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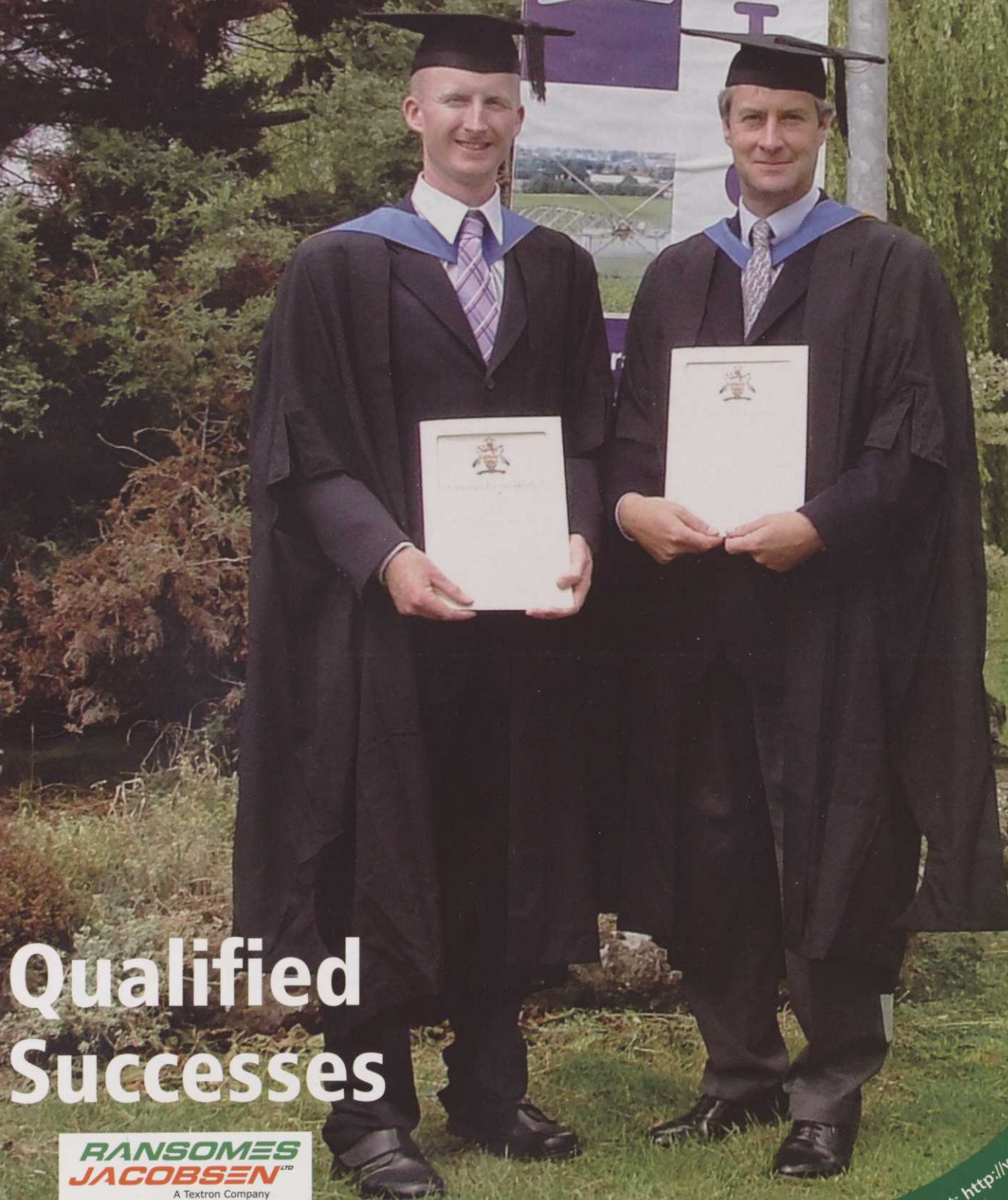
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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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August 2004

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International
will be with you by 6 September 2004

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Steve Isaac discusses the important work of The R&A towards Best Practice.



Welcome

NO MORE INTIMIDATION

There can only be one way to start this month's column. Let's hear it for Billy McLachlan and his team at Royal Troon! I can't recall another Open Championship where the course has come in for no criticism whatsoever.

It provided a fair but demanding test of golf and the set-up was just what was required.

Let's face it the pressure was on with The Open, coming so soon after the US Open at Shinnecock Hills, for which the USGA was vilified for demanding a course which ended up so tricked up that greens had to be watered to slow them down on the final day... after the first few groups had already proved that they were all but unplayable. How can that be fair?

So we needed a sensible Major Championship and Royal Troon provided it.

Of course there will be those who look at the record books in a few years time and say Todd Hamilton succeeding Ben Curtis as Champion doesn't exactly smack of identifying true Champions.

However, in each case many of the top names were there or thereabouts and had their own chances to win.

If you look back through the ages there are very few Opens which have produced unheralded Champions. More often than not it has been those regarded as the superstars, who have prevailed.

The argument is that the strength in depth is now so great it just needs one of the superstars to be slightly out of sorts on one round and his chance has all but gone. I've got a different theory and, if you'll permit me, I'll bore you with it.

It used to be all but about 10 players teed up knowing they were never going to win, not The Open Championship.

Now, many more go in with a winning mentality. If they play their best why can't they be Open Champion? I think The Open may have lost its ability to intimidate the field.

I've watched many Opens in my time and seen unheralded – it would be unfair to call them run-of-the-mill – players play out of their skin only to come a cropper on Sunday's back nine.

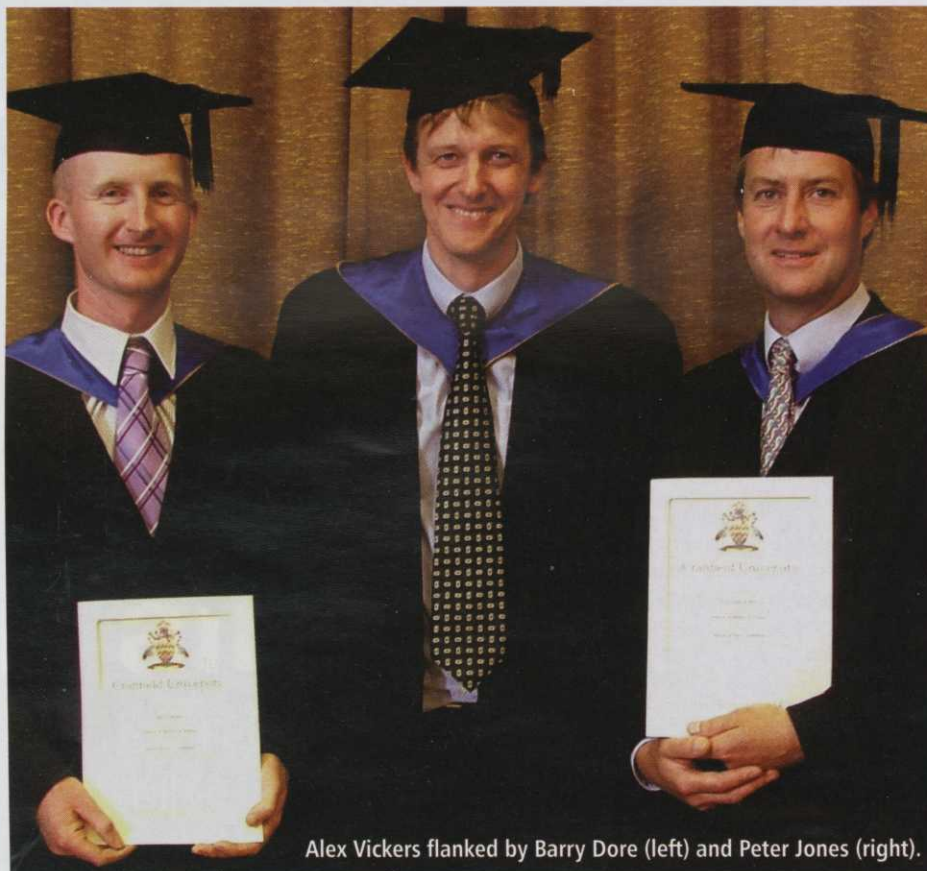
And it wasn't necessarily the big name player sitting just below them on the leaderboard but the sheer enormity of what they were about to do that caused the stumble.

There are several which spring to mind. New Zealander, Simon Owen, looked set to win the 1978 Open at St Andrews only to let Jack Nicklaus in.

You could add Doug Sanders to that list from eight years before that. The most famous missed putt in history, but since then he's recovered from the disappointment. He can now go five minutes without thinking about it.

Nowadays the fear of winning The Open is not as great for some reason – perhaps the sports psychologists can take some of the credit – and you get Ben Curtis and Todd Hamilton able to play their best golf without the intimidation factor that existed within their older colleagues.

Scott MacCallum, Editor



Alex Vickers flanked by Barry Dore (left) and Peter Jones (right).

QUALIFIED SUCCESSES

The first of the BIGGA Higher Education Scholars, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd were presented with their degrees at a graduation ceremony at Cranfield University in July.

Barry Dore and Peter Jones donned gown and mortar board and received the applause of a large audience as they were presented with their Msc degrees from the Chancellor of the College.

An additional BIGGA Scholarship graduate, Eoghan Buckley could not attend as he was undertaking an internship in the USA.

Both were given substantial financial support in achieving their qualification through the scholarship scheme which was set up by BIGGA two years ago.

Barry was the first to mount the stage and spoke later of the pride he felt in his achievement.

"The graduation seals the completion of the MSc course and is very satisfying indeed. Receiving this qualification means a great deal to me. The training I have received has greatly improved my knowledge of sports turf science. It will also allow me to consider employment options in the future that I would never have been in a position to consider before," said Barry.

"I can't thank BIGGA and Ransomes Jacobsen enough for the support they have given me during the course."

Peter Jones, who runs Peter Jones Associates Ltd, was equally delighted.

"It was a proud moment for me to appear on stage at Cranfield University, complete with gown and mortar board to receive my degree. It more than justifies the many, many hours spent studying and writing assignments. I am greatly indebted to BIGGA and Ransomes Jacobsen for the wonderful support they have given me and my fellow scholarship winners and I would encourage others to take advantage of the generous support there is out there for people attempting to better themselves through education," said Peter.

Accompanying Barry and Peter at the ceremony was a very proud Tutor, Alex Vickers who had guided each of them through their course.

Among those receiving Honorary Degrees at the same time as Barry and Peter was Sir Donald Curry, Chairman of the Food and Farming Strategy, DEFRA, who had been charged with developing a policy to minimise the damage of the Foot and Mouth Epidemic two years ago.

"The scholarship scheme has enabled 48 greenkeeper members of BIGGA to enrol onto Higher Education courses including the Masters Degree at Cranfield University. Greenkeepers now have access to a full range of qualifications enabling them to move their careers to an even higher level and compete for better salaries," said Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager.

AWARD FOR PARKSTONE

Parkstone Golf Club has received further recognition for their commitment to environmental management.

The golf course, which is covered by an S.S.S.I., was recognised at the prestigious annual English nature S.S.S.I. awards ceremony at The Royal Show in Warwick.

Course Manager Bill Garner and Deputy Alex McCombie picked up an award for the club's commitment and work, and also flew the flag for golf clubs in UK. They stressed that hundreds of golf clubs the length and breadth of the country are carrying out some excellent environmental work and that golf has a substantial and important role to play in protecting and developing the environment.

Parkstone has been highly committed in its heathland restoration work. Thousands of trees have been removed along with an intensive scrub removal programme and the results have been encouraging.

This has been coupled with a return to traditional greenkeeping practices aimed at encouraging native grasses to the course, and in particular the greens.

The course is beginning to return to its original character and much of the original views and vistas have been reinstated. Heather is flourishing, as is the numbers of fauna that depend on this habitat.

"The team at Parkstone feel very proud of the contribution they are making to both the golf course and the environment," commented Bill. "The recognition for the work we have carried out ensures that momentum is carried forward. The programme will continue and we look forward to achieving more success in the future."

ON A NEW COURSE

Dave Austin has joined Rigby Taylor as Area Representative for the South Manchester and Cheshire area.

He joins after eight years as Course Manager at Sandiway Golf Club and was previously Course Manager at Knutsford Golf Club and The Tytherington Club.

THE 19TH BECKONS

After 50 years of service, Hawkstone Park's longest serving employee, Estate and Golf Course Manager Frank Tong is leaving behind the bunkers, fairways and greens to retire to the 19th hole.

Frank originally joined the Shropshire club in 1954 to work on the farm and shortly after transferred to the golf course, working as Assistant Greenkeeper to Alex Lyle, father of Sandy Lyle.

Frank's long and distinguished career at Hawkstone Park was only interrupted by National Service and short spells as Greenkeeper and Head Greenkeeper at Leamington and County Golf Club.

As Estate and Golf Course Manager, Frank's main responsibilities are the management and upkeep of the championship Hawkstone and Windmill courses and the six-hole Academy course as well as 100 acres of wooded parkland.

Commenting on his retirement, Frank said, "Over the years I've met and worked with people from every walk of life and I've never tired of the Park's beautiful surroundings. The work has been varied, often challenging but always rewarding".

He added: "I'm looking forward to retirement, I plan to spend time travelling and I hope to go to Australia to visit family."

Mike Sheehan, Managing Director of Hawkstone Park, said: "Frank has shown many



years of dedication and on behalf of everyone at Hawkstone Park I would like to thank him for his unstinting loyalty and work and wish him a long and happy retirement."

BIGGA DELEGATION COMPETITION

It's that time of a year again when BIGGA, in conjunction with Bernhard, gives the opportunity of a lifetime to 10 lucky Greenkeepers.

BIGGA members have the chance to win a trip to the first ever GCSAA & NGCOA Golf Industry Show, hosted in the USA. The 2005 event is to be held in Orlando at the Rosen Plaza on February 7 – 12.

The competition is open to all BIGGA members, and all you have to do to enter is complete the entry form attached to the outside of this month's Greenkeeper International issue and send it back to us. If for any reason this form is not attached, simply phone BIGGA HOUSE to request an entry form. The deadline for completed entry forms is September 3.

Previously known as the GCSAA Golf Course

Conference & Trade Show, the 2005 Golf Industry Show is a joint venture by the GCSAA – Golf Course Superintendents Association of America – and NGCOA – National Golf Course Owners Association – which puts together the key facility decision makers, the best golf course management solutions and the most recognisable companies in the industry all under one roof. In a 750,600 square foot facility the show will feature over 800 exhibitors.

The overall objective of the Golf Industry Show is to provide the golf industry with a dynamic, progressive trade show event that provides unparalleled networking opportunities and hands-on access to golf course and facility management solutions for the professional members that BIGGA, GCSAA and NGCOA serve.

Both the GCSAA Educational Conference and the NGCOA Solutions Summit will run during the show, providing visitors with the solutions they need for personal and professional success in the form of special events, seminars, sessions and workshops.

British greenkeepers who have attended the US event believe the benefit of their visit was invaluable. "I enjoyed the interaction with Superintendents from the US and learned new things about their practice which I can bring back to the UK," said Gordon McKie, Head Greenkeeper at St. Andrews Links Trust.

Previous BIGGA Delegate winner Jeremy Hughes, Course Manager at Vale of Llangollen commented, "From the whole experience I feel I should improve as a person and a Course Manager."

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ON COURSE TO LEARN

A prestigious scholarship offering a grand tour of some of the world's top golf courses has been won by a sports turf student from Guildford College's Merrist Wood campus.

The grass may not be greener on the other side of the Atlantic but student greenkeeper Richard Pennell, 29, will have the chance to find out when he takes up the Grand Tour Scholarship in August to visit leading courses on the US west coast and learn how they are managed. The 22 courses on the three week study tour include Pebble Beach Golf Links, Spyglass Hill Golf Course and Los Angeles Country Club in California and Southern Highlands Golf Club in Las Vegas.

Richard was selected for the scholarship from hundreds of other golf course design and management students from all over the world. The scholarship was founded by golf course architect and president of Lioness Golf LLC Bettina Schrickel and is sponsored by the TORO Company in the US.

Richard is a single figure handicap golfer who left the book retail trade two years ago to become a greenkeeper at Mitcham Golf Club and study for a first diploma in sports turf at the Merrist Wood campus.

"I haven't regretted it for a second, I love working at the club and I hope to

return after my trip to the states to start an HNC level course at Merrist Wood. I'm delighted to have been given such a unique opportunity as the Grand Tour Scholarship and am very grateful to my employers and my lecturers at Merrist Wood for their ongoing encouragement and support."

Tutor Phil Mayes said that Richard's application for the scholarship had been outstanding and that his passion for his work shone through.

"The tour will develop Richard's understanding of how top courses in the US are managed and will help to forge more international links in the industry."



HEGGIE THE CHAMPION

The Scottish National Tournament took place over at Kilmacoll Golf Club, Renfrewshire on Tuesday 15 June 2004.

Kilmacoll Golf Club is an extremely attractive golf course with magnificent views over the Renfrewshire hills. With Course Manager, Ronnie Bunting at the helm they have a dedicated greenkeeper who has won various Environmental Awards and is a very committed BIGGA member. This was evident in his golf course, which drew praise from his fellow greenkeepers for its excellent condition.

Overhead conditions were sunny but with a strong breeze, which made things difficult for low scoring but never the less, there were some excellent scores returned, including a net 59.

The winner and National Champion for 2004 was Brian Heggie, Auchterarder GC, who returned a Scratch 73 winning the SGGA Challenge Cup. The Friendship Trophy for the best Nett went to Joe Bell, Millport, for the third time in four years with a score of 80-21-59, yes 59. Joe had local knowledge, as he was Deputy Head at Kilmacoll for several years. Needless to say Joe's handicap is under review.

Our thanks go to Captain Colin McGinn of Kilmacoll Golf Club and the committee of Kilmacoll GC for granting us the facilities and courtesy of the course. Our thanks also to Vic Weldin, Secretary, and the staff at Kilmacoll for their help and assistance throughout the day. Neil Mitchell and Robert T. Bruce from the trade who ably assisted the Administrator during the day.

The prizes were presented by Colin McGinn, Captain of Kilmacoll GC who welcomed everyone to Kilmacoll. Iain Barr, Scottish Chairman, on behalf of the competitors, thanked Colin for hosting the event.

RESULTS:

SGGA Challenge Cup Scratch Scottish Champion, Brian Heggie, Auchterarder GC, 73.

Friendship Cup Best Nett. Joe Bell, Millport, 59.

Ransomes Trophy First Class.

1. Kenny Mitchell, St Andrews, 69

2. Douglas McIntosh, Cathkin Braes 72 (Best last 3 holes)

3. Denis Tweddell, Turnberry, 72

Pattison Trophy Second Class.

1. Mark Wilson, Douglas Park, 69 (BIH)

2. Sandy Brawley, East Kilbride, 72

3. Andrew Clark, Douglas Park, 74

STRI Trophy Third Class.

1. Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead, 74

2. Mike Horkan, St. Andrews, 80

3. Colin Scott, Glasgow, 85

Dick Aitken Trophy Best Head Greenkeeper.

Derek Scott, Scoonie, 69

M & M Trophy. Best Assistant.

Mike Lindsay, Scoonie, 72 (BIH)

Souter Trophy Best Apprentice

Gerard Broadley, 108

SIGGA Trophy. Best Veteran

Duncan Gray Pines, 75

St. Mungo Trophy Team Trophy (Best 4 nett scores) Werst Section.

Joe Bell, Millport, 59

Mark Wilson, Douglas Park, 69

Douglas McIntosh, Cathkin Braes, 72

Sandy Brawley, East Kilbride, 72

Total 272

Patrons. Kevin Brunton, Greentech, 70

Qualifiers. National Championship sponsored by

Ransomes Jacobsen.

Brian Heggie, Auchterarder and Joe Bell, Millport.

Peter Boyd

Scottish Regional Administrator

THE NEW RECRUIT JOINS THE MAGAZINE

BIGGA have appointed an Assistant Editor in the form of Gareth Jones, who will be responsible for aiding Editor Scott MacCallum in the production of Greenkeeper International.

Gareth, 22, joins the Association after graduating from the University of Leeds in 2003, gaining a degree in Media.

Previously he has worked in the sports department of both the Yorkshire Evening Post Newspaper and BBC Radio Leeds. Gareth begins life at BIGGA after a stint working for the NHS.

A sports enthusiast, Gareth plays flanker for Leeds' based

Rugby Union club Yarnbury, is a keen runner, footballer and squash player, and he is eager to improve on his current golf handicap.

"I am excited about my new role at BIGGA, and having already met a number of BIGGA members at the Open Championship at Troon I am looking forward to meeting more in the coming months," said Gareth.

"Having Gareth on board will enable us to move the magazine forward and to improve BIGGA's communication in the golfing world," said Scott.



GTC News

Following on from July's article highlighting the developments in greenkeeper education and training, GTC's Education Director, David Golding, looks at the advances in 'on the job' training.

