

December 2004 – £3.80

# Greenkeeper

## INTERNATIONAL

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1997/8	Hankley Common Golf Club
1998/9	Lindrick Golf Club
1999/0	Temple Golf Club
2000/1	The Dyke Golf Club
2001/2	Broadstone Golf Club
2002/3	Ipswich Golf Club
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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## Welcome

### END OF A TUMULTUOUS YEAR

As 2004 draws to a close it is perhaps fitting to look back at a year which by any standards has been a tumultuous one for the Association.

It began with the failing health and then untimely passing of the Association's first Executive Director, Neil Thomas. Neil had been at the helm since 1987 and had overseen the Association's development from fledgling body to a highly regarded organisation within the golf world.

His funeral, on a snowy day last February, saw mourners come from all corners of the country and as far afield as the United States and Sweden, a real measure of the respect in which Neil was held and the stature BIGGA has now attained.

That the Association kept on course and even continued to develop during Neil's illness, and in the time since his death, says much for the quality of the team at BIGGA HOUSE and, in particular, John Pemberton, who carried the brunt of the additional responsibility while Neil was on sick leave, and who was subsequently appointed Chief Executive on a permanent basis.

John has put his own stamp on the Association since taking on the top job. He has ensured that he has got himself out and about as much as possible to meet members and listen to their wishes and concerns. It is an approach and formula he has extended to the trade and other bodies within the game of golf and it would be fair to say that John has been rewarded for his time spent on Britain's motorway network, and indeed beyond these shores, with BIGGA's profile at an all time high.

That can only be good news and with John's work being replicated by others at headquarters you can be assured no stone is being left unturned in ensuring that BIGGA's voice, and that of the greenkeeping profession, is being heard and, more importantly, listened to.

With Neil's passing at the beginning of the year it is sad to report another loss at the end. Roland Taylor, who has written for Greenkeeper International for over eight years, died suddenly after a short illness last month.

Indeed the final article he wrote appeared as recently as November's magazine and he had several others in the pipeline and due to appear over the next seven or eight months.

Roland was a thoroughly decent man, well respected within the industry, and a very dependable and conscientious writer. The thoughts of everyone at BIGGA go out to his partner, Hilary, and his family.

For the Thomas and Taylor families this Christmas will be a particularly difficult time – happiness and joy in so many homes but sadness and an emptiness in their own.

Hopefully this Christmas most of the rest of us will be in the fortunate position of experiencing happiness and joy and that we can all use the time to relax, unwind and prepare for what I'd like to think might be a less tumultuous 2005.

**Scott MacCallum**  
Editor

Management, make it your own

### BUGGY BAN Baffles CLUBS

Confusion is rife about new rules affecting buggy and trolley bans on golf courses, says the National Golf Clubs' Advisory Association (NGCAA).

The Disability Discrimination Act means golf clubs must remove any physical barriers preventing a disabled person from using a course. Failing to do this will make the club liable for damages for unlawful discrimination which could run into thousands.

However, Michael Shaw, National Secretary of the NGCAA, says many clubs are confused about how the Act affects buggy and trolley bans that already exist.

"We've had a surge of queries from clubs

concerned about the legality of buggy and trolley bans on their courses. There is definitely confusion. What is clear is that courts no longer approve a blanket ban.

"However, clubs are entitled to impose a ban which restricts access to those parts of the course it is necessary to preserve.

"They must also implement a ban if the health and safety of any individual is at risk due to weather and ground conditions.

"It is vital that clubs are able to justify any ban they impose and they must have documentation in place to explain the reasons behind it," added Shaw.



### ROBSON OPENS RANSOMES JACOBSEN OFFICE

One of Ransomes Jacobsen's biggest and longest standing fans opened the new office block on their existing Ipswich site last month.

Sir Bobby Robson, who has managed Ipswich Town, England and Newcastle United among many others, had retained a house in Ipswich for 34 years until recently.

He told the assembled guests that he had inherited a Ransomes cylinder mower when he bought the house and had passed the same mower on to the new owners when he left earlier this year.

"I was once at the Sydney Cricket Ground and saw a groundsman cutting the square with a Ransomes machine so I just had to go up and tell him that I came from the same town as where his

machine had been made," said Sir Bobby, who, for all his obvious knowledge of the company, was making his first visit.

"I'd never been to the factory before but the whole football club knew where it was because so many of the Ransomes workers were Ipswich Town season ticket holders. In fact I used to joke that a great midfield would have been Ransomes, Simms and Jeffries," said Sir Bobby.

Recently appointed Ransomes Jacobsen Managing Director, David Withers, had earlier accompanied Sir Bobby around the plant introducing him to many of the staff while invited guests were given a guided tour of Ipswich Town's ground, Portman Road.



### DEREK'S NEW ROLE IN DUNDEE

Derek Hoskins, of the Scottish Central Section, has been promoted to Parks Duty Officer with Dundee City Council.

Derek has been on duty for the Council for 24 years, as an apprentice, assistant and Head Greenkeeper on the Camperdown Golf Course, one of two courses Dundee City Council own.

Derek's new role will see him swap

his steal toecaps and thermals for the less unfamiliar shirt and tie combination, as he oversees the greenkeeping team at the second Council course, Caird Park. In an ironic twist, Derek actually started his greenkeeping career at Caird Park, seeing out the first two years of his apprenticeship, before moving to Camperdown.



Stephen (centre) receives the Diamond Jug from sponsor Alex Cruickshank (left), of Daval, and Ayrshire chairman Martin Lothian from Turnberry.

## STEPHEN'S LOCH LOMOND TRIUMPH

Stephen Higgins, of Ardeer Golf Club, became Ayrshire champion and the third winner of the Diamond Jug at the Dundonald Links of Loch Lomond Golf Club recently. He matched the 35pts scored at Prestwick St Nicholas in the spring to win.

Ayrshire enjoyed a fabulous day in the autumn sunshine on the new Dundonald course, which was under refurbishment but in splendid order, especially the greens, which were awesome. For this and the excellent hospitality shown to the Ayrshire members on the day a special thanks to Course Superintendent, Ken Stems, and all of the staff for a truly fantastic day for the Ayrshire Section.

## FUNDING FOR SPORTS SURFACE TECHNOLOGY MSC

The need for a scientific approach to maintaining and constructing natural and artificial sports surfaces has never been greater.

To cope with this, a new breed of sports surface manager is needed, someone with outstanding scientific and technical skills.

Cranfield University is offering employers in the sports arena 'match-for-match funding' to encourage them to give their grounds managers the opportunity to attend the well-established Sports Surface Technology MSc degree course on a part-time basis.

Course Director Alex Vickers said, "The Sports Surface MSc is the only one of its kind in Europe, and attracts students from all kinds of sports surface backgrounds.

"Recent research has highlighted the need for us to encourage employers to

invest in their staff and, therefore, the future of their facilities. We hope this initiative will break down some of the barriers faced by grounds staff and Course Managers when trying to get sponsorship from their employers."

He continued, "The course certainly benefits employers; not only will their managers gain new practical and technical skills but all students undertake an extensive research project at their place of work as part of the degree."

The 'match-for-match' funding means employers do not have to pay half the fee for the first year – a saving of £1000.

It is also envisaged that employers will be offered a half-day workshop giving them the opportunity to find out more about the work being undertaken by the students and the Cranfield Centre for Sports Surfaces.

## KEEPING UP WITH THE JONES'

Jane Jones has been appointed as BIGGA's new Regional Administrator for the South West and South Wales Region.

Jane officially started her new role on November 1 and has already been busy visiting numerous clubs, meeting many members and aiding in the organisation of the final stages of the Cannington Conference held on November 17.

"My feet haven't touched the ground since I started, I have been setting up my office, while organising various events and meeting lots of the guys," said Jane.

"This job appealed to me as I have been part of the golfing world for so long and really enjoy everything about it and the people in it. I love meeting new people, organising events, helping people and using my knowable in my work.

"In my role as a Regional Administrator I feel I can really do this, while also being a crucial link between the members and BIGGA HQ and playing my part in moving the whole Association forward."

Jane joins BIGGA after 12 years as an Assistant Manager at Thornbury Golf Centre, which is based just outside Bristol. Previous to this she had worked in the hotel conference business, before her love for golf moved her into the game for good.

A keen golfer, Jane is a member of both Thornbury and The Bristol Golf Club, where she has filled the post of Social Secretary.



It's a hard life for Mark.

## NO RAIN IN SPAIN FOR MARK

Moving house and changing jobs can be a difficult and often unsettling time for most people, but when it involves moving countries and cultures also, it makes it that much more daunting.

However we are pleased to report that Mark Ellis, formerly of the Mid Anglia Section, is thoroughly enjoying his new life out in Spain.

Mark left Stocks Golf Club in July to move to the Costa Blanca, where his wife, Angela, works on a local ex-pat newspaper, The Coast Rider.

"When I saw Mark he was enjoying the easy life sunbathing, eating out and drinking. I had a tour of his local area including his local bar, new house, pool and beaches," said Clive Parnell, of Gem Professional, who recently visited Mark.

The pictures we received clearly back up this statement.

## SCARCROFT HEAD GREENKEEPER DIES AT 35

It is Greenkeeper International's sad duty to report that Telford Jarvis, of Scarcroft Golf Club, passed away on November 14 2004 after a short illness.

Telford was a highly thought of individual by all that knew him, a man that took great pride in all of his work.

This was clearly appreciated by the membership of Scarcroft GC itself, as over 50 members from the club attend his funeral. In all over 200 people attended the funeral, consisting of friends, golfers, BIGGA representatives and many greenkeepers from across the country.

Telford was born in Castleford, West Yorkshire, on February 21 1969 and started his career in greenkeeper at Normanton Golf Club, after dabbling in bricklaying.

He enjoyed the job he was doing and he put a lot of effort into gaining his qualifications at Askham Bryan College on block release where he met a lot of his friends from within the

industry. He worked at Roundhey Park Golf Club and Low Laithes GC before moving to Scarcroft Golf Club in 1988.

While there he worked hard to rise through the ranks to become Head Greenkeeper in 1998. He was a very conscientious worker who always gave 110% and transformed the course into the excellent place it is today. Telford was also a keen and excellent golfer, winning, among other things, the BIGGA & Iseki Championship Final in 1991.

