewater use – the issues that a turfgrass manager must understand for optimum turf culture. Turfgrass irrigation water quality guidelines for chemical constituents in the water are similar to those used for other crops with some refinement and guidelines are available on the websites: (www.usga.org; then go to the USGA Green Section Record issue noted in references 4 and 5) and (www.turfgrasswater.com; then go to the water quality sections and guidelines where reference article 2 is located). A good irrigation water quality test determines constituents in the water, namely:

GENERAL WATER CHARACTERISTICS

WATER PH. This is a concern only if the pH is unusually alkaline or acidic.

Bicarbonate and Carbonate Content. These ions react with Ca and Mg ions in the water to form lime in the soil or in some unusual situations in irrigation lines. The lime is not harmful and many turfgrasses are grown on calcareous soils. In a humid climate, lime additions to the soil are often needed. However, when irrigation water has appreciably Na ions that may create sodic soil conditions (soil structure deteriorates), alleviation requires relatively high levels of moderately slow-release Ca, such as from gypsum, CaSO₄. If bicarbonates and carbonates are present in high quantities, the result is lime formation where the Ca in lime is very slow-release in comparison to gypsum; and these ions in the soil can also cause soluble Ca released from gypsum to be tied up in the lime form. The net result is insufficient soluble and moderately slow-release forms of Ca to displace Na from the soil cation exchange sites (CEC) and Na carbonate precipitates. It is in these situations where acidification of irrigation water is recommended to dispel the bicarbonates and carbonates as CO₂ gas from the water.

NUTRIENT AND ELEMENT CONTENT

Wastewaters generally contain more nutrients than potable water, and some contain appreciable nutrients. Additionally, some wastewater sources require acidification treatment and/or large quantities of soil amendments to be added (such as when a wastewater may induce a sodic soil condition and large additions of Ca are needed). The nutrient additions, whether directly from the water or as a result of water/soil treatments due to the water characteristics, must be considered as part of the on-going fertilisation plan to maintain a balanced fertilisation programme.

Nitrogen Content. The wastewater treatment facility often must meet a regulatory level for N based on limiting algae and aquatic plant growth in discharge waters. Turfgrass managers should understand how much total N is being added per 100m² for every 10cm of irrigation water added (10ppm or

mg/L of N = .102kg per 100m² of N for every 10cm of irrigation water applied). And decrease N fertilisation accordingly to avoid over-application of N.

Phosphorus Content. Regulatory P levels for waters discharged from treatment facilities are normally very low since P in water is the most important nutrient controlling algae and aquatic plant growth. As a result, wastewater P contributes only small amount of P to the P fertilisation needs of the turfgrass, but if P levels exceed 0.10-0.40ppm or mg/L of P algae and aquatic plant control will be a challenge.

Ca, Mg, K, Mn, Fe, Cu, Zn, Mo, Ni Levels. It is important to consider the contributions of each of these nutrients to the overall fertilisation needs of the grass and make adjustments as needed. The most common problem is for a particular nutrient to be very high in the water, which may induce nutrient imbalances in the soil and eventually the turf plant – such as high Ca limiting Mg uptake. Sometimes the nature of the irrigation water requires certain amendments to be added to the soil in large quantities, such as when high Na in the water may require high Ca additions to the soil. In these situations, nutrient imbalances can also be induced.

SO₄-2 Content. Sulphur, usually as SO₄, is a nutrient that is often high in many wastewaters sources or becomes high as a result of acid treatment when water acidification is necessary. Turfgrass plants only require 1.5-3.0kg elemental S per 100m² per year as a nutrient. If high SO₄ levels occur in the soil due to high SO₄ in the wastewater, the soluble SO₄ can rapidly revert to reduced S forms when anaerobic conditions occur in the soil – regardless of the source of the anaerobic conditions, such as excess rain, perched water table from a layer in the soil, soil compaction, excess organic matter accumulation, sodic conditions, etc. Reduced S results in formation of FeS and MnS precipitates that cause the black coloration in black layer (3). These precipitates cause more anaerobic conditions. The SO₄ in wastewater can react with Ca in the water to form gypsum (CaSO₄), which is much less prone to becoming reduced. If the Ca is not

sufficient to "scrub" the excess SO₄ from the water, light applications of lime can be added to the soil surface, where the SO₄ will react with the lime to form gypsum over time (it requires 1kg of lime per 1kg of excess SO₄ added). A high level for SO₄ would be > 90mg/L SO₄ = .304kg per 100m² elemental S for every 10cm of water added.

Trace Elements. Sometimes trace elements are unusually high in a wastewater source. Thus, an initial analysis of a potential wastewater source may include testing for any expected trace elements. The guidelines for these are based on long-term use of the water assuming that the particular element may accumulate (1).

SALT-RELATED ASSESSMENTS

When salt ions are low, which is common for many wastewaters, the primary problems for wastewater sources would be the nutrient/element content discussed in the previous section. However, when salt ions are high, salt-related problems can be very important and will require appropriate management regimes including – grass selection, possible chemical amendment of water and/or soil, leaching, cultivation programmes, alterations in fertilisation regimes, and other aspects. (1,3). The primary issues to evaluate are summarised as:

Total Salinity. Total soluble salts (TSS) in the irrigation water can cause salt accumulation in the soil and lead to salt-induced drought or specific ion toxicities. TSS is usually measured as Electrical Conductivity (ECw).

Sodium Permeability Hazard. If the wastewater has high Na content, it can create a sodic soil condition. Sodium causes deterioration of soil structure by destroying natural aggregation and dispersing clay/organic colloids that can plug soil pores. The net result is a reduction of macropores (> 0.10mm diameter pores)

for water permeability, reduced gas/oxygen exchange, and fewer root channels. No single water parameter can by itself determine sodium permeability hazard, but several parameters are used:

- SARw = Sodium Adsorption Ratio. SARw is used when Na, HCO₃, and CO₃ are < 100, 120, 15mg/L, respectively.
- AdjSARw by pHc adjustment. Uses Na, Ca, Mg, HCO₃, CO₃ to adjust the original SARw, or...
- AdjSARw by Cax adjustment (sometimes noted as adjRNa). Also, uses Na, Ca, Mg, HCO₃, and CO₃ to adjust the original SARw.
- RSC (Residual Sodium Carbonate) which uses in the RSC calculation Ca, Mg, HCO₃, and CO₃ contents.

In addition to SARw, adjSARw, and RSC values, the following factors are used in determining the severity of sodium permeability hazard:

- Individual water concentrations of ECw, Ca, Mg, Na, HCO₃, and CO₃. High ECw allows a soil to withstand higher Na without structure loss.
- Clay type. Shrink/swell clays are most prone to structural breakdown.

SPECIFIC TOXIC IONS

Specific ion toxicities are of several types and require guidelines to assess the potential for each type of problems, namely:

- Ions that may accumulate in the soil and cause direct root toxicities – Na, Cl, B.
- Ions (Na, Cl, B) that are taken up by plants and accumulate in the foliage to cause a reduction in physiological activity, colour, and enhance tissue leaf firing or desiccation.

- Direct contact injury to the foliage from the irrigation water, where Na, and Cl are of greatest interest. Trees and shrubs are more sensitive than most grasses.

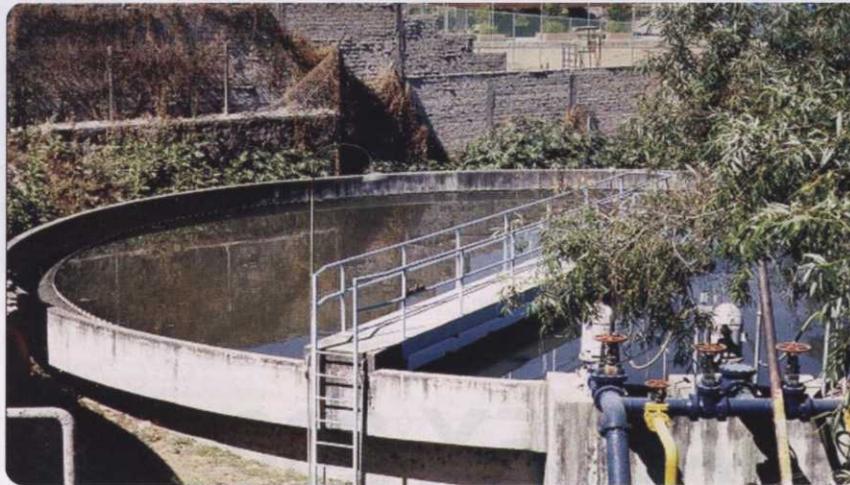
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Turf managers should consider some other factors beyond the constituents in the wastewater, namely:

- Contract stipulations with the wastewater provider should not require wastewater to be accepted by a turf facility when irrigation is not required since this leads to run-off, leaching, is environmentally unsound practice. Since wastewater treatment plants must measure certain parameters on a regular basis, it may be possible to make contractual agreements that result in the treatment facility providing all or most of the irrigation water quality data to the turf facility on a long term basis.
- While Total Suspended Solids are of concern for many non-potable irrigation water sources, it is generally not a concern for treated wastewater since effective treatment for fecal coliform bacteria (indicator organisms for more harmful micro-organisms) requires low levels of suspended solids and is monitored by turbidity measurements at the treatment complex.

- The article on effluent water by Huck et. al. (2000) is suggested for those seeking a detailed discussion of the various costs associated with use of wastewater.

Wastewater characteristics can vary greatly depending on the particular source. However, most wastewaters, treated for application to public sites, are good sources of water for turfgrass irrigation. Obtaining a good water quality test is essential for determining any potential problems or adjustments to management practices that may be needed.



REFERENCES

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Dr. Robert N. Carrow, Professor of Turfgrass Science, University of Georgia. Emphasis of research is plant/soil stresses (drought, salinity, fertility) on turfgrasses, water conservation/use and water quality issues on turfgrasses. Email: rcarrow@griffin.uga.edu

Dr. Ron R. Duncan, Professor of Turfgrass Breeding/Genetics, University of Georgia (retired). Research emphasis is on breeding/genetics of seashore paspalum and tall fescue, salt-affected sites, water quality and conservation on turfgrasses. Email: duncanturf@hotmail.com

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The 'Bunker Rake' debate

Andrew Acorn rakes over some well worn issues

Left in the bunker, outside the bunker, stood up or lying down. This still remains a bit of a 'grey area' with the R&A rules, and it is put into the hands of you at your club in the 'local rules' or how you see them. This also brings into question, 'Which bunker rake is the best one to have? How many teeth should it have, how wide should it be, how long is the handle, which is the best shape, which type of grip should it have, is it a rake for members or green staff to use or is it both?

I was in great debate with five key people from the industry about this fascinating subject during a teatime pint of Guinness in O'Neill's Irish bar within the CNN centre in Atlanta Georgia. On my right was Welsh Course Manager Jeremy Hughes, on my left was rake manufacturer James Buckholt from BMS Europe, opposite was the bunker raking caddie of European Senior Tour player David Oakley and my trade counterpart Terry Adamson next to him was the USPGA Tour Agronomist John Scott and on his right was Andy Campbell MG.

We had collected leaflets and pens from the show and the scribbling on the reverse sides started, the lively conversations went quiet when each of the group started to draw up his designs for the best type of rake for sand traps. Four more pints each, and 68 different sketches later, we had designed the perfect rake. It had long teeth on one side, short teeth on the other side the handle was 3 x piece telescopic. It had reverse side teeth and a bit which levelled the sand as well. All we had to do was get this design patented and manufacture it back in the UK and we would all then be millionaires on the proceeds from the royalties?

But with our fuzzy heads cleared up by later the next afternoon we saw our design as a little impractical to make, and a little impractical to sell to the mass market and agreed that there is 'no' one rake that can do all the jobs you ask of it.

During the build up to the 2001 Open Championship at Royal Lytham & St Annes, we at Acorn Golf received an order from Head Greenkeeper Paul Smith for 80 of the wooden hay rakes, which were to be given out to the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team to rake the bunkers. After the first day of practice a comment made by a well known senior golfer was, that the rakes were leaving lines like ridges in the sand after they had been raked and that this he thought was unacceptable. Another phone call from Paul Smith and we sent the van up and collected the rakes in the evening and between Paul and ourselves we decided to cut approx 3" off each side of the rake to make it shorter and by using the 'band saw' in our workshop saw the teeth in half at a 45 degree angle. We then took them back up the same night for resumption of practice the following day. With the addition of levelling from the back of the rake by the Support Team the championship went smoothly 'in the bunkers' from then on in.



Contact Andrew Acorn, Managing Director of Acorn Golf (UK) on 01925 757005.

'Sexy' Rakes

It's hard to get excited by rakes, in fact it is probably a criminal offence to get turned on by them. But Amenity Technology is doing their level best to set a new trend with their revolutionary 'double-team' comprising the 'Silver-Streak' and 'Contour' rakes.

It is a proven fact that golfers remember the details of their round more than they remember the larger aspects of the surroundings. For example; a poor lie in a bunker will be remembered forever, the overall immaculate conditions forgotten after a few short weeks. It is impossible to force golfers to comply with requests to rake bunkers, repair pitchmarks, replace divots etc, but it is possible to make it easier and less of a chore for them to do so.

Complimentary pitchmark forks on the first tee are certainly a good reminder if not a direct plea, providing ergonomically designed rakes in the bunkers are another.

The 'Contour' bunker rake has been scientifically designed to assist with more efficient raking of bunkers while reducing stress to lumber regions and shoulders. By increasing the efficiency of each 'pass' the amount of raking required is significantly reduced. American golf journalist Hal Phillips put his back out while raking a bunker – one look at his swing today will let you know just how debilitating that injury was. Needless to say he was NOT using a Contour rake...

The 'Silver-Streak' rake is designed to prepare the bunker for the best possible playing conditions – the double-headed design promotes both raking and smoothing of sand.

With the 'Silver Streak' currently available on a 'three for the price of two' deal, it is just possible that rakes are about to get sexy after all, well maybe just a little bit.

THE SILVER STREAK RAKE

16" double action head allowing for both raking and smoothing of bunkers. Comes complete with a 48" blue fibreglass handle.



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MACHINERY MAINTENANCE

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We take a brief look at some of the maintenance products and advice on the market today...

STAY SHARP

Keith Cann-Evans highlights the best way to keep your most valuable machinery in tip-top condition.

The prime objective of every golf course is to keep the greens in top condition. Huge investment is made in a vast array of course maintenance equipment, of which, grass-cutting machinery probably accounts for the largest proportion of spend.

