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# Greenkeeper

## INTERNATIONAL



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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

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## WIN

### A WICKER FOOD HAMPER!

Laze away those summer days with this superb picnic hamper containing a set of china plates, mugs, cutlery and that all important bottle opener. The hamper is supplied with a selection of tasty picnic food items and even includes a bottle of Bubbly! You could be a winner in this month's Buyers Guide competition sponsored by Greenlink International in support of their range of Nutri-Rational foliar.



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## June 2003

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

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Dr David Lawson has compiled a list of some of the most commonly asked questions on turf fertilisers. The answers are based on direct knowledge from research carried out at STRI, as well as some of the basic facts of plant nutrition.

Cover photograph by Marc Haring.





**Welcome**

## GRASS CUTTERS WITH DIPLOMAS

You know how the tone of a day can be set very early on. It's summed up by the saying "Getting out of bed on the wrong side".

Well I got out of bed on the wrong side last week when I woke, as usual, to The Today Programme to hear John Humphries quizzing someone on the Conservative Party's new idea to abolish tuition fees for students. They would do this by getting rid of some of the "Mickey Mouse" courses that are currently available. Well the course Mr Humphries mentioned first was, you've guessed it, Golf Course Management.

I remember visiting this theme a couple of years ago when the then Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead, derided the course in a similar manner inspiring another editorial column. Well, it would appear we still have an education process to carry out.

The idea that greenkeepers cut grass and not much else is still prevalent. It seems to be accepted and fashionable to think that the only possible thing that a greenkeeping brain is used for is to predict how many more lines can be mown before the grass bucket has to be emptied. I can't for the life of me think of any other reason why Golf Course Management is picked on so readily as an example of all that is wrong with the British further education system.

I'm sure there is a debate to be had about vocational courses when set against academic courses and how vocational courses are now studied at University and not College. The chances are the University is probably just a College with a name change. For instance the College in Edinburgh where I studied Journalism is now a University and the people coming out at the end of their courses are University graduates and not College graduates. Snobbery?

Such a discussion is worthy of John Humphries' attention on The Today Programme, but the high handed swipe at greenkeepers is just lazy, ill considered and poorly researched.

Of course, we shouldn't be blaming John Humphries, who conducts many interviews during the course of just one programme and has to rely on notes from a researcher.

I am here to tell you that the depth of knowledge required to pass successfully an HND in Golf Course Management is probably greater than that required to pass a similar diploma in Media Studies, or whatever qualification John Humphries' researcher has to his or her name.

Your job is not made any easier by such exposure in the media, and it is high time you were given credit for the job you do. It is not a case of blowing your own trumpet just educating golfers on the range of skills you have at your finger tips and the skills that are required to make your golf courses what they are. Otherwise you will continue to be thought of as grass cutters, albeit some with diplomas.

Unfortunately it's easier said than done.

**Scott MacCallum, Editor**

## ALEX ROBERTSON

The sudden death of Alex Robertson. Head Greenkeeper at Grangemouth Golf Club, came as a great shock to his many friends and colleagues especially in the greenkeeping fraternity.

Alex, who was 50, started his greenkeeping career as an apprentice at Glenbervie Golf Club in 1968 and he was one of the early students who went through the new greenkeeping apprenticeship courses at Woodburn House in Glasgow.

After finishing his apprenticeship and spending another few years learning his trade, Alex, like so many young greenkeepers, moved onto the 9 hole course at Bonnybridge as Head Greenkeeper and then from there to Carmuir Golf Club.

Having a break from greenkeeping, Alex became Groundsman at Brockville Park, home of Falkirk Football Club, for a couple of years before returning to greenkeeping as an Assistant at Grangemouth. He was a proud man when he took up the position of Head Greenkeeper there three years ago. He was popular with the members and the hard work and dedication he put into the course did not go unnoticed as many of them commented on the many improvements he made.

Alex was a great supporter of the greenkeepers' Association for many years and was a well known face under his shock of red hair at both educational and golf events from Section level through to National events including BTME. He served some time as a committee member of the Central Section and was always ready to do what he could to help. His was always one of the first entries in the Support Team for The Open each year and he was

successful on making the team on many occasions.

He was the "Quiet Man", so quiet sometimes you didn't realise he was there, but he was always there if he was needed. At his first Open, on going out as a bunker raker, he obeyed the

instructions to be as discreet as possible so well that we had a call to say there was no raker with his game. But he was there all right, being so discreet the marshals never noticed him.

At another Open an appeal was put out in the tent for someone to go out for a second round. Alex was first to volunteer even though, 30 minutes earlier, he had just finished a five hour round in pouring rain and blowing a gale.

One of the great things about Alex was his indomitable spirit. He was never at a loss especially in getting to BIGGA events. Although he did not have a car if he said he was going he would always be there. Many's the time I gave him a lift home from a committee meeting or golf outing after discovering that to get there he had taken a bus or a train or sometimes even both.

He also showed this same spirit playing golf and was a frequent prize winner as he always kept going.

Alex was a man who never had a bad word to say about anyone and he loved being a greenkeeper. He was always respected by all who knew him and this was evident at the huge turnout at his funeral which included many people from the greenkeeping fraternity.

He will be sadly missed by those who knew him.

Elliott Small



## NEW APPOINTMENT AT JOHN DEERE

John Deere Limited has announced the appointment of David Hart as Commercial & Consumer Equipment (C&CE) Division Sales Manager, responsible for managing the company's sales and marketing operations for golf & turf, commercial and homeowner products and dealerships in the UK and Ireland.

David takes over from Pieter Nel, who has returned to his homeland after 18 months in the UK to become Marketing Manager of John Deere's agricultural and C&CE divisions in South Africa.

After graduating from Lincolnshire College of Agriculture & Horticulture, David began his career with a John Deere dealership. He joined John Deere

Limited in 1990, becoming an Area Service Manager and subsequently Area Manager Product Support (AMPS) in south-east England, a Territory Manager in south-west England and then Harvesting Equipment Product Manager.

He was brought up in Norfolk, where his father Ernie Hart was a well known and respected figure in the amenity and grounds care industry for many years. A keen golfer, David took part in the inaugural John Deere Team Championship golf tournament finals at The Belfry last year.



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



## SOUTH WALES SECTION

The winners of the South Wales Section, Rigby Taylor Matchplay Doubles Championship Daryl Bray & Leigh Davies, receive the Rosebowl from company representatives, Dave Carvey (on right of photo) and Roy Barker (left of photo) with Section Chairman Julian Bartlett-Jones (on far left of photo). The winners were presented with their trophy at the Morriston Golf club, where they both work.



## NEW SECTOR SPECIALISTS

Greenkeeper education is set to take a major step forward with the establishment by the GTC of a working group of sector specialists who will develop standard learning materials based on best practice and principles for golf course maintenance.

The skills which trainee greenkeepers learn on vocational courses are vital to the long-term success of the industry, but up until now employers have not been able to influence the educational content of such training courses.

The new move, which has the full support of awarding bodies such as City and Guilds, will address one of the long-held concerns of the GTC about the variability of what is taught. The working group aim to develop the learning materials by this autumn for the Sports Turf (Greenkeeping) National Occupational Standards – NVQs and SVQs Levels 2 and 3.

"Standardising education and learning information for our approved training providers is

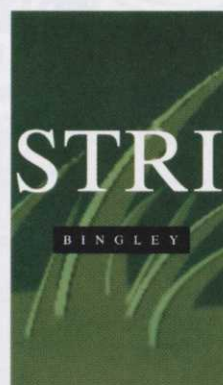
essential. This move will give employers extra confidence that their greenkeeping staff are learning what they really need to know. There has been an overwhelming level of support for what we are aiming to achieve," said Dr Mike Canaway, Chairman of the GTC Technical Committee.

David Golding, GTC Education Director, added, "This initiative by the GTC will further strengthen the partnership between the industry and its training providers. Since the introduction of vocational qualifications, the awarding body representatives who regulate training providers have had no direct involvement with what is taught to greenkeeping trainees.

"This aspect of greenkeeper education is fundamental to the future standards of golf courses and if students are not taught the correct principles and best practices from day one then golf course conditions will inevitably decline."

## STRI COURSES

STRI is holding a regional version of "Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century" – their popular annual training programme held every January, during BIGGA's BTME week in Harrogate – at Temple Golf Club near Maidenhead on June 24-25.



Following the oversubscribed success of the one day event piloted at Temple last year, the programme has been extended to two days and will include a conference dinner with guest speaker and a round of golf to end the second day.

The seminar will help all those who manage and administer golf courses, including Secretaries and Chairman of Green, to maximise the agronomic and financial potential of their golf course.

The content covers a range of topical issues including:- Selection of grasses for the golf course; Choosing rootzones; Avoiding and controlling pests and diseases; Avoiding mistakes in construction; Solutions to modern day problems; Systems of golf course management; Taking an ecological approach.

Speakers from STRI will be joined by Martin Gunn, Course Manager at Temple. Well known for its sympathetic ecological approach to golf course management, Temple's progress is documented in "Confessions of a Chairman of Green" written by Malcolm Peake and published by STRI last year. Martin's session will include an ecological field walk illustrating the work at Temple.

Full programme details can be viewed on the STRI website <http://www.stri.co.uk/training>. Bookings with payment to be sent to Tim Nichols at STRI, St Ives Estate, Bingley, BD16 1AU.

## DO YOU RECOGNISE THIS MAN?

A couple of years ago this family visited Jim Arthur at this home in Budeleigh Salterton and Jim kindly offered to take this attractive family portrait. Jim is not the most prolific of photographers and the film lay in his camera until recently. In the meantime, unfortunately, he has misplaced the contact details of the greenkeeper and his family.

So, do you recognise the greenkeeper in this picture? If so contact BIGGA HOUSE and we'll pass on the information to Jim who can then forward on the pictures.

Editor's Note: Yes, I took time to study the quality of the Arthur lawn as well!



## Royal Inverdivot GC...

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



## TGA TURF SHOW

The biennial TGA Turf Show will be hosted this year by Inturf at their Wilberfoss site near York on June 25 and 26.

The TGA Turf Show will feature wide-ranging static exhibits from a wide array of companies as well as working demonstrations, equipment parades and educational workshops.

"We hope to improve upon the huge successes of our previous shows," said TGA Chairman, Chris Carr.

"Anyone with an interest in the Turf industry is very welcome. Our aim is to provide a relaxed yet informative environment for visitors to view, sample and discuss the very best that our industry has to offer." Exhibitor information and visitor registration cards are now available on request from the TGA, 22 Chapel Street, Bileston. Suffolk, IP7 7EP. Tel/Fax: (01449) 741638



**ONLY 8 MONTHS TO GO...**

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20 JAN**

**WEDNESDAY  
21 JAN**

**THURSDAY  
22 JAN**

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The Institute of Groundsmanship	Wolf Proline
Inturf	Yamaha Motor UK Ltd
Irrigation Control Ltd	

## ABBAY HILL GOLF CENTRE WINS FIRST JOHN DEERE QUALIFIER

A four man team from Abbey Hill Golf Centre in Milton Keynes is heading to The De Vere Belfry, having won the first British regional qualifier in the 2003 John Deere Team Championship golf tournament, played at Magnolia Park Golf Club.

The team - consisting of Club Captain, Jerry Collis; Club Manager, Jonathan Gale; Head Greenkeeper, Steven Cherry, and Club Professional, Craig Stephenson - beat off the challenge of 16 other teams in the competition, which was organised by John Deere dealer Turner Groundscare of Bledlow, Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire.

The winners finished on a score of 60, just one shot clear of the field. The competition is based on a modified scramble, with the professional playing his own ball throughout the 18 holes, and the other three players forming the scramble.

Abbey Hill, joined by a representative of Turner Groundscare, now goes through to the Great Britain national final at The Belfry on July 25, to play for a place in the world final at Grayhawk Golf Club in Scottsdale, Arizona, USA in November.

"We took part in the tournament last year but didn't make it to the next round," said Steven.



**JOHN DEERE  
Team Championship**

"So we are all very pleased, if not a little surprised, to now be going to The Belfry, and who knows, maybe Scottsdale, Arizona. I have played at The Belfry before, but we'll still be putting as much practice in as possible between now and the next round."

The John Deere Team Championship is now in its 17th year, and last year teams from Great Britain and Ireland were invited to participate for the first time. A total of 27 dealers took part in the qualifying tournaments, with 450 teams and 1,800 players participating. The national winners, Brokenhurst Golf Club from the New Forest and Milltown Golf Club from Dublin, travelled to North America to compete against teams from the USA, Canada, Germany, Australia and Sweden.

John Deere Limited is continuing its support of greenkeeping Associations by making a donation of £25 for every British and Irish team entered, to assist the educational activities of BIGGA and GCSAI.



## SUCCESSFUL ROADSHOW

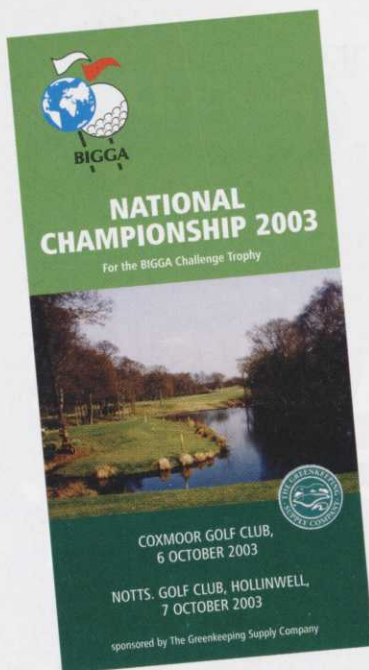
Ransomes Jacobsen recently concluded the Turfco Roadshow, a lightning quick tour of specific golf clubs in the UK, to demonstrate the top dressing abilities of some of the equipment in the Turfco range.

Scott Kinhead, Turfco Vice President, flew in from the USA to accompany Matt Gough and Rupert Price of Ransomes Jacobsen on the tour, which included the new Queenwood Golf and Country Club, The Oxfordshire, Bocket Hall, The Belfry and several more golf clubs and schools across the UK.

The visits resulted in seven orders for equipment and several requests for further demonstrations.







## BIGGA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2003

COXMOOR GOLF CLUB, 6 OCTOBER 2003

NOTTS. GOLF CLUB, HOLLINWELL, 7 OCTOBER 2003

**If you have not yet received your copy of the BIGGA National Championship brochure and Entry Form, sponsored by The Greenkeeping Supply Company please call Sarah Sowerby at BIGGA HOUSE on: 01347 833800**

## A FULL PROGRAMME

"Learn at the Conference - use at the Club" was the one-liner put out by the Association of Golf Club Secretaries before their ninth Conference - and it turned out to be far more. It was a refresher course for Secretaries on the latest developments, and, for the sake of his/her club, every Secretary needs such up-dating.

What Secretaries think about running golf is obviously of importance and interest far beyond the club office, for among the 200 delegates were representatives of the R&A, the English, Welsh and Irish Home Unions, of BIGGA, the PGA, and the Golf Foundation. There was a splash of international visitors, too, with club managers from Portugal and Sweden.

The Conference was opened by Tim Yeo MP, Shadow Minister for Trade & Industry. A keen golfer and columnist in the golfing press, his theme being the Secretary's increasingly demanding role - appropriate remarks for the ensuing Papers.

The pressing need for clubs to operate commercially was laid out in Papers on Leadership and Management, on Marketing and Service to members and visitors, and the importance of "disaster planning" and adequate insurance cover.

The nationwide call for more golfers and club members, particularly juniors, came under scrutiny, with a snapshot of the work by the Golf Foundation, and this was followed by a warning explanation of procedures required today by the Child Protection legislation. Year by year, the laws impinge more directly on running a golf club, and the difficulties of conforming to the Disability Discrimination Act and the new Employment Law (due 2004) had the audience shaking their heads.

The challenge of playing golf was not forgotten, a course architect from Donald Steel's company told how they are modifying long-established courses to withstand the attack of the latest golf equipment, while a description of the new Centralised Handicap Database introduced by the Golfing Union of Ireland proved very impressive to an audience of secretaries. The English Golf Union's centralised scheme is at present 'on hold' for technical reasons, and so the Irish experience caught the imagination and received enthusiastic support.

Besides the presentation of papers, there was an Exhibition covering matters of particular importance to the Secretary at work.

## MANY HAPPY RETURNS

Weeds are everywhere. They have always been with us, and no doubt will continue to cause problems for a long time to come.

A fact pointed out with satisfaction by Roger Turner, Managing Director and founder of Complete Weed Control, which this year celebrates 30 years in business.

Providing specialist weed control services to a wide variety of amenity, local authority, industrial, aquatic and forestry areas, Complete Weed Control has grown from an initial seven franchisees in 1982, to a nationwide network of 44 successful

businesses regularly supplying and applying specialised weed control techniques.

"Companies that have used our services range from Butlins, Shell Oil and British Waterways to local golf courses, small industrial estates and local authorities," said Roger.

"It's the ubiquitous nature of weeds that makes our potential marketplace absolutely huge, and their persistence in even the most unlikely environments that means ours is a regular, growing business."

## EARTHWORM SUGGESTION

A novel approach suggested by Bayer Environmental Science has enhanced the effectiveness of its earthworm cast suppressant in areas of high pH levels in the water.

A number of clubs in Southern Ireland were being treated with Bayer's Mildothane Turf Liquid with the average results expected for the product.

However, not satisfied that anything less than three months should be achievable, Bayer, in conjunction with local distributor Spraychem, investigated a number of factors including the weather record and soil conditions before testing for pH levels in the water.

Finding that these indicated greater fluctuations than usual, an adjuvant, the wetting agent X Change, was added to the Mildothane solution.

"The results were extremely good," commented Colm Murphy, Course Supervisor at Malahide Golf Club in County Dublin.

"The mix had the effect of neutralising high pH content. By adding X Change, treatment with Mildothane Turf Liquid gives us around a three month suppression of worm casts," According to John Hall, Marketing Manager at Bayer Environmental Science, this is the first time that X Change has been utilised in this particular area of turf treatment.

## NEW AEA CHAIRMAN

Keith Christian, Managing Director of Claymore Grass Machinery, has been elected President of the AEA after having served as Chairman of the Outdoor Power Equipment Council of the AEA for the last two years.



Keith is 47 years old and has been with the Claymore company since its start up in 1985, being appointed Managing Director in 1993. Prior to helping to establish Claymore he had started in the gardening machinery industry with H Burlinghams Garden Machinery near Tewkesbury selling to golf clubs and councils and he then moved to Spear and Jackson to sell the Stiga line to garden machinery dealers.

In taking on this role Keith has declared that his aim is to encourage new blood into the industry, recalling the opportunity and training he was given in his early days with Burlinghams.

Keith is married with three children and is known for his love of rugby, being Chairman of the Bredon Rugby Club and captaining their second XV.



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

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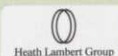
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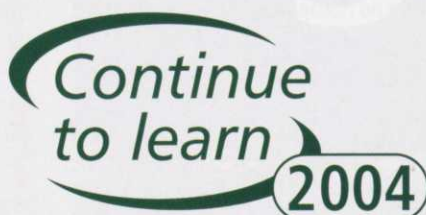
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Clive A Archer; Douglas G Duguid; Alan Holmes; Robert Maibusch MG; Richard S Mullen; Elliott R Small; Steven Tierney; Richard Lawrence; Clive Osgood; David Robinson; Richard Stillwell; Stephen Dixon; Ian Semple; Paul Jenkins; Robert Hogarth; R Steele; Lee Relf

Following a busy start to the year which saw ever more delegates at the Continue to Learn sessions in Harrogate and some very successful local training courses, I decided to follow Sami's example and take a few weeks holiday in the sun. Not only did I manage to soak up the rays, but I also found time to visit a superb golf course at Aphrodite Hills, near Paphos in Cyprus. Peter Bradburn and his team have had a difficult job bringing this 18-hole course into play but it was looking magnificent on the day that I visited. My wife thinks that I have got a plan to visit a golf course on each of our wedding anniversaries as we were at Carden Park last year and Aphrodite Hills this year. Where next?

Once back in the office, it was time to check on the plans for Continue to Learn 2004, check on progress with the Golf Environment Competition, to sort the entries for the Student of the Year Competition, to follow up actions from the Future Committee meeting, to remind Regions and Sections to bid for local training courses and to organise the posting of 1,700 Machinery Training and Assessment Manuals.