Telford was married to Lisa, since 1999, and they shared a beautiful and happy life together, with the icing on the cake being the arrival, on October 25 2002, of their son, Roman.

"The void left in the world can never be filled, Telford was loved and admired by many. My heart is with Lisa, their son Roman and his parents and family," said close friend David Mulholland, Course Manager, Pontefract and District Golf Club.



Telford as seen on the Front cover of GI 1991.

## GCSAA INCENTIVES FOR FIRST TIME EXHIBITORS AT SHOW

GCSAA have announced their excellent incentive packages for first time exhibitors at the Golf Industry Show in February 2005.

The A.E.A. together with UK Trade & Investment have been supporting the GCSAA show for a number of years and the GCSAA are keen to encourage new overseas exhibitors to the event and are offering an excellent incentive package to UK companies.

These benefits include: Golf Industry Show exhibitor space subsidy; Pre/post event marketing and advertising discount; VIP reception invitation; Tickets to GCSAA President's celebration; Distributor registration list; Private meetings room; Solutions challenge location.

They are also offering complimentary registration to future exhibitors and will schedule a tour of the Show to learn more about the event.

A.E.A. and UKTI will also have a catalogue stand at the Show, so company literature from UK companies is urgently required.

Full details of this package and the catalogue stand are available from Debbie Dale at the A.E.A.

Tel: 01733 362925 or email [export@aea.uk.com](mailto:export@aea.uk.com).

## GOLFJOBS WEBSITE ARRIVES IN THE UK

The launch of [www.golfjobs.co.uk](http://www.golfjobs.co.uk) has been announced following the successful introduction of the 100% dedicated golf recruitment website, [www.golfjobs.ie](http://www.golfjobs.ie), in the Irish market.

Spearheaded by Ryder Cup legend, Christy O'Connor Junior, the website is a central point for golf clubs to pool their marketing power and creates an easier way for candidates to find golf related positions from Greenkeepers to Golf Professionals and Club Managers.

The developers of [golfjobs.co.uk](http://golfjobs.co.uk) are keen to ensure that the website is seen as not just a jobs board, but a site that offers recruitment advice on CV preparation and interview skills.

There will also be a golf news feed from BBC sport, as well as general information on careers in the golf sector.



## FAIRWAYS' SCOTSTURF SUCCESS

Fairways GM, Ransomes Jacobsen's new dealer with a territory encompassing most of Scotland, experienced a very successful Scotsturf in November.

Coming just two days after they began trading as a Ransomes Jacobsen dealer, Scotsturf provided the perfect launch for the Fairways team.

Managing Director David Rae said, "We were elated with the response from visitors to our stand. With the support of the manufacturer we had the biggest stand at the show and we were busy throughout. This was the perfect opportunity for us to introduce the company to Scottish turf professionals and the whole event was a great success."

"The stand was superb and certainly made a statement. We had the opportunity to talk to many loyal Ransomes Jacobsen customers and possible future clients and were able to demonstrate that we're here for the long term. All in all, a great start for the company."

## BOWCOM GETS NEW OWNER

Bowcom, the supplier of complete linemarking solutions, safety products and setting out equipment, has been acquired by the Cardiff-based Fiddes Group, which has led to significant investment in research and development and a number of major innovations to the Bowcom brand.

The acquisition and substantial financial investment has provided Bowcom with a platform from which an extensive programme of reorganisation and expansion has recently been undertaken.

This includes a dedicated new laboratory and production facilities at the company's new headquarters in Cardiff and the creation of a number of new jobs in product development and technical support.

The new direction the company is taking involves an exciting release of products into the Pitch and Ground Care markets.

## GREEN FINGERED GURU APPOINTED

Paul McClearn, has been appointed as Head Greenkeeper at the brand new, £50 million, The Carrick on Loch Lomond; De Vere Resort Ownership Limited's 5-star international golf and leisure resort.

Paul will preside over the stunning fairways of the championship level, all-season, traditional heathland style course working with Estates Manager, Alec Glachan, taking responsibility for both grounds staff and machinery.



Commenting on his appointment, Paul said, "The opportunity to take responsibility for the fairways of a course of this calibre is very rare.

The Carrick design and location is spectacular and I do not underestimate the challenge of keeping

Doug Carrick's course at championship level standards all year round.

"It will be a stunning course to play and I am delighted that it will be pay and play, giving people of all levels the chance to walk the fairways of a magnificent course," he continued.

Born and educated in Galway, Ireland, Paul moved to Helensburgh eight years ago where he was employed at the exclusive Loch Lomond Golf Club as Assistant Superintendent.

Before this he worked at the Jack Nicklaus designed parkland course, Mount Juliet Golf Club, which hosted the 2004 AMEX World Tour.

Craig Mitchell, MD of DVROL, said, "Paul's enthusiasm and experience will make him a valuable member of the estates team."

## NEW DEPOT MANAGER FOR ROLAWN



Rolawn have appointed a new depot manager for their Botley Southampton depot.

Simon Chandler has been promoted as Rolawn Depot Manager Southampton. Simon, 30, joined Rolawn as Assistant Manager at the Sunningdale depot four years ago.

He took up his new post at the depot located at the Hillier Garden Centre, Botley on October 1. Prior to Simon joining Rolawn, his previous experience included work within the retail distribution sector.



## MINE'S A DOUBLE

For the second year running Edward Stant and his partner, Paul Woodham, reached the Scotts Doubles Final, held on the West Course of the Wentworth Club.

After travelling down with the Midlands Scotts Area Sales Manager, Mark Rayner, on Saturday October 9, the lucky finalists were treated to a full English breakfast in the outrageous splendid of the Wentworth clubhouse, upon which they received their 'goody bags' consisting of tees, pitch fork repairer, course planner, etc.

The course was, as the previous year, in fantastic condition. Every inch was in pristine

The finalists, E.Stant, P.Woodham, T.Cheese and P.Nixon.

condition and, after a rocky start, Paul and Edward managed to squeeze out their extremely friendly opponents, for a memorable victory.

The entire day was courtesy of Mark Rayner and Scotts, not forgetting to mention Chris Kennedy from Wentworth, who arranged the tee time and breakfast.

"I would like to thank all concerned, especially Scotts, for one of the most fantastic days involving golf you could ever ask to have," said the victorious Edward, who is the Midland Section Chairman.



## BUILDING FOR GROWTH

GGM, a groundscare machinery and parts suppliers, have announce the significant expansion of their groundscare business following the successful purchase of additional and larger premises next door to their existing facility on the Whitewalls Industrial Estate, in Colne, Lancashire.

The new building, which will be used from January 2005, will feature an impressive product display area and an all new state-of-the-art workshop facility, which is double the size of the current building.

The development represents a significant financial investment by GGM and will result in the recruitment of up to five people, across all parts of the company.

The decision to purchase the property follows recent impressive growth, a part of which results from the recently developed e-commerce website where customers can buy new and used equipment and spares online, but also reflects expected demand for groundscare equipment in the future.

Chris Gibson, GGM Managing Director explains, "This move is part of our overall strategic business plan to develop our business in a way that meets the increasing needs of our customers."

## IRRIPLAN'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY SUCCESS

Independent irrigation consultancy IrriPlan has celebrated its 10th anniversary during 2004 - a year that has proved to be the most successful in its history.

Originally formed by Giles Wardle as Wardle Associates in 1994, the company became Wardle Consulting Engineers in 1997 and changed its name to IrriPlan in 2003.

IrriPlan welcomed Phil Langdon back to the company in 2003 as Projects Director for Scotland and Ireland. This year he's been instrumental to the company's growth and success.

"It's been a very busy year for us and we've been privileged to work on some fantastic projects", said Giles.

# Tip of the Month

This month by John Quinn MG,  
Managing Director, Greenmaster Ltd.



BIGGA's Master Greenkeeper John Quinn MG provides his tip to help you in your course management.

## Salty solution to weeds...

Here is my simple tip for eradicating dandelions and other turf weeds that you can find on the golf course.

Dandelions and other rosette type turf weeds tumble to a simple dose of table salt applied to the centre of the weed.

This kills off the weed and causes absolutely no damage to turfgrass. This mixture also means that there is no need for a herbicide application.



## MF Petrol Ride-on Mowers

When you buy an Massey Ferguson petrol ride-on mower, you not only get a machine designed to meet the requirements of the most demanding customer but also the back-up of our world-renowned dealer network.

There are seven models available, ranging from 6.5 to 22 hp. All are driven by well-proven Briggs and Stratton petrol engines with a choice of manual or hydrostatic transmissions. With floating decks and simple, speedy cutting height adjustment via a lever next to the driver, they incorporate the latest technology-enhancing performance and productivity yet remain easy to operate. Combine these features with our service and parts back-up that's second to none and you'll have a machine that's definitely a cut above the competition.

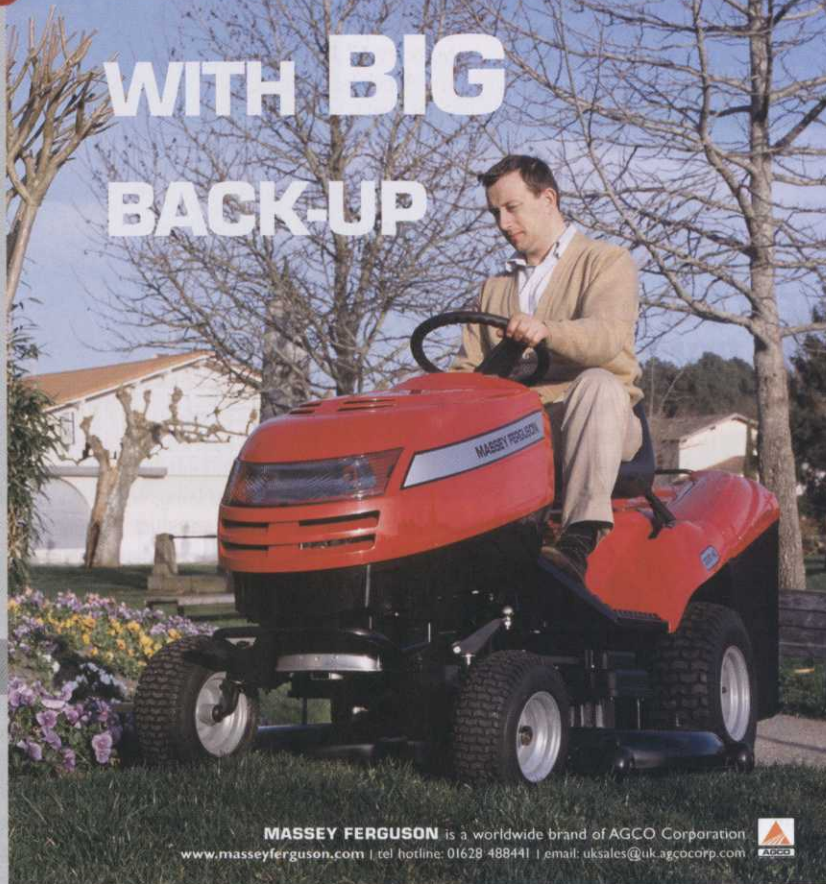
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## Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

Unlock the doors to progress through BIGGA's Education and Development Fund - the key to a great future for greenkeepers, golf clubs and the game of golf.