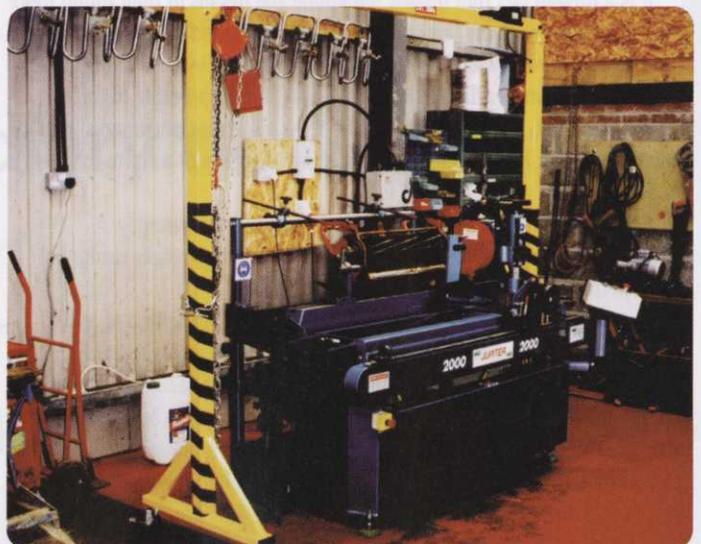
It is essential that these machines are kept fully functional. Which is why being able to service and sharpen the blades quickly and efficiently, minimising the downtime, is as important as the mowers themselves.

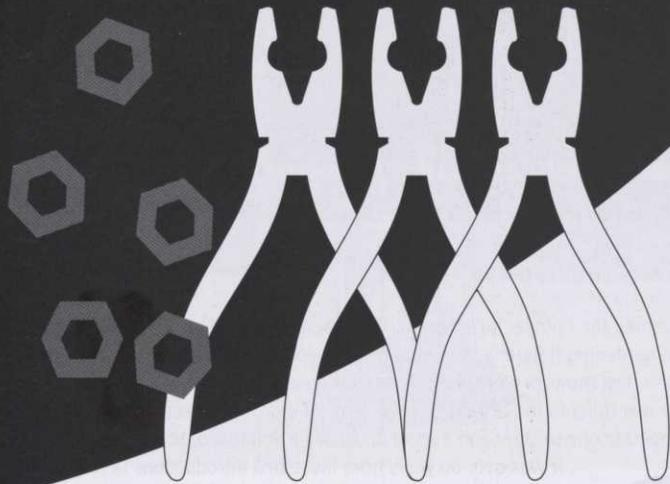
Until recently the option to purchase your own grinder or retain the services of a contractor has been a financial decision depending mainly on the number of units requiring servicing. The financial investment of a grinder has been compared directly with the cost of using a contractor. But using an outside agency brings its own problems. Apart from the inconvenience of having to schedule the grinding programme it can also mean the machines are off site for an extended period of time.

One element that has altered the equation is the requirement of modern day clubs to improve the quality of the greens to meet the standards expected by members. This has led to a greater emphasis on top dressing programmes, which inevitably reduces the sharpness of the grass cutting equipment. This in turn increases the frequency for re-grinding the cylinders and bottom blades. The net result is the equipment requires more than the annual sharpening and costs rise accordingly. The flexibility and efficiency of having your own machine on site and having complete control over the time management of the workshop can be the deciding factor.

Many grass cutting machinery manufacturers believe that the key to achieving optimum performance from your mowers is to grind the blades back to the original manufacturers specification. To do this you have to choose your grinder and method of sharpening from the number of grinding machines available offering spin, relief or a combination of both methods of sharpening.

Keith Cann-Evans is Managing Director of Hunter Grinders Ltd





DON'T GET TYRED OUT

Jon McGott gives some excellent advice on tyre maintenance.

Maintenance of tyres and wheels is one of the most important jobs in the workshop, because without working tyres in good condition your expensive machine, is effectively useless, and you then have to start counting the cost of downtime.

A little time spent once a day, or every two days at most, can pay dividends in spotting potential tyre problems before they bring your machine to a stop.

Check the outside of the tyres carefully for any cuts, bulges or penetrating objects. Any of these must be attended to before the tyre is put back into service. If your tyre dealer tells you the tyre is scrap, do not assume he just wants to sell you a new tyre, he may, but if he is worth his salt he will be giving good advice.

When you replace tyres, make sure the replacement is the same in terms of its carrying capacity, and speed rating. Many manufacturers have several versions of one size to suit different applications, and you need to ensure yours is correct.

Do not be tempted to try and re-use a tubeless tyre by inserting a tube. If the damage is sufficient to render the tyre non tubeless, it is probably sufficient to drastically shorten the working life of the tyre, as well as damaging the tube, and also many tubeless tyres have internal ribbing which will chafe tubes and ultimately cause a deflation.

If you are already using tubes, and have a puncture, do not repair the tube - replace it! Make sure the tube is the correct size for the tyre, and always use new tubes in new tyres.

None of this is "rocket science" - just common sense, but at the end of the day it is your licence, your contract, your livelihood, and possibly your life at risk if you do not do this most simple of tasks.

Jon McGott is Technical Support Manager for Trelleborg Wheel Systems UK Ltd.



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MOWER TALES

Roland Taylor concludes his three part series looking at the development of mowing



Mowing is very different now from Old Tom Morris' time!

The time is 7.30am, the year is 1820 and the location is somewhere on a golf course in the UK. A greenkeeper is busily putting the final edge on his scythe, ready for a morning of cutting greens. Today it is hard to imagine this situation, but this was the only method of cutting grass short at that time and it required a considerable amount of skill to achieve reasonable results.

Records show that when scything an acre of grass it would take three men a day and then all the cut material had to be raked up and the lawn rolled. The grass cutting operation was carried out early in the morning when there was plenty of dew about as this helped the grass to stand to the scythe.

Sometime during the next decade, in the Gloucestershire town of Stroud, a mill engineer by the name of Edwin Budding was about to change the playing of sports on turf and garden design, throughout the world. He



invented the cylinder lawnmower. These new machines were well received by the gardening fraternity but virtually shunned by the greenkeepers of the day. These first mowers were heavy to use because of their crude gear drives from the rear roller to the cutting cylinder. In most cases they needed two people to operate one to steer and a second, usually a young lad, to pull the machine.

It was over 60 years from those first introductions before they were accepted by greenkeepers. One of the reasons claimed was the poor finish; it is hard to believe these machines were not an improvement. Why there was a reluctance to change is not clear, one theory is the lack of money and the acceptance of relatively poor putting surfaces. It must have been a daunting task to cut 18 greens using a push mower especially as most courses had minimal greenkeeping staff. Although petrol powered units had been introduced there was still very little enthusiasm for using them.

Another 30 years were to pass before the first specifically designed mower for cutting greens appeared in 1924 - the Ransomes Certes. Where these specialist mowers were used the difference in the playing surface soon became too apparent and players, through their greens committee no doubt, put pressure on the greenkeeper and his staff.

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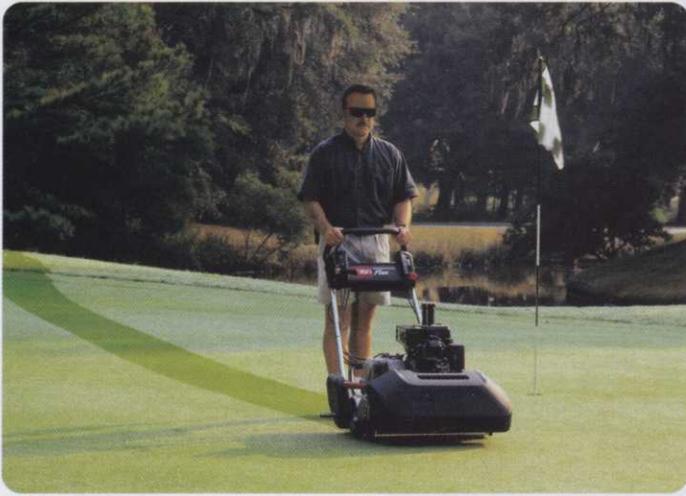
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TITAN GOODYEAR KENDA BRIDGESTONE MAXXIS ALLIANCE CARLISLE TRELLEBORG AMERITYRE



In 1936, to increase productivity Ransomes introduced the Overgreen. This was a powered towing unit with large pneumatic tyres which pulled three of the Certes push mowers.

Then 1950 saw the launch of the Auto Certes. This was the first purpose built petrol engine mower for producing a good putting surface. Other manufacturers were quick to catch on and a number of this type of mower appeared on the market.

By the 60's society was changing as people had more leisure time and this bought with it an increased interest in sporting activities. With more courses being built throughout the world, there was a need for efficient methods of mowing and by the end of the decade triple ride-on greens mowers were beginning to appear in the UK being imported from America. There was considerable resistance to this method of cutting compared to pedestrian operated greens mowers and in some quarters the pros and cons are still debated today. One argument was that if larger units were used on the green there was the likelihood that increased compaction would occur. The quality of finish was also another area of contention. Some courses compromised, and still do, by using ride-ons generally and pedestrian mowers on match days and other important events.

With the advent of more advanced hydraulics, smaller compact engines and electronics the modern greens ride-on is far removed from those earlier models and is equipped to cover virtually every type of putting surface. One downside is the turning area required.

TRIPLE RIDE-ONS

If all the mowers that are now available from different manufacturers were placed in a line, they will have different body work and covers but the actual nuts and bolts under these are likely to be the very similar. The chances are the engines will be from the same stable or closely similar in design, as will be the hydraulic systems, cylinders and bedknives.

Most readers will have their own preferences for certain manufacturers and models but there is a good case for actually carrying out some research and evaluating more than one model before making that final decision. There are a number of areas that need to be taken into account. The possibility of increasing compaction is a major factor, so the total weight of the machine plus operator and full tank of fuel is a good starting point.



The most important areas are the cutting units and the system that operates them. The efficiency of hydraulics depends on a constant pressurised oil flow, so if a single pump has to operate a number of facilities then the mower's efficiency might be reduced. Triples that have hydraulic systems specifically dedicated for lift, power steering and cylinder and wheel motors are features worth taking into account.

The time taken, and how easy it is, to remove or refit a cutting unit to the carrying frame, will have a bearing on servicing and down time. How the units are suspended, determines where any weight is being applied by such components as lifting arms and grass boxes, to either the cutting units or power unit's main frame.

Both cutting height and cylinder adjustments need to be easily accessible and carried out with preferably no special tools.

Ergonomics now play a major part in the design of most commercial machines and a great deal of attention is paid to operator comfort and safety. Fully adjustable steering columns and seats to suit different size operators are commonplace. Another feature, to be on the look out for, is the amount of visibility from the driving seat.

Electronic and computer technology has crept into some of the latest machines, mainly in the form of monitoring systems. These are mainly for analysing the electric circuitry and hydraulics to identify a failure point if it occurs.

Modern petrol and diesel engines require less servicing than their former counterparts, but they still need to be checked regularly if they are to give optimum performance, long life and minimal pollution.



PEDESTRIAN GREENS MOWERS

No one has yet come up with a mowing system that can match Budding's original idea.

Today's version is obviously more sophisticated but the principle remains the same. So what innovations have taken place over the last few years?

Designers have taken into account the balance of the mower, its turning and manoeuvrability. Greens are rarely flat and to gain the extra finish means mowing as low as possible without scalping. This has seen the introduction of machines that follow any ground contours closely, due to the fact the cutting unit flexes both from side to side and forward and back without altering the cutting height. Like the triple units these machines incorporate many features that make precision cutting easy on the operators and cause them minimal fatigue.

In the future

There is no doubt that the demand for both triple and pedestrian mowers will continue probably at the same ratio. If there were any new, innovative methods of mowing greens on the market, or in the pipeline, the chances of them becoming established would take a considerably long time if the history of the petrol powered greensmower is anything to go by.

Where any changes are likely to occur is in the traction units.

Modern engines are far quieter and cleaner than those produced a decade ago. Some engine manufacturers have long been turning their attention to alternative fuels such as LPG and specifically designed units that operate on this are beginning to find their way on to the market. Conversion kits to LPG are also readily available for most makes of engine.

The use of alternative materials that lower the weight of the mower which are just as durable and give as long a life as those used previously.

The highly competitive market place that manufacturers now find themselves in, means they have to be continually looking for ways of improving their ranges. This situation tends to lean heavily in the users interest, as each company strives to make their equipment more cost effective, easier to operate and produce exceptional playing results.

Golf green maintenance has come a long way over the last few decades and although there appeared to be slowness in accepting the turfcare machinery, especially mowers that were available at one stage, it certainly has caught up today.

Next time you are cutting greens in your mobile armchair surrounded by all those gizmos, spare a thought for your predecessors at the beginning of the last century. I bet you are glad you are managing a course in 2003 and not in 1820.

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Learning

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Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards, beginning by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC.

There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and if you think that training is expensive then try ignorance.

Ken Richardson
Education and Training Manager,
British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
Tel: 01347 833800
Email: education@bigga.co.uk
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The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) is continually striving to raise the standards of Golf Course Maintenance and Management and they are totally committed to ensuring that the range of qualifications are relevant to the Sportsturf sector and used by Employers for recruitment and by trainees for their own personal development.



The Government endorsed awards range from National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications (N/SVQ's) to the more academic Higher National Certificate (HNC)/National Diploma (ND)/Higher National Diploma (HND) in Golf Course Management and the Degree in Sportsturf Science.

The qualifications are continually under review by the Lantra Sector Skills Council (SSC) in association with the GTC. The quality of the delivery of these awards by the network of GTC Approved Training Providers is also constantly monitored by the GTC.

For up to date independent advice on qualifications, education and training courses contact the GTC on: Tel: 01347 838640

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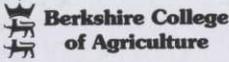
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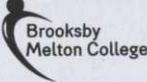
ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire, YO23 3FR **Contact:** Central Admissions **Tel:** 01904 772211 **Fax:** 01904 772288 **Email:** sf@askham-bryan.ac.uk **Web:** www.askham-bryan.ac.uk **Information:** National Certificate in Horticulture, National Diploma in Horticulture (Turf Option), Higher National Certificate in Horticulture (Golf Course Management): part-time study, Higher National Diploma in Horticulture (Golf Management Option) all available full or part time. Block release courses: NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance, NVQ Level 4 Amenity Horticulture. Short courses: FEPA spraying, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.



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CANNINGTON COLLEGE Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2LS **Contact:** Philip Sharples **Tel:** 01278 655084 **Fax:** 01278 655055 **Email:** sharplesp@cannington.ac.uk **Web:** www.cannington.ac.uk **Information:** Edexcel National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture (Sportsturf), Certificate of Higher Education in Golf Course Management, Foundation Degree in Golf Course Management, Foundation Degree in Turfgrass Science and Technology, NVQ Level II Golf Greenkeeping, NVQ Level III Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management, NVQ Level IV Horticulture (Sportsturf), FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Off-road Vehicle Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics. Certificate in Irrigation (BTIA) 1 week course; National Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping (1yr FT). Note: Certificate of Higher Education and Foundation Degrees both available as part time option.