There will be a number of significant organisational changes to Continue to Learn 2004 at Harrogate, which takes place from 19 to 22 January. Prospective delegates should start their planning now to ensure that they get the package that they require. The changes are:

### ACCOMMODATION

The continued expansion of BTME/ClubHouse and the subsequent increase in visitors requesting accommodation makes it impossible for BIGGA HQ to continue to administer requests for accommodation. Therefore, all Continue to Learn packages will be sold on a non-residential basis and delegates will be able to book their own accommodation. This can be done direct with hotels or through our booking agents Reservations Highway. They can be contacted on: 01423 525577 or [www.reservation-highway.co.uk](http://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 Exhibitions Banquet on Thursday 22 January.

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

### THE NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE AND BTME/CLUBHOUSE SEMINARS

The BTME/ClubHouse Seminars 2004 will be held in Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre and not in the Royal Hall. 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

Entries for the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition 2003, supported by the R&A, Scotts UK Professional and Syngenta Professional Products have been passed to STRI for judging. Watch out for further details in the next issue of this magazine.



## Student of the Year Competition

The first round of judging for the TORO Student of the Year Competition takes place during the week commencing 30 June 2003. Regional interviews will take place in Scotland, the North of England, the South East, the South West and the Midlands, when the judges will select up to 8 national finalists. The National Final will take place at BIGGA House on Monday 29 September.



## Regional Training Course

There is still time for Regions and Sections to apply for training courses to be run during the autumn/winter 2003 and spring 2004. BIGGA subsidised local training by more than £40,000 last year so make sure that you get the training that you want at low cost in your local area by letting us know what you want.

## Training Vouchers

Delegates at the Gold and Silver Key meeting held at Aldwark Manor, last month, agreed to discontinue the Training Voucher Scheme and allocate the funds to other training projects.

## Higher Education Scholarships

BIGGA continues to award Higher Education Scholarships to its members thanks to generous support from Ransomes Jacobsen. Twenty-four members are attending higher education courses, ranging from N/SVQ Level 4 to MSc thanks to this scheme, which has awarded more than £22,000 so far.



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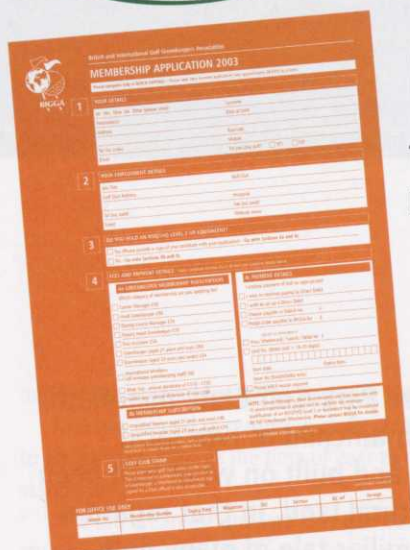
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## Membership UPDATE

Rachael and Gemma from the Membership Services Department would like to welcome 49 new members to the Association.



# New Member Application Forms

The new bright orange application forms have been in circulation for the past few months and replace all existing forms which are now invalid.

The forms incorporate a section on qualifications that are in line with the new changes to the constitution. We would be really grateful if older application forms could be destroyed as they no longer cover all the entry requirements. Existing greenkeepers renewing from June will receive one of these forms in their renewal packs. Please don't throw it away but pass it on to a colleague so that they can benefit from membership of the Association including the section, region and national courses available, the

legal helpline, personal accident insurance and not forgetting the many discounts arranged with various companies on your behalf. Don't forget that if you put your name and membership number in section 8 Membership Introduction on the reverse of the form then you could win a BIGGA Clock/calculator/calendar and alarm. If you require any forms please contact Membership Services on 01347 833800 or email your request to rachael\_p@bigga.co.uk

## Events Page

Have you lost your section fixture list?

Unsure if there is an event coming up in your area? Why not look up the News and Events Section on the Bigga website at [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk) which is constantly updated and has full listings of all the events in your Section and Region. If you don't have access to the internet then don't forget to check out the Around the Green notes which are located towards the back of Greenkeeper International and have details of forthcoming events in your area.



### BIGGA welcomes...

#### Scottish Region

Keith Burgon, East  
Dave Cassidy, West  
Stuart Gordon, West  
Robert Murray, West  
Mark Reynolds, East  
Garry Ross, Ayrshire  
William Rusk, North  
Kenneth Siems, West

#### South West/South Wales

Paul Bennett, South West  
Peter Biggs, Devon & Cornwall  
Richard Evans, South Wales  
Ian Gerrie, South Coast  
Christopher Jones, South West  
John Jones, Devon & Cornwall  
Christopher McCarthy, Devon & Cornwall  
Kevin Potter, South Wales

#### Northern Region

Mark Davies, North West  
John Evans, North Wales  
Antony Hunt, North West  
Robert Liddle, North East  
Robert Lydon, North West  
Anthony Payne, Northern  
Matthew Pooley, North Wales  
John Taylor, Northern

#### Ireland

Stephen Martin

#### International

Christopher Johnson, Austria  
Simon Gorwill, Germany  
Han Groothuizen, Netherlands

#### Midland Region

Derrick Arnold, BB&O  
Robert Bell, Mid Anglia  
Steven Cook, BB&O  
Steven Stroomer, Mid Anglia

#### Student Members

Tom Deignan, East Scotland  
Pauric McGroary, North West

#### Associate Members

Alan Miller, East Scotland  
Adrian Russell, North West  
David Searles, Surrey  
Michael Tointon, Sheffield

#### South East Region

Peter Brooker, Surrey  
Bruce Chumley, Surrey  
Thomas Clarke, Surrey  
Jonathan Douglas, Surrey  
Kristopher Durrant, East Anglia  
Paul Hamilton, Surrey  
Christopher Hartnett, Surrey  
Karl Harvey, East Anglia  
Adrian Henshaw, Surrey  
Nicholas Mileham, Kent  
Gavin Wilson, Kent

## Message of the Month Winner



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

Our congratulations go to June's winner, Lee Bridge from Seaford Head Golf Club whose message was posted on the 5th May under the 'Talking Shop' section.

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Education and Training Advice ..... 01347 833800

Membership Queries ..... 01347 833800

BIGGA Website ..... [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

## JUNE'S MEMBERSHIP DRAW WINNER

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA Clock/calculator/calendar and alarm. Our congratulations go to June's winner, Allan Patterson of The Gleneagles Hotel Golf Club.



# Course Feature

## All is Well at Cumberwell

Scott MacCallum travelled to the west country to meet Marc Haring, Course Director at Cumberwell Park GC.



Cumberwell Park Golf Club, near Bath, was the brainchild of two local farmers and built on what had been agricultural land. In that regard it is a familiar tale of many golf developments constructed around the mid 90's. What might not be quite so common is the innovative manner in which the club has gone about ensuring that, in tough commercial times, it is still producing healthy profits year on year.

That undoubted success can be put down to several factors, principal among them a modern and flexible approach to club memberships and a "thinking outside the box" approach to the best course management practices.

One man who has had a significant influence in the success of the club is Marc Haring, who joined Cumberwell early in its construction.

Indeed, he welcomed the opportunity to work with the grow-in team but was a little shocked by the arduous nature of the work involved.

"It was early August and on the first day with them I started at 8am, which was like a lie in for me, but then we didn't break for breakfast until 1pm when we had 10 minutes; lunch was at 5pm when we had about 20 minutes and then we went straight through until it was way too dark to see. Then it was down the pub for eight pints of lager and bed ready for the same again the next day and that was 6 days a week."

The club opened with 18 holes in August '94 and attracted quite a few members but it was not until a few years later that the changes were made which have marked Cumberwell out from the norm.

"We had a management restructure and refocussed the overall goal of the club to become more commercially aware while at the same time still recognising that to make the place profitable we had to keep the customers happy," said Marc, a former Devon County player.

Prior to the changes the club had been run along more traditional lines, limiting society golf and priority to members.

"The new structure meant we no longer had a Secretary/Manager but a board of management which met once a month comprising the two owners, Adrian and Chris James; a Chairman, and the heads of the respective departments - the clubhouse, accounts, the Golf Director and myself," explained Marc, whose title changed from Course Manager to Course Director.

One of the initial decisions was to review the membership structure which to that point had included Platinum (Full) Membership; Gold (Five Day) Membership and Silver Membership which was £200 a year, plus a small green fee to be paid each time the course was played.

"When we analysed the income per round we were actually making most from the Silver members, even although the club was being run to favour the Platinum.

So we had a rethink and brought in an additional Bronze membership. It took the Silver a stage further and was £100 a year and £10 a round midweek and £12 at weekends. This was hugely successful because it meant people could suddenly join a golf club, have full member rights and the opportunity to get a handicap, for £100 a year," said Marc, who began his greenkeeping career at Stoke Poges and also spent time at Wentworth and Camberley Heath before moving to Cumberwell.

The decision to add the category was inspired and now, four years on, Cumberwell has a membership of over 1,300 of whom 250 are platinum; the five day category has closed and now has less than 100 while the Silver





The team with Marc centre in the dark jumper and Andy Parker on the extreme left

and Bronze account for the other 1,000 between them.

That has helped to maximise profit at the club as has another decision to target the winter as the time of year to maintain high quality playing standards.

"We are on an ex farmland clay golf course so we should, and did, struggle in the winter but we've come to the conclusion that anyone can fill out a golf course if the weather is fine but in the winter it's a different matter. If you are undecided and know that you'd be on 18 temporary greens or are going to get covered in mud you probably wouldn't bother.

So we made a conscious decision to improve the fairways through intensive drainage and gravel banding while at the same time targeting the greens to perform well in the winter.

"We are now open and in good condition 364 days a year (we close on Christmas Day). Last year for example we had two days on temporary greens and we play on even if it is frosty and don't suffer any detrimental effects," he explained.

Since making these changes Cumberwell Park has been very profitable throughout the winter months. I am responsible for keeping statistical data on all the rounds played at Cumberwell and present this at the monthly board meetings. When we analysed the data we realised that actually the time when the course is at its most busy is during the month of December. Of course daylight is limited in these months but we can be totally packed with green fee paying punters.

"The tougher the conditions the better it is for Cumberwell because golfers from other clubs visit because they know we will be in good condition when other courses - which operate to other agendas and perhaps target the summer months when competitions are held - are closed or are on temporary greens.

"Amazingly we found that our income from visitors went up substantially during the worst weather conditions."

So how does the course cope under winter conditions? "We have USGA greens and initially we ran with the established practice of feeding aggressively to establish the grass, building up a bit of resistance in the form of thatch to give 100% cover so we could keep the annual meadow grass and weed species off. It's an ok philosophy.

"Where we struggled was that we were getting wear - spike and pitch marks - on the soft growth and we were starting to have problems in the winter which, we started to recognise as a key period."

The solution came by chance and as a result of Marc, and his then team of three, attempting to prove a point.

"We had 220 acres to look after and were putting in 11 hour days in the summer and something had to give. We decided that we wouldn't maintain the putting green other than cutting it twice a week. We had the viewpoint that it would deteriorate because of lack of maintenance and that would prove our value.

"Unfortunately the opposite happened and when we came out of the winter I remember someone walking past as I was cutting the putting green saying that it was the best green on the course," said Marc, from

whom a technical knowledge was acquired through Food and Dairy Technology Diploma he gained before entering greenkeeping.

Marc then sat down with his Deputy and right hand man, Andy Parker, to discuss the issue and concluded that they may have hit upon something which could be transferred to the 18 greens on the course.

"We were both very experienced in all greenkeeping techniques and regularly visited other courses. We felt that we could tailor the traditional greenkeeping approach to our needs and so decided to give it a go. The critical thing was to stop feeding and by lowering nitrogen applications drastically we would create a tougher grass that would resist wear. And that's exactly what happened."

He does admit that there was a pain barrier through which they had to go before seeing the benefits.

"The greens were crying out for feed but because we weren't doing the rest of the maintenance programme such as scarifying and hollow tining we could still maintain a surface. The look of them was deteriorating but the playability was improving so we got away with it," recalls Marc, who now manages a well motivated team of 13, including two part time gardeners and two mechanics.

"Going into the winter there was still a lot of residual thatch which was breaking down and releasing nitrogen and in that first winter we did get a fair amount of disease but we stuck with it. Going into the summer we were in pretty good shape and began tailoring things a little more by doing some simple aerating, slit tining etc. We were cutting tighter because the grass was harder and, as we weren't verticutting, we still had plenty of leaf material in the form of lateral growth. The grass was healthy and we were still maintaining the root growth."

The following winter the real benefits began to shine through. "We hardly fed at all that year. It was around 15 kilos per hectare, which is St Andrews like feeding, and we had the best putting surfaces you could ever imagine and suddenly the praise started to come in. We knew then that we were fine."

The breakthrough occurred around the time that they began constructing a further nine holes and Marc and the team were happy that they were moving in the right direction and applied the new practices to the new greens.

"We seeded them in August and nine days after the seed - and it wasn't pre-germinated - went down we were mowing. We cut it to 10 mm and it was like mowing a bunker, but we were confident that it would work.

"It has to be said that we fed aggressively but we use organic feed - Sustane which is an ideal product for our philosophy - and we lowered the height of cut by half a millimetre each week down to six mil which took us into the winter at the same height as the other 18 greens.

"When we hit the winter period we stopped feeding and the result was that in eight weeks the greens were totally established and became superb putting surfaces with good root growth, no thatch and a nice balance of bent and fescue. I feel that we have got everything working in harmony now. We never scarify or verticut or hollow tine but if you don't remove





anything you don't have to put much back in the way of fertiliser or additives of any kind."

Marc is indebted to agronomist, Robert Laycock, and a lecture which has remained with him that Robert gave at a recent Harrogate on the relationship between nitrogen and calcium in the grass plant.

"Basically if nitrogen is high, calcium is always low and if nitrogen is low, calcium is high. Calcium is the same for grass as it is for us in that it provides structural strength. In our case it is teeth and bones and in the grass plant it is the cell wall and it makes it much more resistant to not only wear but disease as well. Fusarium has to penetrate the cell wall to infect the plant and by creating the stronger cell wall you prevent that infection. We do not have fusarium. It is not a problem. We haven't sprayed in five years and I can't see us ever having to do it."

So what's the downside?

"There is always a compromise in greenkeeping if you

do sometimes you pay for it somewhere else and we tend to suffer a little in March and April. Coming out of winter the greens are very hungry and start sending roots down at the expense to top growth and you tend to get very little grass at all. It means the surfaces are fast but a little bumpy. Also the greens don't always look that great visually and they can get quite firm in the summer but because we have big greens we can get away with it," explained Marc.

"All in all though, the benefits for us far outweigh these minor problems. Ask any greenkeeper and their problem time is the winter but in our case we can deliver the goods whatever the British climate throws at us.

However, he can also appreciate fully why other courses wouldn't follow the same path.

"If greens were predominately annual meadow grass and you put them under severe stress by reducing the nitrogen you'd be left with nothing. Golfers wouldn't tolerate it so I can understand other





greenkeepers not being in the position to go down that road. In that respect we've been very lucky.

"In fact, I have to say I have been very lucky all round. I've got no greens committees to worry about, a great team to make me look good and I am part of a forward thinking and highly successful golf club which is developing all the time.

As for the future for Cumberwell it includes another nine holes to give four loops of nine and a possible academy course, while the lovely stone built clubhouse is also to be extended.

With innovative thinking and a talented greenkeeping team the success of Cumberwell shows that clubs can thrive in these tough economic times.

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# WATER MANAGEMENT

## Continue to learn

"CAMS? I've never heard of it."

"What's The Water Bill?"

"I put 10 minutes of water on the greens and seven or eight minutes on the tees."

"The lakes on the course look after themselves."

Ten years ago these statements were common among the greenkeeping and golf club fraternity. Today, they are heard less so, but there is a greater need for Course Managers and Greenkeepers to be aware of all aspects of water management. It is not just about operating irrigation systems, it's about other aspects including managing lakes, watercourses and dealing with sources of water including abstraction licences and water-use monitoring.

The turf management profession is increasing its environmental awareness all the time and has a huge opportunity to demonstrate environmental responsibility while still producing the best playing surfaces. This is particularly relevant to water, both in relation to irrigation practice and to bodies of water on the course. There is a need to ensure that you keep abreast of legislation and water management methods.

This article provides an overview of those aspects of water management that simply have not been sufficiently covered in the general golf course management field, but are important now and will become more important to all Course Managers and Greenkeepers. It is intended to provide background information that will be relevant to the environmental programmes that are increasingly prevalent in golf course management.

### CATCHMENT ABSTRACTION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES OR CAMS

In 1999, the Government published a development document entitled *Taking Water Responsibly*. This reviewed and recommended modification to the way in which the abstraction of water for all uses was regulated. A key part of the resultant changes was the development by the Environment Agency of Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies or CAMS. It is often claimed that in the wider sphere of water use in the UK, golf course use is insignificant and will be largely ignored. But can we afford to take that view? I believe not. Public perception and ignorance of the crucial part water plays in both the agronomic and commercial success of golf makes the industry a potential soft target. We should take this into consideration and be able to demonstrate a responsible approach.

CAMS will be inextricably linked with the new Water Bill in changing the ways in which water is made available. It covers drinking water supplies, industry, agriculture, horticulture and turf management and will have some effect on many golf courses.

CAMS are water allocation processes based upon consultation and greater public information on, and involvement in, managing water resources within catchment areas. It is intended to provide a consistent approach to local water resource management. A strategy is developed via a five-stage process for each catchment area. These are: a pre-consultation, a resources assessment, a sustainability appraisal, the creation of a consultation document, and finally the implementation of the strategy.

The strategy is then in place for six years, whereupon it will be reviewed and updated.

So what does this mean for the golf manager? It will change the abstraction licencing process. Water abstraction licences have historically been granted in perpetuity. However, CAMS and The Water Bill bring time-limited licencing linked into the six-year cycle of any CAMS area. At the end of each period, users will need to reapply and new licences will be granted based upon environmental sustainability, ongoing need and efficient use.

The first criterion is largely outside our influence, but ongoing need and



efficient use are aspects we can control. Good irrigation management techniques such as scheduling, preferably based upon ET (evapotranspiration) demand and accountable and sound agronomic practice, will be important in securing the required water quantities. Reliable, accurate and comprehensive control systems with the ability to demonstrate and record operational irrigation strategy and water use will also allow a stronger case to be put forward at the time of renewal. In addition to new licences, a programme of converting existing permanent licences to time-limited status over a 15-year transition period will create a requirement for production of a well founded and justifiable renewal application.

CAMS have a direct effect on courses using boreholes or drawing water from lakes or watercourses. Those using potable water supplies may find The Water Bill of greater significance. [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

### THE WATER BILL

The Water Bill was introduced in the House of Lords in February. While it will affect England and Wales, the current less regulated position in Scotland will change and Course Managers and Greenkeepers in Scotland should continue to update their knowledge of local water source provision.

Statements have been made as to the practical effects this legislation would have on the golf industry, particularly when discussing irrigation system provision, but it is fair to say that until it becomes law and the full implications of its implementation are understood the impact is difficult to gauge.

This Bill is described as taking... "to a new level the Government's commitment to the sustainable management and use of water resources. It will update the framework for abstraction licencing, promote greater water conservation and planning for the future by water companies."

It appears that this emphasis on the water companies as opposed to end-users is important. Indeed, a legal duty for all licensed abstractions to use water efficiently does not appear to be included in the Bill. The companies will be obliged to develop plans for more effective drought and water resource management and for better water conservation. The investment required to achieve these objectives could well be reflected in more inspection and regulation and potentially in price reviews.



By Graeme Francis, Sales Manager,  
Toro Irrigation Products, UK

**TORO**

Count on it.

The Bill will also lead to deregulation for small abstractors. If you take less than 20 cubic metres or 4400 gallons per day then there will be no licence control. The Environment Agency, however, has the power to raise or lower this threshold based upon local CAMS demands. As an industry, we should have, at the very least, an awareness of The Water Bill and the need for the creation and implementation of water conservation programmes. [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

#### **EFFICIENT WATER USE**

Water use efficiency has many facets and all are becoming of more significance as we see tighter regulatory and financial control on water use.

Course Managers simply must have the right tools to do the job and in irrigation terms this means a system that has been correctly designed using accepted principles relating to areas such as location and spacing of sprinklers, pipe and cable-sizing and control methodology.

Even today too many inferior systems are installed and efficiency is compromised in the shortsighted quest for lower initial capital expenditure. Control systems, particularly, need to be utilised to allow accurate scheduling while providing an easy way in which to create new irrigation programmes and modify existing ones. This, in combination with comprehensive system performance monitoring, will bring effective water conservation. It is possible to reduce water use by as much as 25 per cent by using the right control system and it can be the case that the initial outlay of a PC-based control system can be recouped over a reasonable period by the resulting reduction in water supply costs.