Golden and Silver Key Membership is available to both companies and individuals.

For details, please contact Ken Richardson on 01347 833800 or via ken@bigga.co.uk

### Golden Key Supporters



### Golden Key Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Gem Professional	01254 356611
John Deere Ltd	01949 860491
Kubota (UK) Ltd	01844 214500
PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 677777
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01480 226800
TurfTrax Group Ltd	01722 434000

### Golden Key Individual Members

J H Fry; J H Greasley; WJ Rogers; David S Robinson; Stuart Townsend; Andrew Cornes; Andy Campbell MG; CGCS; Roger Barker; Chris Yeaman; Iain A Macleod; Bruce Cruickshank; John Crawford; Stuart Cruickshank; Frank Newberry; Terence Welch

### Silver Key Supporters



### Silver Key Company Members

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Ernest Doe & Sons	01245 380311
General Legal Protection Ltd	01904 611600
Hayter Ltd	01279 723444
Health Lambert Group	0113 246 1313
RainBird	01273 891326
Syngenta Professional Products	0041 613 233 028
Wolf Garten	01495 306600

### Silver Key Individual Members

Clive A Archer; Douglas G Duguid; Robert Malbusch MG; Elliott R Small; Steven Tierney; Richard Lawrence; Clive Osgood; David Robinson; Richard Stillwell; Stephen Dixon; Ian Semple; Paul Jenkins; Robert Hogarth; R Steele; Lee Relf; Raymond Warrender; Nicholas Gray; Trevor Smith; Ian Barr; Richard McGlynn; Alex McCombie; Paul Murphy

# Education Update

Ken Richardson, Education and Training Manager, wonders where the time has gone as the Education Department gear up for an exciting 2005.

It seems to be true that time flies ever faster, the older you get, as it does not seem very long since Christmas 2004 and we are only three weeks away from Christmas 2005.

More importantly, that means that we are only six weeks away from Continue to Learn 2005 with BITMC rapidly moving over the horizon.

## Continue to Learn 2005

Bookings for Continue to Learn 2005 are still arriving in large numbers and the five Workshops, sponsored by the John Deere Team Championship, are filling up.

There are still a few places left but you need to get your application in as soon as possible if you wish to attend.

### The two-day Workshops are: Sunday 16 and Monday 17 January

Grass Roots Level

Presented by Dennis and Adrian Mortram

Effective Communication and Negotiation

Presented by David Bancroft-Turner

Golf Course Design

Presented by Jonathan Tucker and David Hemstock.

### The one-day Workshops are: Monday 17 January

The Principles of Irrigation

Presented by representatives from BTLIA

Course Preparation Techniques

Presented by Jon Scott and Richard Stillwell

All Workshops will be held in the Majestic Hotel and cost £65 for members attending a one-day Workshop and £130 for members attending two days.

These prices include lunch on each day but do not include accommodation.

### Seminar Programme

The much extended Seminar Programme begins on Monday 17 January when the Association of Golf Club Secretaries will be holding a full day of seminars aimed at golf club secretaries and golf club officials.

For information on these seminars, please contact the AGCS on 01934 641166.

Tuesday 18 January sees the start of the Continue to Learn Seminars, followed by ClubHouse seminars in the afternoon.

Wednesday 19 January begins with the Presentation of Awards to three new Master Greenkeepers and to the winners of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition 2004, sponsored by WRAP, Scotts UK and Syngenta.

The main presentation of 2005 is to our President,

Sir Michael Bonallack, who will receive the BIGGA Lifetime Achievement Award.

The presentations will be followed by the 2005 Keynote Speaker, Lesley Everett.

Lesley is the UK's leading speaker on personal branding and should give us all food for thought on how we see ourselves and how others see us.

Seminars continue on Wednesday afternoon and all day Thursday.

Many of the Seminars are free of charge and you can book onto them, on the day, at our Seminar registration desk Hall Q8. All seminars will be held in Hall D. The entrance is via Hall Q.

A special free seminar for all those budding Master Greenkeepers will be held in the Restaurant area of Hall D on Tuesday 18 January between 10 am and 12 noon.

Thanks to sponsorship from TORO, we can, once again, present the Careers Fair at BTME & ClubHouse.

It will feature the well established Careers Clinic with Brin and Frank plus the highly acclaimed Job Wall and full details of careers in greenkeeping.

Anyone thinking about purchasing the OnCourse software package should visit BTME & ClubHouse, as one of the software programmers will be attending the show.

## BITMC 2005

You should have received your brochure for the British and International Turf Managers' Conference in this magazine.

I am sure that you will agree that we have put together a varied first class programme at a superb location.

Staverton Park is situated near to Daventry and is easily reached from the M1, the M42, the M40 and the M6.

Birmingham International Airport is 25 minutes away, as is Birmingham International Railway Station. Many low cost airlines fly into Birmingham from around the UK and Europe.

The Centre has excellent accommodation and superb food plus a fully equipped leisure centre and it even has an 18-hole golf course.

We have negotiated a special rate for partners and we can arrange an outing to Blenheim Palace or recommend shopping centres if there is the demand.

Places for delegates are limited and you need to book early to be sure of your place.

The cost for delegates, that includes all meals and two-nights accommodation in a single room, is £376 including VAT for BIGGA members and £480 for non-members.

The cost for partners is £104 for dinner, bed and breakfast for two days.

# GTC News

This month David Golding, GTC's Education Director, specifically looks at the workplace option for greenkeeper training.

It is with a positive note I hope to encourage more golf club employers to "invest" in their staff's education and training.

The GTC, having worked within the Government's national framework for qualifications and apprenticeships for many years, has received information that more funding is to be made available to ensure greenkeeper education and training is affordable for all levels.

Whether it is the apprenticeship scheme or the more academic Foundation Degree qualification the GTC will continue to not only ensure the content of the awards are relevant to our specialist sector but to ensure adequate funding is made available to our approved centres who offer the various courses.

The GTC received a bonus in 2002 when the European Social Fund (ESF) awarded a substantial level of funding to match the time put in by greenkeepers, in a senior position within the golf club, to train as work-based trainers and assessors.

As the two-year contract is coming to a close, with Plan-it Training the GTC is very hopeful that we will be able to confirm news that again our sector has been recognised as a model and further funding be made available to keep our successful programme on going.

I have previously reported that each year we see an increase in registrations for the work-based training qualifications and training schemes. This, I believe, is a trend that suits our sector and the increase in trainees is down to three main factors.

As the GTC trains more Course Managers, H/G's and Deputies as work-based trainers and assessors this ensures the understanding of vocational training and how it should operate benefits not only their trainee colleagues but the employer sees a sudden improvement both in their staffs skills and job satisfaction.

I truly hope that all this improvement is acknowledged through the Course Manager's reports to the employer and staff receive due recognition for their achievements.

Employers (often through their enlightened Course Manager) are investing in staff training which is very cost effective, work-based and prudent when maintaining their course and health and safety policy documents.

The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (1998) often known as the PUWER regulations are clear when stating the importance of competence of workers. I know many readers will be thinking "here we go again", quoting legislation as a requirement for training.

However, many older readers will remember the awful work conditions that were "provided" for greenkeepers both to maintain and store equipment in but worst still to have their lunch and snack breaks in.

Most golf club employers, again often through their competent Course Managers, have improved conditions for their staff before the "enforcers" have visited the site and while I know there are still some facilities which should be designated as "sites of septic scenery" thankfully they are now



David Golding.

in the minority.

One further factor that has taken most of the GTC's time is changing the way formal greenkeeper vocational education and training is delivered.

Traditionally our sector has used the "local" horticultural/agricultural college via the day or block release system but, for a variety of reasons, this service has faltered and this is no reflection on the excellent service given by the "named" turf lecturers. It would be unfair to name individuals but often you would name a college and more importantly you would name the "front man" for turf.

We cannot look back at the way the system was because if we as a sector want subsidised formal education and training we must work within the Government's structure, therefore what are today's options available to golf clubs?

One message has to be clear to employers, ensure your senior greenkeeping staff are up to speed with their own personal development which in turn will undoubtedly have a benefit to the rest of the staff and the course.

The GTC have recently produced a standard set of learning materials which are being used by our network of centres and this information can now be purchased for use "on the job".

Based on the best principles and practices for British golf courses the materials cover the knowledge within National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications at Levels 2 & 3.

A small number of the GTC's approved centres actually offer full on the job support to trainees but where there is an enlightened, qualified trainer/assessor on site this option works very well.

When the employer or often a Head Greenkeeper feels the trainee should attend college then the vocational training schemes can become difficult to maintain.

The on/off the job compromise can work with the trainee attending the centre for the knowledge and the skills training being carried out by the Course Manager.

It is still the responsibility of the chosen centre that the evidence both knowledge and practical is to the national standards.

The **quality** of the assessment is paramount and this has been where the GTC has invested heavily in recent years promoting the use of work-based assessors at every opportunity.

The GTC will continue to ensure the best principles are adhered to through its approved provider network and, with all the changes in college staff and resource levels, it may be no surprise that the committee are reviewing the network and I will update you on the progress being made in this area next month.

For up to date information on vocational training, apprenticeship schemes, trainer and assessor training contact the GTC on 01347 838640 or email [david@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:david@the-gtc.co.uk) Website [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)

May I also take this opportunity on behalf of the GTC to wish you a very Merry Christmas and I hope to see you on the GTC stand at BTME & Clubhouse 2005.