EAST DURHAM AND HOUGHALL COMMUNITY COLLEGE Houghall, Durham, DH1 3SG **Contact:** Tony Milan **Tel:** 0191 386 1351 **Fax:** 0191 386 0419 **Email:** enquiry@edhcc.ac.uk **Web:** www.edhcc.ac.uk **Information:** Full-time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship - 1 year; National Diploma in Horticulture Turf Option - 2/3 years. Part time courses:- Greenkeeping and Sportsturf maintenance NVQ Level 2 - Day Release. NVQ Level 3/4 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance Day Release. Short courses: FEPA Modules, Chainsaw certification, Tree inspection, Horticultural Machinery, Safe Lifting and First Aid.



HADLOW COLLEGE Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL **Contact:** Norman Croasdale **Tel:** 01732 852152 **Fax:** 01732 853207 **Email:** normancroasdale@hadlow.ac.uk **Web:** www.hadlow.ac.uk **Information:** First Diploma Sports Turf Management, National Diploma in Horticulture (Sports Turf Option) National Award, Amenity Horticulture.



HARTPURY COLLEGE Hartpury House, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL19 3BE **Contact:** Rosalind Camp **Tel:** 01452 702133 **Fax:** 01452 700629 **Email:** enquire@hartpury.ac.uk **Web:** www.hartpury.ac.uk **Information:** Courses available: College Certificate Greenkeeping, First Diploma Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Award Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Award Greenkeeping & Groundsmanship, National Certificate Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Certificate Greenkeeping & Groundsmanship, National Diploma Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Diploma Sport (Performance and Excellence) (Golf Studies). Work Based Training NVQ's, RHS examinations City & Guilds, TDLB Assessor Awards as well as a full range of amateur, leisure and day release courses.



MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey, GU3 3PE **Contact:** Joe Paulin **Tel:** 01483 884088 **Fax:** 01483 884001 **Email:** jpaulin@merristwood.ac.uk **Web:** www.merristwood.ac.uk **Information:** Part-time courses: NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf college day release and workplace visits/assessments at Merrist Wood and at Crawley, Level 2 Edexcel first Diploma college day release, also full-time for those without qualified workplace assessors, NVQ Level 3 Sportsturf college day release and workplace visits/assessments, Level 3 Edexcel National Award college day release for those without qualified workplace assessors, Edexcel HNC Turfgrass Science and Management college day release over 2 years plus various short courses throughout the year. Edexcel HND Turfgrass Science and Management college day release. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice. Career Evenings held monthly at the college.



MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0RY **Contact:** Colin Stanfield **Tel:** 01995 642222/642305 **Fax:** 01995 642333 **Email:** mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk **Web:** www.myerscough.ac.uk **Information:** Full time courses; BSC (Hon's) Turfgrass Science, Foundation Degree Sportsturf Science - online option by distance learning, ND Turf Science & Sportsground Maintenance: National Certificate in Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping, also Sports Turf Mechanisation option: First Diploma in Greenkeeping; Turf Science: NVQ 2, 3 & 4 Greenkeeping Management delivered both in the work place and over the internet using the colleges 'Molnet System'. Part-time courses NVQ Level 2 & 3 Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Maintenance (Day/block release or Fast track work-based training qualification). All higher education courses can be accessed on a part time basis. HNC Turf Science: FEPA Short courses. NPTC Certificates of competence in the safe use of mowers and turfcare equipment.



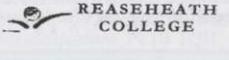
NESCOT - NORTH EAST SURREY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 3DS **Contact:** Mr Colin S Smith **Tel:** 020 8394 3220 **Email:** info@nescot.ac.uk **Web:** www.nescot.ac.uk **Information:** NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options). Part time Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses. Also available - RHS General and Advanced Certificates in Horticulture. RHS Diploma in Horticulture.



OAKLANDS COLLEGE St Albans Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL4 0JA **Contact:** Ian Merrick **Tel:** 01727 737000 **Fax:** 01727 737752 **Email:** ian.merrick@oaklands.ac.uk **Web:** www.oaklands.ac.uk **Information:** Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Part-time courses: leading to NVQ Level 2 & 3 Greenkeeping, Modern Apprenticeships. Evening Courses: leading to NVQ Level 4. Short Courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw.



PLUMPTON COLLEGE Ditchling Road, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 3AE **Contact:** David Blackmur **Tel:** 01273 890454 **Fax:** 01273 890071 **Email:** enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk **Web:** www.plumpton.ac.uk **Information:** HNC (Sportsturf, subject to validation) National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture, National Award (Garden Design), First Diploma in Horticulture. Part time courses: NVQ Level 1; NVQ Level 2 in Amenity and Sportsturf; NVQ Level 3 Landscaping and Sportsturf; NVQ Level 4. Also available are RHS General and RHS Advanced; IOG National Technical and Intermediate National Diploma. Short courses are also available for FEPA spraying and chainsaw.



REASEHEATH COLLEGE Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 6DF **Contact:** Brian Jones **Tel:** 01270 613236 **Fax:** 01270 625665 **Email:** brianj@reaseheath.ac.uk **Web:** www.reaseheath.ac.uk **Information:** Full time First Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 1 year. National Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 2 years. BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management - 3 years. Part time: HNC - contact tutor for details, NVQ Levels 1-4 Greenkeeping with Flexible Learning options. Short courses: FEPA, Chemical Safety; Safe Lifting; Chainsaws, Off-Road Vehicle Driving; First Aid. NPTC Certificate of Competence.

Training providers guide

Available courses guide

This guide is not exhaustive and a full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of training providers offering greenkeeper training courses. Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeeper Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, Tel: 01347 838640 or visit their website at <http://www.the-gtc.co.uk>

ENGLAND



SPARSHOLT COLLEGE HAMPSHIRE Sparsholt, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 2NF **Contact:** Ray Broughton **Tel:** 01962 776441 **Fax:** 01962 776587
Email: rbroughton@sparsholt.ac.uk **Web:** www.sparsholt.ac.uk **Information:** NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds Phase IV Management Studies, National Diplomas in Golf Course Management and Golf Studies, National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management. GTC: Greenkeeping Certificate, GTC: Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, FEPA: Short courses, Chainsaws. Phase IV and NVQ Level 2 are offered on block release and day release. Full residential facilities available. Sparsholt College provides education and training in the land-based industries.



THE COLLEGE OF WEST ANGLIA Milton Campus **Contact:** Bob Young **Tel:** 01223 860701 **Email:** Student Support at King's Lynn on 01553 761144 Ext 271
Information: The College of West Anglia offers a full range of courses for Greenkeepers including; NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf (Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship), NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf Maintenance. GTC Craft Certificate, GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, TDLB Assessors awards. FEPA, Chain Saws, MO1.
 Other Courses: National and First Diploma in Horticulture and Garden Design.



WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE Royal Leamington Spa & Moreton Morrell, Moreton Morrell, Warwick, Warwickshire, CV35 9BL **Contact:** Andrew Turnbull **Tel:** 01926 318258
Fax: 01926 318300 **Email:** enquiries@warkscol.ac.uk **Web:** www.warkscol.ac.uk **Information:** Greenkeeping Courses: HNC Sports Turf & Golf Course Management (Day Release 2 year Programme also distance learning option); NVQ Level 2 & 3 Day Release and Workbased Option (we come to you); two year ND in Horticulture with Turf Option; BTIA Certificate in Turf Irrigation. Short Courses: Computing for the Greenkeeper - various times throughout the year - ring for details. FEPA; Spraying Certification, Chainsaw Certification; TDLB; First Aid. Also RHS General and Diploma, PA1, PA2A and PA6. Professional Certificate/Diploma in Greenkeeping. Advanced National Certificate in Sports Turf Management - 2 year day release.



WRITTLER COLLEGE Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR **Contact:** David Campbell **Tel:** 01245 424200 **Fax:** 01245 420456 **Web:** www.writtle.ac.uk
Information: SPORTSTURF PROGRAMMES NVQ Level 2 - Sportsturf: NVQ Level 3 - Sportsturf Maintenance. NVQ Levels 2 & 3 - Amenity Horticulture. HNC - Sportsturf Science. HND - Sportsturf and Golf Course Management. Other Programmes; National Certificate. National Diploma (with Sportsturf Option). BSc (Hons) Sportsturf Science and Management. BSc (Hons) Horticulture. BSc (Hons) Landscape and Amenity Management. MSc Landscape and Amenity Management. NVQ 2 and 3 Service Engineering. First Diploma Agriculture (Mechanisation), C & G Agricultural Mechanics Certificate. FEPA. Chainsaw. Tractor Driving.

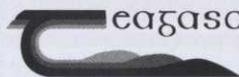
IRELAND

NORTHERN IRELAND



GREENMOUNT COLLEGE Antrim, County Antrim, Northern Ireland BT41 4PU **Contact:** Paul Campbell **Tel:** 028 94 426794 **Email:** paul.campbell@dardni.gov.uk
Web: www.greenmount.ac.uk **Information:** Day release courses to (a) NVQ Level II Greenkeeping and Sportsturf, (b) NVQ Level III Golf Course Supervision, (c) Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture (Sportsturf), (d) National Diploma & Higher National Diploma turf options FEPA, Health and Safety and a range of short courses.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



TEAGASC COLLEGE College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin, DUBLIN 9, Republic of Ireland
Contact: Pat Suttle **Tel:** 00353 18040201 **Fax:** 00353 18040212 **Email:** psuttle@kinsealy.teagasc.ie **Web:** www.teagasc.ie
Information: Courses offered: Level 3 Certificate in Greenkeeping. Level 3 Certificate in Golf Course Management. National Diploma in Horticulture (Greenkeeping Major offered).

SCOTLAND



ELMWOOD COLLEGE Cupar, Fife, KY15 4JB **Contact:** Ann Bain **Tel:** 01334 658842 **Fax:** 01334 658888 **Email:** abain@elmwood.ac.uk **Web:** www.elmwood.ac.uk
Information: Full time National Certificate Greenkeeping: Block Release SVQ Level II, SVQ Level III Sportsturf block release and Outreach available, and SVQ Level IV, HNC/D Golf Course Management available as full-time, block release and distance learning. HNC Golf Facility Management, HND Golf Facility Management, PDA for football and cricket available both block release and Outreach. FEPA and COSHH, chainsaws, tree climbing and rescue techniques and Health and Safety short courses also available.



GOSTA TRAINING LTD 5E Clydeaway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow, G3 8JU **Contact:** Chris Bothwell **Tel:** 0141 248 2772 **Fax:** 0141 248 2453
Email: learn@gostatraining.co.uk **Information:** SVQ II, III and IV also Modern Apprenticeship in Sportsturf including other options and GTC Training Manual. Attendance Day/Block release from November - March. Distance Learning also available. Short courses with certification include Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Risk Assessment, Abrasive Wheels, Full Range of Machinery Courses, Manual Handling and Fire Extinguisher training. Consultancy service for Health and Safety Policy development, Site Risk Audits, Machinery Permit to Use system, COSHH and Noise Assessment.



LANGSIDE COLLEGE Rutherglen Campus, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen, Glasgow, G73 3PF **Contact:** Colin S Urquhart **Tel:** 0141 647 6300 **Email:** colinurq@perseus.langside.ac.uk
Information: SVQ, SGA, HNC, HND. Full time and part-time courses in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Golf Course Management, Horticulture, Land and Environment and Applied Ecology. Short courses for land-based industries including Risk Assessment and Pesticides.



OATRIDGE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE Ecclesmachan, By Broxburn, West Lothian, Edinburgh, EH52 6NH **Contact:** Steve Miller **Tel:** 01506 854387 **Fax:** 01506 853373
Email: info@oatridge.ac.uk **Web:** www.oatridge.ac.uk **Information:** HNC In Golf Course Management (Part-time): Full-time National Certificate in Greenkeeping: SVQ Level II and GTC Manual (Day and Block Release); SVQ Level 3 Sportsturf & SVQ Level 3 Fast Track (Day and Block Release) SVQ Level III in Service Engineering, full range of Amenity Horticulture, Landscaping and other land based subjects at HND and HNC, National Certificate and SVQ Levels; Short Course - FEPA, Chainsaw, Forklift, First Aid.

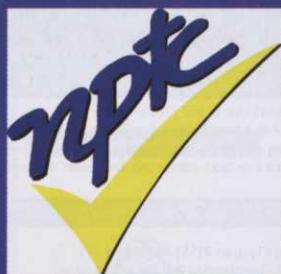
WALES



PENCOED COLLEGE Pencoed, Bridgend, Cardiff, CF35 5LG **Contact:** Paul Discombe or John Sullivan **Tel:** 01656 302672 **Fax:** 01656 302601
Email: pdiscombe@bridgend.ac.uk **Web:** www.bridgend.ac.uk **Information:** NVQ Sportsturf Level 2-3, HNC/HND Turf Management. National Certificate/Advanced National Certificate - Sportsturf Management. Short courses: PA1, PA2 PA6a and Chainsaws. NCH National Certificate in Horticulture. Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture.



Welsh College Of Horticulture Northop Mold, Flintshire CH7 6AA **Contact:** Graham Wright **Tel:** 01352 841034 **Fax:** 01352 841031 **Email:** graham.wright@wcoh.ac.uk
Web: www.wcoh.ac.uk **Information:** Full-time - Higher National Diploma in Turf Management. Part-time - Day release Higher National Certificate in Turf Management. Block Week - NVQ Amenity Sportsturf Levels 2-3. Briefing Days - NVQ Level 4, TDLB Assessor Courses D32, 33, 34. Day Courses - FEPA, Chainsaw Certification, First Aid, C.I.E.H.



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For a full list of our qualifications please contact NPTC:

Tel: 024 7669 6553

Fax: 024 7669 6128

Email: information@nptc.org.uk Website: www.nptc.org.uk



Myerscough College

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- HNC Turf Science & Golf Course Management
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- First Diploma Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping
- National Certificate Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping
- National Certificate in Sportsturf Machinery
- National Diploma Turf Science & Sportsground Management

*Offered as work-based options where trainees study within the workplace supported by tutor visits and CD/online materials.

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Myerscough College, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY

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OAKLANDS COLLEGE

YOUR LETTERS ARE NEEDED!

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

Sponsorship Thanks

In January I started my new job at Colne Golf Club, which I am enjoying. I have also had to catch up in my academic studies at Myerscough College, due to the lost time since being made "redundant", as well as preparing for the birth of my second child.

This is just a short letter to thank you for awarding me sponsorship for my continued attendance at Myerscough College to complete my third year of the HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management course.

As you can imagine at the time that I contacted you, shortly after leaving my previous employer, the prospects of me being able to continue with the course were looking remote, due to the financial circumstances. This would have meant that the previous two years of study would have counted for nothing.

However with the generous sponsorship by Ransomes Jacobsen to continue to support students from all backgrounds in various stages of career development, and BIGGA awarding me this sponsorship, it has been possible for me to continue with the course.

Not only has this sponsorship allowed me to continue with my studies, with today being my final exam, the college has nominated me for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank yourselves and BIGGA for awarding me this sponsorship, as well as a huge thanks to Ransomes Jacobsen for giving all students from different circumstances the opportunity to better themselves and the industry we continue to serve to the best of our professional ability.