It maybe 30 plus years since I was an apprentice greenkeeper at my home town course Buxton & High Peak in Derbyshire but some things never change in greenkeeper training!

Training "on the job" was always the most cost effective method for Head Greenkeepers to get their new staff up to speed as soon as practically possible.

True, we were very reliant on the skills and knowledge of our own Head Greenkeeper and whilst I was fortunate enough to be trained by an excellent father and son team, Bill and Ray Norton, sadly the same could not be said for all trainee greenkeepers.

Standards varied between Headmen and therefore there was no chance of any apprenticeship meeting consistent national standards!

Before all the more "mature" head greenkeepers start picking up the phone to challenge my thoughts regarding the standards of "on the job" training I will say that it is this concept of training that is gathering universal acclaim.

Many will remember the introduction of a small training manual back in the sixties which was the forerunner to today's GTC Training Manual. Head

help establish the website www.bestcourseforgolf.org, which sets out all the best principles and practices for maintaining and managing a golf course.

It is vital that the GTC upholds the tried and tested principles in greenkeeping and ensures its Approved Training Providers are also teaching students these principles.

Having agreed the content through the GTC Technical Committee and the turf review group all we require is the Government body's approval of our work. This now happens with little or no changes such is the respect our specialist sector has gained in recent years.

The whole concept of "on the job" training still does revolve round the Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager and very often at the larger courses their Deputy.

Given the fact that we can now offer all clubs an agreed set of NATIONAL standards to train and assess to let us now ascertain who is the best equipped person to deliver the skills training.

Is it the secretary/manager? Is it the Chairman of Green/Green convenor? Is it the college lecturer? NO it has to be the competent Course Manager or deputy!

It is they who have direct contact with the green staff and given they are in a better position than anyone to set out an action plan and training programme for each individual it is only natural that the GTC has invested heavily in the course managers skills to become more formal trainers and assessors.

All of this "on the job" training is supplemented by the GTC Approved Training Providers whose main job is to co-ordinate the education and training of trainees and register them with an Awarding Body such as City & Guilds or the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

All of this work is supported by the Government in that work-based training N/SVQ's are very much part of



Greenkeepers were asked to tick and "sign off" a series of tasks once the trainee had reached full competency, brilliant!

So what has changed over the years since that wonderful initiative by the then Standing Conference for Golf Greenkeeping Apprenticeship Scheme?

The two main changes involve the content of the training manual and who actually trains, educates and assesses the trainee greenkeeper.

Since the "new" GTC was born back in 1993 the golf club employers (through the Home Unions) and the greenkeepers (through BIGGA & GCSAI) have been able to ensure the content of all turf qualifications is relevant to today's standards for golf course maintenance and management.

We at the GTC are constantly reviewing one qualification or another just to ensure that in the round of reviews we have the most up to date skills and knowledge within the awards.

This is not to say we are moving away from the tried and tested principles for maintaining turf but technology and legislation change, therefore we must update the content accordingly.

It has to be stated that the GTC has worked very closely with the R&A to

their strategy to support employers wishing to invest in staff development.

I cannot emphasise enough that for "on the job" work-based training to work effectively the system does require the employer and Course Manager to "buy into" the system.

The GTC can help any employer or Course Manager with the training of their staff from a totally unbiased position of the independent body representing the greenkeeping sector.

It does not seem that long ago since I was an apprentice greenkeeper but thankfully the training system is more formal in terms of national standards.

The professionalism of course managers is the key to the future skills of the next generation of greenkeepers supported by those training providers who are "in tune" with the sectors needs!

The subject of training providers and learning materials will feature in next months GI.

For details on work-based training, apprenticeship schemes, trainer/assessor training contact David Golding at the GTC on 01347 838640 or email david@the-gtc.co.uk



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Education Update

This month's article includes an update on Ken Richardson's visit to the GCSAA Headquarters, details of the TORO Student of the Year Regional Finals and some important information on FREE training.

Toro Student of the Year Competition 2004

After travelling almost 15,000 miles and staying in four different hotels, interviewing 34 candidates, my fellow judges and I selected eight National Finalists for this year's competition.

This was the eleventh year that I have been involved with the Student of the Year and I was pleased to see that standards of presentation, preparation for interview and technical knowledge have all continued to improve. It is always difficult to choose between candidates and this year was no exception.

The judges would like to put forward all of the candidates but that is not possible and some selection must take place. It is obvious that employers are taking more of an interest in education and training and course managers have a great part to play in encouraging candidates to do their best at interview.

There were two problems with this year's interviews. Firstly, two candidates did not bother to turn up for interview, not only wasting the time of the judges but also preventing training providers putting forward an alternative candidate. Secondly, someone attempted to break into my car when it was parked in a hotel car park. The double locking system held and they did not gain access although they did cause over £300 of damage.

The National Finalists this year are:

Christopher Kerr, aged 22, from Glasgow who works at Cowglen Golf Club and was trained by GOSTA

Peter Kennedy, aged 21, from Ballymanna who worked at Pinehurst Golf Club and was trained by Reaseheath College

Stuart Glover, aged 32, from Ballygowan who works at Lisburn Golf Club and was trained by Greenmount College

Alex Shore, aged 26, from Milton Keynes who works at Woburn Golf and Country Club and was trained by Oaklands College

Robert Finnegan, aged 21, from Navan who works at the Old Course and was trained by Elmwood College

Katie Walls, aged 21, from Taunton who works at Taunton and Pickeridge and was trained by Myerscough College

Alistair Higgs, aged 19, from Reading who works at Calcot Park and was trained by Sparsholt College

James Canham aged 19, from Wisbech who works at Weston Park and was trained by the College of West Anglia.

The National Final will be held at BIGGA House on Monday 27 September.

Free training on offer in several areas

I have recently been informed of a scheme called Skills @ Work which gives free training at a number of locations around England.

Areas funded so far are Leicestershire, Berkshire, Birmingham Solihul, Derbyshire, Essex, Greater Manchester, Kent and Medway, London East, Shropshire, South Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear and Wiltshire and Swindon.

Subjects covered include: NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf, Health and Safety, First Aid, Food Hygiene, IT Training, Customer Care, Food Preparation, Bar Service, Administration and Management Skills.

I shall be sending out further information as it becomes available so start to think about what training is needed at your golf club and be prepared to take advantage of this great offer.

Visit to GCSAA Headquarters

John Pemberton and I made a flying visit to the GCSAA Headquarters in late June, where we met up with the Chairman, Andy Campbell. For those who don't know, the GCSAA Headquarters is based in the town of Lawrence, Kansas, where their 120 employees look after 120,000 members.

John, Andy and I spent two and a half days travelling and one day in meetings during our four day visit so we did not have much time for sight seeing, although Hannes and Gina gave us the quick tour of Lawrence and Kansas City. I have still not worked out why Kansas City is in Missouri and not in Kansas.

Our meeting with various members of the GCSAA staff reinforced the perception that golf course superintendents had very similar problems to greenkeepers on this side of the Atlantic. The GCSAA are working hard to improve the status of superintendents and the way golfers and the general public perceive them. They are trying to encourage golfers to think about the input of superintendents

when they have had a good round of golf and not just blame them when they have had a bad one.

They are expanding their trade show to include the golf club owners and calling their new show Golf Solutions. They are working hard to encourage international members, although their rules say that UK greenkeepers must be members of BIGGA before they can join the GCSAA. They are also having a close look at the environment and the superintendent's job in its management.

Just some of the things happening across in Lawrence, most of which are happening over here. Despite what television seems to indicate, not every golf course in the US has a massive budget, nor three times the personnel. They do have restrictions on the type and amount of pesticides that can be used and the restrictions are getting worse. Not all is gloom however. Salaries are good, the cost of living is quite low and travel is still relatively cheap. Petrol was \$1.69 (93p) per gallon when we were there.

RISK ASSESSMENTS

Tutorial Three

The previous tutorial discussed putting into place a Health and Safety Management system which should enable the club to manage all health and safety issues more effectively. Part of the system will be Risk Assessments. Only 40% of UK golf clubs have suitable and sufficient risk assessments in place.

WHY DO RISK ASSESSMENTS- because over 10,000 people are injured every year requiring hospital treatment associated with golf.

MAIN REASONS; We don't carry out the risk assessments just because the law [Management of Health and Safety At Work Regulations 1992 (MHSW)] requires it but because it allows the club and employees to better understand the hazards they are working in and to help lower the risks of injury to their staff and golfers.

WHAT IS A RISK ASSESSMENT: A risk assessment is a systematic process of identifying hazards and assessing the magnitude of the risk. A risk assessment should be documented and provide mitigation measures to lower or even eliminate the risk. A risk assessment without actions and action parties is not an effective process.

WHAT SHOULD BE RISK ASSESSED: Hazards at golf clubs are widespread and can vary from risks associated with fire to handling and maintaining course machinery. Golf clubs should carry out risk assessments on the following main areas;

- The playability of the Course
- All Greenstaff work activities incl. vehicles
- Handling Chemicals
- Manual Handling
- Fire Risks
- Catering and cellar risk
- Use of Buggies
- The Clubhouse
- Storage
- Working With Youngsters
- Asbestos
- Legionnaires

The PROCESS; To carry out a risk assessment the club should develop a plan of action and commit to it. We would recommend as a minimum the plan should incorporate;

- Identify all areas at your club requiring risk assessments
- Develop a simple methodology to record the findings and calculate the risk levels
- Identify who at the club is best suited to complete the assessments
- Complete all of the identified areas in a set time frame
- Establish action lists to close out all risk assessment actions
- Publish a report
- Communicate the significant findings to the management
- Add to risk assessment to your management system

LONG TERM: Once a full set of risk assessments have been completed for the club and recorded the risk assessments will need reviewing at set periods to ensure their validity. It is recommended that the club's expertise review the risk assessments as a minimum yearly or earlier if any significant hardware or process changes have occurred. (EG New equipment purchased for the course). Once the assessments are part of the clubs normal workings it is unlikely that a large amount of cost or time will be required to maintain the assessments.

Many clubs are still without a suitable and sufficient set of assessments and are exposing themselves to not only increasing the likelihood of an accident, but to prosecution. It is our advice that this item forms part of the future planning activities at your club.

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Head Greenkeeper
Effingham Golf Club,
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Rachael and Gemma from Membership Services would like to welcome 70 new members to the Association and explain the courtesy golf scheme.

Membership Update

BIGGA policy on courtesy golf

We have decided to publish guidelines on the use of courtesy golf to clear up any confusion amongst BIGGA members and golf clubs. We are aware the majority of members do behave sensibly when seeking courtesy golf.

The guidelines are as follows:

- Only those with full greenkeeper membership should seek courtesy golf.
- Courtesy golf is only given at the discretion of the individual golf club, and is not an automatic benefit of membership.
- Members wishing to seek courtesy golf at a club should contact the club at least 24 hours in advance of wishing to play.
- On arrival at the club, members should report to the Secretary/Pro Shop and follow normal procedures for playing golf.
- Members should always produce a valid membership card as proof of status to the club.
- Members should make a point of thanking the club for their courtesy on completion of their round of golf.
- Members should not seek courtesy golf at any one golf club more than twice per year.

Golf clubs wishing to verify membership or requiring further details should contact BIGGA on 01347 833800. All suspected abuses of the card should be reported immediately to BIGGA headquarters where such complaints will be investigated and appropriate action taken.

BIGGA welcomes...

SCOTTISH REGION

Richard Barber-Fleming, Ayrshire
Alan Hogg, East
Dave Morris, Ayrshire
Kris Nicol, North
Cameron Scott, Ayrshire
Colin Smith, Ayrshire
Allen Whellans, East

NORTHERN REGION

Jason Banks, Northern
David Callaghan, North West
Robert Cooper, North West
Paul Danskin, Northern
Dan Johnson, Northern
Sam Langford, Sheffield
David Moss, North East
Leslie Tate, North East
Ross Wilson, North West

MIDLAND REGION

Kevin Baker, Midland
Stephen Chambers, Midland
Nicholas Chapple, Mid Anglia
Richard Evison, Midland
Tony Hinds, Midland
Anthony Jenkins, BB&O
Kristopher Lovell, BB&O
Ian Mawer, East of England
Peter Roberts, Mid Anglia
Daniel Scott, Mid Anglia
Tony Sittion, BB&O

James Wheatley, East Midland
Alexander Wren, East of England

SOUTH EAST REGION

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Dean Churchill, Surrey
Shane Dawkins, Kent
Graham Goodall, Surrey
Antony Hill, Surrey
Guy Newton, Surrey
Joaquin Reis, Kent
Andrew Scott, East Anglia
Daniel Sharp, East Anglia
Nicola Shepherd, Sussex
Graham Standing, Sussex

SOUTH WEST/SOUTH WALES

Mark Blake, South Coast
Richard Blizzard, South West
Shawn Cailles, South West
Neil Curtis, South West
Joe Curtis, South West
Peter Handford, South Coast
Nathan James, South Wales
Ben Ludwell, South Coast
Jeremy Pentecost, South Coast
Raye Phillips, South Coast
Lee Portrey, South West

NORTHERN IRELAND

William Gilmore

SOUTHERN IRELAND

Andrew Wray

INTERNATIONAL

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Vicki Perlino, Canada

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Adrian Cooper, BB&O
Jeremy Furley, Kent
Thomas Halford, Northern
Donovan Hunt, Devon & Cornwall
Duncan Mutton, Mid Anglia
Andrew Turnbull, Midland
Gordon Wilkie, London

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Melvyn Guy, Northern
Lee Moffat, London

STUDENT MEMBER

Ying Kang, China

GOLDEN KEY MEMBERS

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John Noyce, Kent
Mark Rayner, Midland

WIN A CHAMPAGNE BALLOON FLIGHT



Imagine soaring through the skies watching the sunset on a perfect evening. To be in with a chance of winning a balloon flight at one of over 50 locations UK wide just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA. Make sure you write your name on the application form as the person who referred them and we will enter you into the prize draw. The more new members you refer the more chances you have to win.

The draw will take place on the 15th October 2004 and the winner will be announced in the November edition of Greenkeeper International.

Please call Rachael or Gemma for application forms or for more details on 01347 833800.

AUGUST'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 an 0.5 litre isolating flask suitable for hot and cold drinks and soups.

Our congratulations go to this month's winner, Tony Witt from Surbiton Golf Club.



Message of the Month Winner

Each month the person who has written the best message on the BIGGA Bulletin Board, which is found on the BIGGA website www.bigga.org.uk, receives an 18 litre Gelert Rucksack featuring a multi function organiser, two mesh pockets and a grab handle. (Rucksack supplied may be a different colour to that featured).

Our congratulations go to August's winner, Brian Taylor from Sandiway Golf Club whose message was posted on the 23 June 2004 under the 'Talking Shop' section.



Course Feature



▲ Gordon Irvine MG.

No more sinking feelings

Royal Cinque Ports is back on the right lines after losing its way over the last ten years. Scott MacCallum finds out what went wrong and what was done to make sure progress was made.

Royal Cinque Ports has recovered for the errors of the '90s and are now embarking on the long road to a traditionally maintained links course.

Some golf clubs boast an interesting history but their are few which are part of golfing history. Royal Cinque Ports in Deal, Kent, is certainly one of these.

How else could you possibly describe a club which hosted The Open Championship in 1909, when the great J.H. Taylor won the title, and then again when George Duncan won the title on the first time The Open was held after the First World War?

The course has also hosted a roll of other top events including The Amateur Championship, The Brabazon and the public school Old Boys' Championship, The Halford Hewitt, which has been played at Deal since its inception in 1925.

In short Royal Cinque Ports has a historical CV to die for but, as many have found to their cost, a superb pedigree is no guarantee against inferior or outdated decision making.

Today the club is looking forward with confidence. The course policy and management is on the right lines; the management structure has been revised; long term strategies exist and the books are being filled with more black ink than red. In short, they can look back on the hard times and offer other clubs advice they would do well to heed.

A spokesman for the Board explained that droughts in the mid-90's had put the fairways under stress and that £500,000 had been spent on a complete wall-to-wall irrigation system as an insurance against such problems in the future.

This was not the first drought and experience showed that deep-rooted grasses such as bents and fescues would regenerate in the winter rains but the weed grasses (eg poa annua and rye) might well struggle.

At the time great enthusiasm was generated for the new irrigation system, which resulted in over watering of fairways and greens. The greens were cut too low in search of speed and the fairways and semi-rough were wrongly and excessively fertilised to the point where they resembled meadows.

For a time everything in the garden seemed rosy. Golfers - knowing nothing of the STRI or agronomy and having been educated by television to appreciate stripes and pretty patterns created by mowers joined the 'green is beautiful' cult - were not able to differentiate bents and fescues from poa annua and rye or parkland golf from links golf - and this was no surprise.

Steadily the weed grasses began to take a hold and there is even evidence to suggest that rye grass has been used for divoting. It has also been discovered after analysis by the STRI laboratory that the top dressing being used on the greens was more suited to a cricket wicket than a golf green. Surfaces suited to Ray Lindwall or Glen McGrath do not encourage stop on a golf ball.

At the same time other essential work was being neglected and the winter maintenance programme took second place to construction work. Aeration was largely ignored and as a result growth was impaired on the



fairway and in the semi-rough. An effort to encourage growth led to areas of the rough being fertilised resulting in further invasion of weed grasses.

When the course had to be brought up to standard for top events like the Brabazon or Halford Hewitt the mowers were taken even lower to satisfy the demand for 'speed', but this often led to mechanical scarring. Meanwhile members frequently complained that the course was not the same condition for them in the remaining weeks of the year.

Meanwhile, the Captain of the day was faced with a serious shortfall of revenue in the winter of 2000/1, accentuated by the loss of green-fee income caused by heavy rains.

A problem existed in that the organisation of the club relied on one committee answerable to the Captain, who in turn acted as Chief Executive Officer for his year in Office. A new Captain would then replace him the following year and so on, each with his own plans and ideas for what he wanted to achieve during his term. This committee was responsible for all aspects of the club life and business. There was a lack of continuity and no long-term plan.

After a study of the operations of various clubs perceived to be among those most successfully run it was decided to set up a Board of Management. This Board would run the business side of the club and the Captain's committee would run the 'golf and fun'. The green was to be the responsibility of the Board.

The Captain is seen to be the front man of the club during his year in Office, operating the golf and fun and in the background should be the Secretary, who is Chief Executive Officer reporting to the Board. The Board was first selected by a special sub-group and then voted in by the membership and the new constitution put in place in 2002.

This has resulted in the business being under control, the club being marketed effectively, the revenue altered so that a handsome, sensible profit is being made. There is now a long-term plan in place of which the members are aware of and have commented, and a plan exists to restore the course to its true heritage.

During 2000, and coincidentally with the organisation studies, the Captain, aware that all was not well with the course, asked for a report from Malcolm Peake a member well known for this work at Temple Club. Malcolm has over many years developed a wide knowledge of traditional golf course management and also a wide circle of friends and acquaintances involved in the industry.

Following this, and the decision to return the links to their true heritage, Gordon Irvine MG, who was already known to Malcolm, was taken on as Course Consultant to assist with putting the course back onto the correct path.

Gordon, who can be found on the course dusk to dawn, reported to the Board in April on what he was doing and what he had found. In May he met 100 members in a meeting which lasted about one and half hours. He briefed the membership on his actions and then answered questions. His straightforward and blunt approach was well received and the reception he got was very good indeed.

The changes Gordon has made to the course in the short term have been very noticeable with more traditional links style management in place, closely mown run ups to greens allowing for the use of putters and pitch and run shots and properly defined semi-rough. Construction work has been carried out professionally and in keeping with the rest of the course.