Rachael and Gemma from Membership Services would like to welcome 70 new members to the Association and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

# Membership Update



## Changes to the Car Breakdown Scheme

Due to FSA regulations, which come into force from January 1 2005, GLP are no longer able to offer the Silver Knight Rescue scheme to members.

As we recognise what great value this scheme is to members we did not want to lose such a valuable benefit.

We therefore scouted about and are able to bring you a very competitive car breakdown package from Europ Assistance. The new scheme offers three levels of cover ranging from roadside assistance up to European cover.

The first level is Roadside Assistance and this covers you for incidents occurring at least one mile from home, it includes one hour of roadside labour and transportation to the nearest repairer. This is a good package for those on a budget.

The next level of cover is National Recovery and Doorstep, being more comprehensive than the Roadside Assistance.

Cover includes incidents within one mile of the home and guarantees to either get you home, your original destination or to a repairer of your choice.

The final level of cover is National Recovery, Doorstep and European. This features the same level of cover for National Recovery and Doorstep but also includes 31 days cover for travel in a European country. As you can see from the comparison table the prices are really competitive.

For more detailed policy information or to purchase cover please call 01603 828255 and quote BIGGA.

Members with existing Silver Knight Rescue policies will be unaffected by the change and will not suffer loss of cover. When your existing policy expires you will be contacted by Europ Assistance.

If you have any other concerns regarding your policy please call Silver Knight on 0800 068 1893.

### Silver Knight Repair

Again, due to FSA regulations GLP can no longer offer this product to members from January 1 2005. As Silver Knight Repair is a unique policy we were unable to source an alternative. The scheme will therefore be closed to new purchasers from January 1.

Members with existing Silver Knight Repair policies will be unaffected by the change and will not suffer loss of cover. When your existing policy expires you will be unable to renew.

If you have any other concerns regarding your policy please call Silver Knight on 0800 068 1893.

	Europ Assistance <sup>+</sup>	AA <sup>*</sup>	RAC <sup>*</sup>
Roadside Assistance	£19.04	£42.00	£34.00
National Recovery & Doorstep	£44.95	£126.00	£119.00
National Recovery, Doorstep & European	£63.66	Need to ring to obtain a quote	

\*Prices quoted are for the nearest equivalent cover  
 +Prices quoted are for cars up to 9 years old. For older cars please call 01603 828255 for a quote.

### BIGGA welcomes...

#### SCOTTISH REGION

Brian Dickson, Ayrshire  
Iain Forbes, West

#### NORTHERN REGION

Kenneth Brierley, North West  
Craig Davies, North Wales  
Simon Dye, Sheffield  
Daniel Entwistle, North East  
Daniel Hayes, North Wales  
Ian Kirwan, North West  
William Owe, North Wales  
David Smith, North Wales

#### MIDLAND REGION

James Biggerstaff, BB&O  
James Castle, BB&O  
Robert Day, BB&O  
Peter Dear, Mid Anglia  
Peter Fisher, Mid Anglia  
Daniel Gascoyne, BB&O  
Stephen Godding, BB&O  
Jamie Harris, BB&O  
Ben Hastie, BB&O  
Simon Malone, Mid Anglia  
Matthew Reed, Mid Anglia  
Christopher Roberts, Midland  
Clive Robinson, BB&O  
Neill Smith, Midland  
Craig Swindells, East Midland  
Kevin Tilly, BB&O  
Joe Vickery, BB&O

#### SOUTH EAST REGION

David Barnes, Surrey  
Simon Bone, Surrey  
Janice Collins, London  
James Jay, London  
Isaac Jones, Surrey  
Benjamin Macleod, Surrey  
Ray Mayhill, London  
Darren Merridan, London  
Lee Smith, Kent  
Oily Stubbings, Essex  
Matthew Tilley, Surrey  
Neil Tutton, Essex  
David Watkins, London  
Richard Webber, London

#### SOUTH WEST/SOUTH WALES

Ben Adams, Devon & Cornwall  
Christopher Baker, Devon & Cornwall  
Andrew George, Devon & Cornwall  
Richard Lloyd, South Wales  
David Longley, Devon & Cornwall  
Justin Manester, Devon & Cornwall  
Mark Moore, Devon & Cornwall  
Merrill Mullins, South Coast

#### IRELAND

Patrick O'Brien

#### INTERNATIONAL

Barry Dolan, Norway  
Lars Knutson, Sweden

#### STUDENT MEMBERS

Robin Auburn, Central Scotland  
Paul Carella, Central Scotland  
Andrew Cockburn, Central Scotland  
Andrew Cockburn, Central Scotland  
Guido Gaechter, Central Scotland  
Todd Jerome, East Scotland  
Harge Kranstad, East Scotland  
Kenny Liddell, Central Scotland  
Brian Marmion, Central Scotland  
William Rodriguez, East Scotland  
Hilde Taklo Knutzen, East Scotland  
Alexander Walker, Central Scotland  
Richard Poskitt, North West  
Simon Neville, Midland  
Laurence Fennemore, Surrey  
Daniel Weston, Essex  
Andrew Lewis, South West  
David Millar, South West

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Thomas Abbott-Stone, North West  
John Owen, Mid Anglia

#### CORPORATE MEMBERS

Victoria Willett, Northern  
Paul Sheather, East Anglia

## Malcolm designs our slogan

Our congratulations go to Malcolm Searle, of Bury St Edmunds Golf Club, who's winning slogan, 'On Course For Better Greenkeeping', will be gracing BIGGA car stickers in the coming months. Well done Malcolm, a Highlander Cargo Suit is on its way to you.

## Message of the Month Winner

Our congratulations go to December's winner, Severin Schmitz MG, an International member who's message was posted on November 17 under the 'Education and Training' section. Severin wins the last Gelert Rucksack.

## DECEMBER'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 Howard Mogridge, of Whitehall Golf Club.

# Course Feature



## More to Henley than Rowing

**Scott MacCallum visits Henley Golf Club and discovers there is more to the town than Boris and its world famous Regatta.**

Think of the Oxfordshire town of Henley and most people will immediately conjure up images of Redgrave and Pinsent; glasses of chilled Pimms and conservative hemlines.

The more politically in tune would perhaps think of the never-out-of-the-headlines, Boris Johnson, who is the local MP. I would certainly offer long odds on golf finding its way onto your Henley radar.

But Henley Golf Club has made significant strides over the last five years and anyone who does venture into the famous town with a bag of clubs rather than an oar should no longer feel out of place.

A James Braid design constructed in 1907, the course was initially conceived as an alternative summer pursuit for the town of Henley and Braid built it for the man arriving on a bike with a half set of clubs slung over his shoulder. It would of course be wrong to criticise one of golf's finest golfer/architects but that market has changed and the pressures on some of the country's senior golf courses became too much.

To meet the demands of all year round golf and the vast increase in membership – there were 400 members in the '70s with around half active



A view down the 18th.



The new look 3rd hole.

playing members while now there are over 700 with 80-90% of them regular golfers – a plan was put in place to bring the club and course up to modern day spec and standards without compromising the original Braid design.

Much has been achieved since then thanks to a trimmed down committee and a young vibrant greenkeeping team for whom no task is too big. Head Greenkeeper, Steve Shaw, and Deputy, Mitch Stewart, operate a very workable system whereby Steve, while still spending more than his fair share of the time out on the golf course, handles all the administration – planning, record keeping, policy writing and implementation - and Mitch takes charge of the day to day greenkeeping and construction work and assigning daily and weekly tasks to the seven strong team.

A decision was taken early on that construction work in the plan would be done in house and the team has worked hard to determine how long each job should take to complete, weather permitting, so much more accurate work programmes can be established and they have found that their productivity has increased markedly as a result.

Another benefit has been to highlight just how much work is involved in apparently minor jobs. For example an arrangement with the local cricket club to maintain their pitch in exchange for the use of their car park has been shown to absorb over 300 man hours per annum not to mention the cost of seed, feed and other materials.

“The beauty of it is that the greenkeeping team has taken ownership of the golf course which wasn’t the case five years ago. Now every time I tell them how good I think the course is looking they tell me that it’s not as good as they are going to get it. It is fantastic,” said Club President Michael Herriot.

His rueful comment that previously some of the greens could be described as being like carpets - not attached to the earth.

A quote from this year’s STRI report reinforces his belief that the club is now very much on the right lines.

“It is very pleasing to note that the general playing conditions at Henley are improving year on year. That is now well ameliorated and under control, root depth on virtually every green examined was greater than previous years and the bentgrass percentage is starting to increase.”

Michael was elected President five years ago and he has overseen the modernisation of Henley as a golf club. Drawing on experience as a top executive with a blue chip company, coupled with times spent on Henley’s committee he recommended that the club scrap the old 16 strong committee and introduce a slimmed down version of eight – four committee members plus the four officers of the club.

“It is run much more like a Board than a committee and through careful nomination we ensure that you get the right people with the right skills to look after the various sub committees. Then the Chairman can co-opt into his sub committee people who have specific skills. For example we have people who are involved with interior design on the House Committee,” explained Michael.

Henley Golf Club is a traditional out and back layout laid out over a relatively tight acreage with several roads close by and crossing the course and it was a “near miss” which proved to be the catalyst for change.

“That resulted in the Green Committee having to do a Health and Safety plan and we involved a member, Simon Barrington, who had worked for the PGA at one time.



The team with Mitch Stewart, extreme right, and Head Greenkeeper Steve Shaw, insert.



Before and after on the 6th taken two days apart.



“Simon had a great interest in golf course design and had done a lot of research into health and safety issues,” said Michael, who revealed that James Braid himself had struck a steam roller which had been trundling along a road at the side of the course not long after the course had opened.

Simon produced what was to become known as the Centenary Plan, designed to ensure that when the club reached its 100th birthday in 2007 the club had a course of which to be extremely proud.

“We presented the plan at the AGM four years ago and this was passed with the proviso that as far as the members were concerned they would approve anything that was done on the golf course and that we would get professional advice for everything that we chose to do,” explained Michael, among whose more ingenious plans for the course was the introduction of plastic birds of prey to some of the trees to scare off the noisier birds.