Keith Scruton

Education Process

I've just read the editorial in the latest issue of Greenkeeper and I couldn't agree with you more. In fact I have issued an invitation to the Today Programme to visit us here at Myerscough College to let them see exactly what our Sportsturf Degree students get up to.

However the industry as a whole needs to do more to change the whole way in which greenkeeping/groundsmanship is viewed. To this end my Sportsturf staff and I at Myerscough have embarked on a series of seminars based at regional Sportsturf venues - The Reebok Stadium/Preston North End (02/03) and planned for 03/04 are events in Manchester/Liverpool (Manchester Stadium/Anfield) to which we have invited schools/college careers staff to get an insight into the industry.

At these events we have had leading sportsturf professionals, our own students and some of our staff setting the scene with regard to careers and education/training in sportsturf.

To date they have been well received and we hope to continue this success.

Clearly there will not be an overnight change in attitude.

However isn't this kind of an activity just what BIGGA/GTC/IOG etc should be doing on a national scale? We are very good at talking to ourselves but we need to convince a wider audience - especially the Today audience!

Colin Stanfield
Programme Leader Sportsturf
Myerscough College

Well Done!

I would like to congratulate my husband Shaun McMillan, Lochore Meadows Country Park Golf Course, on passing his SVQ Level 2. All the family are very proud of him.

Special thanks must go to Albert Arnott, Shaun's Assessor and Scribe, for all his help. Shaun is due you a drink or two.

Carol Anne McMillan
Via Email

Whispering Grass

Are you in possession of a juicy piece of gossip and are just dying to tell someone? Or have you just moved job and want to pass on the good news?

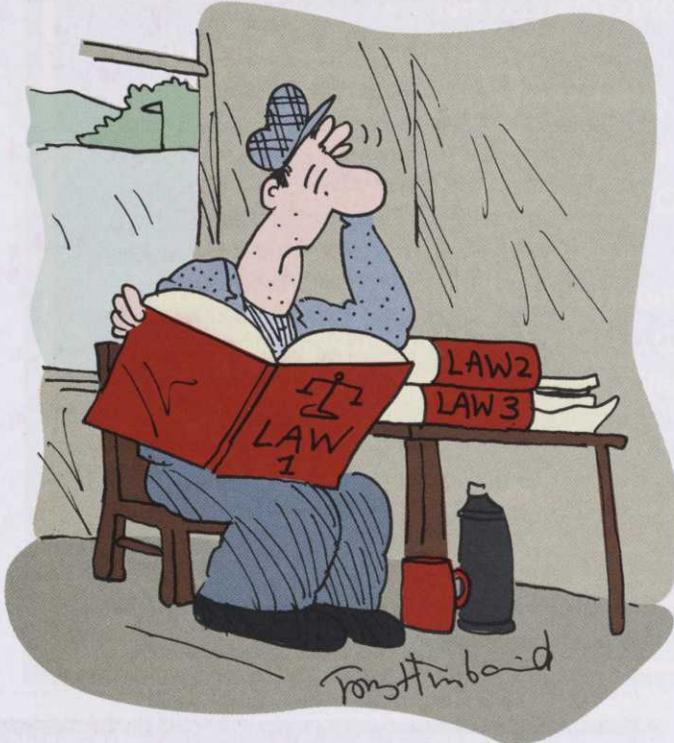
A typical example appeared in a recent Around the Green column:

Who was the person who thought he'd overslept on hearing The Counterfeit Stones playing Honky Tonk Woman in the Majestic Hotel during Harrogate? He jumped up, got himself dressed and down to the ballroom only to discover it was the sound check!

Let us at Greenkeeper International know and we'll spread the word. Names could be withheld to protect the innocent... or not so innocent!

The Editor will need to know your name, and in specific cases discrete checks made, but he will protect his sources. Just email your info to: scott@bigga.co.uk titled Whispering Grass.

LEGAL HELP IS ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY



“Legal Aid is dead! Long live Legal Aid!” I hear you say, but who knows it?

Since the law reforms of a little more than 15 years ago, the Government has been whittling away at removing society’s rights to Legal Aid to the point where, by and large, Legal Aid is now non-existent and the key benefit of having a Legal Aid was that one’s opponents could not possibly hope to obtain a costs order against you if you lost your case. Inevitably, your opponent would want to settle your claim because it made economic sense to do so.

But behind the scenes of Whitehall, while these reforms were shaping up, a new form of insurance was in the making – legal fees insurance; a new form of legal assistance.

Without having to be means-tested, this new form of legal aid, could be purchased to cover just about everything that a family might need to protect its legal rights. BIGGA provides legal fees insurance up to the value of £50,000 for every Greenkeeper Member and their family.

So what are my legal rights which might need protecting against? Well, firstly and foremost, your rights to enjoy your home. Mr Young had to endure over a number of years the constant threats and abuse from a family who were neighbours of his. He had been purchasing legal fees insurance since he first moved into his property but did not realise at first whether this would cover him and so the abuse went on until one day, he snapped! Mr Young telephoned our Helpline and we advised him to see a solicitor immediately, which he did. Within four weeks, Mr Young had secured a court order against his neighbours preventing them from contacting him in any way, but it was not until they moved away several months later that he could feel once again secure in his home.

In the news recently, we heard of some 2,500 people employed by The Accident Group (TAG) losing their jobs. While some of these people would have legal fees insurance, there would have been very little by way of

One comment we often hear from the membership is what is the point of the Legal Helpline? The Helpline is provided to all Greenkeeper Members of the Association and many have used the service and found it of benefit. The Helpline not only deals with large problems but can help if you just have a simple query. Maggie Lawton from General Legal Protection writes about the value of the service.

legal help since the company had gone in receivership. But our Legal Helpline would have been able to point these people in the right direction insofar as their rights to state benefits.

TAG was an organisation which built its business on the back of selling “After the Event” (ATE) legal fees insurance. In a recent court case, we hear that one customer of TAG had her injury claim settled at £2,000 but because of the ATE premium, other charges and interest, the customer only received £28.57. Is that justice? Hardly!

So what would have happened if that customer had had the benefit of legal fees insurance as provided to all Greenkeeping Members. Firstly, she would have had nothing to pay towards her legal costs, and more importantly, she would have received the full amount of £2,000.

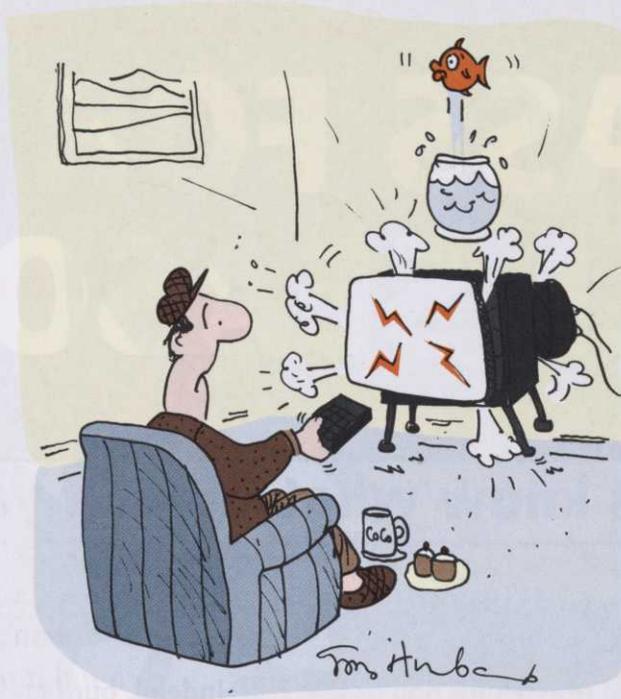
In a very tragic case, one of our customers who had our legal fees policy, claimed damages on behalf of his then aged six year old daughter. She had been involved in a road accident while sat in her father’s car. The girl sustained horrific injuries and was close to dying several times. After months of hospitalisation, the young girl recovered but would be unable to work and would require constant medical attention for the remainder of her life. Six years on, an out-of-court settlement of £3 million was reached.

So what else might we need this legal fees insurance for? Mr Cresswell bought a new Land Rover but his joy was shortlived. During the first 18 months, it spent more time in the garage than it did with him. He was fed up with it and eventually asked the dealer to replace it but they refused. Mr Cresswell rang our Legal Helpline for advice. Two weeks later, Mr Cresswell rang again to advise that he had successfully persuaded the dealer to exchange his Land Rover for another new one!

If the dealer had continued to refuse to exchange the vehicle, Mr Cresswell would have been entitled to claim under our policy the cost of appointing a solicitor to pursue his case.

Mr Grainger slipped on a wet floor in a public establishment while using a walking aid following a hip operation and under the Occupier's Liability Act, 1957 claimed damages. His legal fees insurance paid his solicitor's hourly rate of £140. In this day and age, who can afford to pay those hourly rates?

Mr and Mrs Lovatt spent their honeymoon in Cyprus in the middle of a heatwave but it was a disaster from start to finish. The hotel had no air-conditioning, the chef went on strike, the swimming pool was infested with mosquitoes, the bedroom (perhaps the most important place to be on honeymoon!) had water running down the walls and the ensuite bathroom stank. The tour operator had advertised the hotel as "one of our premier establishments offering comfort, superb cuisine and a paradise



**Consumer dispute?
The Legal helpline can help**

for those who want to get away from it all." Mr and Mrs Lovatt thought they had gone to hell – not paradise! Upon their return to England, Mrs Lovatt, in tears, explained to our Helpline that they could not afford a solicitor because they had spent all their money on the cost of the wedding and honeymoon. She was reassured that her legal fees policy would cover the cost of claiming against the tour operator. The Lovatts spent the damages they received on a second honeymoon in Barbados!

Yes, Legal Aid is dead! But it has been reborn in the form of legal fees insurance. Long live Legal Fees Insurance! Provided as part of the benefits package to all Greenkeeper Members of BIGGA.

Written by Maggie Lawton, LLB(Hons), LPC - GLP Helpline Controller, with contributions from the Helpline team.

TELEPHONE: 0800 068 1893

In the event of any claim advice or assistance contact the 24 hour helpline



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A CASE OF CHAMPERS!

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A GRASS FOR ALL SEASONS

Do bentgrasses know what time of year it is?

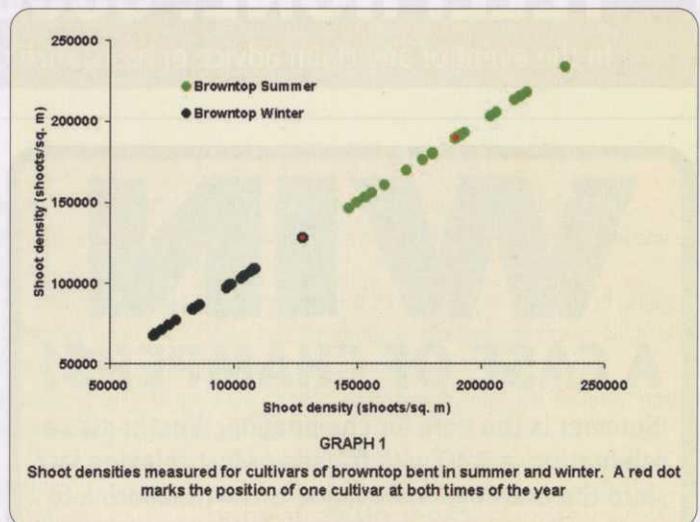
Andy Newell describes the techniques he used to answer the question

We have a long history of testing grasses for golf at the STRI. Indeed, our first trial was sown in August 1929. You would think that, after nearly 75 years, we would have the evaluation of grasses down to a fine art. I think we have but a fine science would be a better description. In many respects, we can sum up the overall performance of different grasses in a few numbers. But is this enough? Are there important differences hidden within these overall numbers?

An important area to consider here is seasonal differences. I think we all recognise that grasses differ from one season to the next, generally looking at their best in summer, as long as there has not been a drought, and at their worst in winter. However, the question I wish to address is: Are there seasonal trends among grasses and can we prove it? This is where I need to get all statistical and talk about populations of grasses and the positions of individual grasses within the population. Before I do this, I should set the scene a little more. I have no intention of describing all grasses in this article; I am going to restrict my discussions to bentgrass species and cultivars. Further to this, I am only going to consider the use of these grasses in very fine turf for golf greens. However, the points I make below could well apply to other grass types and uses.

Returning to our populations of bentgrass species and cultivars, we accept that the overall performance will change with the seasons but are there other important differences hidden within these changes? More specifically, does the position of particular grasses within the population change from one season to the next? There are some common perceptions here; creeping bentgrasses are comparatively poor in winter, 'Highland' browntop is good in winter and velvet bentgrasses are very good in summer. These observations suggest that the position of individual grasses or groups of grasses do change relative to one another at different times of the year. Given these views, I have attempted to examine seasonal relationships in more detail. I wanted to see if I could put numbers to them. However, before I could make any progress, there was a need to separate the overall seasonal variation from the relative variation among grasses. As an example of this problem, I include a graph showing the overall measured differences in shoot density among cultivars of browntop bent in summer and winter (see graph 1).

For these grasses the number of shoots in winter ranged from roughly 70,000 to 130,000 shoots per square metre for the 21 cultivars in trial. In summer, the range was from 150,000 to 220,000. So, there were large differences among cultivars and between seasons. I have also marked a particular cultivar (red dot). This shows its position in winter and summer. In the summer, it was fairly average and in the middle of the pack. In winter, it stood out, and had by far the highest shoot density. Therefore, the position of this particular grass relative to other cultivars of the same



species moved between exceptional in winter and average in summer. This is the point where a little bit of statistical skulduggery is called for to remove the overall seasonal variations but retain the relative differences among grasses. As luck would have it, there is a technique that standardises variation between subsequent measurements (or seasons in this case) while retaining relative differences among individuals within the population being sampled. I don't want to get into too much detail here but, for the statisticians, I would use Z-scores (this is usually covered somewhere between chapters 1 and 3 in most good statistics books). Once this technique is applied, average grasses would have a score of zero, below average grasses negative scores and above average grasses positive scores. Usually these scores will fall in a range of -3 to +3. To demonstrate the effects of this calculation, I have transformed the shoot density information presented previously (see graph 2). This new graph demonstrates how the statistical technique employed removes the overall differences in scale but retains the relative variation among individual grasses (note that the position of the red dot varies between summer and winter but the overall differences between seasons has disappeared).