As necessary Gordon is working in conjunction with Donald Steel on design



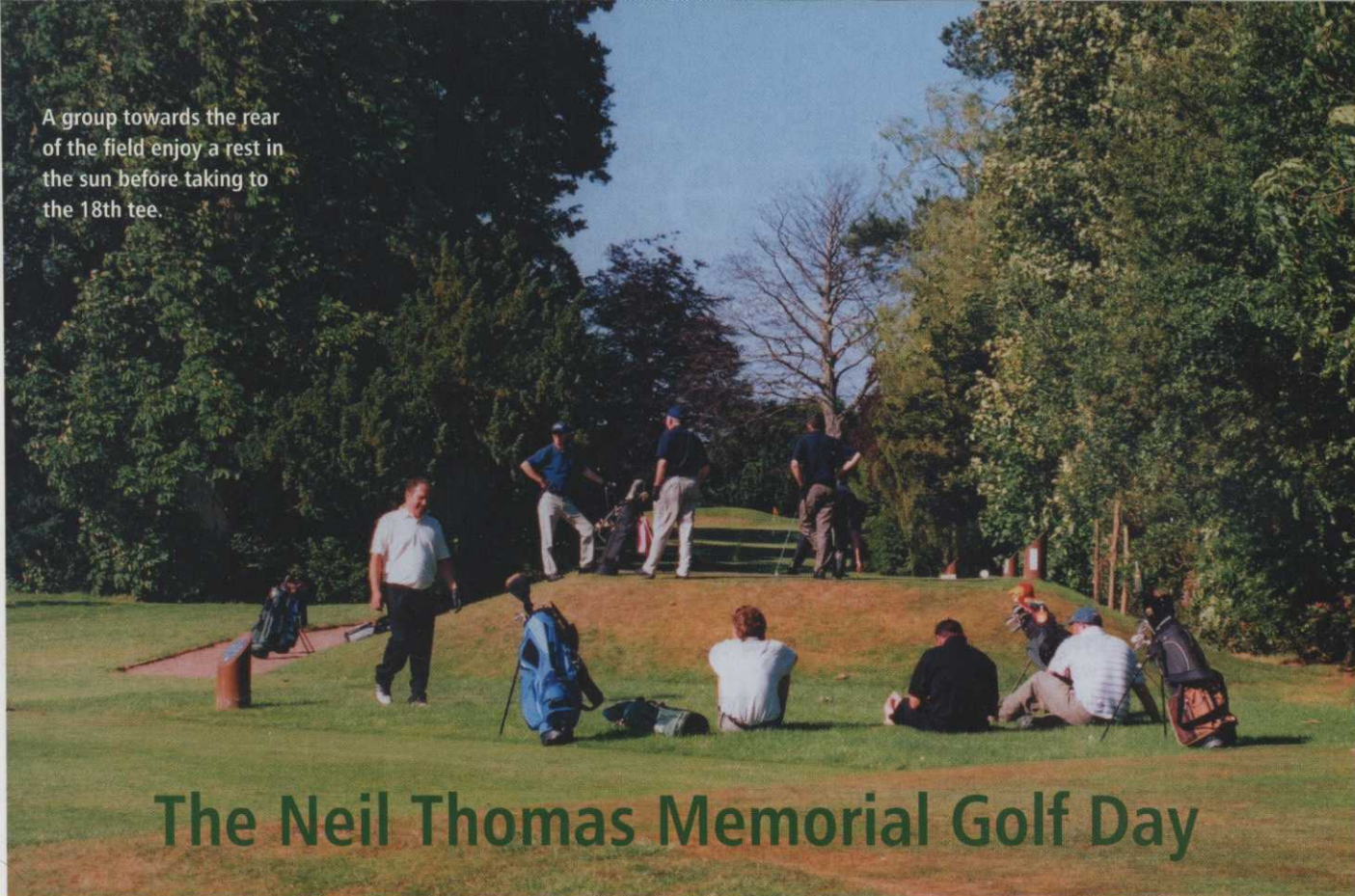
matters and a leading agronomist is to be appointed. His greenkeeping team is right behind him and he is right behind them, Gordon has stressed the importance of educating and training them correctly.

Gordon has the full support of the Board in the selection and provision of capital machinery and in the approval of the programme for the following winter. It is appreciated that it will take a number of years for the course to return completely to its natural roots, but such is the superb nature of the layout that however long it takes it will be a worthwhile, if painstaking, project.

An awful number of golfers are happy with pretty, green fairways, striped and patterns that are full of weed grasses, over watered and fertilised largely because television leads them that way. To protect and deliver these conditions requires fungicides that may not always be available as we move to a more environmentally friendly society.



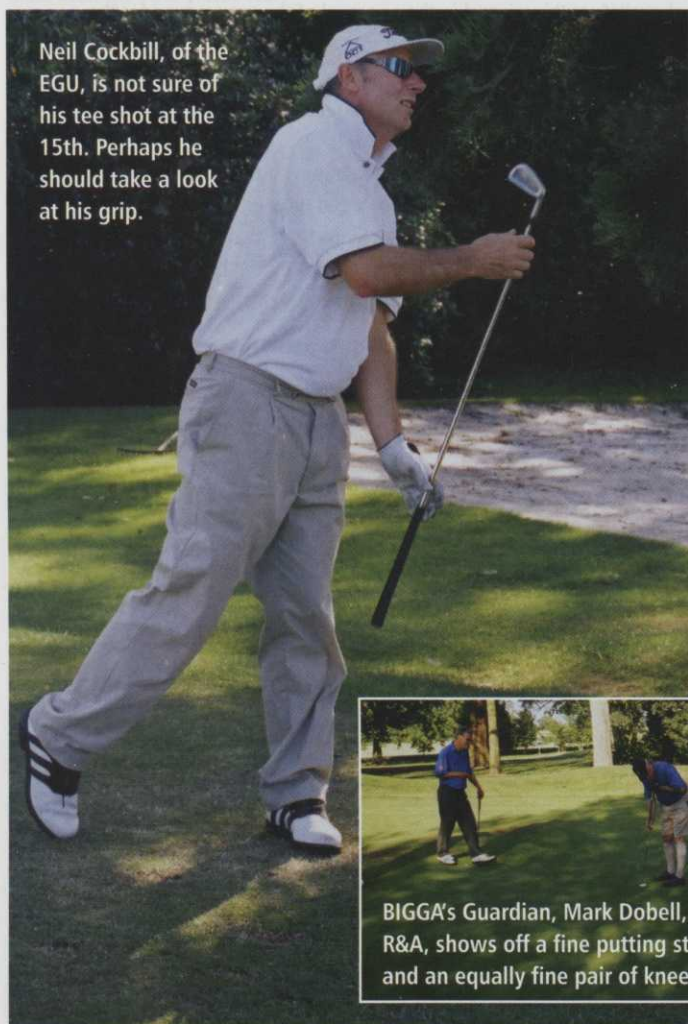
A group towards the rear of the field enjoy a rest in the sun before taking to the 18th tee.



The Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day

Golf day success

Neil Cockbill, of the EGU, is not sure of his tee shot at the 15th. Perhaps he should take a look at his grip.



Scott MacCallum reviews the annual BIGGA Golf Day, held at Aldwark Manor

The 2004 BIGGA Golf Day was different from the previous eight that had been played.

Sure, as usual the sun shone, the golf was scintillating and smiles and laughter were the order of the day but this time there was one name at the forefront of everyone's mind and Monday, June 14, 2004 was a particularly poignant occasion.

Neil Thomas' final day in BIGGA HOUSE before the illness which was to eventually take his life, took too great a hold on the previous BIGGA Golf Day, so it was particularly fitting that BIGGA's Board of Management should decide to rename the event which has become a fixture in the calendars of so many people within the fine turf industry The Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day.

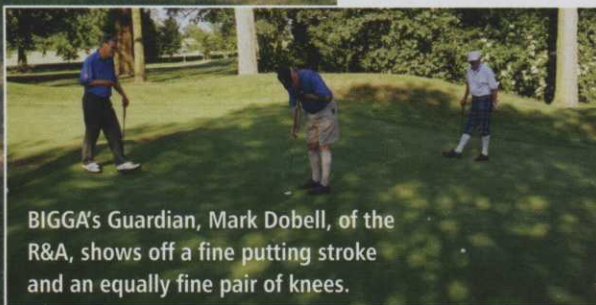
It was therefore a great pleasure to welcome Neil's widow, Elaine, and three of their four children Grant, Adam and Natalie, to the occasion and for Elaine to present the prizes.

Elaine was also on hand to receive a painting which had been donated to BIGGA by the Association's Master Greenkeepers which will hang in BIGGA HOUSE as a permanent memory of the Association's first Executive Director.

One of Neil's greatest loves was rugby union and the painting, entitled "The Greatest Try" by Robert Highton, depicted the most famous try ever scored - by Gareth Edwards, for the Barbarians against the All Blacks at Cardiff Arms Park in 1973. Neil had been lucky enough to have been at the match.

On the golfing front we had a shock, the scale of which we hadn't seen since Scotland

BIGGA's Guardian, Mark Dobell, of the R&A, shows off a fine putting stroke and an equally fine pair of knees.





lost 3-1 to Peru in the 1978 World Cup. Lincsgreen didn't win. The team who had scorched their way to victory the previous two years with amazing scores, could only come second!

Their crown was seized by BIGGA's Surrey Section, comprising, Ian Sellars, Tony Bremeer, Antony Freeman and Brian Wilmot who pipped the Lincsgreen 2 team with a superb score of 53.75 in the blustery conditions.

What made the feat all the more remarkable was that the team had driven up to North Yorkshire from the South East in the early hours of the morning and were due to drive back later the same day. It was fitting then that Antony Freeman also won the Longest Drive.

The day, which was again sponsored by the "A" Group of Harrogate Hotels, was topped off by a barbecue prepared by Aldwark Manor Hotel

Tony Bremer, Brian Wilmot, Ian Sellars and Antony Freeman, of the Surrey Section, receive the Neil Thomas Memorial Cup from Elaine Thomas.

during which BIGGA's First Chairman, Walter Woods, recalled Neil Thomas' input into BIGGA and described the drive which had been so instrumental in making the Association the success that it is.

His remarks were sincerely delivered and welcomed by all in attendance, particularly Elaine, Grant, Adam and Natalie.

Results:

1. BIGGA Surrey Section. Ian Sellars, Tony Bremer, Antony Freeman, Brian Wilmot, 53.25; 2. Lincsgreen 2, 55.375; 3. Hunter Grinders, 57.625

Longest Drive: Antony Freeman Nearest the Pin: Ian Semple

Putting Competition: Andy Norton.



▲ **Past Chairman, George Brown, receives a plaque to commemorate his year in office from current Chairman, Andy Campbell MG.**



Elaine Thomas and Vice Chairman Kerran Daly MG with the picture donated in Neil Thomas' memory by the Association's Master Greenkeepers.



The need for backup

Roland Taylor continues his look at cylinder mowers and assesses the importance of local manufacturer support

The Royal Worlington Golf Club, where Prince Albert and Queen Victoria's son played golf while regularly attending shoots at the Elvendon Estates in Norfolk, is a nine-hole course opened in 1893, and is situated on the edge of the Norfolk Breckland, which is renowned for its sandy soil.

As a result the club has taken on the mantle of an inland links course. Since the course was built there has been little alteration and the wide undulating fairways abound with bunkers for the unwary player. Cambridge University practice and play all their home competitions on this course.

Head Greenkeeper Bob Gee has been at the club for forty-five years and for cutting the large raised tees around the course he uses a Sisis Teestar triple that was bought just over two years ago.

Bob said: "Previously we had a Huxley triple which we were very pleased with. When it came to replacing this mower we tried a number of other machines before deciding. We found the Teestar was easy to operate and above all the operator visibility was excellent.

"You can clearly see, even with the boxes on, the edge of the tees, which avoids dropping down the slope. All the controls are within easy reach and the driving position is ideal, like armchair mowing.

"The only criticism I have is the positioning and poor design of the throttle control. For a machine of this quality it certainly could be improved. However, this is relatively minor compared to all the advantages we find when operating this piece of equipment."

The greenkeeping team carry out daily machinery maintenance. For repairs and other service work they use a local technician who calls regularly, or in an emergency, to carry out necessary work.

Bob went on to say that they have found this method of maintaining and caring for their equipment works exceedingly well. He also added that because he supports Ipswich Football Club he would like all his machinery

to be in blue and white livery. There would appear to be a very slim chance of this ever happening.

The Sisis Teestar has three hydraulically driven, floating cutting heads that give a 1.82 metre mowing width. There is a choice of six or ten bladed cylinders so the machine can be used on greens as well as tees.

The three-wheels have permanent drive to provide traction and reduce turf damage and the mower has a low centre of gravity to give it stability on slopes. If grass collecting is needed then the boxes and concaves are said to be easy to fit or remove when not required. The Teestar is designed and built in the UK.

Thorpe Wood Golf Club originated as a part of the Peterborough Development Corporation project back in the 1980s. It is a two 18-hole course split by the River Nene.

Head Greenkeeper Dave Walden and his team have their work cut out keeping both these courses in tip-top condition. Up until two years ago they cut their fairways with gangmowers. After having demonstrations of virtually every fairway mower on the market it was decided to buy two Roberine 1903s.

"We have found a considerable difference since using this type of machine. One of the main changes has been their machines' manoeuvrability compared to gangmowers and this has enabled us to create tighter fairways. Cross cutting is regularly carried out and this has added to the aesthetic quality of the courses," said Dave.

Another reason they selected these particular mowers is the backup support they get from their local dealer, Peterborough Garden Machinery.



Bob Gee of the Royal Worlington GC with his Sisis Teestar . Pity it is not in Ipswich Football Club livery.

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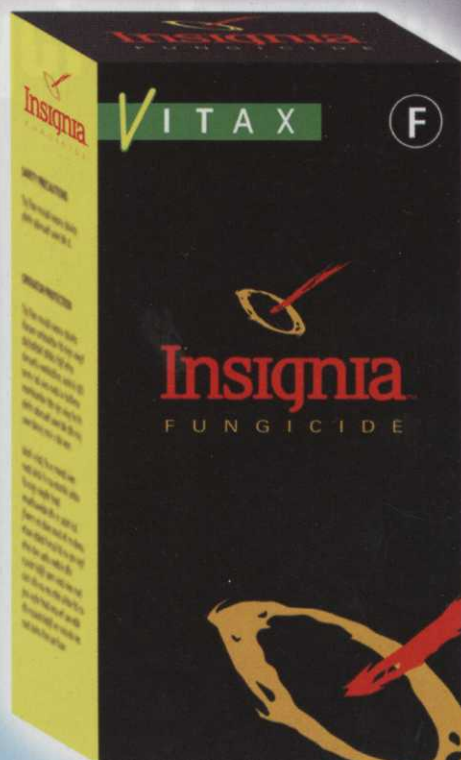
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The Allen Power National 68V Triple Mower is put through its paces at Thorpe Wood Golf Club.

Dave said: "They are only a few miles away and if we have a problem they react immediately. We cannot afford to be waiting for a dealer miles away to fit us into their service call schedule or wait days for replacement parts to arrive."

Dave added: "For the tees and the grass around bunkers we have been using Allen National triples for a number of years. Their low centre of gravity makes them very stable when working on bunker slopes and the sides of tees. They are very simple mowers to operate and for us ideal workhorses."

The Roberine has a Peugeot diesel with front wheel hydraulic drives and differential lock. There are five cutting units, giving an overall working width of 3.45metres.

The units have five-bladed reels and the cutting height ranges from 13mm to 70 mm. A joystick provides the facility of being able to mow with any number of units engaged or disengaged.

Ergonomic design is evident in the whole layout of the control centre and the seat's air suspension and automatic height adjustment provides adequate comfort during long periods of mowing.

Allen Power Equipment say they have been selling the National range of cylinder mowers for over 30 years. The machine is relatively simple in its layout, which for many is seen as a big advantage.

On good ground conditions a top mowing speed of 4mph is said to be achievable. A Briggs & Stratton engine provides power and the three free floating cutting units give a total mowing width of 1.72 metres.

Down on the south coast, a few miles from where the Normans landed in 1066, is Cooden Beach Golf Club which was opened in 1912. This 18-hole course is built on land that was once under the sea. The site is below sea level and as a result the water table is high.

"This can sometimes create problems, but there is also a plus side as we virtually never have to irrigate. The underlying soil is clay, so it also holds the moisture well," said Course Manager Stefan Antolik, who has been a greenkeeper for over 32 years, fourteen of them at Cooden Beach.

For his wide, long fairways and rough Stefan uses Lloyds Leda gangmowers. He explains his reason for this choice of mower, "Managing a golf course in today's climate is all about finding the most cost effective methods of producing quality playing surfaces."

"It all boils down to what a club can realistically afford, because there is a limit to how much members are prepared to pay. We have looked at alternative methods of mowing our fairways, but it is difficult to justify the cost of self-contained machines."

At Cooden Beach three sets of gangmowers are used and the fairway units are fitted with nine-bladed reels.

Lloyds Leda gangmowers look after Cooden Beach GC fairways and rough





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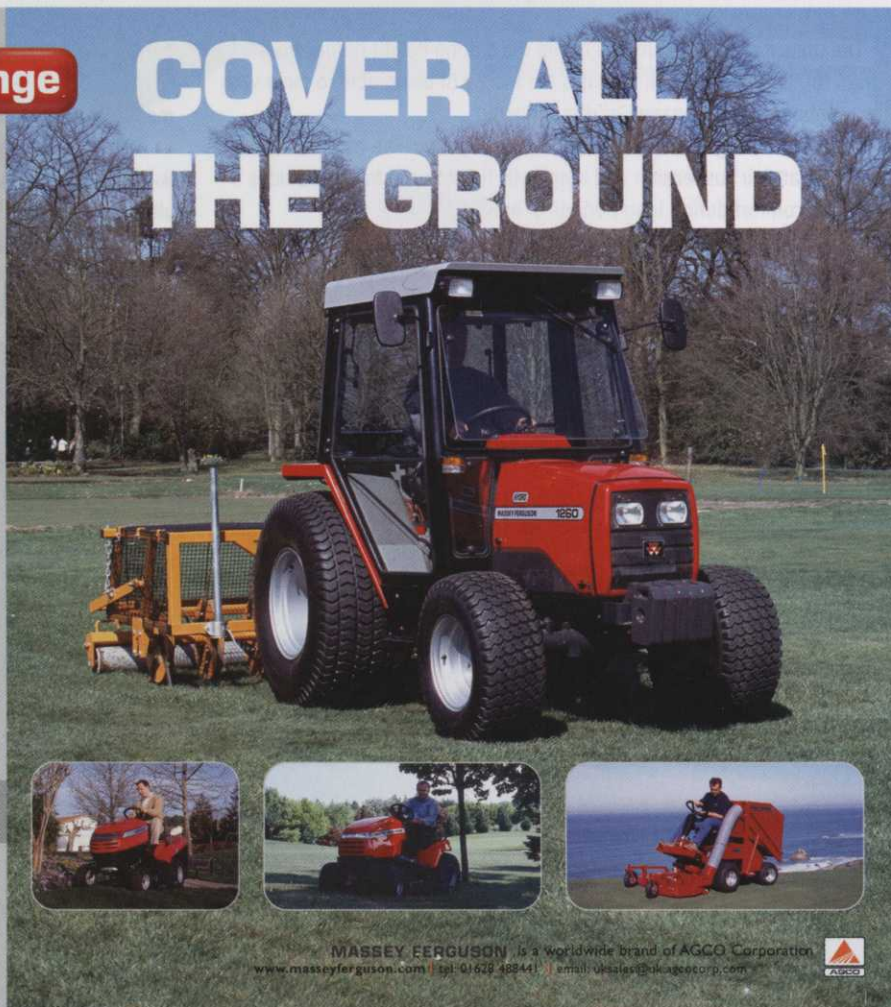
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Neil Green on one of his favourite mowers - the Hayter 424 Turf Mower.

Stefan went on to explain that when the subject of using purpose-built fairway mowers has arisen he presents the following example based on 60 cuts per year.

Self-propelled Mower cost £30,000. Life 5 years

Total cuts over 5 years = 300

Purchase price divided by 300 = £100 per cut

Ongoing Maintenance is 10% of purchase price.

The total price per cut of fairways is £110

Gangmowers cost £10,000. Life 15 years

Total cuts over 15 years = 900

Purchase price divided by 900 = £11 per cut

Ongoing Maintenance is 10% of purchase price.

The total price per cut of fairways is £12.50

The units are returned to Lloyds every three years for a complete refurbishment. For Stefan, who has been chosen this year as Sussex Greenkeeper of the Year, gangmowers are the answer because he considers them a sound investment that give years of service and are economical to run. They produce the results.

In 1997 the BIGGA National Tournament was staged at this course. The Lloyds Leda gangmowers have high carbon chromium steel reels and bottom blade to give long life and cutting edge retention.

There is a choice of 4, 5, 6 or 9 bladed reels. Roller bearings are used throughout the units, for smooth action and longevity. The standard model is 760mm wide with a 190mm diameter reel and there is a choice of cast or pneumatic wheels.

The giant version has a 6-bladed 250mm diameter reel. Towing frame mountings are available for a trio, quintuple and septuple of units.

The Leda Husky outfits three gangmowers and are attached to the tractor on a three-point linkage frame. Five and seven trailer-mounted systems are also available.

The Lloyds Pentad hydraulic 760/5 Gangmower is a trailer unit that allows the operator to control the five free-floating mower units through a box located on the tractor.

Approaching Ryston Park Golf Club from the south you leave the Cambridgeshire fens with their dark, rich, peaty soil and climb into the gentle landscape of Southwest Norfolk.

This nine-hole parkland course, which is almost on the edge of the fens, was constructed in 1930. On this higher ground, overlooking the flat landscape, the soil profile is sandy loam.

Neil Green, who joined the club as Head Greenkeeper two and half

years ago, has considerable experience when it comes to mowing grass.

One of his first priorities was to change the condition of the rough and semi-rough areas around the course. For this purpose he chose the Hayter T424 Turf Mower because of his considerable experience of using this machine.

A weekly mowing programme was established with a cutting height of 80mm for the rough and 51mm on the semi-rough. The practice area is mown to 25 mm. One year on and the areas have improved considerably and both Neil and the club members are very happy with the results.

Said Neil, "I chose the Hayter because I already knew that it would produce a quality of cut on relatively long grass. There are a number of small trees planted around the course and the machines manoeuvrability makes it easy to mow close to them.