It is not just the original design that is important, however, as installation, operation and maintenance are all crucial. Looking at the day-to-day use of irrigation Course Managers and Greenkeepers need to have an understanding of the methods of calculating precipitation rates and application times and relating those to water consumption. Knowing the rate at which a system applies water in relation to the infiltration rates of soil types and construction profiles allows irrigation scheduling to be adapted to prevent runoff, puddling and rootzone leaching. These calculations are simple mathematics using performance data.

As accountability and the need to prepare justifiable claims and applications for water become more important the ability to explain how water usage figures have been produced is essential. It is fair to say that this aspect of golf course management has not been given the necessary attention. More education on irrigation scheduling and its implications on course management is required as the need for efficient water use increases. [www.btlia.org.uk](http://www.btlia.org.uk)

#### **LAKE AND POND MANAGEMENT**

This aspect of water management has been highlighted before. Water quality issues in lakes, whether they are due to high occurrences of algae, low oxygen, excessive weed growth or sediment build-up, do need to be addressed. Every lake is a unique ecosystem and a process of identifying the causes of lake and pond water quality problems should be the first step to better management. All too often, it is the symptoms that are treated while the underlying causes are not understood. A lake should have an environmental balance and any curative actions need to take this into consideration.

All lakes and ponds go through an ageing process that takes them from a state of low nutrient level with little or no algal or macrophytic growth to the eventual creation of a swamp or bog. Where a lake or pond is created it is often subject to an exponentially accelerated ageing process. The reasons for this include erosion, shallowness in construction and high sediment and nutrient loads often deposited from incoming watercourses.

There are a variety of mechanical, chemical and cultural ways in which to solve lake water quality management issues, but the underlying fact remains that without the necessary levels of oxygen and circulation through the water the problems will reoccur. In some cases certain treatments, while producing immediate and short-term results are actually adding to the issues, particularly if organic matter is being added to the nutrient base and depleting oxygen levels in its decomposition.

Methods that are employed include good basin design particularly in relation to depth, a minimum of three metres is recommended. The creation of peripheral wetlands and buffer zones using reedbeds and vascular plants can also assist with lake and pond water management. In some instances the adoption of "no chemical zones" around lakes can also help. Other methods that are used include the introduction of barley straw and voracious weed eating carp but more often than not the environmental balance within the water itself is the key to success and the only real method of quality control.

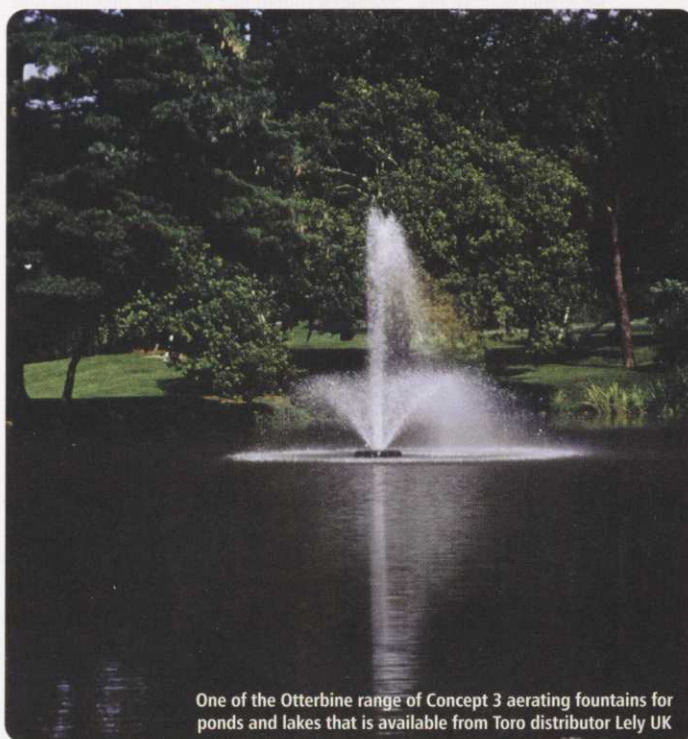
The four key water quality factors are sunlight, temperature, nutrients and oxygen. Too much of the first three and not enough of the last will create an imbalance and water quality issues will proliferate. In a natural lake transfer from the atmosphere provides enough oxygen by wave and wind action, surface diffusion and rainfall. In man-made lakes it is usually the case that these natural methods are not able to provide sufficient oxygen and therefore mechanical oxygenation and circulation is required.

The use of aeration systems is becoming widespread in commercial landscape and public parks and there are a growing number of examples in golf course lakes. When looking at an aerator for a lake it is important that oxygen transfer rates are available for evaluation. These must be produced by an acknowledged independent testing facility and should be derived from operation of the aerator within accepted electrical parameters.

Aerator design principles dictate that high flows with lower pressures create the best oxygenation and circulation. There may be a fountain-type effect, but the production of a spray pattern is of secondary importance. Fountains generally work the opposite way using low flow with high pressure to produce the spray effect. Aerators provide the best long term and proactive way in which to maintain good water quality in lakes and ponds. Initial capital expenditure may appear high, but what will be the cost of not acting?

This article can only touch on each of these areas of water management. It may appear that some of them may have little relevance to your own course, but it should be seen as part of every Course Manager and Greenkeeper's role to have both an awareness of them and to implement management regimes that are relevant to the course now and for the future.

Ignore water management – whether for irrigation or lakes and ponds – at your peril.



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# From Horses for Courses...

Roland Taylor looks at the development of the fairways and tees mower from the early days of animal driven maintenance



While cleaning out a drawer recently, I discovered some old leaflets, magazines and newsletters that gave an insight into what greenkeeping, especially the cutting of fairways, was like back in the early part of the 1900's.



Mr Glass, the then Head Greenkeeper of Thorpe Hall GC in Essex, wrote in 1963 that he had been working on golf courses for over 40 years. His first job back in 1923 was mowing fairways with a 24" horse drawn roller mower, this plus a 36" version and a flock of 300 sheep kept the grass short. The work was slow and tedious and he was only able to cut two fairways a day. Later a triple gang horse drawn unit was purchased which did speed up the operation. Animals had been used to keep the fairway grass short as far back as the middle of the 1600's and rabbits were being farmed on courses for their meat. The records show that by the beginning of the 1800's, on one particular course, players were complaining about the amount of damage these four-legged mowers were doing to the fairways, and as a consequence to their game. In this instance, a long, costly legal action, which eventually finished up in the House of Lords, was necessary to rid the course of what had become a nuisance. There are probably still a few golf courses, where local farmers have grazing rights. It is surprising that a flock of sheep was still being used for maintaining grass, 80 years after Budding had invented the cylinder mower.

In his article Mr Glass goes on to say the big day arrived when the club purchased a Fordson tractor plus a five-gang mower. The Horse went into retirement and the sheep went to market, much to the relief of the players and all the fairways were cut in two days.

Further insight into what it was like to work on a golf course in the 1920's is gained from some essays, which were published in 1929 as part of a greenkeepers' competition. Most of the mowing of greens was being done by hand and one entrant wrote that he would not have an engine powered unit on his hallowed turf because they could not be trusted. Reading between the lines he had probably had a nasty experience with a petrol mower. He says that they were apt to leak oil and petrol onto the greens and that his men were inclined to drive them too fast which caused scuffing on the turns.

Advertisements of the time show that there were plenty of courses using motor mowers. Dennis Bros of Guildford were offering 24" (£72), 30" (£85) and 34" (£100) models, plus a trailer seat that would fit any of these at £6.10 shillings (50p). They claimed to have supplied a number of golf clubs with their machines including, Royal St George's, Richmond Park and Woodhall Spa.

Another advertisement illustrated a horse drawn set of Shanks 'Triumph' Triple gang mowers, these were available in 7ft to 16ft widths. They also displayed a 16" Wizard motor mower, complete with grass box for £37.10 shillings.

Over the next four decades tractor towed gang mowers became the normal method of cutting fairways. The ground wheels drove the cylinders and the performance was very much reliant on the operator. The travel speed was critical to the quality of finish, too fast and the result would be very poor. There was tendency for units bouncing at high speeds which results in an uneven cut and turning too sharply could produce scalping and scuffing.

The first innovation to gang mowers, was the introduction of triple units driven off the tractor's PTO. This meant the cutting cylinder speed was no longer reliant on the forward motion of the unit, so it was constant, regardless of other outside factors. This introduction heralded the beginning of a more controlled quality of cut.

At about this time hydraulics were also being introduced. These were run off the tractor's system and were for lifting the units in and out of work, which meant the mowing width, could be reduced when working in confined areas or around obstacles.

The next milestone was the hydraulic motor. Now each cutting unit had its own power supply and because of the flexibility of the hoses, used to deliver the oil to each motor, it could be floating to follow the ground contours closely or fixed for level surfaces. Cylinder speed remained constant and its spinning directions could be altered at the flip of a switch. Another major advantage the hydraulic units had over trailed gang mowers was the ability to disconnect the cylinders when travelling between sites and to be able to lift them in and out of work, all from the tractor seat. Trailed gang mowers and hydraulic units are still readily available. But the machinery for maintaining fairways has moved on.

For the last two decades the development of all golf course machinery has mainly been lead from across the pond, in the USA. This saw the introduction of ride-on fairway mowers with a choice of cutting width and cylinder units. The hydraulic systems have been extended to give two and four wheeled drive versions and power steering. The other big change was the advent of small compact diesel engines.







# From Horses for Courses...

## TEES

The general consensus is that these should be cut with a cylinder mower and the clippings collected. Having said this, it was recently reported that some roller propelled rotary mowers with grass collection were being used in the USA.

No doubt there are some readers who use this type of mower here in the UK. An advantage of using a rotary is that leaves and any other debris will also be collected, whether the finish is acceptable is a point of discussion.

A ride-on triple mower, with a collecting facility, is also an alternative method of mowing tees, especially if they are large enough. Where they have a shallow banking the hover type of mower can be used.

For bank cutting an alternative is the brush cutter. This machine should not be confused with a trimmer, which has a relatively small engine and is mainly designed for domestic grass cutting.

The commercial brush cutter is a far better proposition, they are designed for heavy use and are now available with wide choice of powerful engines. Nylon line trimmer heads are part of the package, so they can cut short grass on banking. The main reason for suggesting this type of machine is its versatility as it can be used for other jobs around the course such as cutting down undergrowth or weeds on ditch sides. Another possibility is the recent introduction of brush cutter type power units which have a range of quick and easy to fit interchangeable attachments including nylon line grass trimmer, hedge cutter and rotary broom.

The style of cutting has also undergone a metamorphosis and to some extent this has been influenced by television coverage, which is now big business. How the course appears on the small screen has become an important factor. Long sweeping fairways that look immaculate are the norm. This has, to some extent, influenced players in this country, who also expect their course to look similar.

A majority of courses now use ride-on machines for mowing the fairways and there are plenty to choose from, often with similar specifications, that cater for the need.



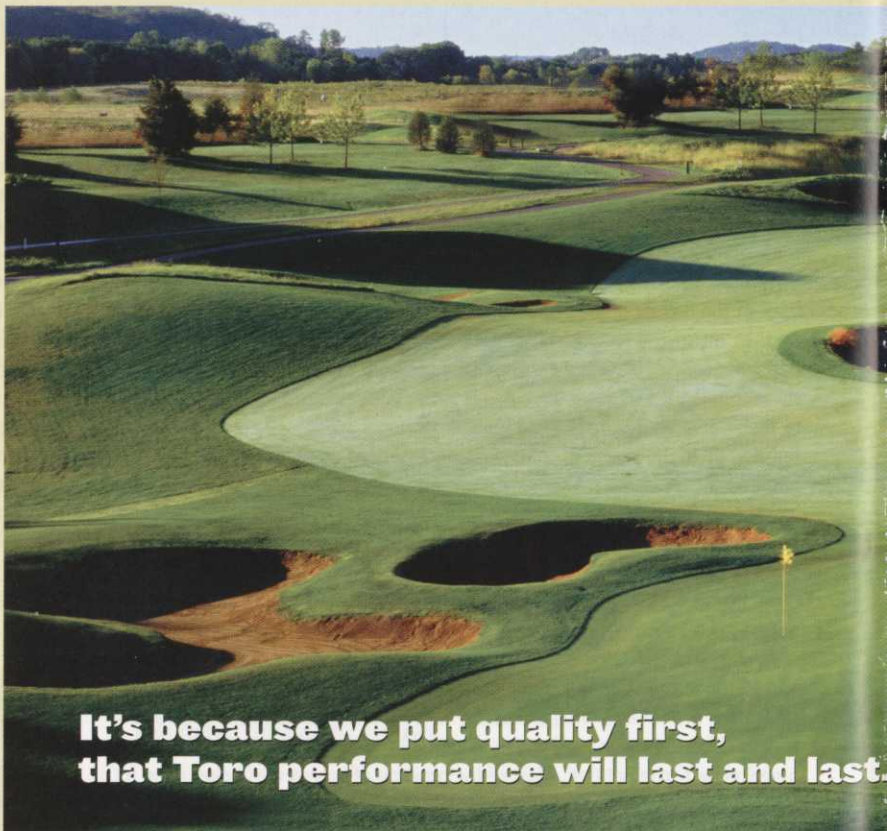
### Greensmaster 3250-D

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## AROUND BUNKERS

These sometimes have banking and it is not always possible to cut this with a fairway mower. Again the hover or brush cutter machines are ideal for these areas. The edge around the bunker can be cut using edging shears, but a faster way of carrying out this operation is with a mechanised unit built especially for the job. The machine consists of a vertical blade which has a guide that runs along the bunker edge, while the blade trims the feather of grass. On some machines the cutting head can be rotated and used for trimming up against walls or posts and along the edge of tarmac or concrete paths.

## KEEN BLADES

With all the modern equipment now available it is easy to forget some of the fundamental factors that result in the course looking good. The blades on a cylinder mower like a rotary must be kept sharp. They also require setting at the correct distance from the bed knife. Too hard and they will act like a brake and place considerable strain on the machine's other components, especially the engine, which will use more fuel oil and increase the amount of pollutants discharged into the atmosphere. Likewise if the cutters are not adjusted close enough, the grass is torn rather than cut, this distresses the turf and causes a similar loading, as mentioned before, on the machine.

Hydraulic drives have made backlapping easy, but it should be realised that this is only a stop gap measure and the cylinder and bed knife need grinding as soon as possible.

Cruising round the course in an ergonomically designed seat and often with a cab, an operator can easily forget what is happening underneath the machine. The good greenkeeper is one with keen eye, sharp ear and good sense of smell.



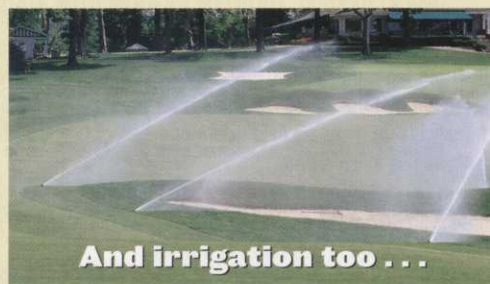
Maintaining fairway, tees and bunkers have come a long way since the beginning of the last century. There are probably no readers who have a flock of 300 sheep or several hundred rabbits to contend with but because the boundaries are continually being pushed back more complexities occur to contend with.

Greenkeeping has become more demanding and sophisticated and Mr Glass would be hard pushed to keep up with today's technocrats. On the bright side, at least today, it doesn't take nine days to cut each of the fairways once, on an 18-hole course and spend all that time looking at the rear end of a horse.



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# Managing a Golf Course

The **second** of a series of five articles detailing duties of the modern day golf Course Manager

## Managing and Taking Control

**"If the responsibility for the management of the golf course rests on one individual the benefits to the golf course and therefore the golf club as a whole are immense."**

**That statement may seem rather obvious to people who accept the concept of management responsibility, indeed many who believe in this simple principal are officials within our golf clubs.**

So why is it that in the vast majority of golf clubs, golf course management responsibilities appear to be ill defined, and even worse shared between staff, officials and/or committees?

In other words when things go wrong no-one knows who to blame and the easy answer is to blame the person "in charge" of, but not necessarily responsible for, the golf course.

This person is invariably the Head Greenkeeper, or in some cases it is a Course Manager, however when this is the case it more than likely turns out that the person may be a Course Manager in name only and is not "managing" at all, but merely doing as they are told.

In my experience if no one person is held responsible for something being done then it will most probably not get done at all!

There are many varied management structures in place in golf clubs but no matter what structure you may have I would advocate that there must be one person responsible for the management of the golf course - and it would seem the most likely name for that person would be a "Course Manager" because it best describes what that person does and what that person is responsible for.

The reason that this "ideal" scenario is far from common place at the moment quite frankly is that there are insufficient numbers of fully qualified, competent Course Managers to go round.

Some of my colleagues may balk at that observation but I would suggest that those who do are the ones who do not carry out all of the necessary duties, which will be detailed in this series of articles.

Whenever I hear of problems on golf courses they invariably result from ill defined areas of responsibility, and this proves to me why there are problems - we as Course Managers must take responsibility for the management of the golf course in all its varied aspects, which include difficult as well as easy times - it is all too easy to hide when things are not going well but this only delays the inevitable.

My belief is therefore that you must have a Course Manager fully responsible for the management of the golf course.

There may be managing committees and managing sub committees (quite rightly in my view) but the responsibility for the golf course must rest with the Course Manager.

Over this series of articles I will cover what I believe to be the minimum requirement/remit/job description of that person.

Strides in the education and training available to greenkeepers over the past 15 years or so have been exceptional thanks to both the Greekeepers' Training Committee and BIGGA, our Professional Association, who have both given, and will continue to give, good advice and guidance.

There is therefore no excuse for not finding the relevant training to develop the necessary competency levels and skills required to be a successful and effective golf Course Manager.

### TAKING A MAJOR ROLE IN THE FORMULATION OF POLICY

After reading my preamble some may think I advocate that I can do what I want when I want - not true. Indeed if I did I am sure either the course or my employer would suffer in the long term - we all need guidance and parameters in which to operate effectively. That is why having a policy in place is absolutely essential.

So what is policy?

Briefly explained it is an agreed system in which we work - note the word "agreed" - the club sets policy - not the Course Manager.

That point is extremely important - we may think the course is ours (a certain personal pride is no bad thing) but it belongs to the members and we are employed by those members to carry out their instructions.

That said however because we are trained to manage golf courses, and possess the knowledge, expertise and above all experience, to avoid future disasters - we must be involved, and indeed take a major role in the setting up of such a policy.

If, for example, the club aimed to have a policy of no aeration "we don't want all those holes all over the greens disrupting our putts" and lots of water so that "we can stop the ball on the green more easily" - it would be the Course Manager's duty to convince the club of the catastrophic results, and that a different policy, based on proven course management principals, should be adopted.

In this way policy is set and the Course Manager is responsible for that policy being carried out.

I do not have the space to go into every detail of what should be within the agreed policy, but suffice to say it should cover every area of the course from greens to conservation areas, to clubhouse surrounds and car parks.

It should also contain all staff and committee responsibilities. This may sound daunting at first but believe me if policy is set out at the beginning your working relationship with the club will be much more amicable and workable.

The biggest aggravation I hear from colleagues is that the committee/officialdom, General Manager/Secretary (or all of them!) are always "interfering" in the work on the course.

If you set policy and work within it there is no need for any interference - everyone knows what the aims are, and how they will be achieved.

The course will be managed in a way which the club can understand and relate to, and in the case of a written "golf course policy statement" is clearly defined and documented.



## TO OVERSEE THE SHORT, MEDIUM, AND LONG TERM MAINTENANCE OF THE GOLF COURSE WHICH IS DICTATED BY THAT POLICY

This covers the common sense decisions made by us, mostly without even realising it, on a day to day/week to week/month to month basis.

It covers decisions on staff working singly, in pairs, in groups, using extra hours effectively and managing your staffs time as well as your own, e.g. two or three tasks may be carried out at the same time thus making obvious savings, not only in time but also in machinery wear and fuel costs.

I also believe that it is essential to re-evaluate how/when we do anything on the golf course on a regular basis - there is always a better way no matter how well we think we do it already.

The most important word in the previous heading is "oversee" - Course Managers are employed to manage, not to sit on equipment cutting grass all day every day - you save your employer a considerable amount of aggravation and therefore money because you think and manage.