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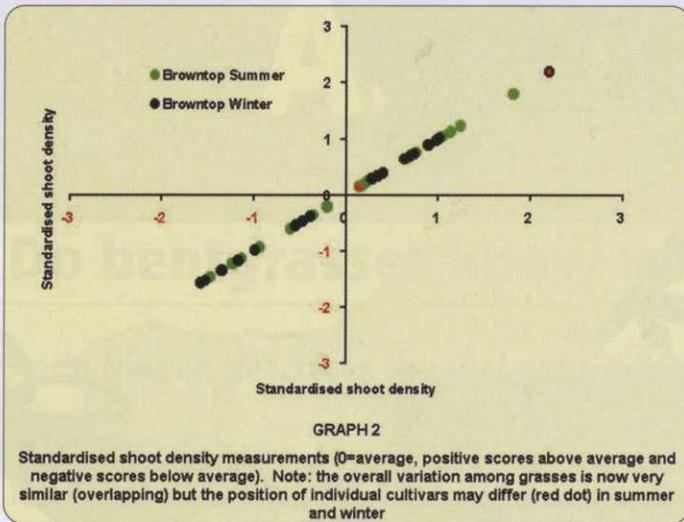
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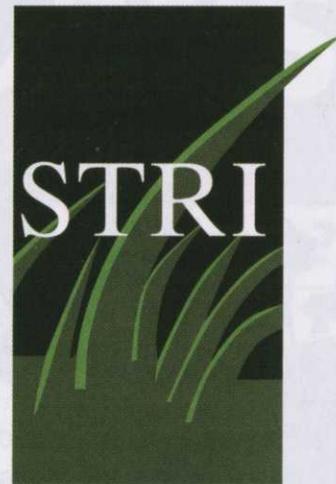


Hopefully I have now demonstrated an approach that can be used to examine relative changes in grass performance at different times of the year. The next step is to see what happens when it is used. I applied the technique to monthly measurements made during 2000 on our 1998 sown bentgrass trial. I then plotted the scores for individual grasses against time. These showed if the performance of particular grasses were static (always good, poor or average) or changed at different times of the year relative to the other grasses. In effect, I was plotting the position of one grass within the whole population (all grasses) at different times of the year. Importantly, the various plots showed that no grasses remained static and, very importantly, it was evident that there were distinct patterns. The creeping bentgrasses tended to perform poorly in winter (negative scores); 'Highland' browntop was relatively good in winter; and velvet bentgrasses tended to be at their best in summer. I was fairly pleased with myself at this point, but all this did was demonstrate what we already knew. That said, I was still pleased with myself (no-one had turned it into a graph before).

There were also other patterns that had not been obvious beforehand. In this regard, cultivars of creeping bentgrass tended to show a peak in performance during the spring/early summer. However, the most fascinating discovery was that cultivars of browntop bent (*Agrostis capillaris* or *A. tenuis* in old money) tended to fall within one of two groups, winter performers and summer performers.

I think one more graph is called for here; this shows the relative changes in the performance of two cultivars of browntop bent (A and B). I hope it is fairly clear that I have selected examples from the two types (peak performance in summer and peak performance in winter). The graph itself shows the position of each of these grasses relative to the population as a whole (all grasses in trial) for each month of the year. When examining this plot it should be noted that the position of each grass relative to all others being tested would be in the middle of the range (average performance) where the score was zero (better than average with positive scores but worse with negative scores).

Having found the contrasting seasonal differences among cultivars of browntop bent, the first question that came to mind was why? Here we have different varieties of the same species, which in performance terms are diametrically opposed. I suspect this variation may relate to the origin of the material. I found a clue to this in the behaviour of material from New Zealand, which were all part of the winter performing group. My



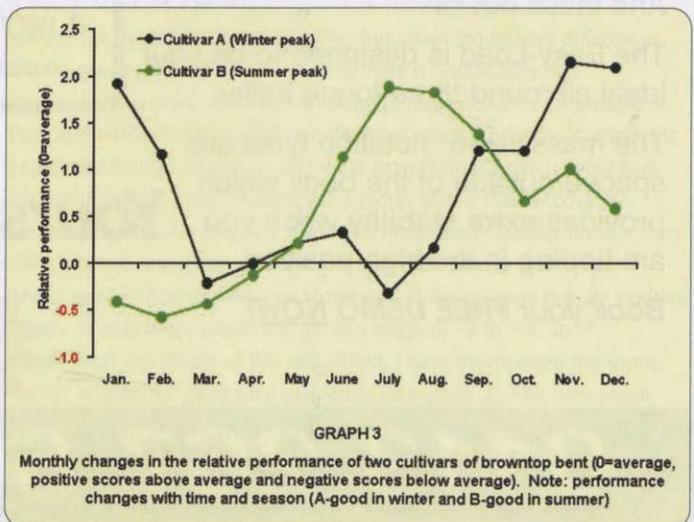
theory here is that the mild winters in New Zealand, and other maritime climates like the UK, would create selection pressures for grasses to compete during the winter months. In contrast, if material was selected from areas with very cold winters, there would be little selection pressure for growth in the winter. However, there would be pressures to make the most of the summer.

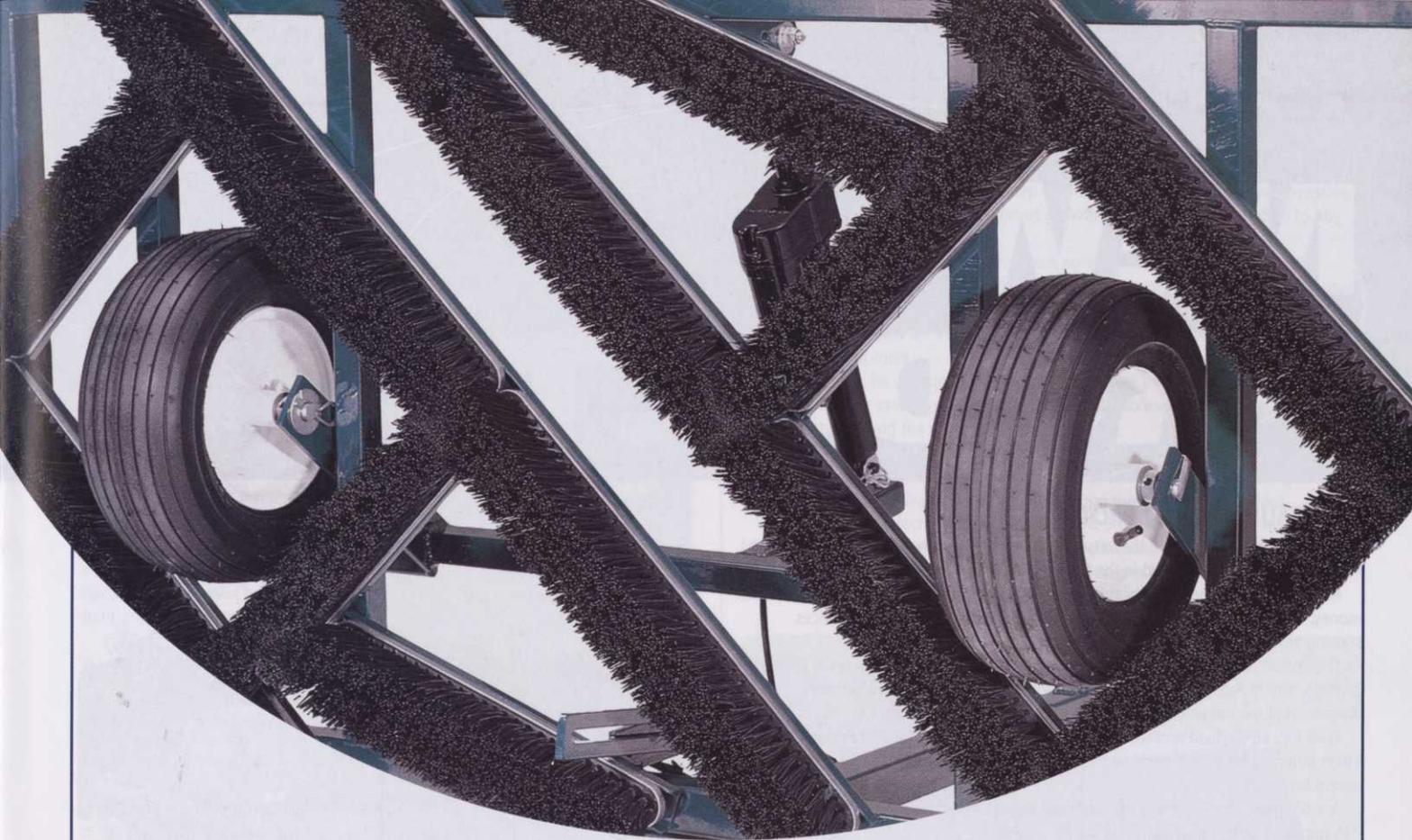
The important question to ask is: Can we make use of this information? I think so, but I would like to complete further research, particularly with contrasting cultivars of browntop bent. Top of my research list would be to investigate the performance of mixtures containing grasses that performed particularly well in winter and summer.

Turning to the bigger picture I feel there is some benefit and knowledge to be gained from viewing differences among grasses in terms of population dynamics. It is also obvious that there could be important information hidden within the overall ratings that we produce.

If you want to know more about the bentgrasses described here (glutton for punishment) the work was written up more fully in the 2001 Journal of Turfgrass Science.

Andy Newell is Head of Turfgrass Biology with the STRI





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NEW PRODUCTS

NEW LAUNCH FROM PROTON

A utility vehicle combining the versatility of a pick-up with the driving style and comfort of a car was launched in the UK last month by Proton.

Renowned for rugged and reliable passenger cars offering exceptional value for money, Proton now brings the same qualities to the utility market, with prices starting at just £5,995 ex-VAT.

The Proton Jumbuck has already been successfully launched in Malaysia, where it is made, and in Australia. Now the UK importer is set to exploit the currently dormant half ton utility market with its new pick-up.

With 635 kg payload and load capacity of over 800 litres, the Proton Jumbuck offers potential for workmen of all trades and the company has identified greenkeepers as a potential market.

A 1.63 metre long load tray can accommodate mid sized machinery while 415 mm high side panels provide a secure load area.

Proton's British subsidiary Lotus Engineering has played a key role in the Jumbuck's development, from its ride and handling to the design of the load area, integrity of the body structure and robust construction capable of handling the demands of Malaysian jungle tracks and the Australian outback.

Power comes from a transverse mounted 1.5 litre, 12 valve, four cylinder petrol engine and a five speed manual gearbox driving the front wheels.

The Jumbuck went on sale in UK Proton dealer showrooms on June 16, buyers can choose between a practical and well equipped base model at £5,995 ex-VAT or a GLS version with cloth seats, CD player, alloy wheels, driving lamps, electric windows and two-tone metallic paint with wheel arch and body side mouldings at £6,895 ex-VAT, backed by a three year / 60,000 mile warranty.



THE PNEUMATIC TYRE THAT ISN'T

Redstone specialist tyre suppliers to the turf and ATV market are now offering the "flatfree" range from Amerityre.

Totally unpuncturable and out-matching rubber on every count, we feel the "flatfree" will prove indispensable where pneumatic characteristics are needed. It is of interest that this brand of urethane tyre is unique in it's "closed-cell" structure and being micro-cellular throughout, has no tyre casing to wear through and no inside filling to burst out.

Sizes range from castor wheel applications, 8 x 3.00-4, through to 13 x 6.50-6 and on to the wheel barrow tyre 4.80/4.00-8, with more to follow.



CAN'T FAIL WITH A FLAIL

Rytec has just introduced their 'S' class Contractor flail mower which adds a new dimension to the already well specified Contractor range.

The 'S' class is available on the 2.0 to 2.8m models of the Contractor range (1.6/1.8/2.0/2.2/2.5/2.8m cutting widths) and is recognisable by its larger frame size. This accommodates a thick walled 200mm diameter flail rotor with larger hammer flails thus improving cutting efficiency because of the greater overall flail diameter and tip speed. Greater clearance between flail tip and frame allows large volumes of cut material to pass more easily and the two rows of static counter blades reduce this volume to a minimum.

The standard rear three position opening hood allows for controlled ejection of cuttings even from the heaviest growth. The 'S' model is available for front or rear mounting and with fixed, manual or hydraulic side shift head stock. For maximum flexibility the Contractor 'SFR' has both front and rear linkage and PTO shafts and all the usual features of the 'S' class. Prices start from £4060 + VAT.



"YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT GRASS"

The Green Approach has introduced a new range of all weather synthetic golf surfaces to the UK and Ireland and will offer 'SofTrak' turf for golf greens, 'SofTee' turf for golf tees/practice ranges and 'SofPath' turf for paths/cartways.

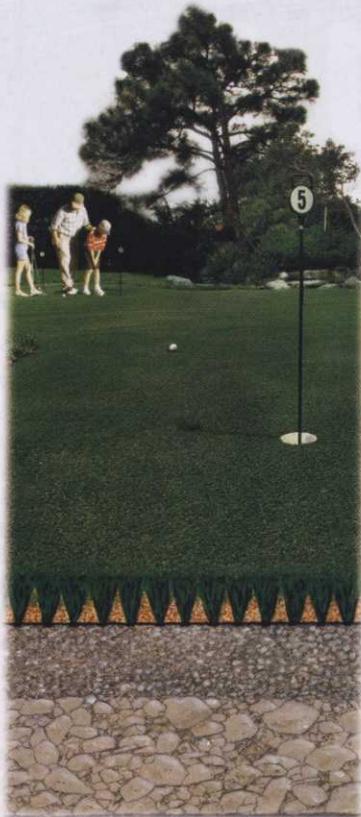
Their solutions are aimed at golf courses, practice ranges and driving ranges, but will also appeal to other public, commercial and private clients.

The SofTrak system starts with a two layer flex base installed under the turf. The fibres of the turf are specifically designed to simulate the softness, texture, density, and colour of natural bent-grass.

The system integrates a in-fill system called RQS-2000 into the fibres of the turf. RQS consists of a specially formulated blend of rounded quartz particles which keep the surface feeling soft/natural, unlike sand which is angular and compacts / hardens over time. The result is a putting surface that is truly realistic, performing just like a natural golf green.

The ball will roll true and at an even pace, whether the green is at fast or slow stimp speed. SofTrak green will also hold a shot, just like a natural grass green. When chipping onto the green, the ball will hold up and with backspin you can even make a ball stop or back up.

SofTee turf is new and purpose designed for golf tees. At the base of the turf, there is a unique nylon mesh which is bonded to the synthetic fibres above. The mesh is filled with a special infill, retaining it much better than other competitive synthetic turf products, which often turn to concrete. This minimises maintenance requirements and provides tremendous resilience to abrasion/wear. It will even accept a tee peg if required.



THE DJ LINEAR AERATOR

DJ Turfcare Equipment, the company formed last year by David Jenkins, have designed and built a linear aerator to add to the company's growing portfolio of products. Linear aerators provide a deep vertical cutting action, removing excessive root and leaf tissue, stimulating vigorous growth with negligible disruption to any playing surface.

The result is the DJ linear aerator system now launched in time for the 2003 season and incorporating a host of features that will appeal to the professional user.

The machine can aerate, scarify, groom and sweep using interchangeable cartridges all mounted on a heavy-duty chassis, with further heads being made available in due course.

Cartridges can be changed in less than five minutes by the use of a special tool provided with the machine. Possession of the tool also makes unauthorised attempts at changing the work head impossible.