“What we put in place was exactly the same as how my business life had been. If I don’t know how to do it myself I’m going to get someone else to tell me how we should and then we are going to do it that way without deviation. If it then doesn’t work we have some come back to the



Hard work is common place at Henley.

professional to whom we'd paid money."

Another of the key figures in the development of the club has been Dennis Oliver, the current Chairman of Green and another retired executive with a lot of business expertise.

"The budget has increased. We've invested over £400,000 on a new irrigation system for a start and the subs have gone up quite significantly as a result. But our subs were below the average by quite a bit and we'd been getting our golf on the cheap. If we wanted to make Henley one of the best clubs in the area within its class we were going to have to invest," said Dennis.

"Running in parallel with the health and safety issue which drove the centenary plan was a clear recognition that the market was changing. The number of golf clubs in this area has probably doubled in recent years but I doubt whether the number of people wanting to pay golf has doubled so it has turned from being a suppliers' market 10 years ago to a buyers' market today.

"Waiting lists are shrinking or disappearing so we have got to supply a product to our customers/members/guests/visitors that they will come and enjoy. The investment in the course and the investment in the clubhouse is all designed to try to make Henley Golf Club your club of choice if you like," said Dennis.

"I come from a business background and I have to be a little careful as this is a members' club and not strictly a business but I have to see it through a business person's eyes. All we are doing is responding to the market place and the market place is demanding more. Henley was never built to be played in winter so it didn't matter if the greens flooded or it became boggy. Now we have to be open 365 days a year and the course has to look immaculate. People's knowledge and expectations have increased and we have to respond to that. An example of this is the fact that greens are now hand cut."

The main health and safety issues involved the roads surrounding and crossing the course and principally the 3rd, 10th and 18th holes and the goal was to turn the fairways away from the road and have play directed into the golf course rather than down the side of the road.

The club is particularly proud of the 3rd, a par-5, which had involved a tee shot directly over a road and which often offered a tempting second shot to the green which invariably ended in anguished shouts of "Fore" and a prayer that no vehicle would be in the direct line of fire.

The tee has been brought to the other side of the road, although the club hopes to retain the back tee for Medals with a strict procedure for play involving player look-outs, with a new bunkering system which ensures the hole becomes a genuine three shotter with no value to taking on the green in two. So pleased are the club with the finished result, which was all accomplished through the endeavours of the in-house team, that they have put the project forward for a "Golf World Greenkeeping Achievement Award".

The work on other holes have included the re-shaping of fairways and the introducing of humps and trees to try to prevent balls flying from one

fairway to another, thus protecting people on the golf course.

The major construction work will be completed this year with tidying up work being carried out the following year so everything is as it should be by 2007 and the centenary celebrations.

The next phase is a tee audit as they are seen as a weakness, being too small and not offering sufficient rotation.

One of the recent highlights at the club was a Goldsmith Charity Day just after The Open Championship at Royal Troon which attracted among others Paul Lawrie, Barry Lane and the man who could quite easily have won that Open, Thomas Levett.

"I spoke to Thomas at The Open and arranged to caddy for him at Henley," said Mitch as he showed photographs of the day.

"He was a great guy and made time for everyone. He also had a putt for a course record on the final green which he didn't thank me for making him aware of," he laughed.

On the course, Mitch is responsible for ensuring the construction work is carried out and is keen wherever possible to use local labour and local materials. That way he ensures a good deal by missing out the middle man and that work remains in the local area.

He is also a little jealous of the younger members of the team who find themselves involved in high level work at an early stage in their careers.

"When we started for the first three years we raked bunkers, flymowed, trimmed and made tea," said Mitch, with another of the more experienced members of the team, Justin Robinson, in full agreement.

"The great thing about this place is the fact that they trust us to do what we are paid for. At the last Greens Committee a new member asked what the policy was on closing the course. He was told that it was in the policy document which states that it is down to the green staff to decide. That is just as it should be," said Mitch, who, as well as Steve, has been a regular on Frank Newberry's Management training courses.

That has seen a big board introduced to the Mess Room upon which every job for the forthcoming week is listed alongside the person responsible for carrying it out.

"We have General Maintenance; Non Weekly Maintenance; Special Projects and Outstanding Tasks, with the latter two being fitted around the first two when time permits," said Mitch.

Golf may never rival rowing when it comes to thinking about Henley but such is the work being done at the golf club Henley does have a golf club to be proud of. Indeed Sir Steve Redgrave is an Honorary and Matthew Pinsent a full member of the club.

### Machinery Inventory

Amazone Multi Purpose Sweeper  
Charterhouse Vertidrain  
Coremaster 12 Multi Purpose Aerator  
Cushman Truckster  
Ford Ranger  
Hardi Tractor Mounted Sprayer  
Huxley Multi Depth Aerator  
Kubota 38HP Mini Tractor  
Kubota Front Loader  
Kubota Backhoe  
Marston Tipping Trailer  
Massey Ferguson 62HP Tractor  
Ransomes AR250  
Ransomes TM80  
Ransomes Fairway Slitter  
Toro GM3000D  
2 Toro RM3100s/w  
Toro RM6500  
Toro GM3250  
4 Toro GM100s  
Turfco Topdresser  
Turfmech Leaf Blower  
Woods Tractor Back Blade  
3 Allen 218SI Flymos  
Bosch Electric Drill  
Bosch Angle Grinder  
Bosch Electric Sander  
Draper Air Compressor  
Clarke Arc Welder  
Cooper Pegler Knapsack Sprayer  
Edge Pressure Washer  
Echo Hedge Cutter  
Hunter Relief Grinder  
Farmura Walk Along Sprayer  
Ryobi Electric Drill  
Scotts Had Fertiliser Spreader  
Sealey Lifting Bench  
4 Sthil Stimmers  
Sthil Hedge Cutter  
3 Sthil Blowers  
2 Sthil Chainsaws  
Truecraft Battery Charger  
Zenoah Bunker Edger



Construction work on the 6th green.



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 Head Greenkeeper  
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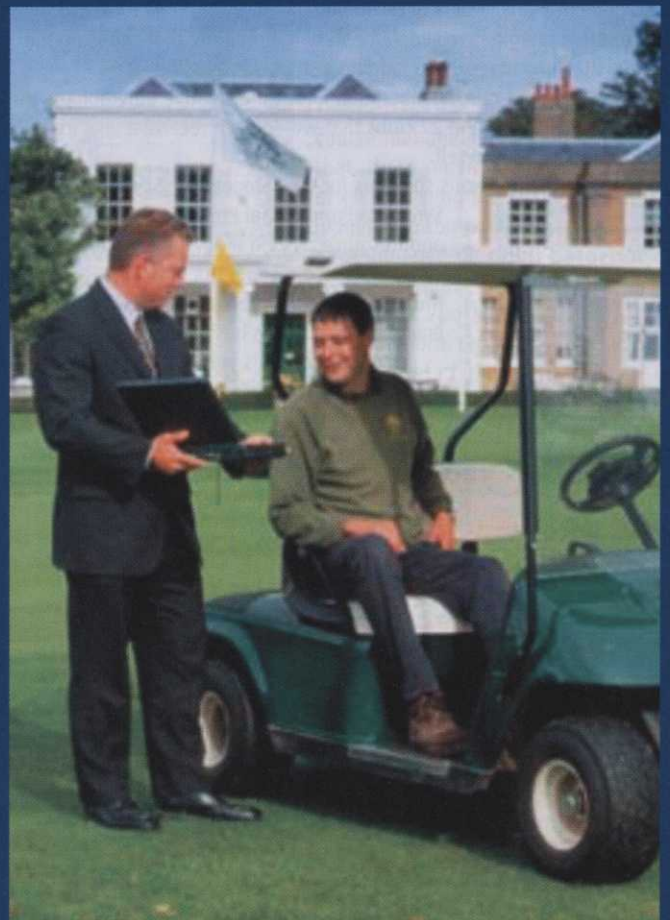
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# And the winner is...

Lee Penrose reveals the winners in the 2004 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition – which saw Minchinhampton Golf Club take the overall title.

Well, it's the December issue again and, true to form, the results of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition are now (just) in. I am writing this article on a Sunday morning on the day before the deadline for the December issue of Greenkeeper International.

This is not because we couldn't be bothered before, or even that we have been busy doing other things, it's simply that the judging and decision making for the 2004 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition has taken up so much discussion, debate and deliberation that the final results were not decided upon until late into Friday evening with minutes to spare before the results were given to Ken and Sami at BIGGA to announce to the world!

You can probably imagine then, that the competition this year has been the toughest yet. Bob Taylor and I carried out all of the judging, visiting golf clubs ranging from Reay Golf Club, in Caithness, (the most northerly golf club in mainland Britain) down through the length of the UK to Worthing Golf Club, in West Sussex, which lies 734 miles to the south!

Such was the quality of the initial entry forms this year, which included PowerPoint presentations, photographs, ecological and environmental management plans, letters of recommendation from Wildlife Groups and a host of other imaginative supplementary information, that choosing the allotted 20 clubs to receive a judging visit was impossible.

Therefore, after much deliberation and some creative timetabling, we managed to decide upon 27 clubs that would each receive a visit from either Bob Taylor or myself.

This year the generous sponsors for the competition, Scotts UK, Syngenta Professional Products and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), have allowed us to distribute the most prizes to date, thus ensuring that interest and motivation for environmental issues has been tremendous.

New prizes for this year include the 'Best use of recycled products' and a new position of 'Overall runner-up'. Ten prizes have been allocated in all and the results are listed below.

Sponsored by:



The level of dedication to maintaining all ecological habitats on the course combined with a progressive attitude toward environmental management gained Minchinhampton Golf club the coveted title of 2004 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition **Overall Winners**.

- The Overall winner was Minchinhampton Golf Club, who receive £2,000 and a Scott's Weather Master Station.
- The overall runner-up was Hankley Common Golf Club, who receive £500.
- The five regional winners, also receiving a £500 prize, were; Scotland: Brighthouse Bay Golf Club; Northern: Fulford Golf Club; Wales: Garnant Park Golf Club; Midland: Notts (Hollinwell) Golf Club; South-east: Thorpeness Golf Club.
- The £500 prize for the Best Newcomer went to Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club.
- Most Impressive Initiative went to Taunton & Pickeridge Golf Club.
- The Prize for Best use of Recycled Products was won by Bath Golf Club.