It is one of my beliefs however that we must earn the respect of our staff by not only being capable of doing any task we ask of our staff (no matter how menial) but also assisting staff where and when appropriate.

What we have to do is find the balance between overseeing, administration and the physical use of our own labour as part of the overall course staff, so that the course is run as efficiently as possible.

Overseeing should not mean spying on staff, this is time wasting and counterproductive - in my experience staff respond extremely well to trust.

## TO PRESENT AND IMPLEMENT WORK SCHEDULES

The Course Manager must be capable of assessing the duration of every task on the golf course and convey this information as and when necessary.

This can take many forms but can be broken down into the four seasons where particular types of work schedules are identified as well as a general schedule on day to day tasks.

The largest schedule will probably be the annual Winter Programme which is very different from the day to day work which is carried out during the main playing season and is presented and approved well before the actual work commences.

I have found a "three part system" helpful in outlining what must be done on an annual basis - this necessary annual work (part 1) is often forgotten in favour of some exciting new tee or bunker project and this gives you an opportunity to let everyone know that if you don't do this on an annual basis the course will suffer.

For this reason the following parts are in order of priority.

### Part 1 Necessary Annual Course Maintenance

- Checking course drainage
- Checking trees - stakes, ties, lopping etc.
- Checking replacing bridges
- Refurbishment of course equipment/furniture etc.
- Machinery annual overhauls and maintenance
- Health & Safety up dates etc. etc.

### Part 2 Agreed Priority Work

The committee/officialdom, General Manager/Secretary would be expected to have more of an input in this section.

The work agreed to be carried out should be the result of constructive feed back from the membership on what improvements they would like to see on the golf course (if you have been communicating well with the general membership you will probably know what this will entail).

### Part 3 Golf Course Alterations and Major Projects

Following a golf course architect's appraisal this section would cover improvements to the golf course in design terms e.g. movement of bunkers, tee or green realignment etc.

It may also cover major drainage or pathway projects etc.

The Winter Programme preamble must state when it starts and when it will be completed as well as stating how many staff will be involved and how that staff will be allocated to which project.

Ideally a master plan will have been prepared - probably as part of the "golf course policy statement" so that the Winter Programme is not viewed in isolation but part of an overall strategy looking well into the future.

Regular course reports to the club must be produced throughout the year as a form of work schedule covering progress and work envisaged so that committees and members are kept well informed on what has/what is/what will be carried out on the course on their behalf (more detail on this area under the future heading of "communication").

Forward planning is so important in ensuring things run smoothly for ourselves and our staff as well as the membership.

Without going into any great detail written schedules must be kept in an open form with access for all staff which is up dated on a daily/weekly/monthly basis so that everyone knows what is planned for today/tomorrow/next week/next month.

This is in addition to year planners, holiday schedules, fixture lists, etc. - in this way the allocation of staff, materials, and equipment will be as efficient as possible.

In the real world however things change - in our case the weather is mostly in control of what we do and when we do it - but this should not be used as an excuse for not taking the time and effort to plan ahead.

## TO PRESENT AND IMPLEMENT MACHINERY MAINTENANCE PROGRAMMES

A fully detailed machinery maintenance schedule is very reliant on sufficient finance - I will therefore cover this area more fully under the next article heading of "controlling finances".

I will, however, cover two important points at this time. An accurate up to date machinery and equipment inventory is absolutely vital and is the responsibility of the Course Manager.

An efficient, clean, warm, tidy, and well designed workshop where all tools and equipment are kept as well as good, comfortable canteen/rest facilities for all staff sets the scene for the whole establishment.

In all the visits to golf clubs I have made the condition of the course is almost always directly related to the condition of the workshops and staff facilities.

## KEEPING ACCURATE RECORDS

My comments within this heading in my last series of articles mentioned the help of the Health & Safety Executive in this area - probably meaning the fear factor which certainly made me aware of the need to keep accurate records.

Health & Safety matters take up a considerable amount of our time now and I will cover this in more detail in the final article of the series - records relating to Health & Safety will include Health & Safety policy documents and records of updates, risk assessments, COSSH, machinery repair and servicing etc.

Probably the best "to hand" record is the diary - both written and electronic. We as a staff could not operate efficiently without relating to diary entries and the information it gives us - also should you move on it is a formidable record of everything which has gone on in the name of golf course management and is extremely helpful to the next Course Manager in making decisions on future maintenance.

Lastly, there must be an accurate plan of the golf course with all underground services clearly illustrated - it is amazing how many golf courses still do not possess this necessary documentation and only find out when a major contractor arrives to dig holes - you can imagine what happens when you're not sure what is underground.

Expenditure records will be covered under "controlling finances".

## KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH MODERN METHODS, MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

Whenever I turn round there is yet another new material or piece of equipment or machinery and no matter how tedious it may be it is our duty to keep up with developments in all areas.

The best way I have found is to meet colleagues at every possible opportunity, both in the line of business, e.g. BTME, Education Conferences, seminars etc. as well as semi-social occasions, such as BIGGA golf days etc.

The most obvious occasions to see and talk about products and services would probably be demonstrations and trade days, but I still find it more helpful talking to colleagues when making buying decisions - I would not even consider buying any product without first discussing it with someone who may have used or trialed it before.

The amount of product information now is mind boggling but we owe it to our employer to at least consider alternatives to improve golf course conditions and if that means wading through every book, circular, article, flyer etc. then so be it.

Today's golfing member deserves an efficiently run golf course for the subscription paid and more and more of these members are questioning where their money is being spent.

A Course Manager totally responsible for the golf course is I believe the only way to ensure that requirement is met in future.

**Duncan McGilvray**



# THE TOMORROW PEOPLE

With increasing pressure on both water management and general course management the modern Golf Course Manager should be aware of advances in technology, and how they can be of both financial and environmental benefit to the long term maintenance regime of the course.

Using technology couldn't be easier or have more benefits. For example products that are available to assist course management include GPS technology (Global Positioning Systems), Digital aerial imagery, PC based irrigation control systems, Pump system management, Weatherstations, Palm top technology, and Radio and telephone remote control / communication.

This article does not suggest that every item will assist in the daily management of your particular course, however that you are aware of the products and their ability to assist.

With water costs rising (£0.90 per cubic metre (220 gallons) in some areas and many clubs using approximately 60 - 100 cubic metres of water per night), and the forthcoming changes in water distribution legislation - the water bill, a PC based irrigation management system is able to assist in managing both system hydraulics and monitor water usage.

Clever programme software can allow the end user to input pipe sizes and allocate flows to pipes allowing hydraulic management and prevention of pipe network overload. This maximises efficiency and reduces hydraulic stress within the system. Each branch or section of the pipeline can have added a sensing device/data retrieval unit which will feed real time information back to the control system, closing down the branch of the pipeline in the event of too high a flow/too low a pressure (pipeline burst). These actions are logged by the PC and/or sent as a text/radio message to the Course Manager.

As well as the benefits of easy programming, sprinkler precipitation rate calculations and run time calculations, the installation of a PC control system can also enable the acquisition and use of an accurate course plan that at a touch of a mouse can identify and print in colour scaled as laid irrigation



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Roger Davey looks at the aims that are available to assist the modern Course Manager with their irrigation requirements

plans, service routing, drainage layouts, bunker positions, Greens sizes, buggy path layouts, etc.

These course images can either be captured as a digital aerial image or via GPS ground mapping, however the end user must be aware that each is different in its entirety. Many people providing digital aerial images do so without realising that potentially unless rectified prior to supply, they will be inaccurate due to the curvature of both the lens and the earth, therefore providing an 'inaccurate' image.

Digital aerial image plans are provided in specialist drawing files such as BMP and will graphically show every feature of the terrain – as long as the pixel resolution is great enough (generally a resolution of 25cm is recommended). Plans can then be added to in layers, ie. layer 1 – irrigation mainline, layer 2 – sprinklers, layer 3 – drainage pipe layout, etc by a specialist CAD drawing program.

The Global Positioning System (GPS) is a worldwide radio-navigation system consisting of 24 satellites and their associated ground stations. GPS uses these 'man made stars' as reference points to calculate positions of objects to define points of measurement. The points of measurement are recorded on the ground and a layout plan produced.



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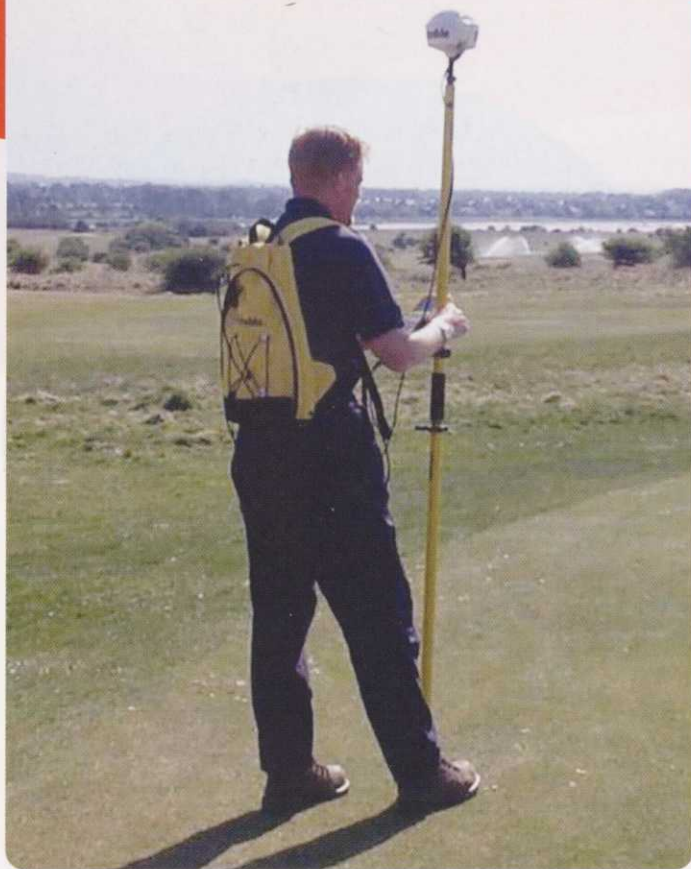
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# THE TOMORROW PEOPLE

The accuracy of GPS can be affected by many factors including the number of visible satellites, interference and distance between reference base station and roving receiver. Generally a minimum of four satellites are needed to pinpoint a good position with the accuracy increasing as the number of satellites increases (the number of satellites changes as the horizon alters during the day). As GPS is dependent upon a direct line of sight with the satellites there are many situations, particularly around shaded greens and tees on a golf course, where GPS reception is degraded to such an extent that accuracy is unobtainable. This situation however can be overcome using additional equipment, occupying a position of good reception ie. the middle of the fairway, and offsetting your position.

As with most products, the more expensive the survey the more accurate the detail - what use is a GPS mapped plan if it is not accurate? The end user should always seek clarification of accuracy and detail.

Both digital aerial images and GPS maps can provide an image of the area in question which can be used to accurately plan and calculate all activities from irrigation to the tracking of course vehicles, area calculation for fertiliser applications and as an image of the course, for course alteration meetings. GPS has the added advantage of having the ability to accurately record all as laid products within the map - sprinklers, pipelines, telecommunications, electricity, gas, oil, etc.

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Remote communication of this type is achieved by the use of radio remote control. However some systems also accept mobile phone communications which allows the simple remote operation of the system by standard mobile phones using the keypad to provide instructions to the PC. These instructions can be relayed from anywhere that allows phone reception, even another country!

The radio remote control facility utilised by the palm top / irrigation control system can also double up as the internal communication system that Greens staff require to assist with the smooth programming of works and to monitor other course activities - competitions etc.

External influences created by the weather which effect water application rates and plant evapotranspiration can also be monitored by irrigation system weather stations which will report back to the PC to advise of changes in water requirements. Weather stations can record temperature, humidity, rainfall, wind speed, and solar radiation – downloading this information on a



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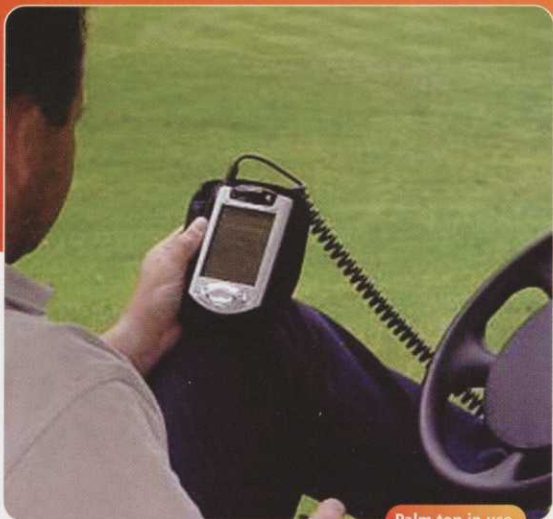
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# THE TOMORROW PEOPLE

regular basis assisting with application rate calculations and run time cycles.

This may to some people seem like a toy, however, courses that use approximately 300 - 500m of water per night can save between 10% and 15% of water within a cycle by employing such technology; this equates to a value in mains water monetary terms of between £27 - £68 per night and over a 100 night period, this is a figure not taken for granted in both monetary and environmental terms.

Over the last 10 years the introduction of industrial technology within the irrigation pumping station has become more and more prevalent, most noticeably the use of variable frequency drive units. These manage the performance of each pump, slowing down and speeding up the pump motor - matching produced flow with required demand, minimising hydraulic stress and making the units extremely energy efficient. The affinity laws which

govern pumps show that a 20% reduction in pump speed will result in a 50% reduction in electrical energy consumption by the motor. In the past pumps have constantly worked at full speed simply bleeding excess water back into the storage reservoir/tank - wasting energy and accelerating pump wear.

Pump station monitoring software can be used to link the pump station to the central control system providing real time communication and optimising irrigation cycles. It can also monitor and react to changes in station capacity ie. should one pump of a three pump station fail, the irrigation flow manager will receive instructions to reduce available water by 33% and prolong the cycle, ensuring that a cycle is achieved and that station failure does not occur due to low flow.

Now even further advances lay in store for this industry, integrating the technology with other aspects of course operations - GPS controlled mowing!?

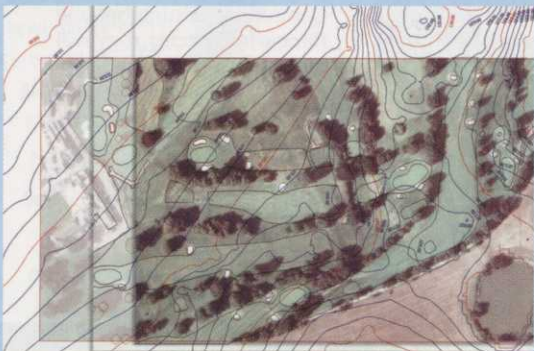
Perhaps by raising the stakes, we raise the game... 10 years ago would you have considered that a standard family car when purchased would come with satellite navigation, climate control, DVD player and intelligent speed limit control? Technology is all around us today and not just for the people of tomorrow.

Roger Davey is Managing Director of Irritech Limited - Independent Irrigation Consultants Tel: 01823 690216, [www.irritechlimited.co.uk](http://www.irritechlimited.co.uk)

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# BRIDGING THE KNOWLEDGE GAP

Lee Bridge and Peter Lacey describe their progress towards an HNC, part funded by a Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship

It is now some nine months since I started my scholarship studying towards my HNC in golf course management (distance learning) and it seems to have flown by. I really don't know where the time goes. Before you know it we will all be out on our courses struggling to keep up with the grass and working our socks off as usual. I don't know if that's a good or bad thing although I suppose it is a bit of a mixed blessing really. On one hand it's nice to be out there with the warmer weather but, on the other, does the grass really have to grow that much?

On the college front it is going really well, I have received some really positive feedback on most of my assignments so far and personally I am pleased about that.

As I am writing this update I have just recently sent off a tutor marked assignment on health and safety legislation, and am awaiting feedback. This subject is probably not the most popular one among all those in the industry but the way this unit has been tackled is quite unique. Instead of the usual reams and reams of paper to sift through it's all conveniently placed on one single cd-rom including loads of extra bits as well. Being quite a complex subject there are loads of up-to-date information on the disc, ppe assessments and noise assessments to name just a couple.

The disc is divided into two main themes - employment legislation and health and safety legislation. After you have absorbed all the information on the disc you are required to carry out three separate assignments on each subject. These become progressively harder as you reach the main assignment. Starting with about 20 questions which ensure you have understood the subject matter, then progressing to the tutor marked assessments which involves four more in depth tasks to carry out. These

tasks are designed to show your tutor that you have understood the subject and can apply the information to the tasks.

One of the tasks in the employment legislation section is to produce a notice about arrangements for taking holidays in the coming year, bearing in mind club and district championships are being held on your golf course. The section is then completed with the main assignments which are made up partly of tasks from the previous assessment. You are also asked to produce a formal style report evaluating whether your golf club complies with current legislation on each subject matter ie. employment legislation and a health and safety audit on your course.

Overall I have found the college course very worthwhile and interesting and I am thoroughly enjoying it. All the units I have completed have been easy to follow and understand, and all are well presented.

Starting the course last September with the unit about communication, presenting complex communication for vocational purposes. This unit is divided into three main assessments with some other tasks to carry out as well. The main assessments on this unit mirror the three main areas of communication with these being writing, oral presentation and holding





Lee Bridge

meetings. I have completed the writing section which required you to write a formal report on the machinery at your workplace. The other two sections will be taken when I attend the college later in the year, although I have already done a fair bit of work towards them and now it's all down to my talking skills.

The other two units I have been working on are more my scene really, although we shouldn't knock communication as we wouldn't get that far without it. The other units are about soil science and turf grass science and they also contain various assessments on different subjects.

The turf grass science unit started with an assessment on pests, diseases, disorders and weeds which I have completed, but for some identification work to do at college.

The next assessment was quite a big task with a 4,000 word presentation about the classification, anatomy and physiology of the grass plant. This ended up being 15 pages long (including pictures and the like) and I was glad when that one was finished. On a positive note, you will all have to look out for it in your local bookstore I think it's going to be released on paperback - volume one is out next week (no, not really!)

The next assessment was about soils as a growing medium. This was not quite as big as the previous one but still ended up being eight pages long. The last assignment in this section was on nutrients and soil additives and this ended up being 13 pages long. I think I may have got just a bit carried away with this one. Once I get my teeth into an interesting subject I just keep going, although I did have some great articles on the subject mostly from old Greenkeeper International magazines which came in handy. It's amazing when you look through the old back issues the vast array of information you can find. Although, be warned, it has led to a few altercations at home with my girlfriend. With all the magazines strewn all over the floor as I frantically search for any relevant articles it all creates a bit of a mess, which doesn't go down well. It's a constant battle with the Hoover as I try and save the magazines from being sucked up or even trodden on by my dog, Duke.

So far I have not required much help from the college but my dealings with them have been very good and they are very friendly and easy to accommodate any queries you may have.

Well that's as far as I have got so far but before I finish may I take this opportunity to wish all the fellow scholarship and other college students out there the best of luck with your studies this year. If you are not studying why not give it a go as there are loads of different courses out there to choose from - there's one out there for everyone, be it big/small or long/short. You're never too old or young to acquire new skills. Why not even apply for a scholarship yourself and you can not only improve your knowledge on greenkeeping matters, you can also apply your newly acquired knowledge on to your own courses. Anyone out there who is interested in taking the same course as myself and has some queries about

it then why not give Elmwood College a call. If you feel the query is best answered by me then I would be more than willing to help you out although it is probably best to write to me. You can find me in the golf directory under the South East Section and I will try to answer your query as quickly as I can.

#### **Peter Lacey outlines the work he is carrying out for his HNC at Pencoed College.**

We are currently coming to the end of our first term of study and are looking forward to a deserved break. The course is very intense and requires a lot of research to be carried out utilising both the college and local libraries and via the internet (much more scientific work in relation to golf greenkeeping and turf management has been carried out in the States, than in the UK).

A great deal of time needs to be committed to study if course assessments are to be completed on time and with enough information and detail. In most cases a few hours work is carried out every evening including weekends.

Much of my allotted scholarship has been spent purchasing a number of books that will assist me with this course work and will then become a source of reference for both myself and any of my staff who undergo college training. It has also enabled me to purchase useful technical drawing equipment and stationery, including a never-ending supply of colour ink cartridges.

At the end of this term we will have completed a number of modules, including plant protection, which encompasses weeds, pests and plant diseases. IT, inclusive of Microsoft Word, Xcel and Power-point. Surveying, Golf Course Design and Sports Ground Maintenance.