The machines also features user-friendly electric lift and lower facility and advanced anti-vibration handle bar mountings, providing precision steering with minimum vibration. Advanced safety skirts around the blades are standard.

Power is from an electric start 17.5hp Briggs & Stratton Intek engine with the latest anti-vibration system and hydrostatic drive means maximum manoeuvrability.

With a working width of 510mm (21in), the aerating head has 17 specially heat treated blades with tungsten carbide tips that can reach a depth of 50mm (2in.).



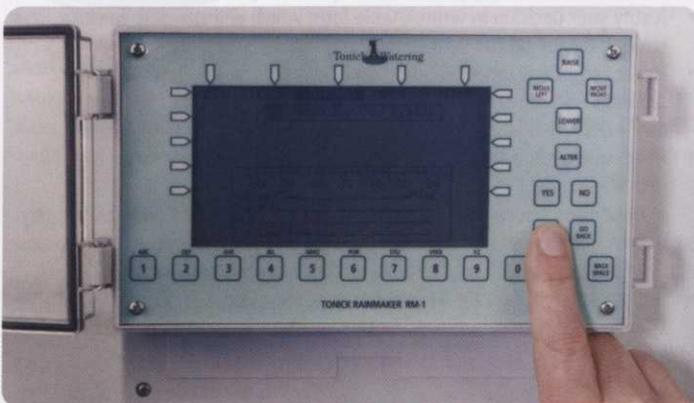
PRECISE WATERING CONTROL

The new Rainmaker RM-1 ET irrigation controller from Tonick Watering allows precisely the right amount of water to be applied. It incorporates multi-zone flow management and provides comprehensive, printed reporting of water usage.

The controller is supplied complete with a "weather station" containing ET (Evapotranspiration) and rainfall sensors. Readings logged from these permit the greenkeeper to effortlessly adjust the irrigation to precisely fit the needs of each area.

Comprehensive reports can be printed of water usage versus the requirement; such reporting will be essential for applicants for the new, forthcoming water extraction and mains water licences.

The Rainmaker RM-1 ET easily runs a full fairway irrigation system and has the additional option of radio remote control. It can operate with existing, installed decoders on the golf course which allows for easy retrofitting. The controller incorporates highly effective, plug-in lightning protection and comes with a three year warranty.



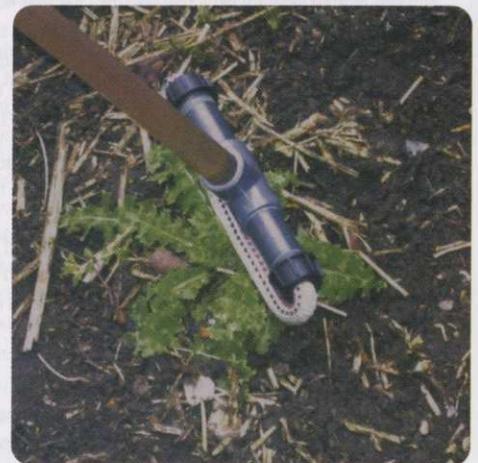
WIPE-OUT WEEDS AT A STROKE

The BFS MicroWipe is the ideal applicator for spot treating weeds in areas that do not require blanket herbicide coverage, where surrounding vegetation is at risk or spraying may be difficult or hazardous when using conventional equipment.

Just fill the MicroWipe's handle reservoir from the top with diluted glyphosate and gravity delivers the chemical down to impregnate the wick on the end of the handle. The operator 'wipes' the wick over the target vegetation and a small amount of the herbicide is deposited onto the leaf surface. Because glyphosate is a translocated herbicide, the chemical is taken right down to the roots ensuring a complete kill.

A Viton seal protects the operator from leakage and, because there is no drift, only the leaf surface receives the herbicide leaving the surrounding vegetation unaffected and soil with minimal contamination.

The MicroWipe is light to use, easy to operate, does not require calibrating and is quick to clean. Large areas can be treated quickly and the applicator is an ideal substitute for conventional means of spot treating weeds and grasses around tree bases, whip plantings, fence lines, paths, shrub and ornamental plantings, bunker surrounds, water hazards, SSI's, buildings, ditches, difficult to access, remote or hazardous areas.



Managing a Golf Course

The **third** of Duncan McGilvray's five articles detailing duties of the modern day golf Course Manager

Controlling Finances

"Money makes the world go round." So they say.

I certainly believe that if we are in control of the financial aspects within the golf course department our jobs are made considerably easier.

For the first few years of my career "in charge" of a golf course I enjoyed the position but never felt comfortably in control - in fact because I was not in control of the finances available I am convinced that the golf course was not as good as it could have been.

Invariably I had to approach an official or superior to ask permission to spend any money at all - not a very professional way to run a department especially if the person whose decision it was to approve any purchase had little or no knowledge of golf course maintenance and management.

Since being made responsible for the formulation, presentation and justification of the budget for the golf course I have never looked back, and indeed wondered how I ever managed before, which proves the importance of this area of management.

For those who may be apprehensive about handling the budget for the golf course the following observations may help to convince you.

1. You will be perceived as a much more responsible employee.
2. You will save your employer money because you are the only one who knows what the golf course requirements are likely to be.
3. You will become much more comfortable and confident in your position which ensures the golf course continually improves - your employer will therefore pay you more!

So what is involved?

Formulating, Presenting and Agreeing Budgets

Formulating budgets - Four main categories

- Capital - new equipment/machinery - rolling (usually two to five years) plan for replacement
- Materials - list everything you use on an annual basis.
- Maintenance - machinery and equipment upkeep - list all machinery and allocate costs on an annual basis - 5 to 10% of purchase cost can be a rough guide.
- Salaries - not an easy one to get right but see advice below

How you devise the set up is up to you but keep it simple - you do not have to be an accountant so don't be dragged into sophisticated computer packages (unless you want to of course!) which detail everything to the nth degree.

Choose the system you are comfortable with ahead of technology, although I must say in most cases computerisation in accounts takes a lot of the tedium out of the job.

Remember though the club want a wonderful golf course within your mutually agreed budget and how you do that is up to you - being a computer accountancy whizz kid will not get you out of trouble if the course is not up to scratch!

PRESENTATION AND AGREEMENT

Present the budget in person, to the person who will be influencing the decision - usually the treasurer - avoid third party communication as vital eye to eye contact and queries on justification will be lost - other people can be present, but you and the treasurer are the key individuals.

On salaries be honest about your situation - I have never had a problem in securing industry rates, as long as I have given the true picture.

If you believe the staff do not deserve the industry rate for the job, say so and put forward proposals for the future - more/better training, setting targets,

measuring standards, introducing appraisal systems, involving staff in decision making etc etc.

This is much easier to do when you take up a new position, but it can be achieved at any time.

If your proposed budget is well presented and justified there is simply no alternative but agreement - it is then down to you to deliver.

OBSERVING TIGHT COST CONTROL AND ENSURING COST EFFECTIVENESS

Watching every penny - that is all that heading means.

The best advice I can give is to treat your employer's money as if it were your own and you will make very few, if any, mistakes.

Keep careful track of all accounts by not allowing any invoice to be paid without your approval - analyse them, code them, approve them, and record them in whatever form you wish, so that you can check your expenditure against budget at any time during the financial year.

If when monitoring your budget you foresee overspending/underspending, inform the treasurer immediately with reasoning for the discrepancy - waiting till the end of the financial year is too late!

Monthly/quarterly reports on expenditure and cash flow projections must be produced, so that you can cross check figures, and the club can allocate funds, in line with your projections, to appropriate accounts (network computerised accounts can make this a lot less work than it seems - but you may feel less in control).

REACHING A REASONED FINAL DECISION REGARDING THE BUYING OF MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

On materials take time at the least stressful period of the year rather than stopping to speak to visiting representatives in the main playing season when there is simply no time to stand and chat.

Stock take during the Christmas/New Year period, talk to staff regarding the following season's requirements (a good time to discuss maintenance policy) and invite representatives to call during January, requesting quotes on all your material needs for the year, before ordering for delivery at appropriate times.

Should you require anything more during the season, or there is a new product which may be of interest, contact can be made by telephone/e-mail, thus avoiding time wasting at your busiest time of the year.

Decisions on buying equipment and machinery are however a little different and the following advice may be of some help.

- The person/s who will be using the proposed equipment must be involved in the decision making process - if they are not you will regret it.
- Justify your decision in written/table form which will stand up to close scrutiny by any official who wishes to question your judgement.
- Never accept any incentive to buy in any way, shape or form - your professional judgement will be based on many factors and bribery, which any incentive to buy is effectively, is not one of them.
- Never buy on face value - talk to colleagues and trial on your own golf course.

In conclusion I must state that I am no accountant and I rely heavily on my Treasurer to advise me on financial matters. I do, however, believe that because of my knowledge of golf courses, and the costs involved, I am more likely to make the right decisions than anyone else at the club.

That is why I believe that a golf course budget should be the responsibility of the Course Manager.



SCOTTISH REGION
Peter Boyd
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

North

New members to the Section are Michael Anderson and Marc MacGregor, both of Alford GC. Welcome to the Section lads!

The outing at Forfar GC in May went well with the course in first class condition and a credit to the Greenkeeper and his staff. The winners were as follows: Scratch 1. Jim McCormack, Kirriemuir GC; 2. Gary Tuach, Letham Grange GC. Class 1. 1. K. Fowler, Fortrose GC; 2. S. Robertson, Craigie Hill GC; 3. Steve Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC. Class 2. 1. P. Wood, Newmachar GC; 2. W. Craig, Kirriemuir GC; 3. D. Robertson, Newmachar GC. Class 3. 1. K. Anderson, Newmachar GC; 2. J. Kicuik, Letham GC 3. D. Dougan, Fortrose GC. Committee Trophy. S. Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC. Trade. P. Allan (RT Bruce Prodigy) Guest. T. Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC; Veteran 1. R. Donald, Old Meldrum GC; 2. A. Williamson, Craigie Hill G.C. Apprentice A. Nixon, Fortrose GC. Nearest the Pin S. Millar, Vitax. Longest Drive - Class 1. 1. G. Tuach, Letham Grange GC. Class 2. Billy Craig, Kirriemuir GC. Class 3. Stuart Hogg, Fortrose GC.

Once again thanks to all the staff and committee at Forfar GC. The AGM this year will take the form of an outing and will be at Peterhead GC on October 16. Hope to see you there.

On the sporting side of the Section, congratulations to Steven MacIntosh, Course Manager at Torvean GC, who, playing off +2, broke the course record at Castle Heather GC, Inverness, in the North District Championship. The following week he equalled the course record of 60 at Strathpeffer GC. Needless to say he won both tournaments. Also to Craig Dawson, Newtonmore GC; James Hutchison, Boat of Garten GC, and young Michael Clark, Kingussie GC for their part in the successful season of Kingussie Shinty Club. At the time of writing they have only the Camanachd Cup Final to play and have won all the other trophies possible. The Club's achievements have now attained them a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

Any other sporting successes please let me know on 01997 420 156. All Craigie Hill, Fortrose and Newmachar members of the Section have now had Rule 19 applied to them and should not win any more prize money.

Finally, Good Luck to Neil Metcalf and his staff for the Open Championship this year at Royal St. Georges. Neil is formerly a member of our section and hails from Cruden Bay, where he served his apprenticeship. The current course manager at Cruden Bay GC. wishes Kingussie all the best for their final and wished this to be put in this report. Ever the sportsman, Hamish.

Hopefully the season will go well for everyone.
Iain Gunn



NORTHERN REGION

Sheffield

Firstly I would like to thank Steve Patrick, of Blackburn Rovers, and Keith Kent, of Twickenham, for sparing their time to come and visit us at Rotherham Golf Club and entertaining us for our February lecture. Also to Mike Brear, of Rigby Taylor, for fixing up the event.

I would also like to thank Mr Bob Taylor, of the STRI, for such an informative lecture about wildlife upon golf courses and how we as greenkeepers can help with the preservation of nature.

I would also like to thank Rotherham Golf Club for their support, giving us a venue for all our section meetings and lectures.

And not forgetting our sponsors at our golf days ie Gem Professional, Mansfield Sand, Ransomes Jacobsen and Rigby Taylor.

Now after all the formalities and thanks are over, and that now that spring has finally come, it is now time for a new season of golf competitions. Our first competition was held at Lindrick Golf Club on April 30 and I think that I can speak for everyone who attended, that Lindrick Golf Club was in excellent condition and our thanks go out to Lindrick for their generosity for allowing us courtesy of the course, and to Kevin Hazelhurst and his team for presenting such an excellent course. Well done lads! The results are as follows: 1. C. Hopper, 38pts; D. Chappell, 35pts; 3. S. Wells, 32pts; 4. J. Lax, 32pts; 5. G. Wells, 31pts; 6. S. Pickering, 31pts. Best Guest. M. Self, 36pts.

Because our first tournament was a qualifier for the regional golf tournament, the qualifiers are as follows:

Handicap 1-9. D. Chappell, G. Wells, M. Holden. Reserve. M. Knowles

Handicap 10-18. C. Hopper, S. Pickering, I. Whitehead. Reserve. R. Tyson.

Handicap 19-28. S. Wells, J. Lax, A. Linley. Reserve G. Brammah.

Details for the competition will be sent out as soon as they are available.

Lastly I would like to thank James and Graham of TT Pro Turf for sponsoring the event and for donating the excellent prizes for our prize table.

Our next competition will be held at Chesterfield Golf Club on July 23.

See you soon.

Chris Astle



North Wales

Welcome to July, Open fever month in the greenkeeping calendar, I wonder just how many of our Section will be lending their services for the BIGGA Support Team at Royal St Georges in Kent. I think you would be well advised to get your names on the list now for 'Royal Liverpool' in 2006 a great chance to get in among the action of the world's greatest golfers.

Unless your interests lie elsewhere that is, just like Gareth Williams of Porthmadog GC. His main hobby is Gun Dogs and he travels all over the country attending trials with his dogs, just recently he has been selected by the Welsh team and has two dogs chosen out of the five strong team to represent Wales in the finals in Otley, Yorkshire. We wish him all the best of good luck on the day.

Darren Anderson, of Abergele GC, is looking forward to having the BIGGA Christmas Tournament at his course this December he says the new USGA spec greens are looking great and he has had lots of good comments from members and guests he will be pleased to hear the thoughts of his fellow greenkeepers on the progress of the greens which will be just about nine months old by December.

Tracey, from the Vale of Llangollen, has decided that nappy changing is better than hole changing and has decided to become a full time Mum; this is a loss to our industry as we have very few women involved in course maintenance as it is.