What are the judges looking for when assessing entrants to the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition?

The first consideration has to be the overall quality of the application submitted and in particular the detail of information provided.

Given the high numbers of entrants, a cut off point must be determined to give a manageable number of clubs to visit for further assessment.

The quantitative score sheet used by the judges to assess applications determines this score, which must be achieved to progress further.

This year saw the highest quality of applications to date with some clubs providing very eloquent dossiers covering each of the questions asked. Others, particularly those who have entered previously, tended to just resubmit the application form from the previous year with minimal information.

It should be noted however that any additional information previously included may actually still be held





by BIGGA. This does however create some difficulty because the judges must retain an unbiased stance, scoring the quality of the application submitted.

The application form itself contains a number of questions relating to the degree of commitment and awareness of the green staff and the golf club. Clearly the golf club must be supportive of the green staff if the projects are to receive long-term sustainability.

Other important topics relate to whether the golf course and the management being given has improved the quality of the wider landscape and would the golf course satisfy a critical conservationist looking for areas of negativity?

There are always likely to be areas or issues that could be improved but what is the club doing about them, are these issues recognised and are they being considered within the longer-term project?

The judges will look for gradual improvements to both habitats and species and these are scored over a range of 0-5.

Ecological training in particular is an important criteria; while many of the greenkeeping staff are well trained in pesticide use for example, relatively few have received specific training such as through the various BIGGA or STRI courses that are run annually. Also, few have received training to a specified level as directed through the GTC or other college scheme.

Communication is an area where golf clubs can score highly. This is an important area but again needs to be well embraced by the golf club as a whole if the green staff are to be allowed to manage outside the boundaries of the principal cutting and playing surfaces. Newsletters can be an effective way of informing the membership.



A number of clubs do include regular snippets on features of ecological interest such as the 'fly agaric mushroom, its toxic and other interesting properties' or 'How to age a hedgerow' – members do tend to find these small features of particular interest.

At many clubs newsletters are being phased out, being replaced by the club's internet website. As well as potentially reaching a much wider audience this approach will help reduce paper consumption.

The level of outreach and liaison with statutory/non-statutory organisations and the wider public is also an area of interest to the judges.

A good start here would be to develop the website to cover ecological and environmental issues so that when, for example, trees are being removed or areas of potential damage created, the general public, by logging on to the website, can appreciate why such work is taking place.

The waste and energy efficiency policies are increasingly being met with as much interest as the nature conservation policies.

Such is the quality of ecological course management being undertaken that these environmental issues are often becoming the deciding factors in judging the competition.

A number of clubs have been in communication with the local authorities, possibly in some cases becoming local recycling centres.

The level of waste produced by the golf industry is considerable and this clearly ranges from papers to packaging in the clubhouse through to tyres, batteries and oils in the maintenance complex and organic wastes collected during routine maintenance work on the golf course. Very few golf clubs have a totally committed waste programme but most are at least striving towards gradual improvement.

The efficient use of energy, although receiving specific interest from the judges, is at many clubs being thought about but rarely taken forward in any serious manner.

While some clubhouses have been designed with energy efficiency in mind, others are being gradually improved with energy efficiency being at the forefront of the design criteria.

Such measures are relatively easy to quantify simply by calculating the annual costs and building in the perceived savings following the cost of installation of any equipment necessary (motion sensors for example on

**On Course**  
Deep rough is maintained for the diversity of wild flowers and grasses, with scattered gorse and hawthorn. The rocky knolls are used by nesting Skylark.

**Landscape and Cultural History**  
Open grassland with gorse knolls, broad views of the sea with the site of Man 30 kilometres to the south, defines the landscape character.  
The drystone dykes and the remnant of Galloway dyke – a unique combination of low wall and Hawthorn hedge – were probably built by dykers from the time of Man 260 years ago. People have been in the area much longer, as the Bormess fort confirms. This promontory fort site, made up of a series of ramparts and ditches, is around 3000 years old.

**Wetlands and Ponds**  
At the heart of the course is the Reed Bed water treatment system by the first green. It is a breeding site for the Sedge Warbler, and rich insect habitat. Pond margins are feeding and bathing areas for Oystercatcher and other birds.

**Butterflies** such as the Northern Brown Argus feed on the yellow Rock Rose; the Wall sun, wings open, on bunkers and paths.

**Brown Hares** abound on the rough: sheltering, feeding and chaffing. Look out for leversets near the gorse knolls.

**Thanks to:** The Scottish Golf Environment Group and Scottish Natural Heritage for their support in the production of this information.

**Design and Art work by Brian Arnell Environment.**

**Brighouse Bay Golf Course**  
Nature, Landscape, History  
The Whole in One .....

Brighouse eco plan of course – This superb poster from Brighouse Bay Golf Club is a tremendous communication tool and also a good example of supplementary information included with the application.





The competition is increasingly taking into consideration environmental issues such as recycling, composting, energy efficiency and water management.

urinals or motion sensors on switches for lighting).

Possibly the first step for any golf club to consider would be to engage Envirowise ([www.envirowise.gov.uk](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk)) to undertake a full energy efficiency audit for the golf club. Energy audits are being undertaken free of charge and will provide a series of recommendations that could be progressed over time. This clearly would be given favour by the



judges and would score quite highly.

It is obviously unfortunate that the judges cannot visit and appreciate every golf club entering the competition (financial resources are limiting) but this should not deter individual clubs from continuing with the excellent work that is being undertaken.

Every year the level of entrants varies and, who knows, perhaps it may be possible for the judges to visit a number of different clubs next year.

The judges do strive to provide as much information to those clubs visited as can be practicably accommodated and this in itself is being seen by many clubs as sufficient reason to enter. Those clubs going on to receive prize money clearly see recognition that can be used to further progress the environmental programmes underway.

The judges do recognise that simply by the continuation of this successful competition, the whole of the golf industry is benefiting by the fact that golf clubs are being seen to be aware of environmental responsibilities.

This is well exemplified by the recognition and contributions provided through the statutory conservation organisations and through the generous sponsorship of environmental bodies such as WRAP.



■ An in-depth report on the work carried out at each of the winning clubs will appear in a forthcoming issue.



## Why you should enter next year

If you have never entered the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition before, there are many sound reasons why you should do and if you have entered before why you should keep entering.

Probably one of the most significant and important reasons is that, over the past 8 years or so since this competition was taken over and run through BIGGA, there has been a gradual acceptance throughout the general public that golf is a very positive land use, providing important habitat for much of our dwindling wildlife.

English Nature recently quoted that **'golf is good for wildlife and wildlife is good for golf'**.

Mr Tom Tew (South East Regional Manager for English Nature) at a recent EGU Masterclass stated that **'golf courses are good for wildlife because, and not despite, they are golf courses'**.

Such phrases represent a marked change by the statutory conservation organisations which in turn is spreading to the wider public.

This allows for more positive discussions to be held with local and county wildlife groups, local authorities and anyone taking an interest in our industry.

The above, I believe, has arisen primarily due to the passion and commitment of a few individuals working relentlessly to improve the environmental awareness of golf, the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition has been a major driving force of this wide ranging and broad revolution.



# Sunshine state beckons for BIGGA Delegation

The 10 BIGGA members who will be part of the 2005 BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard, will be jetting off to Orlando, Florida, to visit the first ever GCSAA & NGCOA Golf Industry Show early in the new year.

In previous years the delegates have visited the GCSAA Conference and Show, however 2005 will be the debut of the combined GCSAA & NGCOA – National Golf Course Owners Association – tradeshow, which will witness over 800 companies exhibiting in a 750,600 sq.ft arena.

Both the GCSAA Educational Conference and the NGCOA Solutions Summit will be held during the show, which runs between February 7 – 12.

The entire show provides the opportunity for hands-on access to golf course and facility management solutions for the professional members of the fine turf industry.

The 2004 show was hosted in San Diego, which was the 75<sup>th</sup> GCSAA tradeshow, and, as well as visiting the show itself, the 10 delegates spent their week attending educational seminars and lectures and touring esteemed golf courses, such as the Golf Club of California, and the Taylor Made and Adidas Headquarters.

"As the week came to an end it was clear that we all took different experiences from the tour.

"On a personal note one of the most memorable experiences for me came on the last day of the show when we attended a seminar focussing on how a golf course should be set up to host a major event," said Will Bowden, a 2004 BIGGA delegate.

All BIGGA members had the opportunity to enter into the selection process for the trip by completing the entry form attached to the August issue of Greenkeeper International.

Once this was done the entrants passed through a two stage selection route.

Firstly a written element, which asked questions of the entrants, BIGGA and what they believed they would gain out of the visit. The second part was an interview.

The 2005 BIGGA delegates are sure to enjoy similar great experiences as previous members have, during their week in the sunshine state.

"This is an excellent opportunity for the 10 delegates. The tradeshow provides an insight into the developments in the industry and foresight into what will be coming into UK greenkeeping in the near future," stated John Pemberton, BIGGA Chief Executive.

"We thank Bernhard & Co for their generous support with this event, which the delegates will find very helpful in the progression of their education and careers."

**Darren Anderson**  
Head Greenkeeper  
Abergele Golf Club  
Age: 28



**Steven Beverly**  
First Assistant  
Cleethorpes Golf Club  
Age: 25



**Terry Crawford**  
Course Manager  
Clandeboye Golf Club  
Age: 41



**Mike Gash**  
Deputy Course Manager  
Moseley Golf Club  
Age: 39



**Graeme MacDonald**  
Head Greenkeeper  
Newark Golf Club  
Age: 46



**Chris Maynard**  
Greenkeeper  
The London Golf Club  
Age: 24



**Robert Needham**  
Head Greenkeeper  
Hickleton Golf Club  
Age: 50



**Tim Rockey**  
Greenkeeper  
Parkstone Golf Club  
Age: 48



**Chris Sealey**  
Course Manager  
Chippenham Golf Club  
Age: 49



**Denis Tweddell**  
Deputy Head Greenkeeper  
Turnberry Hotel & Golf Club  
Age: 37



The 2004 BIGGA Delegates during one of their numerous golf course tours.

# Machinery Rental – Precise Financing for the Latest Machinery

Purchase and ownership are very 'British' concepts. On an individual basis, most Britons aspire to own the house in which they live, whereas in other European countries the majority of properties are rented.