"There are only two of us to look after the course, so time is paramount and this mower certainly has the high output we are looking for. The Hayter is very economical to run and as it is used for long periods comfort and ease of use are also important factors.

"The mower is occasionally used for cutting fairways and changing the units takes us under an hour to complete."

The fairways at Ryston are aerated once a month with a slitter. As the profile of the soil is sandy, drainage is good. Surprisingly, the course also holds up well in drought conditions.

"In the seven and half years I have worked with Hayter machines I have had very few problems," concluded Neil.

Ryston's Hayter T424 has five mowing units that produce a cutting width of 3.5metres with a mowing speed of 14kph. The mowing configuration can be changed at the flick of lever.

A 51hp Kubota diesel engine provides ample power and the 4wd with differential lock provides plenty of versatility for dealing with varying ground conditions. Hayter's say that the driving platform and engine cowl can be tilted to provide access, along the whole length of the machine, so servicing work can be carried out easily.

Which mowing equipment a greenkeeper decides is best for him will be based on a number of factors, but throughout the preparation of these features one aspect has stood out far above the rest - the local backup support provided by the manufacturers and suppliers.

The distance from the course of a designated dealer for a particular brand or mower is also significant. If service and supply of replacement parts is poor or mediocre then regardless of how well a machine performs retaining a greenkeeper's loyalty and support is going to be severely tested.

Water – it's something we all need of course...

Water is an essential ingredient of life - that's no secret. It is central to the process of photosynthesis in plants, the complex set of chemical reactions that fuels the biosphere. Photosynthesis uses water extracted from soil, carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and energy harnessed from sunlight as raw materials to produce simple sugars. These sugars are the basic building blocks for plant and animal tissue of all types, and fuel the vast array of metabolic processes in most all organisms. Water is an essential raw material in this miraculous process.

Water is also consumed in large volumes by plants in the process of transpiration. Water is pulled from root tissue through the plant to leaf tissue where it is lost to the atmosphere as water vapour.

Transpiration has a tremendous cooling effect on the plant and transports nutrients to the leaves in the process. Without water there would be no plant life. Without water there would be no life at all.

Turf on golf courses, like all other plant systems, uses water as a basic input. Without adequate supplies of soil moisture on a continuous basis high quality turf for golf is not possible. The only sources of water for turf are natural precipitation and irrigation.

In arid climates irrigation is essential for maintaining vigorous turf. In climates with adequate precipitation irrigation is used to supplement rainfall during dry periods. Despite the climate, underground irrigation systems have become common on golf courses around the world.



A question that most courses face at some point in time is whether or not to upgrade or to install a new irrigation system, both of which are expensive propositions. A number of factors can enter into a decision:

The cost of maintaining an old system can become a major concern when labour, availability of replacement parts and pumping costs are factored in. At some point the cost of continual repair of old technology can become too much.

Continue to learn

Upgrading old technology with more reliable new technology can be reason enough for change. Irrigation renovations can range from whole system replacements from pumps to sprinklers, to the repositioning of new sprinkler heads for better coverage, to the replacement of only the control system for improved timing and reporting.

A more likely reason for considering an upgrade is the unending quest for improved turf quality and improved playability. The golfing public is continually demanding better conditions.

New irrigation systems are typically designed to give broader coverage by increasing the amount of turf area watered. Double and triple rows of sprinkler heads in fairways has become the norm. 'Wall-to-wall' irrigation coverage across a course is not uncommon.

New systems are also designed to give more uniform coverage. In general, the more sprinkler heads on a course the more flexibility in applying water.

More heads typically increases the uniformity of distribution by allowing a given area of turf to be watered by multiple sprinklers. State-of-the-art heads are designed to increase the uniformity of distribution within their individual spray patterns.

New systems are designed with improved control, computerised control systems give substantially more power and flexibility to turf managers for customising and fine-tuning watering practices.

All of these factors together give turf managers the ability to improve turf uniformity and quality over larger areas and to minimise problems associated with undue wetness and dryness, such as reduced vigour from drought stress, disease, and susceptibility of soils to compaction.

The need to conserve water in golf turf management is becoming an increasingly important consideration in renovating irrigation systems, especially when combined with the golfing public's expectation for greater playability.

Water availability, the cost of water, and the quality of available irrigation water are all becoming major issues in turf.

The need to conserve water is no longer a problem specific to arid regions. It is becoming increasingly important where competition for water is intense, a growing problem in heavily populated urban areas.

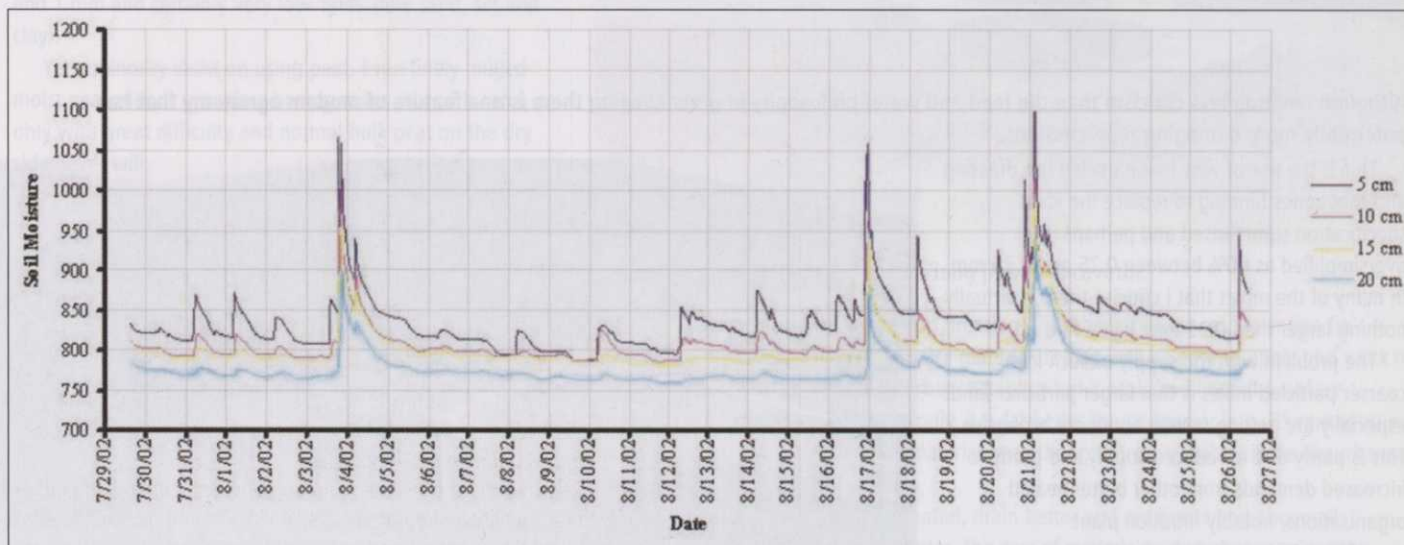
In golf turf management water use is becoming a classic issue of 'getting more for less', or more specifically, better turf for less water. The ability to detect where and how much water is needed, and to then apply it with precision only in those locations is the ultimate challenge.

In the past the irrigation industry has focused with great success on applying water uniformly to non-uniform surfaces. The challenge now is to develop the ability to apply water non-uniformly depending on the need.

It is an issue of using high performance sprinkler heads with sophisticated controls in a well-designed layout that is tailored to the variability in soils and topography existing across a golf course.

Key to the conservation of water in turf management will be the incorporation of sensing technologies that measure or predict

Van Cline, PhD, of Toro, studies the considerations for upgrading irrigation



moisture status across a golf course giving managers the ability to pinpoint applications. All of these pieces exist today, although the sensing component has not yet been effectively integrated into the complete irrigation system. Research is progressing in this important area however.

The precise application of water only where it is needed to optimise turf quality while conserving water depends on a better understanding of conditions affecting moisture dynamics than is the norm today on golf courses. Agronomists and engineers at Toro have been working with various sensing techniques to monitor moisture status on golf course fairways.

One promising technology under investigation is soil moisture sensing using both static or buried sensors located strategically in a fairway to represent a uniform set of conditions, and portable sensors that can be used to map soil moisture conditions at a given point in time over large turf areas.

Buried capacitance sensors can provide an accurate picture of changes in the soil moisture pool at multiple depths. This information can then provide feedback to the effectiveness of irrigation or rainfall.

The graph (above) illustrates changes under a bent grass turf at four depths (5, 10, 15 and 20cm) during a one-month period in the summer of 2002 on bent grass plots at the University of Minnesota.

The large sharp peaks were rainfall events while the smaller peaks were irrigation events. The stair-stepped pattern downward was the daily depletion in the soil moisture reservoir caused by transpiration.

This type of information can be used to set upper and lower limits for the optimum soil moisture condition under a turf acting as trigger points for turning irrigation on and off.

The second application of soil moisture sensors under investigation for input into irrigation control is the use of time domain reflectometry (TDR) measurements collected in a sampling scheme across a fairway to quantify soil moisture variation.

When used in combination with GPS locations this TDR data can be mapped giving a visual representation of soil moisture conditions at a given point in time.

When repeated several times during a growing season, predictable moisture patterns emerge showing areas that are consistently drier or wetter.

This type of information has the potential of being fed into a map-based irrigation control system to more efficiently apply water.

The maps (below) document changes in soil moisture on a Minnesota golf course fairway through the 2003 growing season.

The darker blues represent higher soil moisture while the lighter blues represent drier conditions. The concept is to use maps like these to adjust run times for individual heads depending on their location and its relative wetness or dryness.

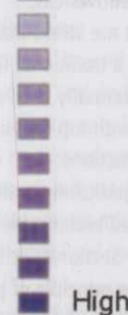
In summary, a major challenge in irrigating golf turf today is to use water more efficiently to grow a higher quality product.

Any irrigation system upgrade should take this challenge to heart.

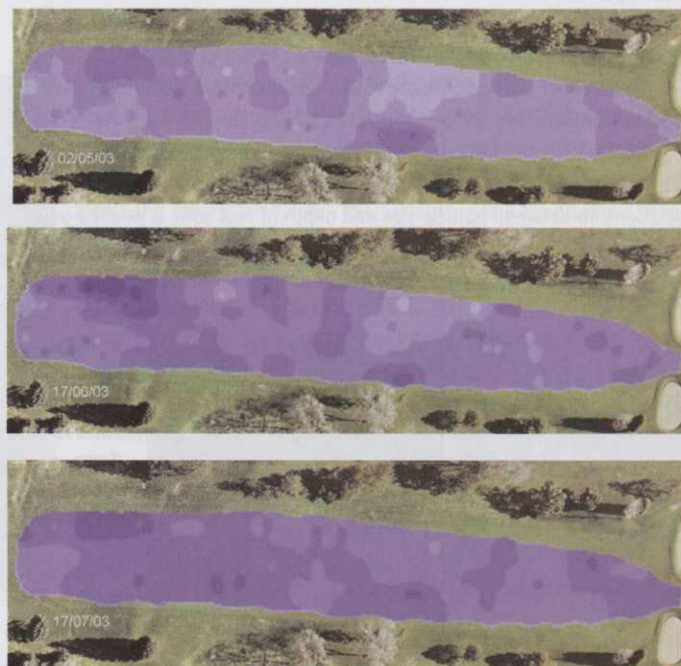
Better sprinklers, more versatile control systems, sensors that can provide feedback on moisture conditions, and system layouts that are sensitive to site conditions that influence moisture dynamics are all part of the solution.

Soil Moisture

Low



High



Too fine by half

Jim Arthur BSc investigates the use of fine sand in top dressing

Although creating less criticism than the feed and water philosophy in greenkeeping there is one feature of modern agronomy that has potentially more damaging repercussions.

This is the use of very fine particled top dressing and root zones tending to replace the ideal specification summarised and perhaps oversimplified as 80% between 0.25 and 0.75 mm. In many of the mixes that I criticise there is virtually nothing larger than 0.25 mm, just a fine silt.

The problem with the supply of such ideal coarser particled mixes is that larger particled sands especially are getting scarcer and more expensive. This is partly due to reduced supply and partly to increased demands from other better heeled organisations, notably filtration plant manufacturers.

Sources of the correct sand cost significantly more and in these days of cost being sadly the sole deciding factor, very fine sands are used, even where extra carriage costs reduce their competitiveness.

Let me stress that this is not an academic nor solely a traditional factor. It is

essentially both a scientific and a practical one, both with top dressing and in root zones used in constructions.

Significantly it affects the specifications for both perched water table greens (of which the much quoted and dare one say, Green Section specification, is only one).

The principle of perched or suspended water table greens depends on achieving a physical balance between moisture retention and free drainage.

Sand-only, i.e. 100% sand greens - a heresy of short life aimed at achieving free drainage under high irrigation in hot arid climatic conditions - have no water retention (to cope with such excessive levels of irrigation) and are emphatically not perched water table greens.

The finer the particles the greater their surface tension and the more their moisture retention levels and vice versa. To balance this out a specific relationship between particle size and depth of root zone is needed over the stone or gravel drainage layer to achieve a head of water.

If there is insufficient head, the water will not jump the gap and



Mixing on site should never occur.

remorselessly builds up in the root zone, with virtually none reaching the drains.

The end result is hole cups full of water and soft squelchy waterlogged greens.

The only solution is not aeration - the holes merely close in after a short time - but lies in increasing the depth of root zone. In one well documented case which cost the architect and the agronomist £1 million each the greens had to be rebuilt.

The tees, built up with the same very fine sandy root zone, drained perfectly as they were built up 2-3 feet in depth, so the head was sufficient to force the water through.

This is such elementary junior soil physics that it astounded us as to why such a simple error could not have been recognised in the specification. In passing, matters were not improved by the contractor skimping on the already inadequate specification for the root zone depth.

The financial deduction is that it is a false economy using a finer but slightly cheaper sand because a significant extra depth is required and not just the odd inch either which more than eliminates any saving.

What is hard to understand is the current agronomic vogue of using such fine sands, often carted for hundreds of miles, from e.g. Cheshire, to sites a relatively short distance from Bedfordshire pits. Yes, it costs a few quid a tonne more, but this is often equalled by extra haulage, let alone greater depths being needed. If there is a reason will someone please tell me?

Another problem with root zones is that there is a fashion for mixing inadequate volumes of organic matter with the sand giving an 80:20

Mixing root zone of fen soil and sand is best done centrally, off site.



proportion, instead of in my book 70:30 and in a recent construction which I specified and supervised 60:40, using fen soil at 40% so as to match the existing greens. The end result was a new green built in days not weeks in late October and in full play from the start of May.

The type of organic matter is just as important as the quantity. Many agronomists would agree with me that the ideal mix is fen soil with Leighton Buzzard or equivalent sand with virtually all the particle size range between 0.25 mm and 1 mm and certainly very low 'fines' (fine sand, silt and clay).

Yet a minority insist on using peat. Even finely mulled moist peat cannot provide a homogenous mix with sand, or only with great difficulty and normal bulk peat on the dry side never will.

Furthermore the subsequent and all important top dressing should be the same as the root zone and sand-peat mixes quickly separate out and the peat element largely blows or washes away or is collected by the mowers.

Fen soil, in passing, is a geological not a trade term, the product from the re-establishment of water features on drained fenland derived from opening up as water features wetlands for conservation reasons.

Why when we have sufficient supplies of the ideal materials for root zones and top dressings to meet all current needs do we use poorer products - just because it is slightly cheaper but vastly inferior. Note that fen soil is not technically a peat but an ideal and not too rich (fertile) source of essentially needed humus (organic matter) capable of being finely screened.

Properly constructed perched water table greens with the right specification have lasted for 40 years. The USGA Green Section started their green specification in 1960 but it has been so modified over the years to be virtually unrecognisable, but still if not excessively modified it still works well.

My specification, which started quite independently in the mid 60s, differed fundamentally mainly in the drainage carpet - of much larger stone as opposed to fairly fine gravel, primarily to achieve stability on our softer soils.

With stone you can run a long jibbed swing excavator on to the centre and leave it there to spread successive layers of blinding and root zone. This is not easily possible with pea gravel. Ever run your car over a 4" layer of gravel on your drive? All you get is ruts and disturbance! The problem in some countries is that there is no natural stone, but plenty of gravel. This smacks of improvisation, not principle!

Even where no green construction is involved, the veto on very fine



A blinding layer being spread by a long jibbed excavator.

soil/sand mixes for top dressing is just as important, as super fine (ie <0.25 mm) particle size material. It may well be easy to apply and work in with minimum disturbance to play, but it seals and impedes surface drainage. Agronomically, it is far better to use coarser ie >.25 mm even up to 1 mm than finer material even though there is slightly more disturbance to putting surfaces.

Greens etc. so treated, drain better and are firmer and above all perform better in winter. The cost of minimising disturbance to putting surfaces in the growing season is far greater than disturbance from aeration to try to improve drainage.

One can understand commercial sources lacking access to pits with coarser sand eulogising in the way golfers approve, but it does not alter principles.

Why choose inferior finer mixes with the wrong performance characteristic by buying, as too many do, primarily on price. The end result is often vastly expensive and often avoidable reconstruction and, in this day and age, there is less and less money to pay these unnecessary bills.

It is gratifying to note the enormous swing towards traditional golf; in Denmark especially, and chastening to think that their much criticised prohibitive EU fungicide regulations have forced greenkeeping to adopt austere measures to avoid fungal disease against which they (and soon we will) have no defences.

Many Danish courses have already started going back to fine fescue dominance and many more are following sound practices, under the inspired leadership of Chris Haskell.

The feed and water Poa annua school represent a high cost policy dependent on fungicides. Without the latter, as has been seen in Germany and elsewhere, greens can be totally destroyed.

It seems that quite inadvertently the 'Greens' have influenced and justified sound greenkeeping for the better. We must now attack the other basic faults - excessively too fine sand/soil mixes for root zone and top dressing.

Far too many heresies are promulgated because the correct materials are difficult to find or slightly more expensive. After a while, but often not before the resultant problems are all too evident, it becomes a trademark and such malpractice's are enshrined by being incorporated in prestigious developments.

Then we wonder when we see reconstruction on an heroic scale to correct basic errors which should have been obvious to agronomists and constructors if not sadly to architects, developers or owners.

Why can some people not leave well alone? If it isn't broke don't try and fix it. All the basic principles are constantly attacked often for blatant commercial reasons, yet they do work, give better results and cost so much less.



Author Jim Arthur (right) oversees the spreading of root zone over a blinding layer of Cornish grit.



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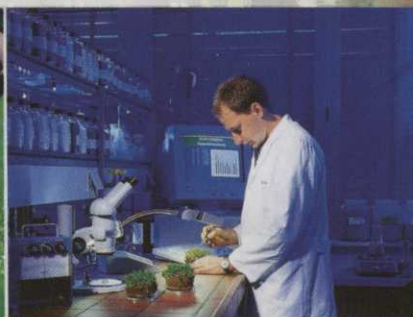
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Saltex time again



For those for whom 12 months is too long to go without an exhibition fix Saltex offers the perfect opportunity to catch up with developments within the fine turf industry as well as old friends between Harrogate's exhibition every January.

A fixture in the calendar for the beginning of September, Windsor Racecourse offers exhibitors the opportunity of showing their wares in action, with demonstrations a large part of Saltex's appeal. And with a wide range of ancillary products on display a walk around the extensive Show site will bring you into contact with all sorts of park and leisure equipment.

You could bump into a skateboarding demonstration or see a display of imaginative litterbins or safety equipment for play parks. While not necessarily on your own shopping list it all adds to the flavour and diverse nature of the Show.

Another innovation this year will be the construction of an "instant stadium" in conjunction with the IOG and Penton Media Group which will cover a total area of 30 metres by 50 metres and contain every component part required in a professional stadium complex.

This will include arena seating, dressing rooms, showers toilets, catering facilities, PA system, first aid point, mobile flood lighting, large screen display, portable goals and other equipment, turnstiles and barrier fencing.

But if you are purely interested in fine turf the vast majority of the companies you work with are represented and you will be able to conduct whatever business you need to do to carry you up to BTME & ClubHouse in January.

BIGGA will be well represented at the Show with the Association's caravan a well utilised meeting point for members and a reference point for anyone seeking information on membership, education, Harrogate, indeed any element of the Association's work.