The results from Mile End GC spring competition were as follows, Best Trade went to Terry Adamson, with 30 pts. Best Member was Jez Hughes, with 34 pts, on a card play off with Allen Lewis, of Llanynymech GC, also with 34 pts, Best Guest with 36 pts was the host from Mile End GC Richard Thompson, We would like to thank Mile End for their hospitality and the catering for the 'Roast dinner'. The day was a huge success with just over 40 people playing, many of them very pleasantly surprised at the quality of Mile End GC which was also reflected in the scores! A relatively new course just over 10 years old, I think the Head Greenkeeper, Ian Beckett, had the greens down to about three mm as a lot of us had the same lengths of putts back to the hole as we did going to the hole, We were made very welcome and, on behalf of the committee and the members, I would like to thank them once again.

Well let's sit back now and enjoy the forthcoming BBC coverage of The Open championship. Who will you be betting for the winner? Els, Woods, Davis Love III, or will you stay loyal to the Welsh and back Phillip Price or Ian Woosnam?

See you next month, any views, news or information, please contact me on: Home: 01925 263394

Fax: 01925 269622 Mobile: 07778 162162

e-mail acorn@golf@supanet.com

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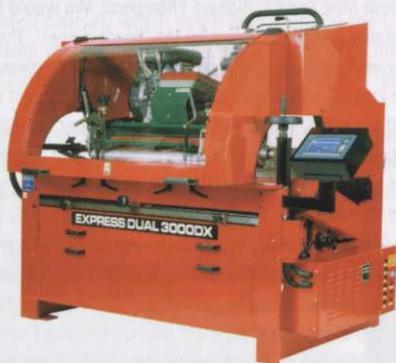


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Northern

Not a lot to tell you guys about this month. Everyone must be too busy with their courses to get in touch. Writing these notes, we are a week away from the Presidents Day Tournament at Pike Hills. I will report next month on the goings on from the day. I must apologise for the mistake in reporting the wrong sponsor for this day last month. Scotts are the sponsors for the tournament. Sorry to everyone for the cock up.

I am pleased to report that your Chairman, Mr Jim "Kirk" Brown, and one of his greens staff, Joe Walsh, from Cookridge Hall, are now back on terra firma. They both took part in a sponsored parachute jump with free fall from 15000 feet. It was in aid of the Sheffield Children's Hospital and they raised over £600. After the jump it was reported that Joe said it was better than sex! Well done to you both.

Don't forget to get in touch if you want to be considered for the Roses match at Cleckheaton in August.

Last but not least welcome to Alex Noble, from Pike Hills GC; Robert Clare, from Skipton GC; John Firth from Outlane GC, and Adam Newton, from Fulford GC, who have all joined the Northern Section since my last notes.

That's about all for now, please keep in touch and help me fill up the space for your notes! 16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford, West Yorks, BD2 2NJ.

Tel: 01274 640739 Mobile: 07976876264

email: Dthackray@aol.com

Dave Thackray



North West



Sitting down to write these Section notes on 2 June, I thought, at last something to write about, meaning the Spring Tournament. How wrong I was. The Tournament was to be played on Thursday, May 22 while I was away in Portugal, where the weather was very hot (35°C) but on return I was informed that the weather had been non-stop rain, and the venue, Wigan Golf Club, had been closed due to flooding. So no report on the golf, other than to say that the match will be arranged possibly in September. I understand everybody turned up and at least enjoyed a nice lunch. I must say that in all of my 30 years with the North West Section I cannot remember having to cancel a tournament due to bad weather, so we have been very lucky in the past.

Two Head Greenkeepers jobs were advertised in the Section, Deanwood Golf Club, and Grange Park Golf Club. I can report that Owen Mullen was appointed at Grange Park. Owen had completed a four year course at Myerscough College and worked at the college for a further year before his appointment. I rang Deanwood Golf Club and was informed that although an appointment had been made, they were waiting to see if the person accepted the post. Hopefully I will have more information next month.

Once again a reminder that there are regional courses available at low costs eg. £30 for a one day course and £60 for a two day course. There are many different courses available, but if you feel there is a course that would be of interest to you or your staff let Ken Richardson at BIGGA HQ know and I am sure arrangements can be made.

The next golf will be the "Roses match" as soon as I have the details I will let you know. In the meantime any of you going to The Open, I will see you at Royal St. George's in July.

That's it for now but any news please contact me on 01517 245412 or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross



MIDLAND REGION
Peter Larter
Tel: 01476 550115

BB&O

Our first golf meeting for this Section was a resounding success. The blue skies held for the day giving us a taste of Club Mediterranean golfing weather. The venue at Magnolia Park Golf Club was in excellent condition considering the grass was growing at whippet speed. All this was under control by Philip and his team so well done lads for a great show. The Tacit team decided to try out the buggy fitted with a satellite device that read your distance to the middle of the putting green. Initially looked upon with scepticism we were all finding this very helpful as the game evolved and considered this device a winner. I would like to thank Pam Boardman and her team at Magnolia Park Golf Club for the great hospitality. The organisation on the day was helpful with a great end to the day due to great food in our own private area. Also many thanks to Tacit who sponsored the day and put out great prizes appropriate for summer weather barbies. The results for this event went as follows: 1. Nathan Bond, Carl Small, Ian Robbins, 86 pts; 2. Ross Wilson, John Bowness, Colin Hutt, 75 pts. Nearest the Pin, John Bevan. Longest Drive, Ross Wilson.



Besides the team event we also had several members playing a card to enter the National Championship later this year in October. The Section sponsors the cost of entry for two people. The best Gross was Ross Wilson, with 78, and the best Nett was David Hood, with 71. We wish you guys all the best when the competition comes around.

John Bevan approached the Section for sponsorship to enter a golf day to raise money in aid of the Macmillan Nurses and the RNLI. The Section has paid £25 towards such a worthy cause. We look forward to a report on your progress on the day, John, and hope your team from Wexham Park Golf Club do themselves proud.

Lastly a personal thanks to Peter Larter who played early and vetted the results as they came in for delivery at the prize giving.

We have some results from round one of the Rigby Taylor knockout. Colin Hutt managed to see off Dean Thatcher and Wayne Nott by 2&1. His partner Ross Wilson declared himself unfit to play on the first tee due to illness! Roy Kates and Chas Taylor thrashed Lindsay Anderson and Simon Austin 6&5 thanks to some fantastic putting and local knowledge!

I would like to remind you of our third golf event for 2003. This is the Autumn Invitational Tournament at the Buckinghamshire Golf Club. The format is an 18-hole fourball betterball and each member entering must have a partner who is the Secretary, Club Manager or Green Chairman from their own club. This day is sponsored by Headland who will be in attendance to ensure you have a great day. The cost includes a bacon roll/coffee to start and a buffet style evening meal in a private room. Breakfast kicks off at 9.30am, served in a private suite with the 1st team off at 11am. Please come well before 11.00am so the teams for the day can be organised. Everyone benefits from a relaxed start to proceedings and ensures the starter has the teams to work with. Please contact me for entry into this competition at Holly Lodge, Pond Lane, Hermitage, Thatcham, Berks RG18 9RN or phone me on 07778 765021. The cost is £25 per person, representing superb value for money. Please make cheques payable to BB&O Section.

David Haskell-Craig

Midland



With the end of the famous "Benson and Hedges Snooker Championship", the Midland Section decided to make a bid to replace such with their own tournament "The Nigel Tyler, of Alpha Amenity, Snooker Evening". Such was held at that infamous venue, "The Perfection Snooker Club", at Stirchley, in Birmingham on May 29. Not only did Alpha Amenity stand the players an extensive buffet, they were also gracious enough to afford the Lights, and prizes to-boot. One can't say fairer than that.

On the evening there were 17 players of which was eventually, after some fiercely contested battles, whittled down to two for the final: Robert and John Tomlin. John was the victor out of the two brothers. Well played John. Thanks to all for attending, you made the evening most enjoyable and a great success gentlemen, it was nice to meet so many new faces. Further thanks also to our hosts "Perfection" for their welcoming and very kind hospitality. Once again thank you to Nigel Tyler and Alpha Amenity for their continued support of the BIGGA Midland Section.

As you may have already guessed, I am very keen to promote non-golfing social events so as to reach a greater number of the Midland Section's members. To this end, and due to the fact that I did not foresee the impracticability of running both darts and snooker event together, I am in the middle of organising a darts evening. Those who fancy a bit of Bully please call or text me on: 07816 410 552. Any company interested in sponsoring the darts evening, or indeed a future social event, please have no hesitation in calling me.

I hope to have set a date for the fishing by the time you read this, shall report such next month. Please remember that one does not need to be the modern day equivalent of Richard Walker or Hugh Falkus to take part. All that is required is the wish to enjoy a relaxing day with a bunch of great characters, in a beautiful place, with free grub and light beverage, and prizes as well. The afore being thanks to Allen Southam, of Hanson Aggregates. You must be interested, so call me on the usual, or Allen on: 07976 853 777.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the return of Mark Chatterley to our Section. It's a pity that you missed the snooker evening. Hopeful that you can make the fishing Mark.

I have to report the unfortunate passing away in June of Allan McDougall. Allan was Course Manager at Sandwell Golf Club before moving briefly to Ireland then settling at Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club. Allan was a much respected Course Manager and well liked in the Midland Section. Our thoughts go to his family and friends.

For many years I've been honoured to have known Brian Beet, the father of Craig. Brian was one of the most genuinely welcoming fellows to which I have had the pleasure to have afforded grace. Brian passed away in June. Our thoughts are with you and your fine family at this most difficult time Craig.

To date there has been no submissions for the "Thought of the Month". Therefore anyone who wishes to send in an anecdote, is more than likely to win the tenner cash prize. Perhaps considering the immense financial outlay of stamp and stationery, a return of 250% is too great a risk!. Hope you are enjoying this very busy, yet most gratifying time of year. Until next month, cheers.

Sean McDade

East Midland

This year's Spring tournament was held on May 15 at Ashbourne GC. which was a new venue for our Section. The day was set dry and fine, in fact, the only dry day of the week. The course was surrounded by some marvelous views of the Peak District, which added to the enjoyment of the day.

A total of 33 competitors took part in the event with several good scores being posted in the perfect conditions, with the eventual winners as follows.

Best Nett: Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe 81-13-68 on countback Best Gross: Chris Brown, Horsley Lodge, 78. Cat 1.1. Russell Allen, Horsley Lodge, 80-7-73; 2. Dave Leatherland, Kedleston, 83-9-72; 3. Ian Needham, Beedles Lake, 83-8-74. Cat 2. 1. Adie Porter, Greetham Valley, 80-12-68; 2. Jamie Bedford, Birstall 85-16-69; 3. Harold Seed, Ashbourne, 87-15-72. Cat 3 1. Mike Billings, Chevin, 90-22-68; 2. Gavin Robson, Lingdale, 91-21-70; 3. Mark Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 97-21-76. Trade & Associate. 1. Kevin Kinzer. E.T. Breakwells, 87-19-68; 2. Tony Cheese, Rigby Taylor, 75-0-75. Nearest the Pin. Gavin Robson, Lingdale. Longest drive. Jeff Dickinson, Leen Valley.

The day was once again generously sponsored by E.T. Breakwells who provided all the fantastic prizes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ashbourne GC for courtesy of their fine course; the steward and stewardess for a great meal, and a special thank you to Scott Purdy and his staff for presenting a great golf course. Next year's Spring Tournament will also be held on May 15 at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club.

This year's East Midlands v East Of England golf match will take place at Beedles Lake Golf Club on Wednesday, August 13 at 3.45pm. The Autumn Tournament is to



be held at Overstone Park on September 5, 1pm. If you wish to play in either of the competitions please get in touch and I will gladly post you a form.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish Pete Billings and his wife all the best for the future after their recent wedding. I hear they had a lovely honeymoon in Barbados.

Antony Bindley

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Devon and Cornwall



Not a lot of news to report this month so I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors over the last 12 months. They are: D. O. Hunt, Roffeys; A. Domett, Devon Garden Machinery; P.J. Flegg; D. Singleton, Barenbrug; J. Palfrey, Avoncrop; J. Mullins, Supaturf; P. Clifton, Bayer Environmental Science; C. Richards, Rigby Taylor; A. Masters, Vitax; R. Davey, Irritech Irrigation

The Regional Play-Offs for the John Deere World Team Championship were held at Royal North Devon Golf Club. The winners were Yelverton Golf Club with a score of 14 under par. Yelverton now go forward to the Belfry on July 25 to compete in the National Final. A big thank you to John Deere and Rochford Garden Machinery for sponsoring the event and to the Head Greenkeeper, Mark Evans and his team, for presenting the course in superb condition.

Congratulations to Antony Newland who will be leaving Yelverton to take up the position of Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Tavistock Golf Club on July 1. The Section wishes him every success.

You can contact me on: 01822 617671.

Steve Evans

South Wales

I've taken a break from cutting the fairways to write these notes, and at the rate the grass is growing at the moment if I'm not quick enough the grass will be up to the top of the wheels again and we'll be out with the flymos and trimmers. Seriously though it's good to see some grass at last, it gives us parkland boys something to do!

Kerry Jones, Course Manager at Garnet Park GC, has obviously been busy, he's just become a dad, a baby boy of 8lb and his wife Alison and baby are both fine.

Somebody else who is about to become very busy is Lance Evans. Lance has just been promoted to Deputy Course Manager at Royal Porthcawl GC. Congratulations. Probably the busiest man in Wales recently has been Celtic Manor's Course Manager, Jim McKenzie, who, with his team, had the course for this year's Wales Open in absolute pristine condition, I was lucky enough to spend the day watching some of the golf, and the view from the 2nd green looking down on the rest of the course was awesome.

Two new members to the Section are Langland Bay GC's new Head man Jim Jenkins, and Neath GC new Head, Ed McCabe. On behalf of the Section I would like to welcome you to South Wales and we hope to see you at some of our future fixtures. We played our annual match against the secretaries last month at Brynhill GC and it turned into quite an event, I thought we won, but due to the secretaries' knowledge of the finer points of the games rules, we only managed a half. Never mind Angus and Jinxy. I think the results on the day went something like: Emyr and Phil halved; Dave and Mike won; Peter and Ian halved; Adrian and Russell won, Angus and Julian ??, and John and Phil lost. Thanks to everybody who represented the Greenkeepers, to Ian Grant and his staff for the hard work put into presenting the course, and to Brynhill GC for allowing us the use of the course.

I have been reliably informed that David Gladwin, greenkeeper at Camarthen GC, will be playing in this year's Welsh Seniors Championship. We wish Dave all the very best. Best of luck to his caddie (Vicky T) for the couple of days. She'll need it.

Adrian Panks

South Coast

July already and the world of golf turns its attention towards the Open championship and Royal St Georges. We wish all the greenkeeping team well in what I'm sure will be a highly successful week for them and another great Open. We have four representatives from the Section who have been selected for the BIGGA Support Team and I'm sure they will enjoy a memorable week as they walk the famous links inside the ropes. It's been a very quiet time in the Section at the moment and there is no news to pass on. Next month will be busier with reports from our annual match against the Wessex Secretaries and the summer tournament. Don't forget to contact me if you have any news which you would like include in the around the green section. My contact details are Tel: 01202 661106 mobile 07966 386232 or email me at a.mccombie@ntlworld.com

Until next time,

Alex McCombie



SOUTH EAST Derek Farrington

Tel: 01903 260 956

Kent

Firstly, with recent changes in the Section, Phil Belton from John Shaw Machinery, has taken up the role of Kent Section Press Editor for 'Around the Green'.