Altogether an interesting and varied array of topics, which not only keeps the grey matter ticking over, but near to boiling point on occasions. I would definitely recommend this course to those who have already completed NVQ level 3 and wish to progress further. All in all, so far, so good, tough albeit rewarding and looking forward to picking up from where we left off next term.

Incidentally, all who are on this course at Pencoed have now received scholarships from Ransomes Jacobsen and we are all grateful indeed to the company for their generous support.



Peter Lacey



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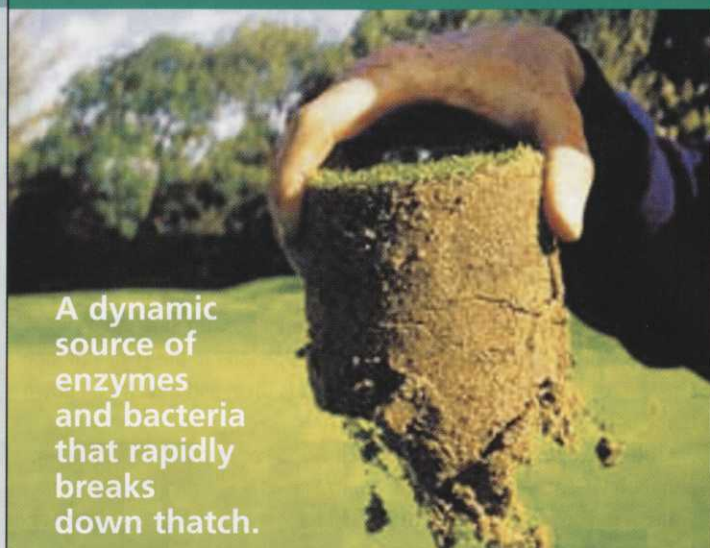
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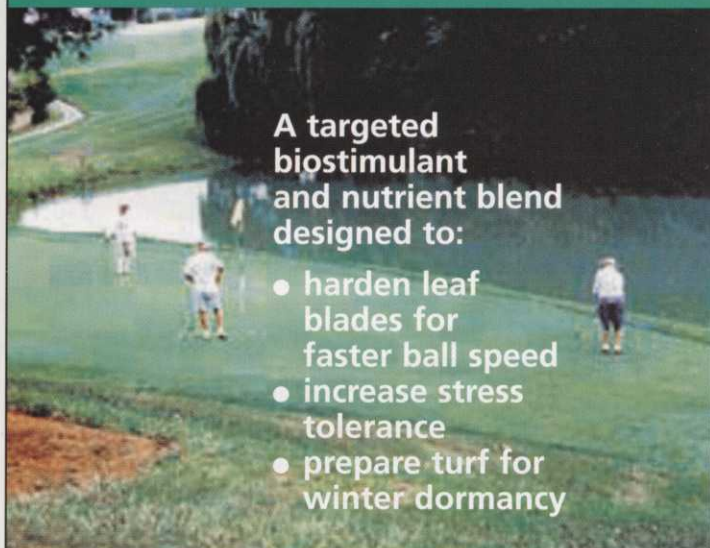
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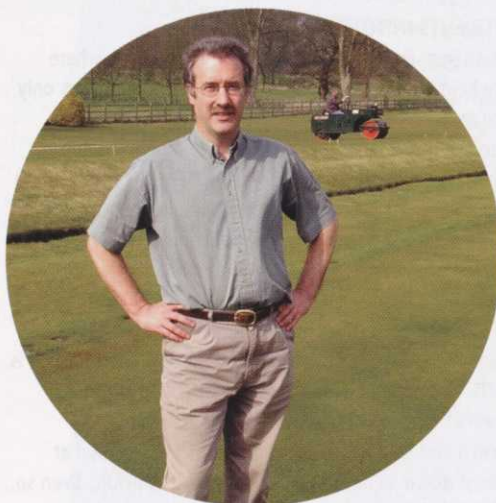
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# A QUESTION OF FERTILISERS

By Dr David Lawson  
Sports Turf Research Institute



From the many talks, seminars and conversations that he has had with greenkeepers over many years, David Lawson has compiled a list of some of the most commonly asked questions on turf fertilisers. The answers are based on direct knowledge from research carried out at STRI, as well as some of the basic facts of plant nutrition.

## WHAT EXACTLY IS THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF FERTILISER FOR FINE TURF?

Firstly, the most important fertiliser nutrient is nitrogen (N) and it is this we should be most concerned about. Where turf is growing on an unamended loam soil, it is unlikely that other nutrients such as phosphate (P) or potassium (K) will be deficient. However, if necessary, their levels can be determined by soil testing.

On a golf green or bowling green, the main component of the turf is ideally bentgrass along with red fescue. It is these species which need to be encouraged and weed species (annual meadow-grass) discouraged. The amount of nitrogen fertiliser applied has a major impact on the proportions of these grasses present. For most soil-based rootzones, an annual application of 8 to 16 g N per sq. metre (g N/m<sup>2</sup>) is adequate. Most commercial granular fine turf fertilisers, applied at recommended rate, supply 4 g N/m<sup>2</sup> on each application – so two to four dressings would be needed during the main growing season. On newer USGA, sand dominated rootzones, the amount of nitrogen applied each year should be within the range of 24 to 30g N/m<sup>2</sup>.

## WHAT ABOUT LIQUID FERTILISERS?

With the advent of highly sophisticated spraying equipment, it is possible to apply liquid feeds accurately to turf. They are now often used on golf greens in order to avoid granules prevailing on the turf surface. A proportion of the nutrients will be taken up directly by the grass leaf to provide a quick-acting effect. Some products are formulated in such a way that a high proportion of fertiliser nutrient is leaf absorbed. They do provide a good means of applying a small amount of nitrogen fertiliser evenly.

Some caution should be exercised in using liquid fertiliser, as the amounts of nitrogen applied are usually significantly lower than from most granular fertilisers – so more applications are needed. Because of this, many greenkeepers sensibly use a combination of granular and liquid fertiliser over the year.

## AND CONTROLLED RELEASE FERTILISERS?

These can be useful in reducing the number of applications required. They are, therefore, of most value on sand-dominated, USGA type rootzones where the amount of nutrient required is relatively high.

## ARE THE TYPES OF NITROGEN IN LIQUID FEEDS AND CONTROLLED RELEASE FERTILISERS THE SAME AS IN ORDINARY GRANULAR PRODUCTS?

The most obvious requirement for liquid fertilisers is that the nitrogen source dissolves in water. This tends to restrict the materials to urea and ammonium nitrate; although sometimes other materials are used. It is worth remembering, however, that ammonium sulphate has been found to be the best source of nitrogen for fine bent-dominated turf. It is particularly effective at encouraging bentgrass growth and discouraging the ingress of annual meadow-grass. Unfortunately, few liquid products use ammonium sulphate as the N source.

Controlled release fertilisers may be derived from a number of materials, probably the most common being methylene urea. This product breaks down in the rootzone to release urea; the higher the soil temperature, the quicker the release. Coated products depend on a soluble nitrogen source such as ammonium nitrate or urea to diffuse through the coating into the soil/rootzone. Again, the higher the temperature, the quicker the release.

Used on their own such slow release products do not have the same suppressive effect on annual meadow-grass as ammonium sulphate.

## MANY FERTILISERS NOW CONTAIN EXTRA ELEMENTS SUCH AS MAGNESIUM, COPPER, ZINC, MANGANESE, ETC. ARE THEY NEEDED?

The only situation where the possibility of deficiency in magnesium or trace elements exists is on sand-dominated rootzones. However, in the UK, deficiency symptoms in turf have never actually been reported. On normal soil rootzones, deficiency in these elements is highly unlikely.

## WHAT ABOUT IRON?

Iron is contained in many fertiliser products to produce a quick green-up effect. It reacts with the leaf to produce a black pigmentation. It is not actually acting as a fertiliser nutrient since turfgrasses normally contain more than enough iron for growth. It is only on alkaline soils (i.e. high pH) that an actual deficiency of iron might occur.





#### THERE SEEMS TO BE A RESURGENCE OF INTEREST IN ORGANIC FERTILISERS. WHAT ADVANTAGES DO THEY HAVE?

Organic fertilisers, based on materials such as poultry manure, dried blood and rapeseed meal, have been used in turf maintenance for many years. They provide a slow release of nitrogen along with other nutrients such as phosphate. Apart from these nutrients, such products also supply some organic matter to the soil, which can aid moisture retention in dry weather conditions. Because their nitrogen contents tend to be low, in relation to inorganics, a lot of material has to be applied to provide adequate amounts of nutrient. This often means that they are expensive to use.

It is also worth mentioning that trials with organic fertilisers on fine golf-green type turf have shown that they may encourage fungal disease, weeds and surface casting by earthworms. It is, therefore, advisable only to use such products as a small part of the overall fertiliser programme, usually with acidifying nitrogen fertilisers such as ammonium sulphate.

#### SO IS THERE REALLY NO NEED FOR ANY OTHER NUTRIENTS APART FROM NITROGEN?

In ordinary loam soils, nitrogen is likely to be the only nutrient required for mature turf. The soil itself will contain adequate amounts of phosphate, potassium, sulphate, calcium, magnesium, and trace elements. It should also be remembered that rainfall in the UK naturally contains significant amounts of nutrient such as potassium, calcium and magnesium.

However, in seedbeds it is important that there are adequate supplies of available phosphate in order to encourage seedling development and rooting. It is, therefore, often advisable to apply phosphate within the seedbed fertiliser.

On sand-dominated constructions, or where the rootzone has become sand-dominated from topdressing, it is possible that phosphate will be so low as to restrict turf growth. This can be checked for by soil analysis. If it is inadequate, then a small amount of phosphate (2g/m<sup>2</sup> of P2O5) should be applied.

#### BUT WON'T THE APPLICATION OF PHOSPHATE ENCOURAGE ANNUAL MEADOW-GRASS?

Phosphate fertiliser will encourage the establishment of annual meadow-grass only if it is applied regularly and at relatively high application rates. It is certainly not the most important causal factor in meadow-grass infestation. Surface moisture, soil pH and inappropriate nitrogen source are the most important factors. It should never be forgotten that phosphate can be deficient for bentgrass growth on sand-dominated rootzones and, if the problem is not addressed, then you can expect to lose bentgrass cover. As an aside – in early spring,

when the rootzone temperatures are still low, the turf may take on a darker colour with a bluish tinge, this despite no fertiliser or iron being applied. The reason for this is almost certainly lack of phosphate in the turf. In such circumstances, the soil phosphate level should be checked.

#### IS IT WORTH REGULARLY CHECKING SOIL NUTRIENT LEVELS?

On ordinary unamended loam soils, it is worth checking nutrient status and pH if there is any specific problem occurring. On sand-dominated rootzones, it is worth checking on a more regular basis. In such rootzones, the concentrations may rapidly change and so should be checked more frequently; perhaps every one or two years until levels appear to 'settle down'. This is particularly important for rootzone pH.

#### WHAT ABOUT THE NUTRIENTS IN TOPDRESSINGS?

It is the organic portion (e.g. peat, compost, soil) of topdressings where most of the nutrients are held. As this organic fraction normally comprises only a small proportion of the material, the amounts of nutrient applied will be relatively small. This is to the good. If the topdressing **did** contain significant amounts of nutrients, they would be released at the surface of the rootzone, to the advantage of the shallow rooted annual meadow-grass. In contrast, the nutrients from ordinary granular and liquid fertilisers will quickly move downwards from the surface to feed the deeper rooting bents and fescues.

#### JUST HOW IMPORTANT IS SOIL PH?

It is always worth remembering that the natural habitat of browntop bent is the soil of acid moorlands. Therefore, it tends to out-compete most other turfgrasses if the rootzone pH is slightly acidic. (The acidity also reduces infection by Fusarium patch and take-all disease). On one particular trial at STRI, the rootzone pH went down as far as 3.5. This is seriously acidic. Even so, at such a low pH value, the bentgrass still grew, although it did struggle to provide adequate cover. The interesting point was that on the areas without bent, no other grass species would grow (including annual meadow-grass) – it was simply too acid.

On links courses and golf greens naturally formed from chalk soils, the rootzone pH is normally high, i.e. above 7.0. Red fescue will normally thrive in such circumstances as long as it is given a helping hand by increasing the cutting height and applying lower rates of nitrogen fertiliser.

Fertiliser rates, the type used and the nutrient status of the rootzone all have a large impact on fine turf quality.

If you have any other questions on these matters, then get in touch with David Lawson at The Sports Turf Research Institute, St Ives Estate, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 1AU. Telephone: 01274 565131 or e-mail: david.lawson@stri.co.uk

*Photographs kindly supplied by Scotts UK*





## 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](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

### Excellent Issue

A quick response to the May issue - excellent! A number of first class thought-provoking articles. A small typographical error in my piece on R & A fertiliser use survey - the average use of fungicides was £1800 not £180! (I wish it were). With fungicides being outlawed in Europe (and, because of gross over-feeding, fungicides are never more needed there), we shall see more web comments about European tournaments proceeding despite the horrendous scarring of the greens of the host courses due to disease.

May I make constructive comments on some of the articles. First, using genetically modified (GM) Perm type bent (*Agrostis palustris* X, not *A. stolonifera* please!) may permit "protected" GM bent greens to be sprayed with round-up (glyphosate) to eliminate *Poa annua* invasion into such turf. There are however two problems. One, we are stuck with that GM bent - and we know they do not suit most golf courses in Europe. If they do not thrive or show faults, when they are sprayed will we be left with poor bent, not *Poa*/bent? Hopefully also, the introducers will not price exorbitantly because of a monopoly. The inventors of GM glyphosate resistant soya bean were shamed out of going for royalties and such 3rd world produced soya seed now dominates Africa/Asian cropping, with no problems and vastly increased yields and lower productions costs but without financial support or US intervention or help.

Regarding moles, why no mention of the standard strychnine-baited worms methods of mole control - still the best but (sensibly) permitted only under licence by authorised mole-catchers? For every man who is a good trapper (which I am!) there are a score who admit defeat and employ trappers.

I must send my unstinting compliments to Robert Laycock on his piece on (not) rebuilding greens. In my experience relaying is rarely justified and even less often results in improvement. Why is it, (as my old friend Malcolm Peake reports on Royal Sydney) that those greens most often relaid are those built in the last decade or two? Clearly, often because of bad specifications, bad supervision, not using correct specified materials and construction methods etc. Nevertheless, still the commonest reason is bad post-constructional management. The best of contracts ends in disaster if such management is wrong - and often, indeed, unaltered from that which caused the problem in the first place, which suggested relaying.

I certainly endorse Robert's attack on some agronomists with too close an association with particular architects and indeed certain contractors. We have to understand that in the present circumstances relaying is their only income, with few if any new courses being built.

Readers may not know that the number of US courses with true USGA GS greens is "not more than 4%" (USGA GS source). I treasure the comment of an erstwhile agronomist who could not accept the huge investment over so many years on research into such specialised and by no means invariably applicable specifications, constantly changing criteria and no means of providing any effective control on its pedantic specifications - now advisory not mandatory.

I smile to myself when I compare the hugely greater number of greens built to my specification over the past (nearly) 50 years, which I produced initially solely from practical drainage experience and long established soil criteria, based on traditional golf, which has been critically investigated at regular intervals and never found wanting and what is more have never had to be relaid or have given the slightest cause for complaint, provided only that post-constructional management was on correct lines. Some are now 35 years old and very good - but then they have been looked after by good greenkeepers!

Congratulations on a stimulating issue.

J.H. Arthur, Hon Member  
Budleigh Salterton, Devon

### 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 ball room 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](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk) titled Whispering Grass.



# NEW PRODUCTS

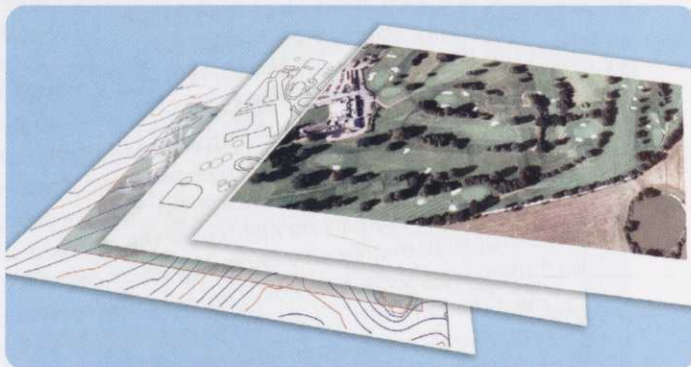
## QUICK ON THE DRAW

A good set of drawings is a real asset for helping maintenance and when alterations are to be done. Accurate plans used to cost thousands, but can now be achieved on a realistic budget. Tonick Watering can now provide large scale drawings containing a wealth of detail derived from the latest in aerial photography and radar. A poster-sized colour photo is also included.

The new golf course mapping service provides detailed plans of the course which is achieved by means of a novel approach to scale drawings and colour photography based on aerial data. The plans are derived from stereo photography combined with radar elevation measurement which provide a wealth of detail. The resultant plans can be optionally augmented with accurate positions of sprinklers, valves, drain points, cable and pipe runs via a simple GPS ground survey conducted with the Greenkeeper in just one day; because the main features are provided by the photograph, this survey will cost a fraction of a conventional ground-based one.

The many benefits of accurate plans include minimised maintenance cost with less chance of damage to existing pipes and cables, assistance with water legislation compliance and planning applications and reduced design cost for new course features. Also, the plan can be loaded in to a PC to allow graphical control of irrigation.

The plan set comprises a poster-size colour aerial photograph, a tracing to the



same scale of the greens, tees, bunkers, fairways, wooded areas, lakes, visible paths, buildings and car parks and a contour plot.

From the included data, water-run-off models can be constructed to help with environmental impact studies or winter storage lake design. Optional software allows simulated flight around the course at any height which can help in the concept design of new greens and tees.

## FIRST CLASS POST

Whatever your fence post needs, QwikPost from Catnic has the solution. QwikPost enables the fast and easy installation of fence posts with a selection of products that can accommodate any ground type. Choose from a range that comprises the QwikPost Spike, Concrete In Post, Bolt Down Support and, an extremely popular winter seller, the Repair Spike.

For soft ground areas, the QwikPost Spike only requires hammering in. A twin bolt system for secure fixing, the Spike is manufactured from robust galvanised steel for strength and durability and will accommodate all standard sized fence panels. It can also be used on rocky or stony ground, which has first been checked for major obstacles.

In hard standing areas or where the ground prevents the use of QwikPost Spike, QwikPost Concrete-In Post is ideal. By placing the unit in a pre-dug hole and filling with concrete, the Concrete-In Post is simply placed into position.

Finally, the QwikPost Repair Spike provides a solution for broken posts in concrete. The base of the broken post is squared off and the Repair Spike is tapped between the old post and the concrete base until the box of the Repair Spike is just above the level of the concrete. The new fence post is simply inserted and tightened.

All the products in the QwikPost range feature the new Square Neck Twin Bolts, designed to make installation far easier and requiring only one spanner to damp the timber fence posts securely in the supports.



## CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK

The Eliet range of chipper/shredders distributed by Pinnacle Power Equipment have been imported for five years and the line up includes domestic and professional models.

Introduced for 2003, the new Eliet Primo model is powered by a 4hp Honda GC135 engine, and has a chipping capacity of 35 mm.

A 60-litre collection bag is supplied as standard and the whole machine weighs just 32kgs.

The Primo uses the tried and trusted unique Eliet blade design, delivering 18,000 cuts/minute that enables even wet material to be shredded.

Featuring compact design for easy storage, the Eliet Primo measures 740mm x 500mm x 740mm and retails for £695 inc. Vat.





## CLEAN GET AWAY

Bio Series, distributed by Hydroscape, is designed to deal with some of today's toughest wastewater applications. The biological treatment turns organic contaminants (oil, grease, herbicides and pesticides) into carbon dioxide and water, through the process of biological digestion.

Equipment is driven on to the wash down area and either hosed down from one of the integral hose outlet points at a pressure of 50 psi (3.4 bar), or pressure washed as necessary. Contaminated water is then channelled to catchment channel drains and flows to the sub surface catchment basin. A heavy-duty sewage cutter pump transfers all waste products to the waterfall solid separator chute, depositing debris into a wheeled cart for disposal.

The filtered liquid then enters the first chamber of the stainless steel bio-reaction tank where solids are precipitated out and the microbiological digestion begins. Model B10-25R has a bio reaction tank housing 3,456 sq.ft (321 sq.m) of biological media with the larger model, B10-35R, housing 6,480 sq.ft (602 sq.m). Water flows through the media and through a tortuous baffle path to ensure maximum contact with the microbe population. Microbes treat the water by consuming a broad range of organic constituents i.e. herbicides, pesticides, oils, greases, petro-carbons etc., turning



them into carbon dioxide and water. Microbes are added monthly to ensure proper and continued colonisation – a process called inoculation.