For more information of this event go to the IOG Saltex website at www.iogsaltex.co.uk or Tel: (0) 20 8232 1600



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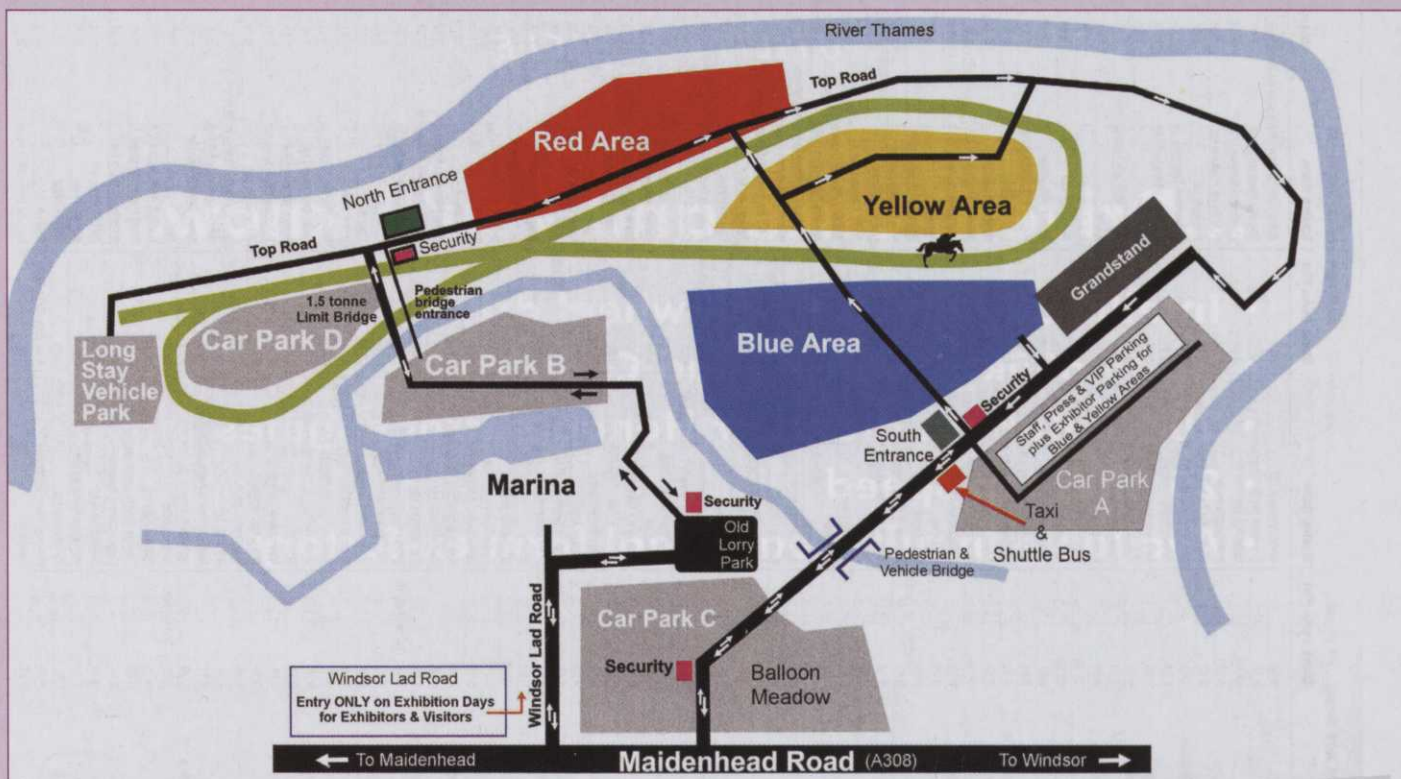
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THE IOG SALTEX LAYOUT



SALTEX is held at Windsor Racecourse, which is set in 165 acres of Berkshire countryside, on the banks of the River Thames. The Racecourse has easy access from the M4, M25, M3 and M40 motorways. Heathrow Airport is just a 15 minute drive and Gatwick and Luton are within an hour of the Racecourse.

By Road:

From the M25

Leave the motorway at Junction 15, where you'll join the M4, heading West.

From the M4

Westbound – leave the M4 at junction 6, follow the brown signs for Windsor Racecourse or yellow AA signs for IOG SALTEX 2004.

From the M4

Eastbound – leave the M4 at junction 8/9, follow the brown signs for Windsor Racecourse or yellow AA signs for IOG SALTEX 2004.

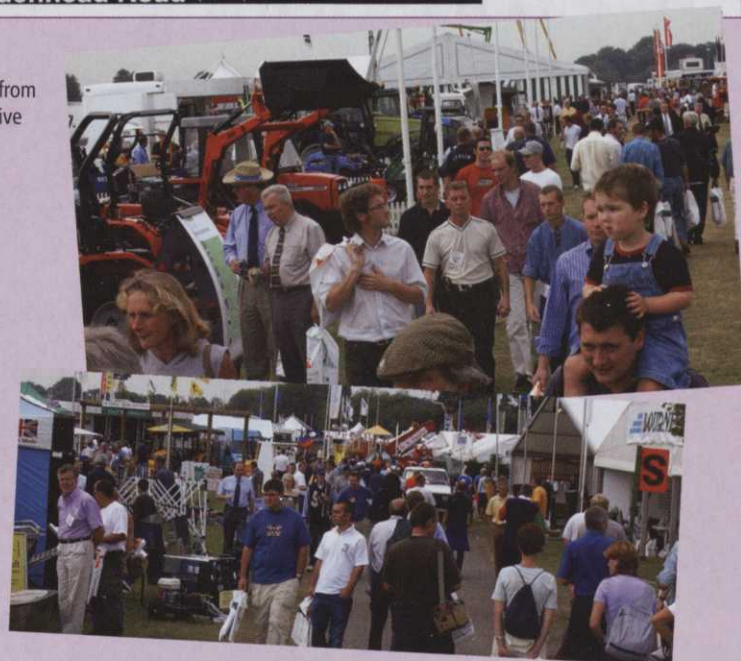
By Bus:

Windsor Express bus number 700 connects London with Windsor. They depart from London Victoria Green Line Coach Station and you alight at Maidenhead Road, which is a short walk from the Racecourse.

For more information call +44 (0)870 608 7261.

By Rail:

You can travel by rail to Slough station from Paddington or the South West, or to Windsor Riverside & Eton station from London Waterloo. There will be a shuttle bus running from near Windsor Riverside & Eton station to and from the exhibition site every day.



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Your Letters...

Questions are the Answer

Greenkeeping is not a job, its a vocation. If their salary was based on the number of hours and the amount of effort the average greenkeeper puts in, then most golf clubs would have to increase their members subscription by an amount that would probably lead to riots in the spike bar, accompanied by cries for the head of the Chairman of the Green Committee.

Sadly, the vast majority of golf club members don't have the faintest idea just how much work is involved in keeping their course in good order. And sadly, there are also quite a number who quite frankly don't even care.

And as they don't have a clue what it takes to keep a golf course in good nick, or understand that this is a year-round process, they are always the first to complain when they find the greens have been top dressed or hollow tinned.

They are also the same people who believe that it's the greenkeeping staffs job to clean up footmarks in bunkers and replace divots - after all, that what they get paid for!

I strongly believe that every golf club should have at least one evening a year when the members are invited along to a 'question and answer session' with the head greenkeeper or course superintendent.

The vast majority of golfers want to have a pride in their golf course.

Therefore, if they were better informed of the few simple things they could do to help keep the course in good condition, then they would be more than willing to comply.

Bill Robertson
Editor Golf Links magazine

Recycle and Save Lives

It occurred to me recently that many of your readers will have an old mobile phone or printer cartridge tucked away in a drawer at home or at work.

What they may not realise is that their unwanted items can benefit the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation.

Old mobiles and empty printer cartridges can be recycled and the proceeds will be used to help fund vital research into the early detection, diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer as well as providing support for sufferers and their families.

With 38,000 new cases of lung cancer being diagnosed each year and 80% of those diagnosed not surviving longer than 12 months, lung cancer is the biggest cancer killer in the UK.

But that's not all. Recycling is environmentally friendly too (mobile phones and printer cartridges take hundreds of years to biodegrade).

So you can help the Earth and support a very worthwhile cause too!

Please help us continue our vital work with lung cancer sufferers and their families by donating old printer cartridges and mobile phones from home and work. For details just call 08712 50 50 50, visit our website

www.recyclingappeal.com/roycastle or simply drop your unwanted items in the post to: Roy Castle Recycling Appeal (EL), 31-37 Etna Road, FALKIRK FK2 9EG

Janine Drew,
Fundraising Manager,
Roy Castle Lung Cancer
Foundation

YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

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



The team pose by a 16th hole bunker after the play-off.



GTC Executive Director, David Golding - visits the Marquee.

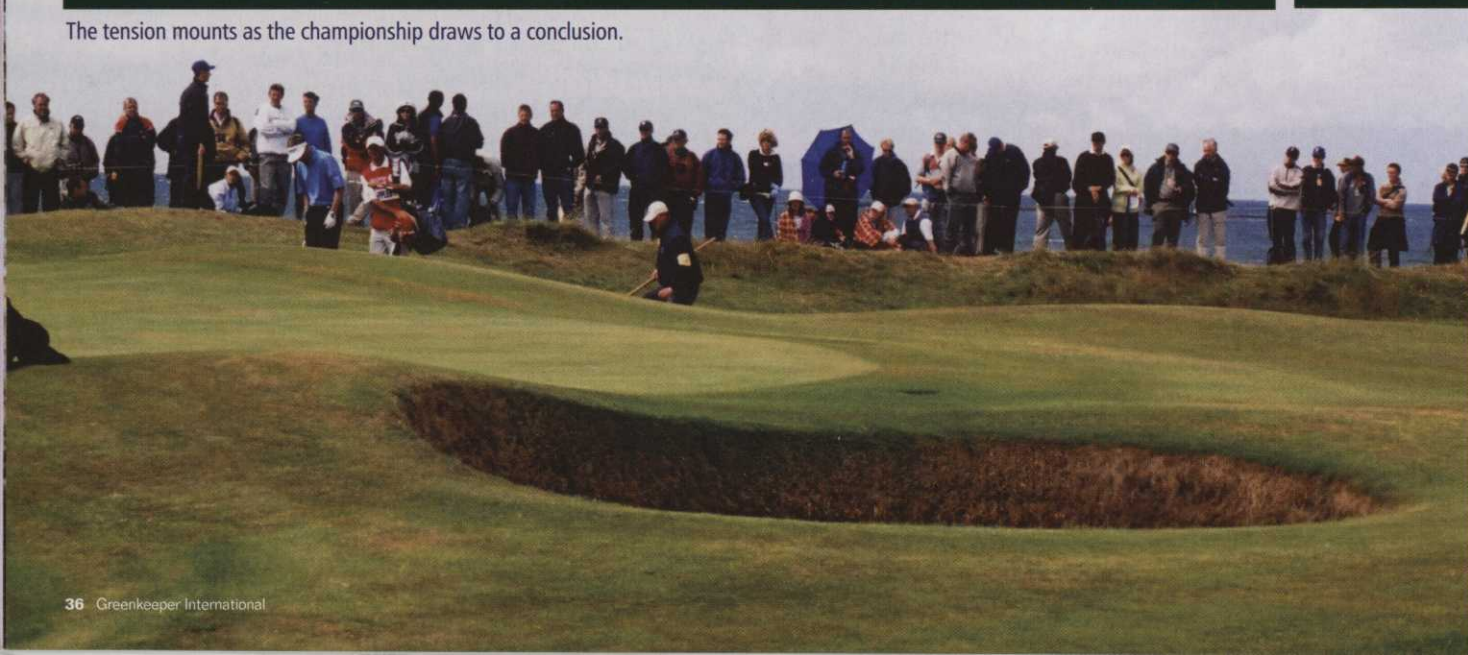
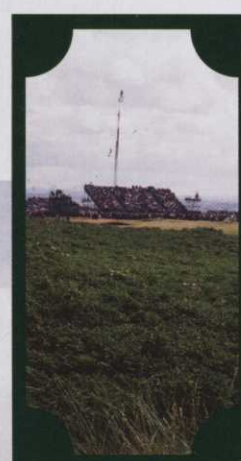


Mike Gash, of Moseley GC, proves he is a true Rogue.

Got it licked!



The tension mounts as the championship draws to a conclusion.





Grant Moir of the R&A explains some of the rules issues the team might face on the eve of the Championship.

Ivor with his picture along side John Pemberton, Chief Executive (left) and Andy Campbell, National Chairman, (right) just after Ivor had sent Todd Hamilton and Ernie Els off on their dramatic final round.



Royal Troon boasts one of the most famous par-3s in the world in the 8th, known the world over as The Postage Stamp. This year the hole again grabbed the headlines when Ernie Els holed-in-one in the opening round, but when it comes to the Championship as a whole it was the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team which had the week well and truly licked.

The team boasted a true international flavour with members from America, Canada, Spain and Sweden, joined by an Antipodean touch provided by an Australian and New Zealander both working at clubs in the UK, added to this a couple of Englishmen currently working in Germany. Everyone combined to make it a genuinely successful week with everyone representing the Association well and presenting their profession in a very good light.

Over the week they assisted Royal Troon Course Manager, Billy McLachlan, and his own squad, by preparing the 93 bunkers for play at the beginning of each day while a member of the Team walked with each match ensuring that any bunker visited was raked in a consistent and professional manner.

In all, over the four days 1097 bunkers were raked, 238 more than when the Championship was last played at Troon in 1997, and it brings the total number of bunkers raked by the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team since records began in 1995 to 11,223. That's a lot of sand!

● BIGGA RECOGNISES AN UNSUNG HERO

BIGGA honoured Ivor Robson, Official Starter for the Open Championship, as well as a huge number of European Tour events to commemorate his 30th consecutive Open.

Ivor has welcomed many of the legends of the game onto the 1st tee, as well

as coped superbly with the pronunciation intricacies, which have inevitably followed as the game of golf and The Open Championship have grown over the last three decades. In recognition of his unstinting service he was presented with Associate Membership of BIGGA by Association Chairman, Andy Campbell, on the 1st tee once Ernie Els and Todd Hamilton had begun their final round.

"As an Association, BIGGA represents a body of professionals who are often described as 'Unsung Heroes' and we felt it was fitting to recognise a man who for the last three decades has also fitted the description of unsung hero," said Andy.

As well as his Associate Membership card, Ivor was presented with a limited edition Graeme Baxter print of Carnoustie, where in 1975 he officiated at his first Open Championship. The print was signed and personalised by the artist once he had announced the final match.

● MOTIVATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The Sven Goran Eriksson Award for Motivational Excellence goes to Skip Kendall's caddie who complimented his player on a fine shot to the 11th by telling him that it was the first time he'd hit off the middle of the club all day. He was four under at the time - Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member Ian Semple, of Old Folds Manor Golf Club.

● FRED KARNO'S CIRCUS

Colin Montgomerie had to put up with a lot during his first round. Not only did he have to carry the weight of expectation of the local man and be followed by a posse of photographers and writers, he also had to cope with a group of irate pensioners demonstrating on the beach as he was playing the 2nd - Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Mike Gash, of Moseley Golf Club.



Brian Aitken, left, of Turnberry Hotel, leaves the 14th green and Gary Brown, right, of West Herts GC, enjoying the final round.





Deputy Course Manager, Gordon Ross, explains how Royal Troon rake their bunkers to the team.

PICCADILLY CIRCUS

"Quiet Please!" Padraig Harrington had to call on his powers of concentration to the full playing the 17th during the opening round. Just as he was about to tee off some children began shouting to each other.

He stopped and readied himself again only for the intercom on the gate of the house adjacent to the tee spark into action to the sound of someone saying "Hello? Hello? Hello?". Third attempt and this time someone dropped a bottle in the grandstand – Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Kevin Hodges, of Weston Park Golf Club.

OTHER GREENKEEPER SUPPORT

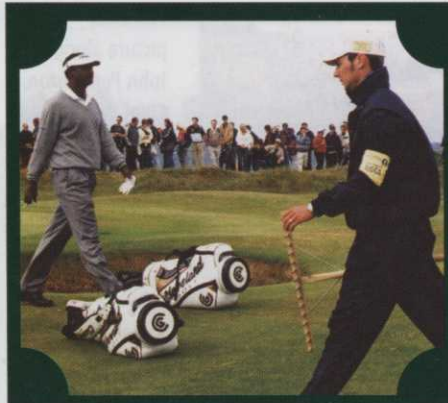
Amateur Champion, Stuart Wilson had some greenkeeper support during his fine opening round but not just in the shape of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team. Stuart had a greenkeeper on his bag from his home course of Forfar who was caddying for the first time in a major event - Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Adam Champion, of Olds College, Canada.

TRAIN DRIVER WITH A SENSE OF HUMOUR

US Open Champion Retief Goosen, Robert Allenby and Jay Haas were the victims of a train driver who doubled up as a comedian when they were playing the 6th on the first day. As they walked up the fairway the train's horn played out the tune "What a load of rubbish – Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Graham Blum, Aussie from Moor Park Golf Club.

TEMPER, TEMPER

Past Royal Troon winner Mark Calcavecchia showed no mercy to the scene of his 1989 triumph when, in danger of missing the cut on the 16th he pushed his tee



Vijay Singh and John Mair, of Bellshill GC, stride out on the 5th. He was later presented with a couple of Vijay's golf balls for all his hard work.



shot and smashed the tee marker to pieces in anger. He then had to clear up the mess before he moved on - Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Iain Barr, of Largs Golf Club.

OFF HIS HEAD

Rory Sabbatini had more than just the bunkers and the rough to cope with on the 12th. The head of his 2-iron flew off as he played his tee shot. He still made par though - Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Richard Barker.

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES OF THAT?

Paul Broadhurst and Ignacio Garrido provided the walking referee with an unusual problem on the 14th on the second day when they both hit their tee shots to the same square centimetre of land. Touching each other, one of the balls had to be marked - Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member Richard Matteson CGSA, of Pendleton Country Club, Oregon, USA.

DID HE WALK UNDER A LADDER?

Brian Davies rued his luck on The Postage Stamp. He hit the green with his tee shot but it spun into a bunker. He then played a lovely bunker shot which hit the pin and bounced back into the same bunker. He finished with a five - Information supplied by BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team member, Iain McLeod, of Tain Golf Club.

ROYAL APPOINTMENT

Richard Matteson, of Pendleton Country Club, in Oregon, USA, turned to chat to someone standing beside him on the fairway only to discover he was in conversation with the Duke of York. A great tale to take back with him to the

The history of the bigger bunker data

	'95 St. A's	'96 Ly'm	'97 Troon	98 B'dale	'99 C'stie	'00 St A's	'01 Lym	'02 M'field	'03 St. G's	'04Troon
Bunkers	112	185	84	117	115	112	197	148	106	93
Rd 1	214	501	344	355	539	148	557	359	388	393
Rd 2	201	577	272	406	468	164	547	372	405	371
Rd 3	130	269	107	226	202	65	224	175	149	148
Rd 4	156	271	136	153	265	71	257	169	181	185
Total	701	1618	859	1140	1474	448	1585	1078	1123	1097



Peter Lacey, centre, would have kicked the black cat, had there been one, after the week he had. The search for the stolen bunker rake was singularly unsuccessful.

States. Rob Boyce, of Links (Newmarket) GC had the same experience just beside the 12th tee when he found himself passing the time of day with the Prince, who is the current Captain of the R&A.

● BAD DAY OF THE WEEK 1

Wednesday. Peter Lacey, of Pennard GC, missed his flight to Glasgow Airport because he had to go home to collect his passport... even though he was flying from Wales. His airline of choice has a strict identification policy and his driving licence wasn't sufficient to satisfy everyone at check-in.

● SANTA CLAUS AWARD FOR GENEROSITY

This goes to Justin Austin, of Wind Whistle G&CC, who gave up one of the prime matches on the Sunday. Justin had been given the match featuring Colin Montgomerie and Canadian former Masters Champion Mike Weir but knew that Adam Champion, the Canadian member of the Support Team, was a big fan of Weir but had been unlucky in the ballot and did not have a game on the Sunday.

"I felt that Adam had come all the way from Canada to be on the team and it was a shame that he didn't have a match on the Sunday. I'd only come from England and I knew how much it would mean to him to get the Mike Weir match," said Justin.

Adam was thrilled and promised Justin a drink... well quite a few drinks actually. "I was hoping just to follow Mike Weir's match round on Sunday but to



Adam Champion enjoying that final round with his hero, Mike Weir, thanks to Justin Austin.



Gareth Abernethy, Balmoral GC, Northern Ireland, poses in his Open Championship uniform.

actually be given the match was amazing. I can't thank Justin enough," said Adam, who was later seen out of the course, thoroughly enjoying himself and punching the air whenever his hero produced a birdie.

● BAD DAY OF THE WEEK 2

Sunday. Peter Lacey, of Pennard GC again. This time he'd reached the 7th hole of the final round when nature called. He nipped off to the nearest loo carefully leaving his rake in the long grass just inside the ropes. When he returned the rake was gone. It had been stolen.

A frantic search proved unsuccessful so Peter approached the referee with his match and explained his problem. The official laughed and told the players. The players, Brad Faxon and Adam Scott, also laughed and promised not to go into any bunkers until a replacement rake was brought out. The referee passed a message to the BBC who contacted the BIGGA HQ for the week and a rake was rushed out to Peter who by this time had got round to the 10th rakeless. Fortunately his players had been true to their word and hadn't found any sand in that time but Peter had a hard time facing his colleagues when he got in off the course.

A notice subsequently went up seeking information on the stolen rake and announcing the court martial that Peter would be facing as a result of losing his weapon in the heat of battle.