It's much the same in business, particularly among smaller organisations in the UK, where outright purchase is the preferred route, even if this means locking up valuable short-term sources of funds in assets with a longer term payback.

Our European neighbours take a different attitude towards funding assets like machinery and equipment. They prefer to match the source of funds and the payback to the productive life of the asset in the business, simply because it takes pressure off cash flow and makes more sense to them to match payment to productivity.

Ask yourself the question: Does a machine work any harder because you pay cash for it on day one? The obvious answer is 'No'.

So why put valuable resources like cash or the overdraft under pressure by diverting them from the short-term roles to which they are best suited. For example, paying wages, securing additional discounts for prompt payment of fuel or fertiliser bills, etc.

## Think cost not price

Maybe one reason is cost, or rather the 'perceived' cost, of borrowing – backed by a faulty assumption that cash is a free resource while a finance agreement attracts interest.

Unfortunately, confusion often exists between the concepts of price and cost.

Take any machine, you know the price on the day you buy it, but you only know what it actually cost on the day you sell it, after you take into account factors like reliability and maintenance, fuel, the sale value and, most important, how well it did the job you bought it for.

That's why it pays to consider all the financing options, when considering new investment, to ensure you choose the one with the best balance of cost and performance.

In every organisation there are competing calls for capital. Even a golf club has to face up to decisions like should we refurbish the locker rooms this year or replace a particular machine.

Inevitably, if the members provide the main source of funds, either the house or the course is likely to be disappointed and important investment deferred.

It's no different in big business. Capital is still rationed although techniques exist to determine the cost and to allocate capital to the projects that offer the best return and also satisfy the priorities of the company.

To cut across this problem of capital rationing, many leading companies that rely on the latest technology and equipment to retain their competitive edge now choose to rent rather than buy.

## Rental - designed for use without ownership

Rental, as the name implies, is about use of the latest machinery, not ownership.

**'At the end of the rental period the machine is usually returned to the supplier and the hirer enters into another agreement for a new machine to the latest specification'**



That's why the structure and terms of an operating lease differ significantly from conventional forms of finance even though it offers a number of similar benefits plus some that are unique (see table opposite).

Because rentals are based on use, they are calculated on an amount that excludes an estimated disposal value for the machine.

For example, if it is reasonable to expect that after 36 months a machine will realise 30 per cent of its original price, this is taken into account in calculating the rentals.

The result is usually a monthly rental that is lower than for a comparable purchase agreement, which is good for cash flow.

## Risk-free budgeting

Under a rental agreement, the hirer has no interest in the proceeds of sale, and bears none of the risks if the machine fails to make the estimated sale price.

Instead, the business has full use of the machine, exactly as if it owned it, at a guaranteed monthly rental fixed over the chosen period. This assists accurate budgeting.

## Flexible contract options

At the end of the rental period the machine is usually returned to the supplier, normally the agent of the finance company, and the hirer enters into another agreement for a new machine to the latest specification – although the agreement can provide for an extension of the rental period (at a continuing rental) should the hirer wish to retain the original machine.

This means the business or organisation ensures that its machinery fleet is kept constantly up to date and has the capacity to do the job required.

The hirer does have specific obligations under a rental agreement. These include insurance against accidental damage or damage caused as a result of negligence or abuse.

In addition, most agreements contain a set of return conditions. These define the minimum conditions to which the machine must conform when it is returned.

Items that are broken or damaged – for example, cracked lenses on lights – must be replaced and all major systems must function as originally supplied. Although allowance is made for fair wear and tear. Maximum hours worked under the agreement may also be included.

## Inclusive service and maintenance

All agreements will require the machine to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations at the correct intervals.

However, the full cost of service and maintenance can be built into the rentals.

This offers a number of

Colin Theedom examines the role of rental as an alternative form of machinery financing worth considering for clubs and businesses.

**TORO** Count on it.

benefits not normally found in the purchase package.

For example, a single monthly rental that covers hire, service and maintenance is not only convenient, but assures extremely accurate budgeting without the risk of additional maintenance costs resulting from unexpected breakdowns.

#### Low initial cash outlay

Rental is designed for operators that want to keep their machinery up to date, so agreements are normally over a shorter period, say two or three years.

Unlike conventional hire purchase agreements, there is not always a requirement for a deposit to be paid at the start of a rental agreement.

Instead, the first rental is paid when the agreement is signed and the new machine delivered. This minimises the initial cash outlay, which is good for cash flow.

#### VAT and tax allowances

A further feature of rental is the way in which VAT is treated. Under any form of purchase – cash or hire purchase – VAT is normally paid at the outset.

Because rental is a hire agreement, the VAT is spread and paid on each rental as it falls due.

Where an organisation is able to reclaim in full the VAT it pays, the cash flow benefit may only be marginal. But for a golf club that cannot reclaim all its VAT, the benefit could be significant.

All the rentals paid by the hirer are normally fully allowable against income as a business expense, just like repairs, fuel and wages.

This means the tax liability can be reduced. Currently, assets hired under a rental agreement are not required to appear in the balance sheets of UK companies and, for some, this offers potential to improve financial ratios.

Nevertheless, every business or organisation considering rental or any other form of financing should always check and confirm all issues regarding taxation, VAT and accounting treatment with its professional advisers.

**For more information about rental as an alternative form of machinery financing for your club, contact Colin Theedom at TECH5 on 08702 404559.**

## THE BENEFITS OF RENTAL

### FEATURES

1. Choice of contract period and hours.
2. Contract rentals, including service and maintenance, are fixed in advance.
3. Low initial cash outlay.
4. Off balance sheet finance.
5. Rentals allowable against tax as a business expense.
6. Alternative line of finance designed specifically for use of the latest machinery and equipment.

### BENEFITS

1. Can be easily matched to machinery replacement programmes, contract operations and changes in capacity.
2. Provides the opportunity to budget extremely accurately for front-line machinery operations and to plan cash flow accurately and confidently without concerns about unexpected maintenance bills.
3. No need for large deposits, and VAT paid only on rentals as they fall due, protects cash flow.
4. Frees capital and offers potential for companies to improve financial ratios.
5. Reduces tax liability, although all issues regarding taxation, VAT and accounting treatment should be confirmed with a professional adviser.
6. Frees capital that can be invested in other projects. Also leaves existing lines of credit, particularly the bank overdraft, unchanged.

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## Hurry to Harrogate!

**Yes, it's that time again folks.**

You've selected your Workshop and Seminar sessions; you've identified whose stands you're going to target; you've emailed or texted the old friends you're going to meet up with; you've sent your blazer to the dry cleaners; you've got the suitcase down from the loft and you're ready.

**Harrogate here you come.**

If the adrenalin starts pumping at the thought of

Harrogate as soon as the Christmas tree has shed its last needle I can reassure you that you are not alone.

Every year the lure of BTME & ClubHouse becomes stronger and as soon as you arrive you appreciate why you were becoming so excited at the prospecting of going in the first place.

It is a special, special occasion and you know you can't wait.



# Talking Heads

We asked five people who will be attending BTME and Clubhouse the following questions:

**Q1: What is it for you about Harrogate that makes it so special?**

**Q2: What do you do during the course of your visit to BTME & Clubhouse?**

**Q3: What is your abiding/favourite memory of a previous Harrogate you have been to?**

**Q4: What is the biggest change you have seen occur during the years you have been visiting Harrogate?**

**Q5: Are there any improvements you would like to see at BTME & Clubhouse?**

Here are their answers:

## Gordon Child – Past BIGGA Chairman

Q1: It's a great place to learn, not just by attending the education seminars but by meeting other greenkeepers and discussing issues with them. BTME is a great place to meet old friends and I always thoroughly enjoy it.

Q2: My wife and I walk around all the stands and meet with many old friends. We find you need more than one day to do it all, as we are always bumping into people and chatting. I also enjoy the many social events and attend the Past Chairman's dinner.

Q3: The Exhibition is special every year, but I have to say that being Chairman at it makes it even better. I am fortunate to have had that honour and that has to be my favourite time.

Q4: BTME combining with Clubhouse is the biggest and most important change I have seen. This now brings all golf club officials into the Exhibition and it allows them to meet more greenkeepers and actually see and understand better what we do, that can only be a positive thing for us all.

Q5: My wife, Marion Child, was the first lady member of BIGGA, and maybe there could be an event put on just for female members and visitors. This would attract more partners of greenkeepers to attend and give them more to do during the visit.



## Iain Barr - Head Greenkeeper, Largs GC

Q1: Harrogate is a great place to reunite and meet fellow comrades and has a wonderful social scene. Having the trade and education side all under one roof makes the whole experience an excellent one. Harrogate really does have a very unique and special atmosphere.

Q2: I take advantage of the subsidised Scottish package and come down on the coach. During my visit I take the opportunity to have a good look around the entire show and try to get to as many stands as possible. I look to see what will be of benefit to both my club and me. I also attended some of the education workshops, which I really enjoy and find every helpful.



Q3: I have had so many great experiences from my visits that it is impossible for me to single out just one favourite memory. To me every Harrogate I have been to is special.

Q4: I think the fact that the entire exhibition has just got bigger and bigger every year. There are more people attending, more companies with stands and more education seminars, which means there is more on offer and more variety for us all. The whole thing just grows and grows.

Q5: I can't think of any major changes that I would like to see. The show is just top quality as it is. From a personal point of view I will not be able to attend the conference now it has been moved away from Harrogate, so that's maybe one thing.



## David Jenkins – David Jenkins Turfcare Equipment Ltd.

Q1: The focus of the exhibition. It is for golf, greenkeeping and greenkeepers. We in the trade know that we are going to see and deal with the people who really matter.

Q2: On the stand we work to see as many people as we can. We look to cement old friendships and existing customer relationships while also meeting new people. We look to help them in any way possible, for example arranging for them to trial certain products.

Q3: For me it has always been meeting up with old friends and also meeting new people. The special thing about our industry is that you have so many long lasting friendships and I have always enjoyed seeing so many familiar faces.

Q4: Growth. I remember when the exhibition was only held in what is now Hall A, now it covers the entire centre. The extent of BTME now is unrecognisable to what it used to be. It grows year on year.

Q5: Do you know I can't think of anything at all. It is always tough getting the stand in and out of the Exhibition, as everyone is doing that at the same time, but I really don't think anything needs changing to BTME itself.