The system incorporates a unique aeration procedure that quietly injects large amounts of oxygen, in the form of micro-bubbles, to maximise the amount of dissolved oxygen into the water.

Once water is biologically treated a pressure tank and pump system delivers treated water up to a rate of 25gpm (113.5 lpm.) at a pressure of 50psi (3.4 bar) back through 3 integral hose point connections for the washing of further equipment, creating a "closed loop" washing system.

The Bio Series system is fully automatic and B10-25R can treat up to 3,000 gals (13.620 ltr) per day or two hours of continuous washing, if all hose outlets are being used simultaneously. The larger version, B10-35R, treats up to 4,500gals (20.430 ltr) per day at a flow rate of 45 gpm (204 lpm) .

It is believed legislation will shortly be introduced requiring all wastewater from non-domestic environments to be treated prior to disposal. Bio Series will do just that with the added plus of being environmentally friendly. It is the ideal system for those operating in golf course and sports ground maintenance and almost anywhere the treatment of wastewater prior to disposal is necessary.

## HANDY SIZED

David Jenkins Turfcare Equipment have published their first full colour brochure in a handy A5 pocket size. The 16 page booklet contains the full range of products available for the turf professional from the new company formed last year at Dunsfold, near Guildford, Surrey.

The line up of products in the new catalogue has been especially selected by David and his team to offer their customers the very best in professional turfcare available anywhere.

Powered machinery in the catalogue ranges from the DJ Plugger Aerator, the new DJ Turfcare designed and built linear aerator system, plus shredders, scarifiers, cylinder mowers and sprayers.

The number of hand tools featured in the brochure is extensive and vary between soil samplers to spreaders and from rakes to rollers.

Copies of the new brochure can be obtained by telephoning 01483 200976.

## MULE TRAIN

Kawasaki has launched its new Mule Diesel 3010, a tougher, stronger and more durable than predecessor, the Mule Diesel 2510, establishing it firmly at the top of Kawasaki's utility vehicle range.

The UK utility vehicle market is burgeoning and the launch of the Diesel 3010 is aimed at all sectors demanding power, reliability and performance, but at the same time tighter control of operating and maintenance costs.

The 23 hp, four-stroke, liquid-cooled, 3-cylinder, diesel engine delivers rakes of unstinting low RPM torque, but they have produced their largest and highest capacity Automatic Power-Drive System on an ATV or Mule.

With its new pick-up truck styling and sturdy and flexible load carrying capability for which it has received widespread praise, the Diesel 3010 has also received enhanced drive line durability with a heavier-duty rear differential, heavier-duty rear bevel gear set and a stronger rear axle assembly.

## CLEAN AS A WHISTLE

All ground maintenance equipment works in relatively hostile conditions and

subjected to either mud or dust, so cleaning down after use has a number of benefits.

Machinery is much easier and pleasant to work on when carrying out maintenance or repairs; any missing components, damaged cables or hydraulic hoses are more likely to be spotted, while well-kept plant is more saleable.

The latest professional pressure washers from Briggs & Stratton Power Products are ideal for cleaning equipment down, fast and efficiently.

Two units are available, the BPW2700 and the larger BPW3500. The BPW2700 has a 7.5hp Vanguard engine and produces a maximum pressure bar of 180 (2700 psi) while the BPW3500 has a top output of 241 (3500 psi) and is powered by a 13hp Vanguard unit.

Both machines are fitted with a thermal pump relief valve and come with 15 metres of hose and a lance with five quick connecting nozzles.

The frame assembly is designed to withstand the units being manhandled on and off vehicles and the wheel kit makes them easy to manoeuvre around sites.



## SEEDS OF SUCCESS

Barenbrug UK's latest Amenity Grass Seed and Wildflower Mixtures catalogue details the latest introductions from the company. These include Bargold perennial ryegrass, the finest-leaved variety on the market, with a tolerance of close mowing that makes it suitable even for golf greens. Other new perennial ryegrasses from the specialist breeders include the highly wear-tolerant Romance for winter pitches, and Bartwingo which has excellent shoot density and superb cleanness of cut, making it a preferred choice for medium/fine turf applications and turf production.

Barlouse, another new perennial ryegrass, has excellent disease resistance and good wear tolerance.

For 2003, Barenbrug have introduced Baronie, a fast establishing smooth stalked meadowgrass with strong disease resistance, along with Barifera creeping bent, bred specifically for northern Europe offering excellent recovery from damage.

Making its debut during 2003 will be the Barenbrug-bred rhizomatous tall fescue, Labarinth RTF producing an astonishingly dense root system that recovers quickly from damage and can fill in patches in a sward.







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

## North

Three new members to report this month and they are John Robertson, from Camperdown GC, Dundee; Derek Lithgow, from Banchory GC, and Willie Rusk, from Torvean GC. Welcome to the Section.

The spring outing has been set for Forfar GC on May 7, and by the time you receive this magazine the outing will have just passed. The Autumn outing has, as yet, not been fixed up.

The Scottish Championship is at Turnberry in June and should be popular so if you are interested then you had better get your entry back quickly to avoid disappointment.

The Secretary has asked me to inform you that there are training courses available from BIGGA this autumn, or which are subsidised by BIGGA for £30 per one day or £60 per two day course. These courses need to have about 10 people attending and can be about anything which you may want training in, from health and safety, to computer training, book keeping etc. If you need any more info then phone Dougal Duguid on 01224 740329.

Anyone willing to nominate their club for the AGM in October can do so by phoning Dougal as well.

Also should anyone with 200 club tickets return them as soon as possible if you have no intention of purchasing them. Return them to Andy Wilson of Brechin G.C.

Finally congratulations to Jim McCormick, of Kirriemuir GC, for trying to raise £3400 for the Anthony Nolan Trust, which is a very worthy charity providing bone marrow for patients suffering from leukaemia and other bone marrow diseases. Good luck and I hope the Section will support Jim in raising some cash. Jim being of athletic mould anyway, will nip up and down Mount Kilimanjaro quicker than it takes Hamish to buy a round of drinks. Come to think of it, that gives Jim about three weeks. Cannot be named for fear of legal action and automatic appearance in the Rangers News. That is just too much to contemplate.

I hope the weather is kind to you for the coming month and the season gets to a good start, we all need it.

Iain Gunn

## Ayrshire

Hi everyone and welcome to yet another enthralling edition of Section News.

Commiserations first to the Golf Club Secretaries after sustaining their fifth straight defeat to the greenkeepers by six matches to four. Prestwick St Nicholas played host to the annual event with the sun shining and links in immaculate shape and a good day was enjoyed by all, so I'm told.

Dunsky Golf Course bathed in warm April rays was the venue for the spring outing on April 17. Results: Scratch - S. McBlain. First Class. 1. J. Mair; 2. W. Mercer; 3. G. Morrison; 4. B. Aitken. Second Class. 1. P. Tulloch; 2. G. Haughie; 3. D. Norquoy; 4. J. Paton. Trade Prize. A. Cruickshanks.

Our thanks to the club for allowing us the day, to the catering staff for looking after everyone and to the Green Staff for presenting such an excellent layout.

BIGGA Chairman and Ayrshire Section member, George Brown, provided the after dinner speaking so I'm sure all in attendance will have felt they got a good

bang for their buck that day.

Rigby Taylor has generously donated a trophy for the Second Class winner. We appreciate your support.

Tuesday, September 16 is the date set for the Autumn Outing and concluding leg of the Harry Diamond Jug, Beith GC being the location.

Good luck to all the Ayrshire members competing in the Scottish National Greenkeepers' Championship being played on June 17 over Turnberry's Kintyre course. I'll be shocked if the trophy were to cross the county line after all the scores are counted. So you can take that as the gauntlet being thrown, other Scottish Sections.

People on the move recently include Section member, Barry Crawford, from Old Prestwick to Southern Gailes and possible future member, Kerr Rowan, from Paradise... I mean Turnberry, also to Southern Gailes. I'm sure they'll both enjoy getting in on the ground floor of what promises to be another exceptional venue in Ayrshire. All the best lads.

Call me on 01292 478606 with any news or funny stories, or something.

Have a nice day.

Denis Tweddell

## Central

We begin this month's report with the sad news of the recent tragic death of section stalwart Alex Robertson from Grangemouth Golf Club. Alex died as the result of a road accident last month. Our sincere condolences go to his family at this very trying time. (There is a fuller article concerning Alex in the magazine).

New members joining us this month are Kenneth Currer Smith, from Scotsraig Golf Club; Alex Nimmo, from Stirling Golf Club, and Adam Head, from Auchterarder Golf Club. We extended a warm welcome to them and as usual hope to see them at some of our future events. Kenneth actually attended the Spring Tournament at St Andrews Bay so we had an early opportunity of meeting him.

Speaking of future events, you already have the date for the Autumn Tournament at Alloa Golf Club. Another date for your diary is the one that every member wants to attend, The AGM, which will be held on October 30 at Gleneagles. Plans are also underway to present an educational type workshop in early October at a local college, when the speakers will be an Employment Solicitor, a college Head of Department and two Course Managers. Fuller details of all events will be included in future Section reports, but in the meantime if you wish further information please contact Ian MacMillan on 01337 857294. Forms for all events will be mailed to you shortly.

The first golf tournament of the season was held on April 29 at St Andrews Bay when 60 members and guests enjoyed playing over the Torrance Course, which was in excellent condition on what for many of us was the only dry day of the week, (yes, the weather appears to be shaping up as in the last few years, rain, rain and more rain!) Our sincere thanks go to everyone at St Andrews Bay, especially Course Manager Neil Ballingall and his staff, the bar and catering staff for keeping us fed and "watered" throughout the day and to Golf Co-ordinator, Graeme Dawson, for all his assistance in making the day possible.

Thanks also to everyone who assisted on the day issuing and collecting score cards, selling raffle tickets etc, with special thanks to all the patrons of the section for their continued support.

Prize winners were as follows.

Best Scratch. Simon Crawford, Gleneagles, 74. Best

Nett. Paul Conway, Drumoig, 70. 1st Class 1. Alan Paterson, Gleneagles, 79 bih; 2. Charlie Macdonald, Crieff, 79. 2nd Class 1. Kenneth Smith, Scotsraig, 76; 2. Gordon McRae, Ratho Park, 79 bih. 3rd Class 1. Mike Horkan, St Andrews, 83; 2. Gregor Butter, Drumoig, 84. Stewart's Quaich. Simon Crawford, Alan Paterson, Gleneagles, 153. Patrons. Kevin Brunton, Greentech, 77. Guests. Shane Nicol, St. Andrews, 73. Mike Dennis prize for highest score at 15th Hole, Dennis's Dream. Derek Scott, Scoonie, 8.

Congratulations go to Kenny and Fiona Duncan on the birth of their baby daughter Amy and also to Allan and Kerry McCulloch on the birth of their baby daughter Amber. There must be something in the water at Dunfermline Golf Club as Kenny is Head Greenkeeper and Allan his deputy. News on the rest of the staff will follow shortly!

John Crawford

## West

Welcome to this month's Section news.

April 3, Secretaries vs. Greenkeepers match hosted at Prestwick St Nicholas GC. Our Section was represented by Gavin Jarvis (Secretary) and Gerry Bruen, Williamwood GC, whom, I may add, won their match to give the Greenkeepers victory on the day and to retain the trophy for a second year.

Everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the day where it continued to be blessed with fine weather which allowed Head Greenkeeper John McLaughlin and staff to present an excellent conditioned course. Congratulations to John and staff, members and council of Prestwick St. Nicholas GC for hosting this event.

April 10 saw Renfrew Golf Club host the Greenkeepers-Convenors competition sponsored by Richard Aitken and SGM. Competitors attended and enjoyed the continued good weather and excellently prepared golf course, all down to Fraser Ross and crew. I personally thoroughly enjoyed my day and look forward to returning soon. Our playing partners on the day certainly enjoyed their day. East Kilbride GC picked up first place with Millport GC coming in a very close second only to be beaten on a count back on BIH. Second year running for Millport Golf Club, make it third time lucky in 2004! Brian's hoping we will be blessed with such a fine spring in 2004 as East Kilbride GC host this competition next year. That's what you get for being so lucky on the greens Brian.

The committee would like to congratulate Fraser Ross and staff for an excellently prepared course so early in the season, members and council of Renfrew GC for their warm welcome and hospitality and finally a big thank you to the sponsors for the day, Richard Aitken and SGM, as without them such enjoyable days would not exist.

May 1, Spring outing, hosted this year at Hilton Park GC. The fine weather just had to come to an end, unfortunately for John Robertson and staff a few days prior to this event. Thunder and heavy rain returned and continued until the morning of the competition, some heavy showers interrupted maintenance but the greens staff were able to present the course in a playable condition. A very big thank you to John and his greens staff for making sure the competition was played. Also to members and Council of Hilton Park GC for their warm welcome and use of their facilities not forgetting everyone attending on the day, in non-favourable conditions, who bravely attempted a round of golf. Some excellent scores were posted considering the conditions. Results are as follows:

Scratch. C. Goodhall, 72. Category 1. 1. Gerry



Bruen, 72-2-70; 2. S. Taylor, 72-0-72; 3. James Ellis, 77-5-72. Category 2. 1. Wallace Wilson, 91-18-73; 2. S. Brawley, 89-14-75 BIH; 3. Daryl Robertson, 93-18-75. Category 3. 1. Neil Middleton, 89-20-69; 2. David Mowatt, 91-19-72; 3. Martin Fabiani, 107-26-81. Visitors prize. James McCall, 87-18-69. Trade prize, Kenny Hunter, 80-11-69. A quick mention for Colin at Blairbeth Golf Club. You can pick up your prize for the worst score from Gavin Jarvis. Oops! Sorry Colin I wasn't supposed to mention that!

That's all the reporting this month, as always, if anybody has any information to put in the magazine contact me on tel/fax:- 01416 445783

Douglas McIntosh



## Cleveland

Firstly, the members of the Cleveland Section wish Dave Jobey all the best in his new position as Head Greenkeeper at Consett Golf Club. His replacement as First Assistant at Brancepeth Castle is Andrew Welsh, promoted from within. Good luck too Andrew! You'll need it working alongside super Kev!

The Spring Tournament was held at Brancepeth Castle Golf Club on April 30. I had a round with the lads and everyone thought that the course was in truly excellent condition especially with the very long 'strange' weather we have had this spring. Congratulations to Kevin Heslop and his staff and a big thanks to the club for their excellent hospitality (the steak and kidney pie was delicious).

Results were as follows: 0-9 Handicap 1. Jim Thompson, Darlington; 2. Phil Hargreave, South Shields. 10-18 Handicap 1. Mark Brown, Brancepeth Castle GC; 2. Marc Kerr, Middlesbrough; 3. Ian Holoran, Middlesbrough Mun. 19-28 Handicap 1. Ian Pemberton, Bedale; 2. Roy Applegarth, Richmond; 3. Eddie Coulthard, Crook. Trade. 1. Alan Cordingley (bandit); 2. Neil Thompson.

These members are expected to represent the Section in the Northern Region finals later in the summer. The date is yet to be confirmed. Please inform Barry Walker if you cannot make it once the date is passed on to you all. As the competition is taking place 'in our patch' at Middlesbrough Municipal GC. All members should do their best to support the event.

Barry Walker won the Turfcare Specialists Ten Pin Bowling qualifier in Newcastle recently and he will play Tony Bell in the final in May. Tony, who is Head Groundsman at Middlesbrough Football Club won the Teesside Heat. May the best man win.

Just a quick mention from Bill Thompson of Border Sports. He's just had a new knee-joint and now he's having trouble with the other one. We'll have to call him the bionic man. They can re-build you, William!

Finally, on behalf of the Section, can I wish Dave Coulson, of Sunderland Football Club, success in his future, wherever that may be. Dave, a Section member, has just been made redundant by the club following the massive financial losses.

Any news to T.C. on 07831 214879  
Cheers, Terry "El Prez" Charlton

## Northern

Flaming June already. Can we really be half way thorough the year? I hope all your courses are in tiptop condition and the members are enjoying the fruits of

your labour!

A great day and night was had by all who attended the Spring Tournament at Kirkbymoorside Golf Club. A hot day in the 70s and a large turnout with some old and new faces making appearances made the day kick off to a good start. Ian Donaldson and his greens team produced a fine and testing course for us all to enjoy. Our joint sponsors for the day were Alpha Amenity and Headland who put on a fine prize table of golfing goodies for the winners who were as follows. Scratch Cup Alan Baxter. Div 1.1. Dave Collins; 2. Richard Harris; 3. Andy Clarke. Div 2. 1. Roy Armitage; 2. Ben Besau; 3. Richard Smith. Div3. 1. Michael Gregson; 2. John Dobson; 3. Dave Gardener. Nearest the Pin was won by Richard Harris. Simon Heppenstall and Mike Brear won the trade prizes. A great meal and a few beers followed by a presentation to Les Kirkbright in recognition of his support of the Section over many a year. Many thanks once again to our sponsors and Kirkbymoorside for all their help in setting up the day.

Our next golfing event is President's Day at Pike Hills Golf Club on June 12. Tee off from 1pm. Sponsors for the day are Bob Wild Grass Machinery. The usual £16 cheque a week before the event payable to "BIGGA Northern Section" will reserve you a place.

The roses match will take place at Cleckheaton Golf Club on Wednesday, August 13. If you would like to be considered for the team could you let one of the committee know by mid July.

The section is also trying to put another football team together to play in a tournament between Rigby Taylor, Sheffield Section and a Leeds United team. The event will take place some time in September at Thorp Arch. Anyone interested, please let me know.

Welcome to Lee Dacre, of Oulton Park Golf Club; Anthony Payne, of Cave Castle Golf Club; Philip Carter, Richard Smith and Terry Smith, all of Low Laithes Golf Club, who have recently joined our Association.

Speak to you again next month. Happy Greenkeeping

16 Westwood Ave, Eccleshill, Bradford,  
West Yorks, BD2 2NJ. Tel: 01274 640739  
Mobile: 07976876264 Email: Dthackray@aol.com  
Dave Thackray

## Sheffield

Hello to all in the Sheffield Section.

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. And 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 to mention our sponsors at our golf days ie Gem Professional, Mansfield Sand, Textron and Rigby Taylor.

Now, after all the formalities and thanks are over, and now that spring has finally come, it is 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 in 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; 2. D. Chappell, 35pts; 3. S. Wells, 32pts; 4. J. Lax, 32pts; 5. G. Wells, 31pts; 6. S. Pickering, 31pts, and 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 and reserve M. Knowles

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

Handicap 19-28 S. Wells, J. Lax, A. Linley and 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

Our Spring Tournament was held at Mile End Golf Club last month and a detailed report of the results will be in the next issue.

We still require members willing to put their courses forward for hosting a BIGGA golf day this applies right across the North Wales Section as we do like to spread the locality of these events to include everybody. We currently have no dates as yet for the Spring, Autumn and Christmas Tournaments for the 2004 season so if you wish, contact a committee member to discuss helping out. This we would be grateful for – Jez Hughes, Terry Adamson, Wendy O'Brien, Trevor Johnson, Andy Campbell, Stuart McCall, Don Pemberton or myself. Don has put forward his course at Vale Royal Abbey for the N. Wales vs N. West match next year.

I would also like to thank Dave Orchard, and GEM, for their kind sponsorship of this day as they have done for the last number of years.

We somehow struggle for a team of 12 players for this match. This year's was held at Ringway Golf Club. Thanks to them and to Jim Grainger and his staff for presenting a great golf course.

North West had a full team of 12 but our Section could only muster up seven players, so we decided to draft in a few extras and had 21 in total playing a Stableford event – we had approx five out of the six top scores so North Wales won back the shield for 2003.

If you feel you may be able to play in this event next year please contact us.