As many of you will know, the Section held its first golf day at Canterbury Golf Club. I am sure that every-one who participated would agree that the course was in excellent condition. Thank you to Canterbury Golf Club for agreeing to hold a golf day, especially Jason Moody, Course Manager and his team for providing a great golf course, the caterers complemented the course by providing excellent food. The results: 1. Stuart Butler, Northforeland GC, 36 pts; 2. Gary Branchett, Tenterden GC, 35 pts; 3. James Bent, Brokehill GC, 34 pts. The trade prize went to Brian Willmot, from Tacit, 34 pts. Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive was Paul Larson, of Sene Valley GC. Thank you to all the companies who sponsored the day.

There have been a few people move in the last month or so. Phil Belton has joined John Shaw Machinery, having worked as a greenkeeper for many years. He will take up a new position of Sales Representative.

Jason Rook has joined Canterbury Golf Club to take up an Assistant's position. Birchwood Golf Club has two new additions to the team, Rob Dennis and Neal Rust, both are new to the profession and we hope that they have long and rewarding careers. Danny Williams has left Ashford Golf Club to join Chestfield Golf Club. Danny is hard working and loyal, he will be missed at Ashford GC.

Congratulations to Rob Holland, Course Manager at Birchwood GC, and his wife who are expecting their third child in August. All the best from the Section.

Finally, the next golf day will be on August 21. This will be the guest day and will be held at Lydd Golf Club.

Phil Belton



East Anglia

What a busy May - two golf days to report on and a birth. Firstly the Bartrams Golf Day at Purdis Heath Golf Club on Friday the 23rd, Norman and his team provided an impressive course for the match under Neil Ellice, the Club Secretary's, watchful eye and the hospitality was just as good. Toni Nelli ran around organising the event and made everything go like clockwork. Twelve teams of three teed off with the usual banter of, "How much did you say your handicap was?" Or "Driving like that your never playing off a 16!"

The weather gave us a few problems (the odd shower or two) but an enjoyable day was had by all, my partner Miss Charlie Langlands played very well despite being followed by a male pheasant on the 9th and 10th holes. A big thank you to Bartram Mowers and Ransomes Jacobsen for the day, On to the results: The Team Winners. S. Thompson, I. Mitchell, M. Clement. The individual winner. M. Clement,

37pts. Nearest the Pin. P. King. Longest Drive (As usual) J. Wright.

On to the birth, Patrick and Debbie Buggs gained a son, weighing in at 2 pounds 3 oz's. Thomas George was born 11 weeks premature and by all reports is doing very well so far. I pass on the Section and Association's congratulations and hope everything goes well for them.

On May 28 I was invited to Weston Park Golf Club to attend the John Deere Team Championship. A total of 28 teams attended, which was one of the highest attendance of the whole championship, while the weather was perfect, lots of sunshine and a light breeze. I had not played Weston Park before and was very impressed with the course and the way Kevin Hodges and his greenkeeping team had worked hard to bring it to its present high standard. Thanks to Stuart Edge, from Ben Burgess, and his team for all the hard work that went into the day. As you can imagine the golf was at its highest standard with several teams returning scores of 60 or lower and it is nice to see Course Managers, Professionals and committee members playing together enjoying each others company. The hospitality of the golf club was again very impressive and was maintained to the same high standard as the golf course.

On to the results: The team winners: 1. The Royal West Norfolk Golf Club, 58 Nett; 2. Thetford Golf Club, 58 nett; 3. Durham Golf Club, 58 nett. Longest Drive – Gary Stangoe, Nearest the pin 2nd – Frank Russell. Nearest the pin 16th – Steve Curtis. Best Professional – Andrew Collinson with a 73.

Royal West Norfolk went through to the next round after a chip off to the 2nd green.

Thanks go to other sponsors that helped with the event Collier Turf Care, Club Car, John Deere and Auto Flow. Derek Farrington the South East Regional Administrator had made a flying visit for the day and helped out with the checking of the cards. I would like to thank Stuart for the invite; my team enjoyed the day very much.

Ian Willett



Surrey

Goodbye cold damp greens, hello Summer, hello grass. Goodbye to the winter 19th hole chat, he's got irrigation, he's got fertiliser, so why doesn't he use them to make it grow?. Yes the grass is growing now, (hello to the summer 19th Hole chat) the greens are the best but they have been for years and everything on the golf course is rosy except that (19th Chat) where do greenkeepers go after 10am? And I haven't seen one in months.

And one retired greenkeeper/mechanic that we have not seen for a long time is Ted Styles. Ted come out of hiding as you are now an honorary member of the Surrey Section and we look forward to seeing you at the next golf day. At the time of writing this - June 2 - that golf day will be at your old haunt The Drift Golf Club.

The Surrey Section Committee had a meeting on the May 27 and it was decided that in future only members who have played in two previous golf events and that have had an official Surrey Section handicap would qualify to enter the Bioseed Bowl Knockout Competition.

Education and Training were also discussed and a Knapsack Spraying course is soon to be held. Please contact Daniel Lightfoot at Gattos Manor Golf Club for details. Also plan for September/October is a Chainsaw course and Daniel is again the man to contact (0770 2406761).

A new annual competition will take place between Surrey and Sussex Sections on August the 12th at Copthorne Golf Club. Please contact Ian Sellars for details of that, the England/Scotland Match and the annual match against the member of Wimbledon Common/London Scottish Golf Club. While speaking to Ian you might like to congratulate him on becoming engaged to Stephanie but I'm sure when you see him at the next golf day he is bound to want to buy you a drink in celebration. At least I hope that's what he implied. John Davidson has resigned from the committee as Treasurer as he has now taken up his new career running a gym. Many thanks to John for all his hard work over the past years and our best wishes for the future. Tony Bremmer will take over the treasurers job until the AGM.

The Spring Tournament and qualifier for the National Tournament took place at the Old Thorns Golf Club in May and the results were: Best Gross. Shaun Whipp. Best Nett 1. Derek Cunliffe, 68; Anthony Freeman, 72; Kevin Boxhall, 74. Nearest The Pin.

Steve Holmes and Longest Drive. Nigel Colley. Many thanks to Derek and his team for a great day, even the weather was perfect and the course was excellent. Derek when the lakes are drained my balls have 4 blue dots on them and Tony Bremmer has his name, address and telephone number on his.

Sadly this last paragraph reports the tragic news that Allan McDougall, Course Manager at the Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club died suddenly brain haemorrhage. We send our condolences to his family and he will be missed by all who knew him. Alan was only 44 and always greeted me with friendship whenever we met.

Brian Willmott

NORTHERN IRELAND

G'Day Sports. Have you ever taken note of old sayings, the one that recently comes to mind is "More haste, less speed". How many times have you spent more time looking for a tool than the job you want it for takes to do, put it back where it came from boys and make yourself and everyone else happy. The other two things that aggravate me are "Where are my bloody glasses?" and people who don't tear toilet paper off at the perforations, so always think of other people and how you can make their life a little less stressful. What comes around, turns around.

Frank tells me they have his three legged chickens on the Hilton menu now, he says he had them every day for his dinner last week, the only drawback is on Saturday morning he woke and found himself perched on the end of the bed. Graham Wylie was back in town. Says he's the best. He's got himself a girlfriend, and says she is coffee coloured. He said she is better looking than Whitney Houston. There must be something! wrong with her!

Some of you may know and remember Alan McDougall, formerly of Roe Park Golf Club, Limavady, he regrettably passed away recently, our condolences to his family, some of them are involved in greenkeeping themselves.

An excellent golf day was held at Lurgan Golf Club. Our thanks go to Kyle Irwin, his staff and the very generous hospitality of Lurgan Golf Club.

Results: 1. Paul Lappin, Kirkistown, 41 pts; 2. Eamon Crawford, R.C.D, 38 pts; 3. Micky O'Neill, Fortwilliam, 35 pts; 4. Noel Crawford, R.C.D, 34 pts; 5. Justin Waddell, Fortwilliam, 33 pts; 6. Gary Murphy, Silverwood, 33 pts.

Visitor Mark Vaughan.

The very generous sponsor for the day was Pete Glass, of Orchard Amenity. Many thanks to him and we hope he had a good day.

Next event – Hilton at Templepatrick – July 3 at 12 noon.

Remember Terry Crawford Charity Day – August 1.

Graham Prosser



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This competition is not open to BIGGA Staff or non-members. The solution to the June Turftime Teaser was 'Glen Farrow Irrigation'. This was correctly answered by: Iain Turnbull of John O Gaunt Golf Club, Bedfordshire.

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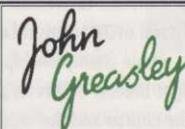
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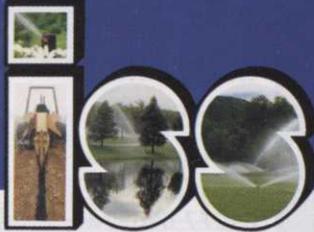
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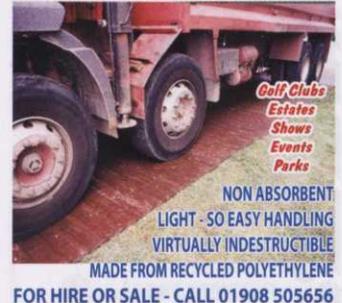
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July 2001; Royal Lytham profile; Tees Mowers; Fertilisers; Green Grasses; John Deere profile; Sandy McDivot; College Listings

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 Isaccs; Emissions; Grinding; Rotary Mowers; BTME preview; Sandy McDivot

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Pull up a Chair but Think of the Work



For the armchair viewer June has been a great month of TV for keen golfers but tough on the Superintendents having to prepare their courses so early on in the season.

But the great news is that there was much praise for the guys in the firing line - Bevan Tattersall, at The Belfry, for the final ever Benson and Hedges International; Jim McKenzie, of Celtic Manor, with the Wales Open; Kenny McKay, at Forest of Arden with the British Masters, and more praise than usual for my old mate, Chris Kennedy, at Wentworth, for the PGA Championship.

It may have been early in the season and the weather might not always have been ideal in the run-up to the events but there was heaps of praise for the presentation of the golf courses and justifiable accolades for the greenkeeping staff and all involved in helping to prepare their golf courses to the highest standard for these the first four televised events in the UK.

By the time you read this report it will be the turn of Gleneagles and Scott Forrest for the Diageo Championship, being played over the PGA Centenary Course. Then on to Loch Lomond and Ken Seims for the Scottish Open which is followed by The Open the following week which this year is being played at Royal St George's in my hometown of Sandwich. And finally to wind up July to us at Turnberry for the Seniors British Open Championship over the Ailsa course.

The R&A is responsible for the whole organisation of hosting an Open and it is one hell of a operation for all concerned, with the many committees, advisors, various contractors and thousands of volunteers who all play a valuable part in the success of the Championship.

But at the end of the day it is the Course Manager and Green Staff, who prepare the course. And what a responsibility it is as it seems as if the whole world is watching... most of them actually are. I am sure it will be a great Open on a great course and produce a great winner. We wish all at Royal St George's, especially Neil Metcalf and all his crew, every success.

Talking of Championship courses, we should spare a thought for the many hidden gems throughout our country which by design and condition easily would be able to host an Open but perhaps are held back by logistical challenges that a modern Championship places on a community.

Having played golf for 30 years and seen the standard and quality of some of these courses it is a shame that they do not get the recognition that they richly deserve, but they are certainly worth a visit if ever the opportunity should arise.

I was sad to learn of the sudden death of Allan McDougall, Course Manager at Royal Mid Surrey. Allan was very popular among his greenkeeping associates and our commiserations and thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

George Brown
Chairman

Recruitment



Thame, Oxfordshire

Applications are invited for the position of **COURSE MANAGER**

The Oxfordshire is a championship course, designed by Rees Jones in the style of an American Parkland Course and fairly described as inland links. Since opening in 1993, it has hosted the English Ladies Open and, from 1996 to 1999, was the venue of the Benson & Hedges International Open.

Candidates for this important position will be experienced and appropriately qualified, able to prepare and manage budgets, aware of current Health and Safety requirements, and possess the skills to manage a well motivated team whilst communicating effectively with senior management and club members.

Salary negotiable based on experience

Written applications, including CV should be sent to:

Mr R Moan, Operations Manager, Oxfordshire Golf Club,
Rycote Lane, Milton Common, Thame, Oxon OX9 2PU



COURSE MANAGER

Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club is a private members Club with two 18 hole golf courses set in the historic and scenic surrounds of the Old Deer Park in Richmond Surrey.

Applications are invited for the challenging position of Course Manager. The successful applicant, who will be able to demonstrate significant technical, management and administrative experience, will be responsible for presenting both courses to a consistently high standard.

He/She will possess, as a minimum, the following key skills:

- The ability to lead a team of 15 by demonstrating strong management and team leadership skills.
- The ability to set and work to an annual budget in excess of £250K
- Experience, knowledge and a commitment to Health & Safety and all associated regulations.
- Computer literacy.
- A strong desire to seek continuous improvement in both quality and presentation of the golf courses.
- Enthusiasm and self motivation.

The Club offers a highly competitive salary, plus a non-contributory pension scheme and assistance with accommodation.

The closing date for application is Monday 4th August 2003.

Those with a proven track record in both traditional and modern course management and maintenance techniques, should apply, enclosing a full CV to:

J. M. Harper, Secretary & General Manager, Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club,
Old Deer Park, Twickenham Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 2SB

NORTHERN AREA MANAGER

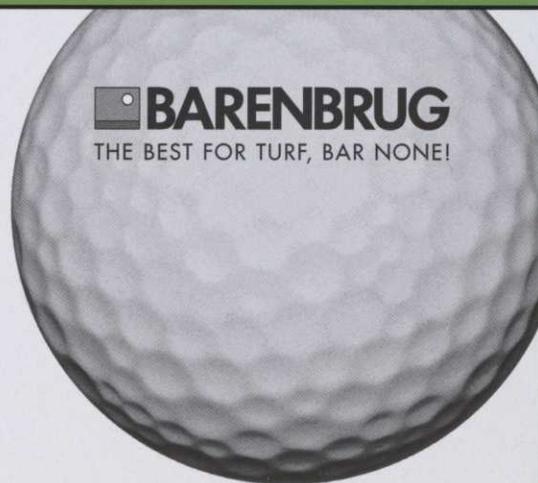
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The provision of technical backup is an important part of this position, so we are looking for applicants with either some knowledge of the Amenity market or the capability to acquire it.

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We are looking for applicants who are capable of operating successfully in all segments of the Amenity market, are confident and capable of communicating with all levels of management and are committed and self motivated.



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