● UNLUCKY PRESIDENT

BIGGA President, Sir Michael Bonallack OBE decided to watch Ernie Els on the first morning and walked the first seven holes with the eventual runner-up. At that stage he walked back to the tented village and popped into the BIGGA Marquee to say hello. It was then during a chat about the golf that he learned that Ernie had aced The Postage Stamp – the 8th! He'd missed the hole-in-one by one hole.



Bert Cross carrying out some work in the BIGGA cabin



Be the best with the R&A

Steve Isaac, Assistant Director of Golf Course Management, discusses the important work of The R&A towards Best Practice.

Hopefully, you are all aware of our best practice guidelines website and, if you have not done so already, you will join the 500 or so clubs who have registered to www.bestcourseforgolf.org within three months of its launch.

Best practice is one of those phrases that gets into circulation without anyone really being able to define what it means. The same could be said of sustainability.

As The R&A website has the first in its title and the second as a regular theme throughout the guidance, it is necessary to explain what we mean when using these terms.

As far as we are concerned, the two terms have to be considered together. Both refer to economic and environmental attributes but these have to be put into the context of course management whose priority it is to produce quality playing surfaces.

We could get into a chicken and egg situation here. The implementation of best practice should ensure that golf clubs can be managed sustainably both in economic and environmental terms, whilst producing quality playing surfaces which golfers will want to return to time and again. Conversely, sustainable courses in economic and environmental terms will have to be managed to best practice.

There is a sliding scale to be considered. What can be afforded, and therefore economically sustainable, at one club may be considered unaffordable elsewhere. However, throwing money at a golf course will tend to go against best practice, especially when you apply the environmental criteria.

The R&A are not advocating course management on the cheap. We are not suggesting programmes of austerity if they cannot produce quality playing surfaces. However, we believe there are some basic universal principles of best practice which apply across the globe.

□ Species selection and promotion. What grass species are most appropriate for the climate zone you are working in?

We are fortunate in the UK that our climate favours fine bent and fescue grasses which produce top quality playing surfaces in the most economically and environmentally sustainable manner.

Why have many courses lost these grasses from their greens over the last 30 years or so? The expectations of the golfer is clearly a major influence, with the demand for colour and speed resulting in the implementation of maintenance practices, such as very close mowing and increased fertiliser and water inputs, which favour *Poa annua*. But, we would argue, this response to golfer pressure cannot be considered sustainable, nor best practice.

□ The use of the least amount of chemicals on the golf course.

Chemicals pollute and if we as an industry can work to minimise applications of fertiliser, pesticide and other chemical materials on the golf course we will be considered a sustainable user of land, which can only be for the good of the development of the game.

This may not be a great concern to clubs in the UK where golf is part of the social fabric, but in countries where golf is not an established game it can be critical to the chances of construction projects being approved.

□ The use of the least amount of water.

Even in the UK this is becoming an issue, particularly in the southeast of England. Again, look further afield and water use is a serious consideration for planners in Mediterranean countries where water is scarce. Species selection is a key element in this regard as there are some warm-season grasses which use far less water than others, and other species that can take recycled or even saline water.

□ Maintaining turf health through a management regime based on sound cultural practices.

If you put excessive stress on green turf through over close mowing or severe verticutting, which demands extra fertiliser and water to achieve recovery, which then requires extra top dressings to check thatch, then you are into unsustainable territory.



▲ Fine fescue dominated swards, clockwise from top left, in Slovakia, Denmark, the Netherlands and Scotland.



❑ **Dealing with environmental influences over which you have some control that cause deterioration in sward quality.**

The most obvious is shade resulting in a lack of sunlight or air movement to greens.

We have spent decades researching turf grasses best suited to the production of a putting surface. Yet, how many greens throughout the world retain the grasses they were established with?

Poa annua ingress may be difficult to contend with, ever more so if golfer expectation and maintenance encourage this species at the expense of more desirable grasses. However, Poa annua domination of a green is never a forgone conclusion.

There are plenty of good sources of advice and examples of how to grow in and maintain quality greens that remain dominated by the grasses they were established with. There are, however, far more of those that have seen the battle against Poa annua lost.

Some accept this as the way it must be, others try to reverse the trend which always takes far longer to achieve than the initial deterioration. Few should be surprised that the good soil husbandry and sound turf management required to restore desirable species also produces healthier Poa annua, unless taken to extremes, and a reduction in economic and environmental cost.

We can all list circumstances which can encourage Poa annua, such as shade, excess fertiliser, over watering, overly close mowing, too much traffic and too little aeration – but all of these can be addressed if all those individuals involved in management decisions are committed to promoting the desirable grasses.

Unfortunately, few imparting pressure for “green” greens or fast surfaces appreciate the consequences of the relentless chase of their ambition. Traditional, or common-sense, greenkeeping must come back into favour as the demands of the environment and commercial interest bite.

It is unfortunate that golf has to react to environmental legislation and a downturn in the golf economy, rather than embracing sound land management techniques which have been with us for over 100 years.

However, any historian of course management in the UK will tell you



◀ **Problems with species composition and resultant stress, be it drought or shade related, can be resolved if the cause is identified and dealt with.**

that greenkeeping is a story of trends, moving from one extreme to another, i.e. the farmer-led yield lobby to the starvation diet. Circumstance now dictates we base course management to the leaner end of this spectrum.

The term sustainable suggests a temporal dimension, i.e. it is time limited. We would suggest that any new green which retains a sward dominated by the grasses it was sown with 5 years after establishment has achieved a sustainable level.

This does not, necessarily mean a sward comprising 100% sown grasses, but one that retains at least 60% sown species could be considered a benchmark.

Although we accept there will be fluctuations in sward composition over the years, deterioration to a sward with higher maintenance demands goes against the principle of sustainability, both in terms of environmental and economic thresholds.

Best practice is any management programme which attains a sustainable sward and then continues to retain it over the long term.

Education is the key to future success in achieving economically and environmentally sustainable golf courses through best practice.

Those doubters in the greenkeeping profession have to be shown examples of where it works, and not just on links or dry heathland courses which are the natural homes to bent and fescue grasses, but on inland courses where it can be more of a power struggle.

Those educating the course managers of tomorrow have to realise that “traditional” values in greenkeeping are not a retrograde step, ignoring advances in technology, but complete compatibility with that technology is essential to the long term future of the game.

Most importantly, golfers have to be educated to appreciate the beauty and subtlety of shades of green and brown, the skill required to play firm greens and the benefit of promoting sustainable courses.

This will give them more value for their subscription, greater spending power for their club, enable golf to coexist better with the wider environment and produce more good quality courses.

Over the coming years, you will regularly hear from The R&A. We will update you on progress with the website, with examples of best practice in action – seeing is believing – and of the results of research that have practical application.

We are committed to best practice and management of courses that is environmentally and economically sustainable. We are also committed to the production of golf courses which have playing surfaces of a high standard for as much of the year as the climate will allow. We are convinced these are attainable and not mutually exclusive. Join us in achieving these goals.

Register your club to www.bestcourseforgolf.org today. Further details on The R&A's Course Management Best Practice Guidelines website and other aspects of the Golf Course Committee's work can be obtained from:

STEVE ISAAC, Assistant Director – Golf Course Management
The R&A, Beach House, Golf Place, St Andrews, Fife, Scotland, KY16 9JA.

Tel: +44 (0) 1334 460000. Fax: +44 (0) 1334 460007
E-mail: steveisaac@randa.org



NEW PRODUCTS

THREE SEATER GOLDONI TRANSCAR

BSG Supplies Ltd has launched its own 3-seater version of the new Goldoni Transcar utility vehicle. Built on the original chassis, a 3-seater body replaces the original 2 seat version, transforming the Goldoni Transcar into a fully functional utility vehicle providing proper seating with roll bar, arm rests and seat belts for three people. It will carry over 1 ton payload, has pto as standard and a 3pt linkage option.

The Goldoni Transcar range consists of the Transcar 28 air-cooled 26hp and Transcar 33 water-cooled 34hp version. Both can be adapted to a three-seater.

The new Transcars boast a number of additional design features to further increase the flexibility and suitability of these machines in areas requiring maximum traction and minimum soil compaction.

The new low emission Lombardini air or water cooled engines are cleaner, more efficient and effective in reducing noise levels. This and other adjustments to the design have been introduced to improve not only performance, but to create an ergonomic, environmentally friendly vehicle which out performs others in its class.

The new synchronised gearbox provides 8 forward and 4 reverse gears which are easily operated with re-positioned gearlevers, ensuring smooth transmission when working on slopes and in difficult terrain.

The three-way tipping body has a capacity up to 1900kg. The tipping



cylinder has been re-positioned to give an even greater incline to discharge its load.

A sound-proofed, heated cab with safety frame can be fitted to the rigid steer model, mounted on an integral platform fitted with new mufflers to absorb noise and vibration ensures maximum comfort for the operator.

For further information Tel: 01206 212092.

NEW TRACTOR MOUNTED SPRAYERS

Allman & Company has launched its Spray-King Tri-Tank range of tractor mounted sprayers, which comprises of the 200, 300, 400, 600 and 1000 models, all equipped with the most modern safety features as standard.

Allman's highly efficient and practical 'Tri-Tank' system means each machine has three separate tanks – the main spray tank; a clean water operator hand wash tank; and a clean water wash down tank to flush through and clean the sprayer circuit.

The polypropylene main spray tank is supported on a galvanised main tank chassis for increased resistance to corrosion. Tanks are offered in 220, 300 and 440 litre capacity sizes with large filling necks to eliminate spill and contamination and deep sumps to ensure use of the entire tank contents.

A chemical induction bowl is fitted as standard to the 400, 600, 800 and 1000 litre models. And the large suction filter can be isolated and cleaned even while chemical remains in the spray tank.

Hydraulic power for spray formation and delivery is provided by a Comet BP60/20 or BP 105/20 at 60 litres/min and 100litres/min, respectively. Control is via the well established Allman K-type manual control featuring three boom selection valves and pressure control regulator.

Boom width is 6m or 10 and 12 metre for the 600, 800 and 1000 litre models. All booms are equipped with quick-fit, self-aligning nozzles and diaphragm anti-drip valves.

Category 1 or 2 three-point linkage and hydraulic tank agitation for good chemical mixing and a uniformly concentrated spray mixture are provided.

Full consideration is given to reduced and minimal spray drift with readily available options on low drift nozzles. 'Shrouding' equipment for the 6 metre hydraulic boom or 12 volt electric folding boom, for sprayer conversion into the well-known Allman 'Driftmaster' tractor mounted sprayer.

For further information Tel: 01243 51251.



NEW LOOK TO COURSE CARE

Highspeed Course Care has recently launched its new website at www.highspeed.co.uk or www.course-care.co.uk.

The new website is easy to navigate and is clean and uncluttered. Information is easy to obtain and the built-in search engine works well. There are handy links to leaflets, pieces of legislation, relevant press articles and government agencies. There is a page of special offers too.

Covering a wide range of products and services including oils, greases, fuel treatments, fuel tanks, waste services, workwear, tools and equipment and now the new ClearWater Wash Pad Water Recycling Systems, the site is sure to be of interest to many in the industry.

Commenting on the launch, Highspeed MD David Mears said; "Our product range has grown considerably over the last three years and the old site needed updating. We took the decision to re-design the whole site and, already, the response now we have gone live is excellent."

For more information Tel: 0845 600 3572.



THE AQUA SERIES

Otterbine is launching its new series of floating aerators for ponds, lakes and other water features. Called the Aqua Series, the aerators are designed to provide the answer to commercial and residential owners who require only a small unit or have limited resources.

Capable of operating in just 14 inches of water, the units feature a choice of two attractive spray patterns - AquaGem, which is a 'trumpet' spray, and the AquaBlast, a bubbling spring effect that gives more aggressive aeration. On each unit the spray patterns are interchangeable and can be swapped over in just 15 to 20 minutes.

The aerators also feature the industry's first sealed, air-cooled motor, which offers significant performance advantages through limiting the hydraulic loss often associated with oil - water-cooled power units.

At a rate of 260gpm (59.1m³ / hr) and an oxygen transfer of 3.2lb/hp/hr (1.45kg/hp/hr), the Aqua Series statistics are among the highest in today's market. For that extra special effect night-time illumination lights can be added to the Series via a 'snap in' light setting consisting of two low-voltage (12V) halogen fixtures.

For further information Tel: 01480 226800.

MOWERS OF STEEL

Living up to their reputation for providing strong and rugged professional products, Charterhouse Turf Machinery have launched the Marina range of heavy-duty rotary mowers. The line-up includes a comprehensive selection of walk-behind units, together with a ride-on lawn tractor.

Topping the range of walk-behind units are the 'MX' series. These feature eye-catching stainless steel decks that resist rust and provide great strength. This makes them ideal for grounds professionals, landscapers and contractors.

All MX units are self-propelled. Two models, the MX 46SH and MX52 SH, have 4.5 and 5.5hp Honda petrol engines, while the flagship MX 52 SBTM has a Briggs & Stratton power unit with a 'Touch & Mow' feature, designed for effortless first-time starting. The cutting height of the MX units can be adjusted between 20-65mm.



The Marina 'AX' series have painted steel decks and feature Honda petrol engines throughout. They include the push-type AK 47H together with self-propelled models, namely the AK 47SH and AK 53SH, which both have 4.5hp engines, and the 5.5hp AK 57SH.

The model number denotes width of cut, measured in centimetres. Height of cut is 20-65mm on all but the AK 57SH, which has a maximum cutting height of 80mm.

All Marina mowers have a safety blade stop mechanism and each comes complete with a large capacity grass bag.

For further information Tel: 01428 661222.

NEW ZERO TURN MOWER

Toro has unveiled the Z500-D, the company's new zero turn rotary mower. The Z500-D offers superb controlled precision cutting under all conditions.

At the heart of the Z500-D is Toro's unique 60in Turbo Force high-performance cutting deck, adjustable to suit varying seasonal conditions. To withstand the toughest working environments, it is fitted with three blades that are made from quarter-inch-thick, high strength, heat-treated alloy steel.

The fully-welded deck shell is constructed from 7-gauge steel. Strength and durability are combined with high manoeuvrability via zero-turn technology that enables the mower to turn on its own axis through 260 degrees.

A 27hp Briggs & Stratton Daihatsu diesel engine powers the machine to operating speeds of up to 10mph. Cutting width is 60in and the height of cut can be adjusted between 1 1/2 and 5ins in quarter-inch increments.

For further information Tel: 01780 226800.



THE SWEETWATER SOLUTION

With increasing pressures being placed on the availability of water, it is becoming more important than ever for Greenkeepers to be aware of the quality of water being applied through their irrigation systems, particularly in regard to pH, Carbonate, Bi-carbonate and Salt levels and the effects this has on the production of healthy turf or plants. Unless treated to reduce pH levels and neutralise the effects of salts, use of water can be detrimental to good growing practice.

Over the past decade, there has been an ever-increasing interest and usage of a process using sulphur dioxide for the effective adjustment of pH levels in irrigation water and soil, rather than the previous use of often hazardous and expensive acid injection systems.

Until now, the benefits of sulphur dioxide technology have been mostly restricted to the larger irrigation user. However, the introduction of Sweetwater's 'Mini' sulphur dioxide generator



system now makes the system available to those irrigating golf course greens and tees, sports fields, bowling greens and landscape areas.

The development of The Sweetwater 'Mini' provides both low initial investment and running costs, with a safer environment and more precise controls over pH levels than previously possible.

Designed as an 'add-on' to existing irrigation systems the 'Mini' Sweetwater Solution Generator (SSG) simply links into the water extraction source, albeit a borehole, reservoir, or mains water storage tank. Capable of operating at low pressures of between 4-15 psi (0.275-1.02 bar) the 'Mini' will modify the pH and neutralise both carbonates and bi-carbonates in up to 30,000 gals (136.5 Cubic Metres) of water per day.

Hydroscape, who can provide a free scientific analysis of water and soil for prospective customers, to assess the suitability of the system, distributes the 'Mini' Sweetwater Solution Generator exclusively in the UK and Ireland.

For further information Tel: 01425 476261



News from the Chief Executive

Having spent a week at the 2004 Open Championship at Royal Troon I was reminded when talking to the members of the BIGGA Support Team, and the many visitors, of the great camaraderie that exists in greenkeeping.

Living up to its name, the Association also played host to international members from Sweden, Spain, USA and Canada. The opportunity to participate in this prestigious event is only one of the many benefits of membership, however places in the team each year are regrettably limited. It was heartening to learn how members value the Association and how they either take advantage of or are involved with a wide range of its activities.

All too often in my travels I hear of members, or past members, who are disillusioned but when asked what more they would like they have nothing to say. Talk with those members who are involved at Section, Region or National level and you soon realise that the Association has come a long way since its formation in 1987. Perhaps too quickly for some! All too often though the work falls on the same shoulders and in many instances those who complain the loudest are the ones who are least willing to give up some of their time.

BIGGA has established itself as a leading body within the golf industry and as such is being involved more and more in the shaping of the future of golf and in both developing and delivering education. It enjoys a good working relationship with most other organisations and its trade partners and I have recently spent a great deal of time developing these links for the benefit of the Association and ultimately its members.

Like it or not times are changing and BIGGA needs to be proactive rather than reactive. I have again been warned of mounting pressure on company's budgets, especially with regard to exhibitions and marketing and I urge you to support BTME and ClubHouse, which is not only our flagship event but also our greatest financial resource.

We are doing our best to improve communication from Headquarters down to members however please remember that communication is a two way process!

My colleagues and I welcome any constructive comments and I would hope that you feel confident enough to contact the staff at any time.

Finally a 'plug' for the National Championship sponsored by Ransomes Jacobson which is to be held at Alwoodley Golf Club, Leeds, on October 4th and 5th.

There are only a few places left and further details can be found on page 38 of the July edition of Greenkeeper International or by contacting Sarah Norris at Headquarters.

John Pemberton



Peter Boyd
SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND
Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

SCOTTISH REGION

Central

This month's news begins on a sad note with the untimely passing of Fraser Waterson, Head Greenkeeper at Canmore Golf Club in Dunfermline at the age of 33 on June 30.

Fraser began his career in greenkeeping as a YTS trainee at Dunfermline Golf Club at 16, serving his apprenticeship there before moving to Canmore as assistant at the age of 20. After a year in this post he was promoted to Head Greenkeeper some 12 years ago. Fraser will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him, and our thoughts are with his family at this very trying time.

New Members joining us this month are Jon Methven, from the Dukes Course at St. Andrews, and David Gray, from Wellsgreen Golf Centre, at Windygates, both in Fife. As usual we extend a warm welcome to them both and hope to meet them at some of our future events.

The most recent winners in the Club 2000 draw are A. Dunn, S. McKnight, P. Boyd, D. McNeil, S. Cruickshank and J. Wilson; hopefully they have all received their cheques by now.

Everyone should have received their entry form by now for the Autumn Tournament at Downfield next month, **Please return them in plenty of time!** I have it on good authority that the BIGGA Communication Manager / Editor (that's Scott from the magazine to you and me!) will be in attendance, so if you play your cards right you might even get your photo in Greenkeeper International.

It was pleasing to see so many Central Section members in attendance at the Scottish Tournament, held at Kilmacoll Golf Club in June, and it was even more pleasing to see so many of them in the prize list.

Well done to everyone who attended, especially Brian Heggie from Auchterarder Golf Club, who qualified to play in the BIGGA National Championship.

I wouldn't name all the prize winners, it would take up too much space or it might make the other Sections jealous (before anyone gets upset I am only kidding!).

John Crawford

West

Well I hope everyone is enjoying the summer, I've got a bit of a backlog from my last report.

The greenkeepers / convenors match was held over at Glasgow Golf Club on April 15, the weather was terrible with heavy rain the whole day, but the course was in first class condition which is testament to the hard work of Stuart and his staff.

Once again Aitkens and Scottish Grass Machinery sponsored the event, many thanks for your ongoing support and to the captain and committee for allowing us courtesy of the course. Millport were the eventual winners so it's a trip over the water next spring, book early to avoid disappointment.

My own club Renfrew hosted this year's spring outing and after a heavy night of rain, and a few prayers, the sun was out for the whole day.

The results are Scratch. Chris Kerr, Cowglen, 72. First Class. Dougie McIntosh, Cathkin Braes, 75—2—73. Second Class. Neil McLehnan, Cawder, 80—12—68. Third Class. Robert Philips, Mulgavie, 104—28—76. Trade prize. Derek Duthie, Aitkens, 75—6—69. Apprentice Prize. Graham Ferguson, East Kilbride, 123—28—95. Visitors Prize. Joe Rae, Renfrew, 88—18—70.

Thanks to Captain Ian Murchison and the committee for the use of the course and to my staff who had the course in first class condition for the time of year.

History was in the making as there were four greenkeepers in attendance





Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
Tel: 01476 550115



who have previously worked at Renfrew. These being Sandy Bulloch, Gordon Kerr, John Barr and Jim McKenzie who travelled up from Celtic Manor, maybe at the next outing George Barr will turn up and we'll have a full complement.