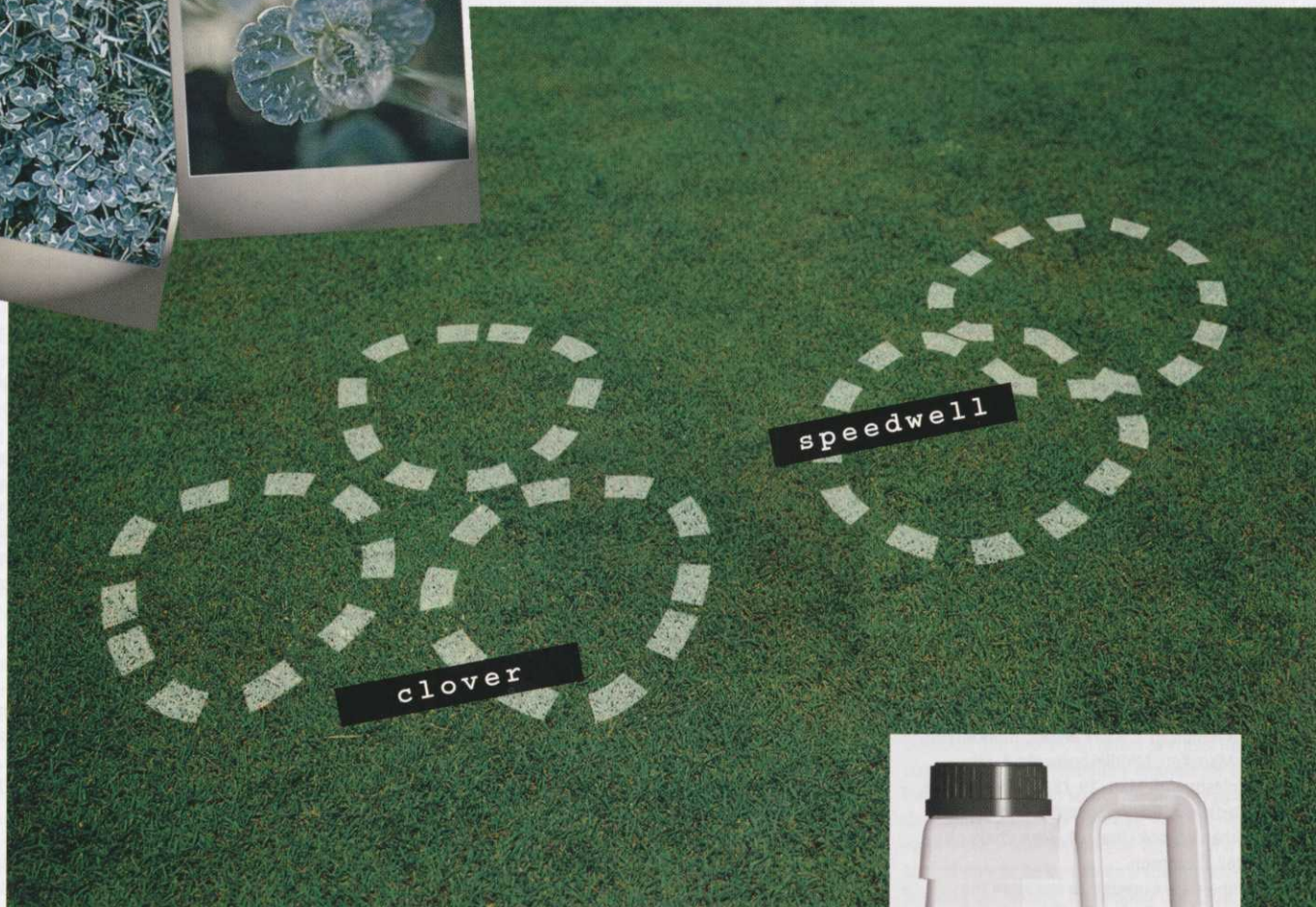
The Spring Seminar held at Carden Park was a great success and will be hosted again next year – we will try to bring the date forward to the middle/end of February which may help those of you with early work commitments in March. If you have any issues or ideas about the event please let us know.

Keith Holmes retires this month from his long and dedicated service to golf greenkeeping. For the last eight years he has been working at Carden Park, before which he was at Old Padeswood, Wrexham, Dunham Forest, Bolton Lostock Park to name but a few. We wish him all the best and perhaps his wife, Freda, will see a bit more of him now he's not on all those early morning starts.

Two other greenkeepers from Carden Park helped out at the Benson & Hedges tournament at The De Vere Belfry last month. They were Simon Ashley and



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Ian Leary.

Bill Lawson, ex Heswall GC, EGA/BGGA and BIGGA, reaches the grand age of 70 next month. We wish Bill all the best for then, still very active in his love for the profession and great friend of Derek Green, from Royal Liverpool GC. I think that Bill will be of active support come three years this July at Hoylake.

And that's it folks 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  
Meseu Cymru  
Andrew Acorn

## North East

Tyneside GC played host to our Spring competition on April 30. Our thanks to the Head Greenkeeper and his staff for the excellent condition of the course considering the weather we have had. Not the perfect start to the season.

Special thanks to the following sponsors: Turf Care Supplies; Border Services; Aitkens; Scotts; Aventis; Greenlay; Shorts. Thanks once again for your loyal support.

Best nett. A. Doig, Tynemouth GC, 79-6-73; Best gross. A. Dalby, Warkworth GC, 79; Assistant's Cup. B. Wilson, Stocksfield GC, 83-9-74; J. Hood, Linden Hall, 80-5= 75; J. Richardson, Hexham 84-8-76; J. Storey, Alnmouth, 81-5-76

Qualifiers for the Regional final will be notified in due course and, for once lads, you will have a short journey this year as I do believe it will be held at Middlesbrough sometime in August.

The Autumn competition has been fixed up and for the first time it will be held at Bellingham GC. For those who have not played it before I suggest you give it a go and you will be pleasantly surprised at the layout of this track.

One other thing springs to mind. Can anyone tell me why numbers are dropping at an alarming rate for the spring and autumn comps? We, the committee, are now getting worried. It was not so long ago we would have 35 people playing now it's down to 20 at the most. We have given it a thought ourselves, maybe we could change the tee off time to the afternoon so you don't need all day off. If you come up with any suggestions either give myself a ring or get in touch with either Steve Pope or Russ Black as we will listen to your ideas. One thing that causes a problem with the spring comp is when Easter is as we try to keep a full week clear either side. Hence why this year was later than usual.

Jimmy Richardson

## North West

Late April and at last we have some much needed rain. Strange as it may seem the April showers kept away, and the long dry spell with cold winds did not do anyone any good. It seems that hollow tining and top dressing seems to be the norm in modern greenkeeping during March, but this year we had hardly any growth during April due to the cold spell, so many greens suffered... and so did the greenkeepers. As usual the club members had watched The Masters, and then complained because their greens were not as good as Augusta. You can't win them all.

I had a phone call from Alec Davies the other day. Alec and his family have emigrated to New Zealand and he tells me that they have had no rain for almost

four months, but most courses have wall-to-wall irrigation systems so it's no worry to them. The family are enjoying the change I am sure, but he said greenkeeping is quite different out there with different growing conditions, and pests and diseases, but he said that golf committees are just the same as here. I wonder what he meant?

There will be Regional courses available for the autumn of 2003 and spring of 2004. The cost of the one day courses are £30 + VAT, and two day courses are £60 + VAT. There will be a minimum number of delegates for each course. Eg. four for a chainsaw course and six for a management course. The cost of these courses include tea/coffee and lunch. There is a long list of courses available so if you feel your staff might be interested, please ring me or Ken Richardson at HQ and we will arrange the course for you.

The match between the N/West Section and the N/Wales Section was played at Ringway Golf Club on Thursday, April 10. I was not able to attend but I am told that Jim Grainger and his staff had the course in great condition and with many changes since we last played there. The N/Wales Section could not field a full team, so I understand a Stableford game was arranged. Many thanks once again to GEM Professional for sponsoring the day.

The next golf will be the Summer Tournament at Deanwood Golf Club on Thursday, June 12. All applications to Bill Merritt, The Lodge, Beacon Park Golf Club, Beacon Lane, Dalton Up Holland, WN8 7RU, including a cheque for £20. Soup and sandwiches will be served at 12:30pm, and an evening meal and prize presentation after the golf. Tee-off time is 1.45pm.

That's it for now but give me a ring with any news on 01517 245412 or mobile 07761 583387.

Bert Cross



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

## East of England

You will be pleased to know that the East of England Section is still alive and kicking. There has been no news from the Section for some time now, but hopefully we will be putting pen to paper more often from now on.

Throughout the winter we had two well-attended seminars by Frank Newberry and Dennis Mottram and a visit recently to Cannons Turf.

Frank talked on the "New Supervisor" and Dennis enlightened us with his new talk about "Water and the Golf Course".

Both seminars were well attended and already we are booking this coming autumn courses and seminars.

In April we had an evening tour of Cannons Turf Farm and a talk by Ben Petitjean of Barenbrug. Thanks to Tim Cannon and staff for a well organised visit. About 20 members were well fed and watered and were delighted to see some quality turf growing in our area.

Our first golf day was the best-attended start to the season for quite a few years. The Section played over a windswept Burghley Park GC which was in its usual excellent condition thanks to David Salisbury and his staff.

Rigby Taylor sponsored the day and we express thanks to Stuart Jeffs for donating some great prizes.

Prizewinners were: 1. Mike Smith nett 71; 2. Gary Salisbury 71 (on count back) 3. Daniel Wells 72. Longest drive went to G. Macdonald. Nearest the Pin went to David Wellberry. Trade prize went to Ian Mauwer.

Welcome to our new members Gordon Cooke, of RAF Conningsby; Nathaniel Smith, of Belton Park; Jonathan Hubbard and Derek Beba, of Tydd St. Giles. Graeme Macdonald

## BB&O

What a fantastic start to the summer with clear blue skies and plenty of sunshine. It is a shame the grass found this all too much for good growth but firm putting greens left golfers with good pace on the surface and a requirement of skill to keep the ball under control when going for the pin. Now we have sweet rain to ensure we all run around like headless chickens trying to control the rampant growth. There is no such thing as a seasonal pattern when it comes to predicting what weather is around the corner year on year. Interesting times I am sure you would agree.

Recently I requested feedback on any Section members who wanted to take up any training in our area that could be of benefit to your personal circumstances or golf course. I have received no requests so far so I wish to raise this issue once more. A course will only run if there are enough members to make it viable but the list of courses is extensive. If you are interested in what these are then contact BIGGA HOUSE or me for more details. The costs are incredible, only £30 + VAT for a one-day course or £60 + VAT for a two-day course per person, including lunch. These courses only run if a certain number of candidates is reached but these numbers are often low, typically 4-6. Please give this some thought, as the deadline for applications for these courses is July 16.

I see we continue to attract new members so I wish to add my own personal welcome to those joining this Section in our Association. I will send out the current list of golfing events to each new member but if anyone does not receive this then please call me and I will send a copy.

Our next golf event is at Donnington Valley Golf Club on July 1 and is sponsored by Tacit. This event is an 18 hole Stableford with teams of four. Our start time is 1pm so those attending please try to arrive in plenty of time to get booked in as we make up the teams to play on the day. This event will be followed by an evening meal in a wonderful old building overlooking the course so if your golf has been pitiful, there will certainly be a delightful end to the day. Cost is the usual £25 and cheques must be made payable to BB&O Section. These can be sent to me at Holly Lodge, Pond Lane, Hermitage, Thatcham, Berks, RG18 9RN. If you need to phone then call me on 07778 765021. With no Section news coming my way I wish you all success in your respective clubs. At least with the passing of time we are left alone to grow grass and not vegetables!

David Haskell-Craig MG

## Midland

As some of you may be aware, in the past I have competed in the noble sport of Ballroom and Latin dancing. At the Vale's evening meal, M. Bryan must have mistakenly picked up his Latin outfit. All in black and looking rather Latino, I was unaware he also indulges in the prancing arts. Perhaps we may now



call him Zorro or Enrique. Wish on, chap!

The Spring Tournament was held at the Vale GC. Our thanks to M. Heath and his fine team for presenting the course in such wonderful condition, a great tribute to your skills. Also our thanks to the club's Captain, Mr.J. Eastoe for his kind welcoming hospitality. The results of the day: Best Gross, M. Hughes. Best Nett: N. Bird, D. Fellows, R. Carter, M. Bryan, N. Gilkes. Our thanks to M.Raynor, of Avoncrop, for sponsoring the main prize table. Also thanks to Ruffords for sponsoring; Longest Drive, M. Hughes, and Nearest the Pin, D. Fellows (with a hole in one). Cheers for the drink, Dave.

It was also very nice to see four new faces: S. Raybould, A. Moss, J. Moverley, and P. Rainford.

Anyway, let's get down to some educational possibilities. From letters of application and CV, dealing with peers, supervisors and trainees, through to presentation of reports and verbal communication with committee and members. At all levels, effective communication is perhaps the greatest tool at one's disposal. Andy Smith, yet again on your behalf, is organising an "Effective Communication" course to be run in the autumn. The course is a full day at a cost of approximately £40 per person. Cheap at half the price, and I personally look forward to attending. All interested please contact Andy on: 07977-145091.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome seven new members: D.A. Hood, R.I. Stretton, A.T. Thompson, R.C. Walthew, R. Williams, G. Jarvis, and finally, S.T. Beveridge. What a great name, and yes I know! Should you or indeed existing members require a list of events, please have no hesitation in contacting me on: 07816 410552, or visit the BIGGA website at: [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk).

Also could you all amend your records in regards to G.Cunningham's (Treasurer) post code, such should read: ST15 8FG.

Now a tempter for all you who like dangling your worms. Is anybody interested in a Course Fishing Match at a private pool, with prizes and grub to boot? Allen Southam, of Hanson Aggregates, has kindly offered the Section the afore with full sponsorship, and after speaking with him, I get the feeling that the fishing is rather good. Opportunities like this don't come along every day. Let's take advantage. Interested? Then call myself or Allen on: 07976 853777.

And finally, good luck to I. Cureton, A. Quaterman, and R. Dimmock, in their new positions. Also, well done to T. Cheese in qualifying to play in The Open Championship qualifiers. We are all behind you Tony. Do us proud. What a great achievement, wishing you the best of success from the Midland Section. Looking forward to reporting the results of the Snooker and Darts evening next month (kindly sponsored by N.Tyler of Alpha Amenity). Anything you may like to share with the Section, please let me know.

Cheers

Sean McDade

## Mid Anglia

It was decided at a recent committee meeting of the Section to contact all Course Managers or Head Greenkeepers. We are looking for your views on what type of training courses you would like held in our area. This is in response to the cancellation of two computer training courses due to lack of interest. We would be grateful for positive feedback as the cost of putting on courses is the lowest it has been for some time, due to subsidies from HQ.

Onto other news. Sad to hear that Paul Lockett, of

South Beds, is leaving greenkeeping to pursue a career in landscaping. Paul was very active in BIGGA for many years putting a lot of effort in for the benefit of others and we wish him every success and happiness in his new vocation.

Sorry there's not much news, if you have anything you wish to pass on to your section comrades please contact me or any committee member.

Have a good summer.

Jim Cassidy



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

## East Anglia

April 15 saw the first match of the season, when our merry band of 44 arrived at Waldringfield Heath Golf Club. Keith Titshall and his boys had made a splendid job of the course, despite not being able to water due to a punctured tank liner. The greens ran true and the weather was very pleasant, all in all a very good day was had by all. We wish to thank Matt Bartram, Tony Nelli, from Bartrum Mowers, and Ian Mitchell, from Textron, for being our main sponsors for the day also Ellis Cummins, from Sovereign Turf, for sponsoring Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive. I would also like to thank Derek Morella, the new owner of the course, for allowing us to play. Please pass on our thanks to all the staff for the excellent service we received on the day.

So to the winners 0-10 H/cap 1. N. Brewster, 71 net; 2. P. Howard, 75 nett on countback; 3. A. Carter, 75 nett. 11-18 H/cap 1. S. Thompson, 68 nett; 2. J. Timms, 70 nett; 3. Ian Willett, 73 net. 19-28 1. G. Rayfield, 67 nett; 2. R. Ransome, 68 nett; 3. K. Titshall, 75 nett. Trade and guest 1. N. Ashman; 2. E. Clarkson. Longest Drive R. Boyce, Nearest the Pin S. Thompson.

The two representatives for the BIGGA National Championship are N. Brewster (best gross 76) and G. Rayfield (best nett 67). The converted toilet seat went to Toni Nelli by popular request for forgetting to put down half his team members on the application form. The next meeting will be at Bury St. Edmunds Golf Club on June 17, this will include the Captain/Greenkeeper Shield.

On behalf of the section may I thank the following sponsors for their support at this meeting – Rushbrooks & Son, SISIS, Lely UK, DFL, Atterton & Ellis, Consultant Clarkson, Bayer, Tomlinson Groundcare, Ben Burgess and John Deere. Colin (El President) has been hard at work as usual and has managed provisionally to book all the courses for 2004 (see fixture list). On a more personal note my granddaughter, Sky, is nearly 2 and has picked up the habit of nicking her mother's mobile phone and calling her nanny, Christine, from time to time. It's nice to know she is getting her priorities right. Ha Ha.

See you all at Bury  
Ian Willett

## Sussex

The Sussex Section can be incredibly lucky with the weather or incredibly unlucky. The Spring Meeting this year was a lucky one! Willingdon Golf Club provided not only a wonderful course under the care of Peter Negus, some wonderful hospitality in the Clubhouse, but also some wonderful weather.

Now Mike Ring, of Rigby Taylor fame, has a

reputation for being a really nice guy, an honest and trustworthy representative of his Company. He does not, however, have a reputation for being an average golfer. If the Section could give him more than his 28 handicap they would gladly give it. He has won the "Longest Walk" prize more than most. He assures everyone that he has not been practicing or had lessons so you can imagine the surprise when Mike not only took the 'Trade Prize' with a nett 72 but tucked away a 5-iron on the 142yd 10th for A HOLE IN ONE! Willingdon Golf Club have a tradition of placing a bottle of scotch and glasses on the bar with an invitation to help yourself. In addition Mike treated all to copious quantities of wine with their evening meal. Well done Mike and well done Mike and Rose Gould for organising such a great day.

Other prize winners on this John Shaw (Machinery) Ltd sponsored day were:

Best Gross. 1. Lawrie Tremlett (Nationals Qualifier); 2. Ray Day; 3. Mike Gould. Best Nett. 1. Jon Hill (Nationals Qualifier); 2. Rob Hudson; 3. Peter Negus. Longest Drive: Matt Hutchinson. Nearest the Pin: Trevor French

The next Sussex day is at Piltown Golf Club on July 2. We need more members there.  
Jon Budd

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## Course Management Trophies

The dates this year are:

Wednesday 6 August Tredegar Park  
Thursday 7 August Bristol & Clifton  
Wednesday 13 August Moors Valley  
Invitations have been sent out. If you have not received an invitation and would like to play please contact Paula Humphries on: 01288 341418

## South Coast

With The Masters behind us the golfing season is well and truly upon us. Who would have had money on Mike Weir winning? I had my money on the Tiger but what do I know? I tipped Arsenal for the Premiership and that just about sums up my skill in betting!

The last month has been slightly busier on the Section and at last we have had some rain. I'm pretty sure that we can thank Ashley Wood's Head Greenkeeper, Tony Hyde, for the much needed rain. With no rain for weeks and the imminent arrival of the Section at Ashley Wood for the spring tournament I have it on good authority Tony was out twice a day with his prayer mat. Thankfully for him and the rest of us it worked! The 27 hole Spring Tournament was again sponsored by Vitax and Avoncrop and the weather stayed kind for us although the wind made for some very testing conditions. We played 18 holes in the morning then had a much needed lunch before playing a further 9 holes in the afternoon. The standard of golf was excellent considering the testing conditions and winners on the day were:

1. Tony Gadd, 61pts; 2. Alex McCombie, 58pts; 3. Alan Magee, 56pts; 4. Fred Deamen, 55pts; 5. Phil Wentworth, 54pts. Under 25's: Mark Gray Longest Drive. Rob Wills. Nearest the Pin. Paul Jackson.

Many thanks on the day to Ashley Wood for their superb Hospitality; to the caterers for two excellent meals and special thanks to the Captain for his



generosity in supplying the wine for dinner. A huge vote of thanks to Tony Hyde and his hardworking team in producing first class conditions for us. I told you not to worry about it, Tony! We cannot thank enough our sponsors of the day, Vitax and Avoncrop. The prize table was superb and we must thank Colin White and Joe Crawley for all their time and effort! More on Joe later! Lastly, many thanks to Chris Sturgess. Your hard work is much appreciated!

I was fortunate to attend an excellent two day course on presentation skills and public speaking last month along with five other greenkeepers. The course was run by the dynamic Frank Newberry who passed on some excellent skills to maximise presentations to committees, members etc. All of us left the course feeling more comfortable and confident about our future presentations. The course was much needed by me, particularly as I have been included on the list of speakers at the National Education Conference at Harrogate next year.

