

NEW ROLE FOR KIM

Kim Macfie has agreed to join David Jenkins Turfcare Equipment Ltd as a non-executive Director.

For nearly 20 years Kim was Sales & Marketing Director for Hayter Limited where he gained great respect for his knowledge of the industry and his ability to work with his Dealer distribution network.

David said that he was delighted that Kim had agreed to be part of the team and felt sure that Kim's enthusiasm, wide experience and knowledge of the market would be of immense value to the Company.

"It is always of benefit to any organisation to stand back from the day to day operations and have a dispassionate and detached examination of its direction. In a new Company this is doubly so but difficult to do. If I can help David by bringing some focus from the outsiders view, I will be happy, and look forward to witnessing the success he deserves," said Kim.



FERTILISER USAGE SURVEY

A survey of fertiliser usage conducted by Jim Arthur and sponsored by the R&A produced the following results together with comments supplied by Jim Arthur himself.

1. TYPE OF COURSE

Links 15%; Heathland 13%; Downland 10%; Parkland 50%; Others 5%.

2. TYPE OF FERTILISER USED

Nitrogen only (chiefly 8:0:0) 15%
* Nitrogen and Potash (no phosphate) 50%
§ Complete (NPK) 35%
Note: * This was mainly N2 only with one dressing of potash annually, though a few fed potash all year.
§ There were considerable variations with a very few feeding heavily all year (Feb-Nov) However, an estimated 50% used one only NPK dressing - the commonest formulations being 10:2:10, though some used more.

3. TONNAGE PURCHASED

All figures have been adjusted to total per 18 holes. They relate to use for all areas, tees, fairways, approaches etc. and not just greens. Note also that many returns showed in the group between 1-3 tonnes as being much nearer 1 tonne than 3.

Under 1 tonne	21%
1-3 tonnes	70%
Up to 5 tonnes	7%
* In excess of 5 tonnes	2%

* One club admitted to using 24 tonnes per 18 holes, but few known recognised larger users replied to the survey.

4. AREAS FED

It was not possible because of incomplete returns to assess how many clubs fed fairways as a routine - but deduced from 91% using up to 3 tonnes, we can safely assume very few.

5. FIRST APPLICATION

No consistency but a few stated February/March most in (late) April.

Very few of the 91% using up to three tonnes used fertiliser in autumn, most stopped early August (sometimes sooner).

6. FUNGICIDES

There was a direct relationship between heavier fertiliser use and high fungicide bills. The average of all respondents was £2450 per annum. However, a few used over £10,000 p.a. and one £24,000. Eliminating these, the average fell to £180, but it is noteworthy that 22% used either nothing or under £250 p.a. on fungicides.

7. RELATIONSHIP OF BUDGET TO SIZE OF CLUB

There was no direct relationship. Many 36 hole complexes used less than 3 tonnes p.a. per 18 holes, while one 18 hole club admitted to using 24 tonnes p.a. of fertiliser.

CONCLUSION

The majority (65%) of respondents use no phosphatic fertilisers. The link between poa annua invasion/dominance and phosphatic fertilisers has been known and accepted for 90 years, with too many lapses, encouraged by advisers and fertiliser companies using 'just a little phosphate - and regular use of potash - will bring in poa in weeks and reverse years of its discouragement by using N2 only. This particularly applies to the use of NPK autumn fertilisers.

The recession, increasingly making itself felt, means budgets must be pruned, which does not imply lowering standards. The one thing fine turf does not need is either water or feeding over very limited levels.

These figures confirm my personal observations over many years and, more to the point, are agreed by fertiliser distributing agents as being in line with their experience and records.

J. H. Arthur

SUPPORT FOR NTF

Toro has sponsored the first 'In Pursuit of Excellence' conference by the National Turfgrass Foundation - a new charity-based organisation that helps fund education and research into turfgrass science, sports and recreational grounds maintenance.

"Toro was delighted to support the conference. The foundation's activities complement our own commitment to support the advancement of turf professionals," said Toro distributor Lely's Jeff Anguine.

The event in Southport, Lancashire, was aimed at sharing knowledge gained by the Foundation from its workshops and study tours. Top international speakers gave lectures and ran seminars for over 300 greenkeepers, groundsmen and turf consultants from 17 countries who attended.

The foundation is run on a voluntary basis by Martyn Jones and Louise Clegg. Martyn is a turfgrass maintenance specialist who, until a year ago, was Head of Turf Science at Myerscough College, in Preston, Lancashire.

"We approached Toro because of its long-standing involvement in education and research," said Martyn.



SECRETARY TO GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE NAMED

Steve Isaac has been appointed to the new position of Secretary to the R&A's Golf Course Committee.

"This appointment reflects our belief that golf courses throughout the world should be presenting themselves in the best possible condition and be working to the highest ecological and environmental standards," said Peter Dawson, Secretary of the R&A.
"We are therefore delighted that Steve Isaac, a highly experienced and widely travelled agronomist, will be joining our team in St Andrews."

The Secretary to the Golf Course Committee, reporting directly to Duncan Weir, will be responsible for developing management strategy guidance on all aspects of the golf course paying particular attention to the use of water and chemicals, climate change, planning of new courses and levels of play.

He will work with the Committee to offer best-practice professional advice and information to architects, golf associations and federations, planners, government agencies, golf clubs, greenkeepers and other relevant groups.

Steve Isaac, 41, gained a BSc (Hons) in Applied Biology from Liverpool Polytechnic in 1983. For many years he has worked for the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) and recently has been based in Blairgowrie in the position of Area Manager for Scotland and Ireland.



THANK YOU

BIGGA would like to thank the estate of the late Doug Bell, Northern Regional Administrator, for the donation of Doug's library of golf books to the BIGGA library.

DOUBLE DEALING

SISIS have appointed two new regional dealers to promote and sell their range of mowing equipment, and to offer a first-class after sales service.

Mitchells are appointed to cover the Midlands and have branches throughout the area and C & O Tractors Ltd at Blandford in Dorset are appointed to offer sales and service in Dorset, Wiltshire and South West Hampshire.