Kilmacolm hosted this year's Scottish Tournament and Ronnie Bunting and his team had the course in excellent condition. It was good to see so many greenkeepers who had travelled from all over Scotland to arrive to sunny conditions.

Once again Joe Bell was on the winners podium so I'm looking forward to going to Millport to collect my beers. Peter Boyd and his assistants were on hand all day for the smooth running of the tournament. Many thanks Peter and to everyone else involved.

The autumn outing will be held at Ralston Golf Club, applications will be sent out nearer the time. Regional training courses will be held over the autumn period for further information contact Gavin Jarvis, Mobile 07050-173080.

The section will be holding their annual night out during November, the venue has still to be arranged anyone with ideas please get in touch. This year's AGM will hopefully be at Hampden Park with a presentation of machinery and a tour of the museum.

As I said in my March report David Reed of Lenzie Golf Club was off to the gulf, he has now been there a couple of months and I'm sure everyone in the Section wishes him all the best.

Well that is all for now, anyone with stories or any information to be brought forward please get in touch. On a last note many congratulations to Robert the Bruce on his recent birthday he looks not bad for forty!!

Fraser Ross

Mobile 07970-366-355



North Wales

August is here and time for one and all to have that well deserved holiday and spend some quality time with the family, any jobs that didn't quite come to fruition for this season will now be too late, so the summer R & R is required before we start to look at the autumn / winter programmes starting late September / October.

Cearnarfon GC held the John Deere World Team Championships in July, and the course was in prestige condition, "not a blade of grass out of place" said one of the competitors, this must be due to the course manager I thought as he rarely has a single hair out of place on his head. Well done, Martin!

The results were as follows: 1. Worfield GC; 2. Clays Farm Golf Centre; 3. Ludlow GC.

The sponsor for the day was John Osman Turf Machinery and a big thanks to all involved in the organisation.

Further good news, Jeff Jago, from Sutton Hall GC, is expecting a baby (which is unusual for a man) I just wonder who the father is? Future congratulations.

The Senior European Tour is being held at Carden Park August 4 - 8. If you fancy going to watch, I hope this magazine reaches you before then.

See you next month

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn - acorn@golf@supanet.com



Northern

Firstly welcome to Richard Hartley, Glyn Hewitt and John Johnson who have all joined the section this month.

On June 23 Presidents Day was held at Bradford Golf Club. The event was kindly sponsored by Palmer Landscapes. Many thanks must go to the Dave Thackray and his team for producing a fantastic course. The results are as follows;

Division One. 1. Andy Clarke, 42pts; 2. Tony Gerrard, 37pts; 3. Alan Court, 36pts. Division Two. 1. Adam Speight, 33pts; 2. Telford Jarvis, 32pts; 3. Richard Smith, 28pts. Division Three. 1. Jo Baxter, 37pts; 2. John Watts, 34pts; 3. Dennis Cockburn, 29pts. Trade. 1. Mike Brear, 38pts; 2. Phil Palmer, 36pts. Bill Mountain Trophy - Dave Thackray, 40pts. Nearest the Pin. Alan Court. Longest Drive. Phil Palmer.

The next event will be the Invitation Day at York Golf Club. It will be held on August 19, and tee off time is 1pm. As usual, please let me know at least a week before the event if you would like to take part.

Adam Speight, 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford BD2 4EB

Tel: 01274 638366 Mobile: 07739319060

Email: adam@speight1156.fslife.co.uk

Adam Speight



North West

I recently reported in the section news that the Northern Section committee had decided not to continue playing the "Roses" match, however I have just been informed that the decision was reached by a show of hands at the AGM last October.

I still feel saddened that we will not have our annual get together, but I am sure we will all meet old friends at the BTME, each year.

On Thursday June 29 we played the Summer Tournament at Wigan GC, and although you might think your safe arranging golf dates for June how wrong can you be.

The wind came at us in 70 mph gusts bringing with it rain, which came at us like stair rods. After lunch we decided to give it a go, hoping it would clear up, it never did.

After about six holes our three ball decided it was time to give up and return to the clubhouse, but looking back we saw the game behind was on the tee ready to tee off. We decided to continue and not be ones to give in.

After finishing the game the matches behind us said that they had only continued to play because we had. You can't win can you. Apart from the weather conditions we had an excellent day, and the course was in magnificent condition thanks to Paul Walker and his staff, who not only prepared the course but also had to deal with fallen branches and debris from the overnight gales.

Many thanks to Wigan GC for allowing us the courtesy of the course, and the stewardess Marica McVinnie for a great meal, and of course her husband who kept the bar open till late while we watched the England game. The winner of the "Reg Vickers" trophy was Jim Grainger from Ringway GC, 34pts.

The match against N/Wales was played at Vale Royal Abbey GC on June 29. This is a new course (10 years old) but is in lovely condition and very tricky. Two teams of 10 players jostled for the coveted GEM trophy, with the winners being the N/Wales section 4 games to 1.

Our only winners were Steve Johnson and Mark Hillier from Wilmslow GC, but the remaining games were all close, mostly 2 and 1.

Many thanks to all the players for making the effort to attend and making it such an enjoyable day. Thanks also to Don Pemberton for arranging the



opportunity to play this lovely course, also many thanks to G.E.M for sponsoring the day.

Penrith GC is the venue for 'Whitelaw Bowl' which is sponsored by Rigby Taylor. It will be played on Wednesday September 8, and if you want to enter please contact me on 0151 724 5412 no later than September 1.

The Autumn Tournament is at Hurlston Hall GC on Tuesday September 14, all entries to Bert Cross, Harthill Lodge, Harthill Road, Liverpool, L18 3IU. Please include a cheque for £20 made payable to BIGGA N/West.

News of people on the move; Mike Goodhind has moved from Tytherington GC to Stockport GC, Stuart Hogg has moved from the North of Scotland to take over at St Annes Old Links, welcome to the North West Stuart, and congratulations in gaining your Master Greenkeeper Award. I am also informed that Alec Davies is about to return to the North West from New Zealand, welcome home.

That's it for now but you can contact me on 0151 724 5412 or 07761583387 with any news or views.

Bert Cross

MIDLAND REGION

East Midlands

Not a great deal to report this month, hopefully everybody is enjoying a successful season on their golf course with just the right amount of rain.

By now everyone should be in possession of their autumn entry form, if you do not have yours please let me know so I can forward you a copy. The date is September 21, the venue Farthingstone GC. Also on August 25 we travel to Stoke Rochford GC to play the East of England Section, if you are interested in playing on this day please let me know.

The following fixtures are as follows, AGM Rushcliffe GC November 11. Christmas Tournament, Beedles Lake GC December 8. Spring Tournament 2005, Melton Mowbray GC May 18. Autumn Tournament September 7, Cosby GC.

Antony Bindley



BB&O

Calcott Park GC provided all the ingredients for the perfect Summer Tournament, which was held on June 23. Clive Parnell and Gary Taite from GEM Professional were the main sponsors for the day.

Apart from wind, rain and dark clouds, which withered around for most of the afternoon, and undeterred by the prospect of getting soaked, a full field of keen hopefuls took to the tees with no shortage of spirituous assistance to help forget the bad round and celebrate the good.

The atmosphere of the club was wonderfully friendly and informal with all the staff ensuring that we all had a great day, with Lawrence, the chef, providing an excellent carvery meal which was enjoyed by all.

Thanks to Calcott Park GC for allowing us the use of their facilities for the day and credit goes to Simon Robinson and his team of staff for preparing the course and making this a challenging event, and not forgetting Simon's right hand man, well actually she is a woman.

Bridget is one of the few lady Deputy Head Greenkeepers to have made the grade. All Simon's staff will agree she would give any Sergeant Major a run for his money.

Results were as follows 1. Jamie Motts, Denham GC; 2. Dave Goodchild, Ellesborough GC; 3. Dan 'the man' Schillachi, Denham GC (hope I spelt it right). It was a big day for Denham GC as Jamie Motts also picked up longest drive with Ian Robbins, Ellesborough GC scraping nearest the pin. After purchasing a

new set of clubs Mark Ely put them to good use picking up the trade prize with 36pts.

Sponsors for the raffle were Vitax, Rigby Taylor, Tacit, Avoncrop, Calcott Park GC, Turner Groundcare, Banks Amenity and J.E. Ely. It was great to see more new faces at our events, long may it continue.

Marathon runner Linda Foker, East Berks GC, yes another lady greenkeeper, has decided to take the plunge and tie the knot to her husband to be Dave Bridger, congratulations to you both.

Gooner Scott Sanders after seven years at Chiltern Forrest GC is delighted to accept his new position as Deputy Head, as is Roy Hudson who leaves Lambourne GC to take a new position as Acting Head Greenkeeper at Mill Ride GC. Its now official Steve Shaw, Henley GC, is a very proud first time dad and father to daughter Kayleigh, we wish Steve and wife Natalie the very best with their new found parcel of joy.

Mark Day

Mid Anglia

To start with this month I must correct an error from last month's article, it was John Chapman and not Geoff James who qualified for the National Championship sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, sorry about that chaps.

Still on the theme of the National I would like to point out to Dan Hodkin and John Chapman that they must enter the competition and pay themselves, then their entry fee will be reimbursed by the committee together with expenses for accommodation, totalling £150 each.

I know this is a little early but we have had prior warning from Woburn Golf and Country Club that golf shoes with soft spikes are only allowed on the new Marquess course.

Also it was agreed at the last meeting that due to the stature of the course and the carvery the entry fee will be increased to £30 for over 20's and £20 for the younger lads. Having played the course before it is well worth every penny.

On a personal note, I would like to wish Mark Ellis, formerly of Stocks Golf Club, all the best in the future. Mark is well known within the section and I'm sure he will succeed at whatever he decides to do.

As a result of Mark's exit there was a position to be filled, and I have been chosen to take his place.

I look forward to working at Stocks and know it will provide a good challenge for me. On the other side of joining Stocks I want to thank everyone at Mount Pleasant for their help and friendship that has been formed over the last nine and a half years, and wish them every success in the future.

This is going to be my last article for Around the Green, as I'm going to be a bit busy for a while. Bob Butfoy, from Heydon Grange, will be taking over the column and keeping you up to date with all the news and views from around the section.

Steve Mason

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

South Coast

Much to write about this month and I'm sure that Scott MacCallum will be cursing my latest attempt at war and peace.

Firstly a few movements within the Section. Ashley Wood Golf Club said a fond farewell to a college buddy of mine as he and his wife packed their bags and headed for a new life in New Zealand. Tony Hyde is an excellent Head Greenkeeper and will be missed both in the Section and our industry and we wish him every success in a new life of adventure and opportunity.



I'm sure Tony will keep in touch with us and let us know how he settles in, I will keep you posted. Mark Sherwood steps up from the position of Ashley Woods Deputy to Head Greenkeeper and Dave Hewitt, from the Dorset Golf and Country Club, has been appointed as Deputy Head Greenkeeper. We wish them both every success in their new challenging positions.

Kevan Glass has moved from his position of Deputy Course Manager at Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club to take on the challenging role of course manager at New Forest Golf Club.

Kevan has developed into a dynamic, enthusiastic, first rate leader and, returning to the club where his heart lies, has great plans for the coming months and years. Sounds like a recipe for success and exciting times for all! Good luck Kevan!

Onto golfing matters and news of our much anticipated match against the Wessex Secretaries. Alresford Golf Club was the venue and the day was sponsored as usual by Course Care. The weather was good and a fine body of men gathered on the patio overlooking the course. All donned in our new white team t-shirts we watched with amusement at the formation mowing team on the greens.

Steve Privett and his team were ensuring that the greens were running at a good pace, hence the double cutting and rolling! After watching some of the members putting on the 18th, we soon realised a challenging afternoons golf was in store for us all.

The matches were played in very good spirit and the standard of golf was excellent on a very testing afternoon. The secretaries managed to edge the match 3-2 and we will be looking to seek our revenge next year.

Many thanks to Alresford Golf Club for their hospitality and to Steve Privett and his team for all their hard work in preparing the course for us, it was superb!

And last but no means least to Course Care for their continued sponsorship of the match. Dave Mears and Paul Dyter were on hand to support the Section team but we fell short this year, it will not happen next year!

Parkstone Golf Club was the next port of call for our Summer Invitation Tournament sponsored by Tacit. It was great to see Jim Arthur on the day, Jim was a guest of the club and had come to see how the traditional programme introduced in 1992, which he has advocated for 50 years, was progressing and he wasn't disappointed!

Although Jim has some difficulty with his mobility he has not lost any of his passion for the greenkeeping industry. It's a great shame that a new generation of greenkeepers are growing up and missing out on the great man's wisdom!

Off my soap box now! After the long hot spell of weather I suppose it was inevitable that it would break at some point and sure enough we were treated to some downpours the day before along with storm force winds.

Luckily on the day itself we were fortunate to escape with a couple of showers although the strong winds made the course very testing, particularly the last four holes.

The format was greensomes and my partner was our club chairman, who gave me an interesting look when I managed to thin his perfect drive down the first hole twenty yards into a fairway bunker! I feared the worst and thought a long round was to follow, but I did manage to redeem myself and we were still talking on the 18th so all was not lost!

The course was in excellent condition and scoring reflected this, winners on the day were; 1. Martin Woodrow & Tony Dashwood, 42pts; 2. Alan Magee & Tom Magee, 37pts; 3. Chris Bitten & John Clarkson, 37pts; 4. Andy McDonald & Alan Symonsons, 37pts; Longest Drive. Tim Webb; Nearest the pin. Tony Gadd.

Many thanks to Parkstone Golf Club for their superb hospitality and it was great to see their newly extended clubhouse. To Bill Garner and his hardworking team, many thanks for preparing the course so beautifully. Also thanks to Clubhouse Manager Phillip Toft and all his hardworking team for supplying us with two excellent meals.

A huge thank you for our sponsors Tacit. Without such generosity we could not have such wonderful golf days and we are very grateful even if Tim walked

away with one of the prizes for an excellent longest drive. Tim is getting himself a reputation for long hitting so we're waiting to see his handicap tumbling down!

A couple of final thanks to our tournament organiser Chris Sturgess and our new man responsible for scoring on the day Bill Williams. Bill did an excellent job for us and we hope he is available for our remaining fixtures!

Just one gripe from me. Chris puts so much time and effort into making an excellent job in organising our golf days and the last thing he needs are people complaining to him on the day. It spoils the day for everyone, so put up and shut up!

Phil Wentworth has asked me to request that all the Jim Fry pair's matches are played promptly so that the final can be played earlier this year. I am still trying to organise a Frank Newberry management course so please contact me if you are interested and have not already spoken to me. Anyway I have to close now as I have probably taken up half of the Around the Green section.

Don't forget to contact me if you have any news which you would like include in the Around the Green section. My contact details are Tel: 01202 661106, Mobile 07966 386232 or email me at a.mccombie@ntlworld.com

Until next time

Alex McCombie

SOUTH EAST

East Anglia

Forty fun loving golfers turned up at Bungay Golf Club on the July 10. Contrary to all the rumours about Bungay having no grass on the fairways - "one blade every ten yards" I heard, and I thought it was only fishermen that exaggerated, there seemed to be plenty of green stuff about.

The course was in good nick thanks to Mick Mean and his crew, who had obviously been doing the business to bring it back from the dead. Just tell me something, could you score 45 points on an 8 handicap playing on a load of rubbish, I don't think so. Take a look at the scores.

0-9. 1. Rob Boyce, 46pts; 2. Alan Sharp, 38pts; 3. Mark Henderson, 35pts. 10-18. 1. Kevin Hodges, 36pts; 2. Mark Clements, 33pts; 3. Steve Millard, 33pts. 19-28. 1. Glen Rayfield, 41pts; 2. Martin Brightwell, 36pts; 3. John Morley-Smith, 35pts. Guests / Trade. 1. Stuart Robson, 46pts; Nick Brown, 41pts; 3. Stuart Patterson, 39pts. Greenkeeper / Club Official Shield. 1. Rob Boyce & Basil Warren, 81pts; 2. Ian Willet & Stuart Robson, 75pts.

Nearest the Pin. Stuart Patterson

Longest Drive. Eddy Jack

Ray Forman won the loo seat but I can't remember how - Please inform me.

I know they didn't win any prizes but the three desperados, namely Richardson, Ruchbrook and Chesham scored 37, 36, 31 points respectively or respectfully even. On another day lads, on another day.

The main sponsor for the day was Toro; others were Vitex, Rigby Taylor (nearly forgot an old face back on our patch, Steve Dickinson returns to Rigby Taylor, welcome home mate). Where was I? Bartram Mowers, Ben Burgess, Tomlinsons, Sheriff Amenity, Sisis, Amenity Wise, Atterton & Barnard, Textron, Tacit, Headland, Amenity, K.B. Leach and anyone else who knows me. Our thanks once again to Bungay Golf Club for a really excellent day.

For those of you who didn't go to Bartram's open day you missed a good one. A real grass day, not a playground in sight and it's a lot closer than Windsor. Be there next year, you wouldn't be disappointed.

Mick Lathrope



Surrey

Dear Reader - Thank you once again for having the kindness and patience to read this mixture of fact and fiction. Some say that fact is often stranger than fiction, some say the reverse and most don't have an opinion either way.

For myself, I believe that when the result of the Surrey Section Golf day at Clanden Regis was 1. David Langheim; 2. Mark Harvey; 3. Adam Lunoe; 4. Tony Bremer; 5. Mike Sawaiki, 6. Ian Sellers, then fact is surely stranger than fiction written on the scorecards.

Many thanks to Steve Swanson and his greenkeepers for the effort in preparing his course to such a high standard, thanks for the excellent buffet and thanks to Clanden Regis GC for making us truly welcome.

The Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day was held at Aldwark Manor Hotel GC on June 14 and our committee was asked to send a team to represent Surrey Section. After a 6-hour car journey, our chauffeur, Ian Sellers, cruised into a convenient parking spot only a few hundred yards from the hotel.

We all sat quietly contemplating the long journey and Tony Bremer again apologised for having had a curry the night before. Our tee time was just before 1pm and after a ploughman's lunch (TB was not allowed the pickled onions) we prepared ourselves for the battle ahead.

I know you would all have liked a shot by shot analysis of our Texas scramble but space is limited and my pen is running out, so suffice to say that your team, which included the above mentioned duo plus myself and Anthony Freeman, won first prize. Please see the photographs in another section of this magazine, copies are available and the team is willing to sign as required.

Brian Willmott



Essex

Well it is time to catch up on our Summer Tournament, held on June 23, and the National Qualifier held at Ballard's Gore, on a blustery day to say the least. The day was kindly sponsored by Seoul Nassau and with a special thanks to Richard Lewis.

We would like to thank Ballard's Gore GC and the Captain Tom Kennedy for the friendly hospitality shown by all the staff and on providing an excellent meal.

Finally to Paul Brown and his greenkeeping team for having the course in excellent condition.

Also congratulations to Orsett's dynamic duo Clark & Beale, not quite Batman and Robin but some say there is some likeness for turning in some top scores under very difficult weather conditions to qualify for the Nationals.

Overall Winner Best Net - Don Clark.

Best Gross. 1. Dave Beale; 2. Paul Brown, 3. Dominic Rodgers. Best Net. 1. Roland Hughes; 2. Dougie Fernie; 3. Craig Serafin. Guest. Roy Spong. Trade. Neil Peachy. Nearest The Pin. Roy Spong. Longest Drive. Richard Dunmow.

We would like to thank the following for the raffle prizes:- Collier Turf Care, Rigby Taylor, Tacit, Scotts, Sheriffs, Banks, Ernest Does, Tuckwells and Chelmsford Grass Machinery.

Adrian Cornell has organised our first autumn training day titled "Working With Pressure" with Frank Newbury as the lecturer, to be held on the November 17 at the Burstead Golf Club, the price is £49 + V.A.T. For further details please contact Adrian on 01376 562835.

Geoff Smith

Reigning Golfer of the year.



NORTHERN IRELAND

The first Friday in August is fast approaching again and that means Terry Crawford's Charity Golf Day will once again be played on Clandeboye Golf Club's Dufferin course. Terry is the course manager at Clandeboye GC and has raised over £10,000 in the last five years for the Children's Ward in the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast.

Well over 120 players will compete again this year and the full results will appear in next month's magazine. Terry appreciates the continued support from greenkeepers, trade members, club members and Clandeboye GC at this annual event.

I would like to thank all the guys who have offered to help out at the British Seniors' Open at Royal Portrush from July 22 - 25. BIGGA members will be providing a support team at this year's event, so I will give a more detailed reported in September's Around The Green.

Our summer golf competition was played at Galgorm Castle GC on July 6. The afternoon fortunately stayed dry but very warm. Many thanks to owner Christopher Brooke for giving us courtesy of the course and also course manager David Snoddy and his greenkeeping staff for having the course in super condition. Thanks also to all the clubhouse staff, the food served was of the highest quality.

The competition sponsor was Coburns of Banbridge. William Cartmill and David Eager from Coburns receive a big thank you for their generous support.