We must congratulate Moors Valley's Ian Noble on his excellent run in the London marathon recently. Ian crossed the line in just under three hours raising over £600 for the RNLI at the same time. A superb all round effort, Ian. Well done!

On Saturday night my wife and I attended the closing performance of Carousal at the Cricklade Theatre in Andover. So what you say! Well, the show was staged by the Andover musical and operatic society and the cast included our own Joe Crawley and his wife, Lisa. Joe was cast in the lead role of the bad apple Billy Bigelow and his wife played Julie Jordan who, needless to say, falls in love with Billy. I have to say I haven't enjoyed a show so much for a long time. Joe was superb and gave a faultless performance that I will remember for a long time. The whole cast led us superbly through this epic love story. I also learnt that night that the famous Anfield theme 'You'll Never Walk Alone' wasn't written by Gerry and the Pacemakers! Thank you Joe for an excellent night and I'm already looking forward to Oliver next year.

The draw has been made for the 2003 Jim Fry Pairs Knockout Competition. All of the entrants should know who they are playing by now. So let's make life easier for Phil Wentworth by completing the matches promptly and ensuring that we phone the results through to him immediately after the match.

It was good to hear that a great friend of mine, Rob Crouch, has once again joined the rank and file of greenkeepers after taking a couple of years out of the profession. Greenkeeping has certainly missed you and I know you will be an excellent addition to the team at Canford Magna. Welcome back Rob!

Our next meeting is the Invitation summer tournament on Thursday, July 17 at Stoneham Golf Club. The day will be sponsored by Huxleys and Rigby Taylor and the format is fourball better ball. Cost of the day is £18 per person and cheques made payable to BIGGA South Coast should be forwarded to Chris Sturgess at 40 Kinsbourne Way, Thornhill, Southampton, Hampshire SO19 6HB.

Until next month.

Alex McCombie

## South West

I shall start with the results from Thornbury. 1. S. Richards, D. Smith and A. Knight. Gross. 64, Nett. 61; 2. R. Louisson, N. Turner and C. Sealey. Gross. 67, Nett. 63; 3. P. Goodwin, M. Sage and J. Acton. Gross. 68, Nett. 64. Nearest the Pin. M. Sage, Nearest the Pin in two, D. Smith.

Our thanks to Steve and his team at Thornbury for

the use of his course. It's a shame there weren't more in attendance to appreciate it. I ended up winning the book for attending the course walk by the simple fact I was the only one there (boo, hiss). The book will be presented at the Summer Tournament. I shall keep trying.

Our accounts are looking very healthy again for which our thanks must go to our Patronage supporters MJ Abbotts, BS Mowers, Amtec, Bioseed, ALS, Symbio, Avoncrop.

Could we have the trophies back for the summer tournament please.

See you at Orchardleigh Any news?  
Email [greenkeepers@bathgolfclub.fsworld.co.uk](mailto:greenkeepers@bathgolfclub.fsworld.co.uk)  
Tel: 01225 483486 Mobile: 07812 380936  
Guy Woods

## Devon and Cornwall

As I write this report, I am looking out of the window with a huge sense of relief as the rain has finally arrived. We have had 9mm of rain in the past 7 weeks and with no irrigation at Yelverton, it has been a very difficult few months. Looking on the brighter side, no irrigation means no burst pipes, which usually occur on a Friday afternoon., Don't they Richard.

Our Summer meeting sponsored by Rigby Taylor, will be held at Trethorne Golf Club on Tuesday, June 17. Tee off times will be between 1.30pm and 2.30pm with a course walk for non-golfers followed by an evening meal. Full details will be sent out to you shortly.

Next season's meeting venues have almost been completed and I am looking forward to meeting up with many old friends and new faces.

Alan Dommet, of Devon Garden Machinery, is recuperating after his recent operation and we all look forward to seeing him out and about in the near future.

Please contact me if you have any news for next month's magazine on: 01822617671.

Steve Evans

## South Wales

Our first competition of the year was held at Langland Bay GC playing for the Amtech Shield. Not to be put off by the dreadful weather, some 40 members competed. In first place with 39pts was Daryl Bray; 2nd on 38 was Peter Lacey and third with 35 pts was Alan Crichton.

Thanks to Langland Bay for looking after us so well, especially Ian Harwood and the greenstaff for the preparation of the course. Thanks to Liam Galway, from the Greenkeeper Supply Company, for donating some excellent prizes on the day, and for helping out with the prize giving.

Our Section seminar held at Royal Porthcawl GC and sponsored by Symbio was another great success. Neil Carter got things going with a brief talk on course ecology, this was followed by part one of Martin Ward's presentation on microbial activity. At lunch local John Deere dealer, Frank Sutton, displayed some of the latest John Deere kit, and then it was back inside to listen to part 2 of Martin's talk. A big thanks to Symbio, Frank Sutton and Royal Porthcawl GC for making the day a good one.

On a lighter note, Cardiff GC Course Manager, Russell Anderson, has just become the proud father to a baby girl. I spoke to Russell at Langland Bay and he told me mother and baby are fine and so far he has not had to many sleepless nights.

Adrian Panks

## NORTHERN IRELAND

I begin this month by offering condolences to Michael Norman, from Malone, on the tragic loss of his brother. Our sympathies go to you from all of your colleagues and friends.

Well, how's the form, Congratulations to Ian Harrison and Victoria on a baby girl, April. Ian says breast feeding is difficult while cutting the fairways, but he is getting the hang of it (cutting fairways that is).

If you have any news for me regarding matches and hatches or anything else please call me N/I: 07774 789111 or R.O.I: 0504 24777.

We've just had a great day at Kirkistown Castle thanks to the club and Paul Lappin. I have seen how Paul has brought the course on since he has been there so it was great to play it at last. I got a bit wet over the last three holes but I was in good company.

Results: 1. Noel Crawford, RCD, 39 pts; 2. Michael King, RCD, 33 pts; 3. Gary Crawford, RCD, 33 pts; 4. Terry Crawford, Clandeboye, 33 pts. (I think these Crawfords are all interbred). Longest Drive. Justin Waddel, Fortwilliam. Nearest the Pin. Gary Crawford, RCD

Paul Lappin was presented with the Golfer of the Year Trophy 2002. Congratulations to him.

I must say a word or two about Noel's performance, 39 points off scratch, some going, a score we dream of off any handicap. Congratulations. I putted really well, if you got the line they held it. My partners told me the fairways were good, I told them when the rough grows it will be murder and that the newly raked bunkers were a pleasure to play from.

Finally, a word of thanks to the sponsors for the day, Allister Wilson, of Drilling & Pumping, Newtownards. We hope you enjoyed your day and many thanks for your generous contribution. My prize was one of their business cards with the phone number of a good teaching professional on the back.

On the way back on the M2 towards Antrim I was overtaken by a three legged chicken. It ran up the slip road at Templepatrick so, curious, I followed it into Frank Ainsworth's yard. I said, "Frank, I've just seen a three legged chicken run into your yard." "I'm breeding them," he said, "for the food industry". I asked, "What do they taste like." He said, "I don't know we haven't caught one yet."

Well, like me, I'm sure you would have liked to have seen Darren Clarke win The Masters. I've just been with Godfrey (larger than life our Godfrey) he was in strict preparation shovelling cones on the 18th. I now know all about and look forward to a drop of the green label.

News from the canteen. The current holders of the biggest consumers of food goes to Fortwilliam Golf Club. Well done boys. They might change their tractors every three years but at least they clean the cooker every two years.

What poor Micky O'Neill has to put up with with Sam and the form of Leeds United, I dread to think. Come back Don Revie. All is forgiven.

Well that's all from me. Be good.

Graham Prosser



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This competition is not open to BIGGA Staff or non-members. The solution to the May 'Turftime Teaser' was LL Lovie Ltd. The 2 lucky winners are: Aaron Pears of Pewit Golf Club, Derbyshire and Wyndham Potter, retired member from Devon

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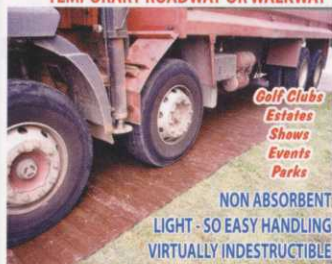
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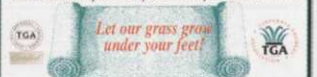
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greens conditioner,  
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## JOB SHOP

## SEEKING A NEW CHALLENGING POSITION

An extremely enthusiastic person  
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9 years golf course experience.  
Higher National Diploma in Golf course  
management. Certificate in horticulture.  
Pesticide Application PA. 1, 2, 6  
Certificate, currently undertaking  
Safety Management course.  
All areas considered

JS/144/03

## HEAD GREENKEEPER SEEKING CHALLENGING POSITION

33 year old Head Greenkeeper seeks  
new challenging position.  
14 years experience, 5 years as  
Head Greenkeeper. Fully qualified to  
NVQ Level 4 including spraying,  
chainsaw and First aid certificates.  
Excellent Man-management,  
communication and computer skills.  
All locations considered.

JS/145/03

## 28 YEAR OLD HEAD GREENKEEPER SEEKS CHALLENGING POSITION ABROAD

11 years experience in all aspects of golf  
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irrigation, preparation and control of  
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detail, very reliable, hardworking to the  
highest standards, also speaks German.  
Excellent references, qualified to NVQ Level 3  
and all relevant spraying certificates.  
All locations considered.

JS/146/03





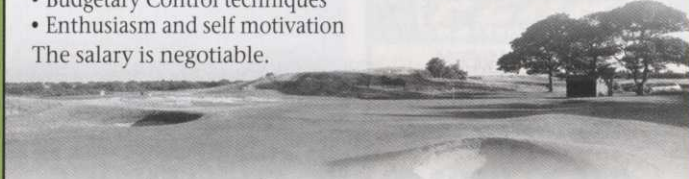
## Seacroft Golf Club

FOUNDED 1895

### Head Greenkeeper

Seacroft Golf Club is a prestigious Links course in Skegness, Lincolnshire. The course plays host to many county competitions. This private members club invites applications for the position of Head Greenkeeper. The successful applicant will be responsible for carrying out course policy and present the course to the highest standard expected by members. He/She will possess the following key attributes and skills:

- Ability to lead, motivate and manage an established team
  - Proven track record in modern course management & maintenance
  - Experience of current Health and Safety regulations
  - HNC or NVQ 3 with PA1 and 2 Spraying Certificates
  - Budgetary Control techniques
  - Enthusiasm and self motivation
- The salary is negotiable.



Please apply in writing enclosing full CV to:  
The Secretary, Seacroft Golf Club, Drummond Road,  
Seacroft, Skegness, Lincolnshire PE25 3AU  
Telephone 01754 763020  
Web site [www.seacroft-golfclub.co.uk](http://www.seacroft-golfclub.co.uk)



## GOLF CLUB WIEN

### HEAD GREENKEEPER/ ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT required

This is an outstanding opportunity for an ambitious top quality individual to be involved in the rejuvenation and development of one of Austria's oldest and most prestigious golf courses. The club and course are currently undergoing a significant phase of overhaul, upgrade and improvement which will continue over the next 5 years and beyond.

#### Requirements

- NVQ level 3 (or Level 2 at least working towards 3). PA 1, 2 and 6.
- An enthusiastic passion for greenkeeping, both modern and traditional.
- A natural flare for leadership and team building.
- 5 years experience, preferably in an environment demanding of the highest standards.
- A sound knowledge of German is a distinct advantage, but a keen commitment to learn is more important.

We offer an attractive package and assistance with accommodation.  
Please apply in writing with CV before 21 June 2003 to:

J.Robinson, Course Superintendent, GC Wien-Freudenau,  
Freudenau 65a, Vienna 1020, Austria

## KingsHill GOLF CLUB

### Invites applications for a GOLF COURSE MECHANIC/TECHNICIAN

to join the golf course maintenance team.

Applicants will require relevant knowledge and experience of both Toro and John Deere equipment, be able to use Bernhard cylinder grinders and be familiar with the additional mechanical/repair aspects of the position.

The applicant should have the ability to organise an up to date, fully fitted workshop maintain a parts inventory and manage service records accordingly.

Good communication skills and self motivation are essential.

Salary £ 20,000 - £ 25,000.

Applications in writing enclosing up to date cv to:

Duncan Kelso, Golf Course Manager, Kings Hill Golf Club  
Fortune Way, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4AG

## THE LAMBOURNE CLUB

Require a

### GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be qualified to NVQ Level 2

Spraying Certificate would be an advantage

Applications/CVs to:

Jim Howard, Head Greenkeeper, The Lambourne Club,  
Dropmore Road, Burnham, Bucks SL1 8NF

## MID-HERTS GOLF CLUB

Require a

### QUALIFIED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

NVQ Level 2, PA1 & PA2 an advantage.

And a

### TRAINEE GREENKEEPER

Excellent pay and conditions.

Apply in first instance in writing with CV to:-

Richard Jourdan, Club Secretary, Mid-Herts Golf Club,  
Lamer Lane, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8RS





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38 Bookham Industrial Park, Bookham, Surrey KT23 3EU.  
Tel: 01372 456 101 email: martin@symbio.co.uk www.symbio.co.uk



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Telford Way, Kettering, Northants NN16 8UN  
Tel: 01536 510515 Fax: 01536 510691  
Email: enquiries@boughton-loam.co.uk

## NORTH MIDDLESEX GOLF CLUB

Requires a

## HEAD GREENKEEPER

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

He should have the following qualifications and attributes:

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

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

The General Manager, North Middlesex Golf Club,  
The Manor House, Friern Barnet Lane, London, N20 0NL

## GREENKEEPER

Full time position available on  
a new 9 hole short course near Darlington.

Applicant must be qualified, ideally with experience,  
and will have responsibility for entire course.

Please apply in writing to:

Simon Robinson, Headlam Farms,  
Headlam, Darlington, Co. Durham DL2 3HA



## ROYAL PORTHCAWL GOLF CLUB

Requires a

## MECHANIC/GREENKEEPER

We are seeking an enthusiastic, self motivated individual with a sound knowledge and experience of course machinery maintenance.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

Mr D Ward, Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, Rest Bay, Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan CF36 3UW

## ALDWICKBURY PARK GOLF CLUB

This proprietary club has recently obtained planning permission to construct a new maintenance facility and invites applications for

## HEAD GREENKEEPER

Candidates require:

Experience of Course Management • Strong team leadership skills

The ability to control greenkeeping budgets

A sound knowledge of greenkeeping including PA1 and PA2 spraying certificates

HND or HNC preferable • Ability to manage Health & Safety on site

Salary negotiable. Closing Date 18 June 2003

Applicants should apply in writing with full CV and current salary to:-

Mr A Clarke, PO Box 376. Redbourn, St Albans, Herts AL3 7ZX  
Fax No: 01582 794208 Email: enquiries@badixproperties.com



## Feature listing from June 2001

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# A Frustrating Start to the Season

**At long last there's been some sort of normality about the weather. Cold, windy and rainy. Yes, that's more like we are used to and, unlike the golfers who are playing the course but like my fellow greenkeepers, I'm pleased.**

At the time of writing it has been the most difficult and frustrating start to a season that I can ever remember. The grass is going almost backwards and one doesn't normally experience this heading towards the end of May. But no doubt by the time you read this page I expect we will have grass around our ears and will be struggling to keep up with everything.

Unfortunately I have attended three funerals within the past two weeks with one of them being a staunch BIGGA member, Alex Robertson, Head Greenkeeper at Grangemouth Golf Club. The number of people who attended the service, many of them from the greenkeeping world, speaks volumes for how popular and genuine he was. Alex's passing is a tragedy and a great loss to our profession and our sincere thoughts go out to his family.

I have also just learnt today of the death of Mark McCormack, probably the greatest innovator in sports management and a man who was rightfully known as the most powerful man in sport. As a young lawyer he offered to manage Arnold Palmer's career and so founded the International Management Group (IMG). Arnold Palmer went on to become the greatest name in sport in the 60s and Mark McCormack went on to manage virtually every top name in sport, not just golf. In golf, however, that list included Jack Nicklaus, Greg Norman and Tiger Woods. IMG were also responsible for the introduction and running of many tournaments including the long running World Matchplay at Wentworth.

I had the pleasure of meeting Mr McCormack at Turnberry on a number of occasions. There is no doubt that his work contributed immensely to raising the standard of golf and gave the game a global focus that in turn gave Greenkeeping Management a higher profile. Those of us who earn our livings in golf owe Mark McCormack a great deal.

That also reminds me that I attended a management meeting last week with IMG, the PGA and the R&A when it was announced that the British Seniors, being played over our own Ailsa Course at Turnberry, is now to be classed as a Senior Major with a purse of £1 million.

Most of the top stars such as Tom Kite, Hale Irwin, Ray



Floyd, Gary Player and Arnold Palmer are competing but for many the appearance of Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson will provide the excitement. Their epic Dual in the Sun classic in The Open of 1977 produced, some say, the most exciting Open in history. Just the appearance of Nicklaus and Watson together at Turnberry will create a buzz in the galleries and although it may be too much to expect them to reproduce the quality of golf they did during that Open, just a small taste of it will send people home happy.

It will be a busy week for our staff preparing two courses for the Tournament as the qualifying is being played over our second course, the Kintyre. With Barrassie further up the coast also being used as another qualifying course I am sure Brian Finlayson and his crew will produce a first class test.

As I write this report Derek Wilson and his crew are busy preparing Irvine Bogside for the qualifying of The British Amateur Championship, as is Billy McLaughlin, from Royal Troon, over which famous Links the finals are being played. We wish them well for a successful week.

As well as the Seniors in July, this month we also have the Scottish Amateur Strokeplay Championship, closely followed by the Scottish Greenkeepers Championship which are both being played on the Kintyre Course. Plus we have our own Club Championship on the Ailsa Course. So we are in for a busy time, over the next couple of months.

I suppose by now most folks' diaries are filling up, I know mine is. I know I could be accused of being away from my workplace too often, yet if I do not attend certain functions that would also be wrong in some eyes.

I do know one thing. With a busy and important schedule ahead my priorities must lie at Turnberry until the Tournaments are over.

*George Brown*

George Brown  
Chairman



# Recruitment

## Reigate Heath Golf Club



Require an

### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

to start in September.

Reigate Heath Golf Club is a 9 hole course, founded in 1895 and is situated on a SSSI site on the outskirts of Reigate.

Applications should be qualified to NVQ Level 2 and preferably hold PA1, PA2 certificates and have a wide experience of machinery.

Salary will be based on age and experience.

Free accommodation is available.

Applications in writing with CV to:-

---

The Secretary, The Club House,  
Reigate Heath, Surrey RH2 8QR  
OR email: reigateheath@surreygolf.co.uk



## THE LONDON GOLF CLUB

### 1ST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

This third in charge position offers a great opportunity to work with a large team on two championship courses designed by Jack Nicklaus and Golden Bear Design.

The successful applicant will be a professional greenkeeper with the ability to train, motivate and supervise staff. Candidates need to be proactive, flexible and hardworking, with good planning and organisational skills.

A minimum of 5 years experience in all aspects of modern golf course maintenance is required, including management of USGA greens, together with PA1, PA2, PA6 and NVQ2 or equivalent.

This is a challenging 'hands on' role that offers the opportunity to develop technical and management skills at a large facility, using modern, progressive work practices.

Salary negotiable, according to experience and qualifications.

Closing date for applications: 30 June 2003

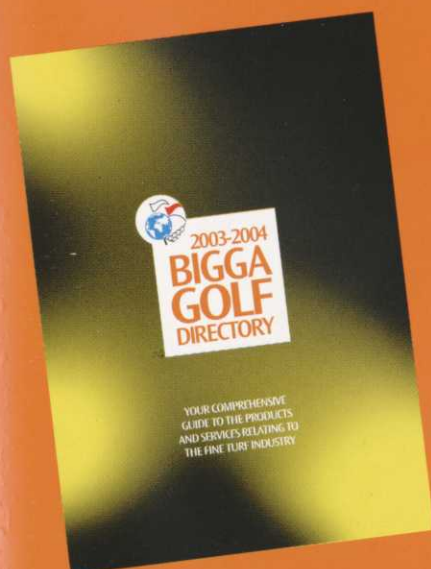
Please send written applications with full CV to:

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Mr Peter Todd, Golf Courses Manager, The London Golf Club,  
South Ash Manor Estate, Ash, Nr Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 7EN

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- All Secretaries/Chairmen of Green
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- BTME & ClubHouse 2004

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