The results on the day were; 1. Warren Burnside, Malone GC, 39pts - he wins a TV with DVD & video; 2. Michael Norman, Malone GC, 39pts - he wins a camera; 3. Aaron Fulton, Lisburn GC, 37pts; 4. Terry Crawford, Clandeboye GC, 36pts; Nearest the Pin. Terry Crawford.

Thanks also to Graham Prosser, from Tacit, who donated a prize for the nearest the pin.

Last month in my notes I prayed for just a little heavenly juice from above to, dare I say it, green up the course and raise our reservoir and lake levels. Yes as soon as I faxed my notes to Scott the thunder and lightening showers developed and over the last couple of weeks the irrigation systems have stood down for the moment.

Finally I would like to wish Neil Park, a greenkeeper at Allen Park, a speedy recovery from a broken arm.

Until next month

Ken Henderson

New computer, new contact

A new computer operating system was installed at BIGGA HOUSE last month.

Certain emails containing Around the Green notes which were sent in the week beginning July 12 may have been wiped out during the change around to the new system.

The official deadline for Around the Green notes is the 5th but I would like to apologise to any Section which sent notes slightly after that date but which have not appeared.

In future it would assist the production of the magazine if the Section notes could be sent to Assistant Editor, Gareth Jones, at gareth@bigga.co.uk or addressed to Gareth by post or on fax.

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The solution to the August Turftime Teaser was 'Mobile Mower Services Ltd'. The lucky winner of the Red Letter Day was David Moss from Teeside Golf Club - WELL DONE!!

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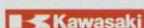
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JS/150/04

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We have developed a complete range of biological products for the amenity market, as well as the landscapes & nurseries industry, and the retail product market.

In order to expand our business in the U.K. market, we require a qualified Field Technical Manager to take responsibility for the technical support for our various markets (amenity, landscapes, nurseries, retail), including customer assistance (sales reps training, joint field trips), technical presentations and trainings, contacts with research institutes and technical authorities, management of field trials, and exhibitions attendance.

You will be educated to a degree level in a life science subject, preferably with a speciality in plant care, and have a 3 to 5 years experience in the amenity and/or landscapes & nurseries market.

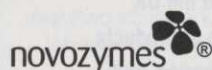
You will be a good communicator, computer literate, self-governing, and willing to travel extensively within the U.K., with, preferably a Midlands location.

This is an excellent opportunity for career development in a progressive international company.

You can look forward to an attractive package including salary, bonus and company car.

To apply, please send your CV + covering letter + salary request to
Novozymes Biologicals - Thierry PRADIER - Parc Technologique des Grillons - Bât. 6 - 60,
route de Sartrouville - 78230 Le Pecq - FRANCE or e-mail: thip@novozymes.com

Closing date: September 15th, 2004 Interviews: from September 20th, 2004



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Require a

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This is an exciting opportunity to become part of the UK's largest golf course management company.
Both clubs are in the heart of Surrey, near Woking and require differing styles of management.

Applicants must have a proven track record to lead a committed greens staff and to
help manage & further develop the profile of these two courses.

The successful applicant should have all the necessary experience and
technical ability to manage modern golf courses with sand based greens to a high standard.

Applicants for the position should have the following:

- NVQ3 or similar plus spraying qualifications.
- A sound knowledge of irrigation systems & machinery
- Health & Safety Awareness
- Excellent man management & leadership skills
- Ability to work within and understand budgets

Salary by negotiation.

Apply in writing by 20th August, with full CV to:

Laurence W. Pithie, Director of Maintenance, American Golf (UK) Ltd

Blue Mountain Golf Centre, Wood Lane, Binfield, Berks RG42 4EX

E-mail laurencepithie@americangolf.uk.com

LUFFNESS NEW GOLF CLUB LTD EAST LOTHIAN

Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Luffness New is a traditional members club. A true links course designed by Old Tom Morris and included in the Golf World top 100 courses. It is used by the R&A as a Final Qualifying venue for the Open Championship.

The successful applicant will have considerable experience working on a links course, be appropriately qualified and possess the skills to manage a team of 6 whilst communicating with senior management.

Salary negotiable based on experience.

House available.

The closing date for applications is 17th September, 2004.

Written applications, including C.V, should be sent to:
The Secretary, Luffness New Golf Club Ltd,
Aberlady, East Lothian EH32 0QA



AMENITY SALES SPECIALIST (Northern England/Borders)

Farmway Limited have recently been appointed the sole agent for Sheriff Amenity Products for the North East of England, Cumbria and the Scottish Borders.

To meet this exciting challenge Farmway wish to appoint an Amenity Sales Specialist.

The Candidate:

- A dynamic sales individual with sound commercial experience.
- Strong personal presence with excellent communication skills.
- Demonstrate success in profitable business development.
- Energy and enthusiasm and determination to succeed.
- IT literate.
- Relevant amenity qualifications.

The Role:

- To develop a customer network in the agreed territory.
- To build successful relationships to maximise business opportunities.

The Company offers a comprehensive salary and benefits package.

Please apply in writing, including full CV to:

Mrs A Stansfield, Personnel Department, Farmway Limited, Cock Lane,
Piercebridge, Co Durham, DL2 3TJ

FAIRFIELD GOLF & SAILING CLUB

FGSC is looking to appoint

TWO ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

to enhance the current greens team at this popular East Manchester private Golf Club.

Fairfield was established in 1892 and is located in a green oasis just 4 miles from the centre of Manchester and in the future is planning to expand its course and facilities to meet the increasing demands of the modern sports person. The successful applicants will have the opportunity to contribute to this development of the club and be in at the start of this exciting phase in the club's history.

Opportunities for vocational training and development will be available.

Salary will be dependant on experience and qualifications.

Applications should be in writing and should include a full C.V quoting two references.

Letters of application to: The Manager, Fairfield Golf & Sailing Club,
'Boothdale', Booth Road, Manchester M34 5QA



www.rigbytaylor.com

TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES

Rigby Taylor is a leading supplier to the UK amenity market, offering a broad range of products including fertilizers, chemicals, grass seed, soil conditioners, line markings and top dressings.

As part of their extensive expansion plans Rigby Taylor is seeking technical sales representatives for covering the mid-Wales, Surrey, Hampshire, Kent and Suffolk areas.

Ideally candidates should have experience within the amenity industry, (though full training will be given) and a BASIS qualification would be beneficial.

Apply in writing or by e-mail with a C.V. to:

Mr D. Rigby, Personnel Director, Rigby Taylor Ltd,
Rigby Taylor House, Crown Lane, Horwich, Bolton BL6 5HP

d.rigby@rigbytaylor.com Closing date 31st August 2004.

LIPHOOK GOLF CLUB

Require a

1st ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The successful candidate will possess the necessary qualifications and experience required for this position which is 3rd in charge.

Good terms and conditions apply, including Golf Membership.

Salary in accordance with CGS recommendations.

Closing date for applications is 27th August 2004

Apply in writing with full CV to David Murdoch MG, Head Greenkeeper,
Liphook Golf Club, Wheatsheaf Enclosure, Liphook, Hants, GU30 7EH.

Recruitment



WOODBURY PARK HOTEL, GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Requires a

GREENKEEPER / 2nd MECHANIC

to join our team.

The Successful applicant's duties will be predominately greenkeeping. He/she will, however, be expected to carry out mechanic duties in the absence of the Head Mechanic.

We are a forward thinking establishment with 27 holes of Golf, and Premiership standard football pitch regularly visited by Premiership clubs.

Our Oaks championship course golf course has hosted 2 European senior Tour events, The Gary Player Classic and 3 European Tour PQ1 events.

The successful applicant must be fully conversant with all aspects of modern day greenkeeping. He/she must also have an excellent understanding of modern day machinery Pa1, Pa2 and Pa6 will be a distinct advantage.

Please reply in writing sending a current CV to:
vlast@woodburypark.co.uk or post to Ian Chenery, Course Manager,
Woodbury Park Hotel, Golf and Country Club, Woodbury Castle,
Woodbury, Nr, Exeter, Devon EX5 1JJ

QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

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If you are interested in further details, please email personnel@foxhills.co.uk or call 01932 704453.

Foxhills

Stonehill Road, Ottershaw, Surrey KT16 0EL

ROYAL BLACKHEATH GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for

QUALIFIED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

Royal Blackheath is the oldest Golf Club in England and will be celebrating its 400-year centenary in 2008. This is an incomparable opportunity for a determined, career-minded young professional to join the most dynamic, innovative and energetic Greenkeeping Maintenance Department in the country.

Minimum 2 years greenkeeping experience
Applicants should be qualified to NVQ Level 2 from a reputable college
Continuing education and ongoing industry training will be provided
First class working conditions and a negotiable salary

Applications in writing with full CV
Gavin Kinsella, The Head Greenkeeper,
Royal Blackheath Golf Club, Court Road, Eltham, London SE9 5AF

Lilley Brook Golf Club (Cheltenham Ltd)

A Mackenzie designed 18-hole private members golf club.

Constructed in 1922, set amidst the rolling Cotswold landscape.

Requires an

EXPERIENCED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

This is an ideal opportunity for a committed, self motivated greenkeeper to join an experienced team, who seek to produce work to the highest standards.

Applicants should be qualified to a S/NVQ Level 2 and should possess PA1a, 2a and PA6a spraying certificates.

Please apply in writing together with a full CV to:

The Course Manager, Lilley Brook Golf Club, Cirencester Road,
Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Glos GL53 8EG.
Any enquiries please phone Matthew Coles on 07899 848 099.

Recruitment

CHORLEYWOOD GOLF CLUB

Have a vacancy for an ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Experience preferred

Apply in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary, Chorleywood Golf Club,
The Common, Chorleywood, Herts WD3 5LN

ROYAL WIMBLEDON GOLF CLUB

Has an immediate vacancy for a QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

to play a major role in the Club's continuing
development of its traditional; design Harry Colt course.

Requirements are:

- Minimum two years post qualifying greenkeeping experience
- Qualified to at least NVQ Level 2 with PA1, PA2 and PA6 (a)
- Understanding of current health and safety regulations
- To be enthusiastic, highly motivated and committed

This is an excellent opportunity for a determined career minded person. The Club will provide on going training, first class conditions and a highly competitive salary.

Applications in writing, or by email, with full CV to be sent to:
Mr N A Heasman, Head Greenkeeper, Royal Wimbledon Golf Club,
29 Camp Road, London SW19 4UW Email: NickH@rwgc.co.uk

MIDDLESBOROUGH GOLF CLUB

Founded 1908

Requires a

COURSE MANAGER

Middlesborough Golf Club is a traditional members
parkland course covering over 120 acres.

It is a 6278 yard par 70 course and is situated 5 miles south
of Middlesborough centre. There is a short game academy,
a large practice green and four separate practice areas.

This is an excellent opportunity for a committed,
highly motivated, hard working person prepared to accept a
challenging 'hands on' role at a high quality golf course.

The successful candidate will possess the following qualifications and abilities:

- NVQ Level 3 and spraying qualifications
- Knowledge of TORO irrigation equipment
- Be competent in the use and day-to-day maintenance of equipment used on a golf course
- Good knowledge of Health & Safety requirements with the ability to formulate policies and implement them
- Ability to produce a work programme and discuss with the Course Executive
- Ability to understand and implement a course policy document

Salary commensurate with age and qualifications.

Apply in writing enclosing a full C.V to: Mr P M Jackson, Secretary,
Middlesborough Golf Club, Brass Castle Lane,
Marton, Middlesborough TS8 9EE

Tel: 01642 311515 Fax: 01642 319607 www.middlesboroughgolfclub.co.uk

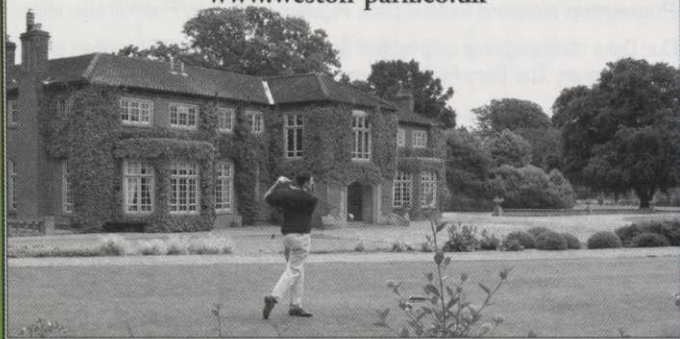


Head Greenkeeper

Nine miles to the North West of Norwich, Weston Park is
one of Norfolk's premier 18-hole golf courses,
set in beautiful ancient woodland.

We are seeking a Head Greenkeeper with dedication and
commitment to further develop this outstanding young course.
Applicants must be fully qualified and knowledgeable about the
game of golf. Ability to lead and motivate a team, show initiative
and communicate well are essential.

Apply in writing with current cv by Friday 20th August with salary
expectations to Susie Smith, HR Advisor, Weston Park Golf Club,
Weston Longville, Norwich NR9 5JW
www.weston-park.co.uk



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Recruitment

EALING GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for a

QUALIFIED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Ealing Golf Club is an 18 hole, 6163 yard, par 70 course situated on the outskirts of West London alongside the A40.

Applicants should preferably be qualified to NVQ Level 2. Ongoing training will be provided. The position requires an enthusiastic, fit candidate, who is hard working and self motivated, to join a successful friendly team at a leading Middlesex Golf Club.

Mechanical knowledge an advantage. Salary according to experience.

Closing date for applications 30th August 2004.

Applications in writing with full C.V to:

June A Mackison, Secretary/ General Manager, Ealing Golf Club (1932) Ltd,
Perivale Lane, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 8TS

ALSAGER GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Requires an

EXPERIENCED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant should be qualified to NVQ2, Level PA1, PA2a and PA6 certificates would be an advantage.

Please apply in writing together with CV to:

Mr Michael Goodfellow, Greens Manager,
Alsager Golf & Country Club, Audley Road,
Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent ST7 2UR

LAMERWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

Require

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

Lamerwood Country Club is a 27 hole parkland course set in the Hertfordshire countryside. We are looking to strengthen our team and there is an opportunity for two committed and enthusiastic greenkeepers.

The applicants should be qualified to NVQ level 2 and have at least two years experience.

Spraying Certificates would be an advantage but not essential.

Closing date for applicants: 21st August 2004

Apply in writing, including CV to:

Mr Michael Frappell, Course Manger,
Lamerwood Country Club, Codicote Road,
Wheatthamstead, Hertfordshire, AL4 8GB.

Website: www.lamerwood.humaxuk.com

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You will have a relevant degree or equivalent preferably with a teaching qualification and 3 years' relevant industrial experience.

For further information and an application form, please apply to:

The Personnel Unit, Oaklands College, St Albans Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 0JA. Tel: 01727 737748 (24 hour answerphone). Please quote corresponding reference number.

Closing date: 16th August 2004.



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COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Stressholme Golf Centre

Golf Course Manager

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We need an experienced professional to manage the operational facility team at Stressholme and to work closely with the Golf Professional and the Clubhouse Manager to develop the facilities. You will be responsible for the maintenance and development of the course, driving range, practice green and surrounding areas, managing all aspects of course maintenance, including all horticultural operations, to provide a high-quality golfing experience.

With at least three years' experience as a Head Greenkeeper or in a similar environment, you will also need a full driving licence, good communication and management skills and the ability to work on your own initiative. A professional horticultural qualification would be preferable.

For an informal discussion, please contact Terry Collins, Assistant Director - Environmental Services on 01325 347446.

Application packs are available on-line at:

www.darlington.gov.uk or from the Recruitment and Selection Unit on 01325 388129 (24 hours).

E-mail: recruitment@darlington.gov.uk

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We are committed to equal opportunities. Workplace nursery facilities provided subject to availability.

www.darlington.gov.uk



DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Feature listing from August 2002

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

July 2003; Irrigation Water; Greens Mowers;
Bent Grasses; Course Management; Rakes

August 2003; Aeration; Open Review;
Saltex Preview; Waste Water;
Toro Student of the Year

September 2003; Hanbury Manor; Irrigation;
Disease; Integrated Pest Management;
Communication

October 2003; Construction Machinery;
Pay Recommendations; Saltex Review;
Pesticide Legislation; Finance

November 2003; Temple GC; Trees;
Environment Competition Results;
Sandy McDivot; Drainage

December 2003; BTME & ClubHouse Preview;
Downfield GC; Compact Tractors;
Architecture; Bio-tech

January 2004; Ipswich GC Profile;
Grass Seed; Environment Competition Awards;
Utility Vehicles (sit in)

February 2004; Harrogate Review 2004;
Tyneside GC; Utility Vehicles (sit on); Irrigation

March 2004; R&A Best Practice;
Trentham Park GC; Drainage; Spraying

April 2004; Know your Rules; Tournament
Preparation; Landmarks in Greenkeeping;
Security

May 2004; Goodwood Club; Seed or Turf?
Biological Product Survey; Water Features;
Recycling; BIGGA Environment Competition

June 2004; Fairy Rings; Biologicals;
The Grove; Kubota Profile; Turf;
Sand and Rootzone

July 2004; Royal Troon Open Preview,
Mowing, Disease Analysis.

Chairman's Column

Work hard, play hard

Having just returned from the Open Championship at Royal Troon it struck me that the old saying "Work hard, play hard" was probably scripted for greenkeepers.

To witness the effort put in by the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team and Headquarters staff over the week of the event certainly made me proud to be part of the whole event. The energy, commitment and dedication to duty, not to mention enjoying themselves, was outstanding. Congratulations and thanks to you all for being fine ambassadors for our Association.



Billy McLachlan and his team had the fine layout in superb condition. The fairness and consistency of the course must prove to be a shot in the arm for traditional golf course management. No trick up of the course required and a tough test of the world's best players made for exciting television and a real atmosphere around Troon all week. Again many congratulations to Billy and his team.

For myself there were many other memories from the week aside from the golf. The opportunity to walk inside the ropes with Anthony Miller, from Lymm GC, who qualified after a play-off for 4th place at Glasgow Gailes, and who had our own Andrew Cornes (aka Squirrel) on the bag – a great achievement and one I know they both enjoyed.

Attending the Golf Writers Annual dinner along with John, as guests of Scott. Colin Montgomerie gave a superb address, full of humour and hope, while at the same time managing to get his own back at one or two of the audience. Such was his performance I was tempted to wager a reasonable each way bet on him. How easily a fool and his money are parted!

All in all a great week, and one which the organisers and our hosts, the R&A will no doubt be very happy with.

Prior to The Open my travels again took me over the pond to the USA. This time Toro were my hosts for a Turf Professionals visit as a result of the recent supplier deal signed between Toro and De Vere Hotels.

The time spent with many old friends and some new ones was a welcome break from the pressures of golf course maintenance and Toro were gracious and patient hosts. Again we managed to prove the adage that I opened with and I am sure that the rest of 'Kelly's Heroes' had an unforgettable time.

Chris Kennedy's knowledge of metals, their usage and placement was incredible and he proved all his years of experience by asking the right questions of all concerned. Thanks for your company guys and maybe we will get to Famous Dave's and Manny's again sometime.

As my companions left Minneapolis for home, my flight took me to Kansas to meet up with Ken and John,

along with officers of GCSAA in Lawrence. This was a meeting to explore the next stage toward our desired intention to work closely with others around the world.

I believe that the outcomes of these meetings will soon impact upon all our members, particularly with regard to affordable and accessible education.

GCSAA have developed a very effective communication tool to allow that to happen, and we will be testing this at some of our meetings in the coming months. Subject to the technology working as we anticipate we should then be in a position to roll out some test or example offerings to you.

It may seem that I've not spent much time at Carden Park lately, however the nature of my job allows me to work outside of 'normal Greenkeeping hours' and therefore, as Claire will tell you, when I am home I am at work if you know what I mean!

Of course this is tough for her and Cameron but I have a constant mental note to make it up to them when the Chairmanship finishes and the lobotomy reversal is complete!

We are just 10 days away, as I write, from hosting the De Vere PGA Seniors Championship for the fourth year. This is a busy time for us as we not only host and sponsor the event but do all the staging work ourselves from programmes, car parking, roping and staking to signage etc.

I am sure that my team will deliver as usual and that after all the hard work we will enjoy some play. We are encouraged this year by the addition of Sam Torrance to the field. If you can spare the time try and catch some Seniors Golf if in your area – I am sure you will be impressed at how hard they work and how much they enjoy themselves.

**Andy Campbell MG CGCS
National Chairman**



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1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ New Member Application forms.

Please tick as appropriate

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CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES – 15 OCTOBER 2004

The draw will take place in October 2004

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Imagine soaring through the skies watching the sunset on a perfect evening. To be in with a chance of winning a balloon flight at one of over 50 locations UK wide just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA. Make sure you write your name on the application form as the person who referred them and we will enter you into the prize draw. The more new members you refer the more chances you have to win.

The draw will take place on the 15th October 2004 and the winner will be announced in the November edition of Greenkeeper International.

Please call Rachael or Gemma for applications forms or for more details on 01347 833800.