## Norbert Lischka MG – Master Greenkeeper, Hamburg Falkenstein GC

Q1: It is the biggest show for greenkeeping in Europe and gives me an overview of what is new and what will happen in the near future. As well I can meet many greenkeepers.

Q2: It is great to meet other greenkeepers and have a good chat with them. I have friends in England and combine the show with a visit on their golf courses.

Q3: When I meet somebody, whom I haven't seen for a long time, and never thought I'd meet in Harrogate.

Q4: That BTME goes only until Thursday, and not anymore until Friday.

Q5: Temperatures in the halls could be lower.



## Mike Coleman – BTME & Clubhouse Floor Manager & Stand Builder

Q1: It is a total event. It's not just focused on one thing such as the trade or education, it is the whole package, and that makes it great.

Q2: I work as the site manager for BIGGA during the Exhibition. So it is up to me to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Q3: I have no one favourite memory. Harrogate is a great meeting place, and I enjoy the opportunity to meet with fellow professionals and discuss various issues.

Q4: I've been involved since the start of Harrogate and I can remember when we finally got carpeted areas and shell scheme, that made a big difference.

Q5: No changes needed, just continue the progression that the event is making without letting complacently creep in.



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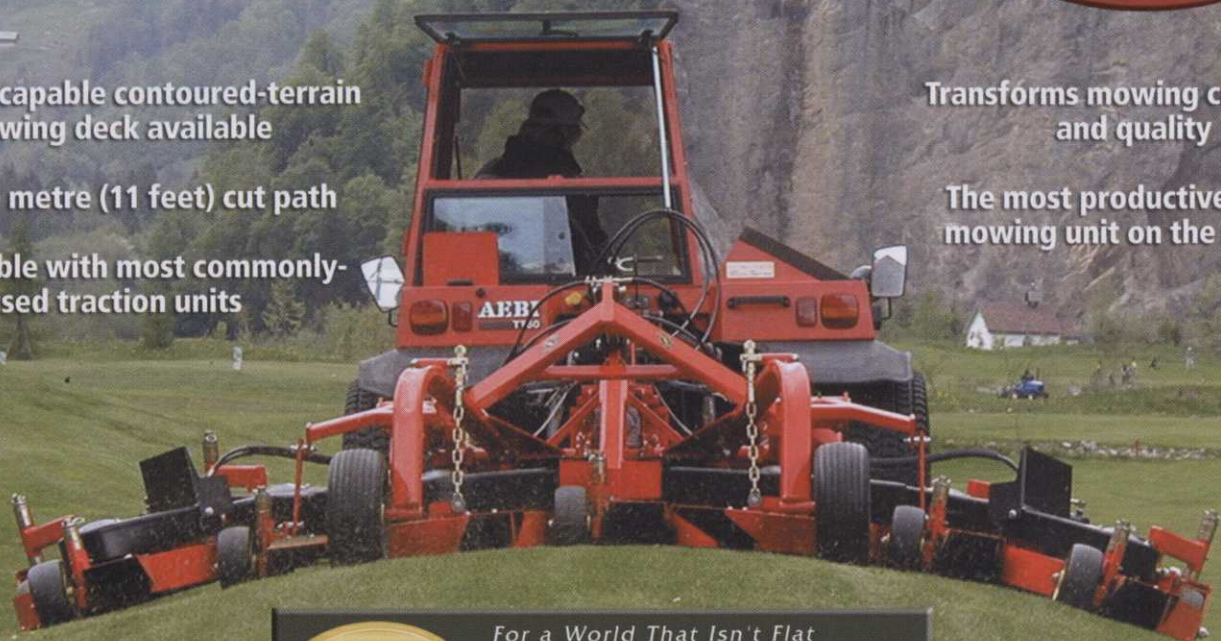
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## BTME & ClubHouse Seminar Programme, Hall D, Harrogate International Centre

This year's extended 'Back to Basics' seminar programme contains a wide range of quality speakers with topics for all golf managers, greenkeepers, club officials and students. All seminars will be presented in the Seminar Auditorium, in Hall D of Harrogate International Centre. Entry to the Seminars will be via the escalator from Hall Q.

### TUESDAY 18 JANUARY

#### Seminar Session One

GolfGIS - "For Better Golf Course Management"  
Jan Kemi, Managing Director, and Ian Phythian,  
Research Consultant, ProGIS

#### Seminar Session Two - Free

Integrating Old With New  
Jim Nix, Superintendent, Abercrombie Country  
Club, Canada

#### Seminar Session Three

Join the Professionals - Join the National Register of Sprayer Operators  
Tamarind Davidson, Assistant Technical Officer, NPTC

#### Seminar Session Four

The Leadership and Motivation of People  
Dennis Beard, Business and Management Consultant

#### ClubHouse Seminars

Diversification (Golf Leisure & Beauty, Conference, etc)  
Gavin Brown, Managing Director, Witney Lakes Resort



Local Authority Partnerships with the Private Sector  
Eva Reade, Brookfield Golf Club

Retro Fitting 'Green' Equipment – Save Money and the Environment  
Cath Hassell, Construction Resources

The Planning System and Golf Facilities – Case Studies from the Last 12  
Months

Charles Mador, Charles Mador Chartered Architects

Remodelling  
of Existing  
Club  
Building  
Interiors  
Tim  
Williams,  
Partner,  
George  
Interiors

### WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY

#### Presentation of BIGGA Awards and Keynote Speaker

Hosted by Ken Richardson, BA, MCIPD, BIGGA Education and Training  
Manager.

Chairman's Address and Presentation of BIGGA Awards

Keynote Speaker - Lesley Everett

#### Seminar Session Five

Over the Edge – Has Course Conditioning Gone  
Too Far?

Jon Scott, Tour Director of Agronomy, PGA Tour

#### Seminar Session Six - Free

The Use Of Recycled Materials In Golfing  
Applications

Louise Hollingworth, Organics Technical  
Manager, Waste and Resources Action  
Programme (WRAP)

#### Seminar Session Seven

Energy Conservation in Golf Facilities

Jonathan Smith, Project Manager, Scottish Golf Environment Group

#### Seminar Session Eight

The New Groundwater Regulations and their Impact on Golf Courses

Tim Earley, Managing Director, Waste2Water Europe Ltd

#### BIGGA Annual General Meeting - 5.15pm

Hall D, Harrogate International Centre

### THURSDAY 22 JANUARY

#### Seminar Session Nine

The Road to Aphrodite Hills - A Case Study of Working Abroad

Peter

Bradburn,

Course

Manager,

Aphrodite

Hills Resort,

Cyprus

#### Seminar

Session Ten

Why Healthy

Soil is

Essential for Excellent Sports Turf

Martin Ward, Managing Director, Symbio



*John Greasley*

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## Lesley Everett, Keynote Speaker

Lesley Everett, principal consultant and Managing Director of LE Consultants Ltd., is recognised as the UK's leading Personal Branding Consultant, a professional conference and keynote speaker, high impact executive coach and author.

Lesley works with business professionals to identify, develop and unleash personal and corporate brand values and then coach and train them to use these values to create a lasting and powerful impact in business.

She has appeared on numerous television programmes, including GMTV, BBC News 24, Sky News, CNBC, Bloomberg and ITV's Trisha, and has been interviewed by various Radio stations, including BBC Radio 5 Live, BBC Radio 4 and LBC.

Lesley also writes for many specialist business publications, such as Customer First, Training Journal, Sales & Marketing Professional, POINT (Institute of Leadership & Management) and Smart PA.

■ Entry to the BIGGA Awards and the Keynote speech is free of charge to all BTME & Clubhouse delegates.

### Seminar Session Eleven

Construction Materials for Golf Greens  
Ann Murray, Laboratory Manager,  
European Turfgrass Laboratories

Seminar Session Twelve - Free  
Current Trends in Fertiliser, Pesticide  
and Water Usage on Australian Golf  
Courses

Andrew Peart, Turfgrass Agronomist,  
Australian Golf Course Superintendents  
Association

### Master Greenkeeper Certificate Tutorial - Free

Tuesday 18 January, Hall D - Restaurant

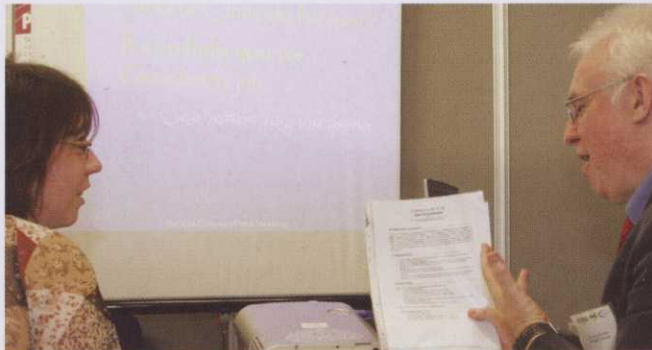
Discover how you can become one of  
tomorrow's Master Greenkeepers at this  
tutorial presented by today's Master  
Greenkeepers who will be guiding you  
through the three stages of  
qualification.

### Careers Fair - Free

Supported By The TORO Company  
Tuesday 18, Wednesday 19 and Thursday  
20 January 2005  
Hall Q, Harrogate International Centre

Discover the secrets of finding your next  
job at the Careers Fair located in Hall Q  
that includes presentations on how to  
produce your CV, write letters of

application and how to negotiate your terms and conditions of service. The "Job Wall" will provide visitors with an extended range of opportunities in the industry.

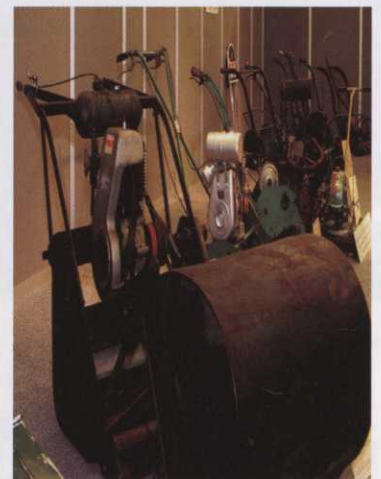


### Exhibition Banquet - Majestic Hotel

The finale of Harrogate Week is the

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good food  
and cabaret  
entertainment  
featuring  
comedian Tom  
O'Connor

followed by a  
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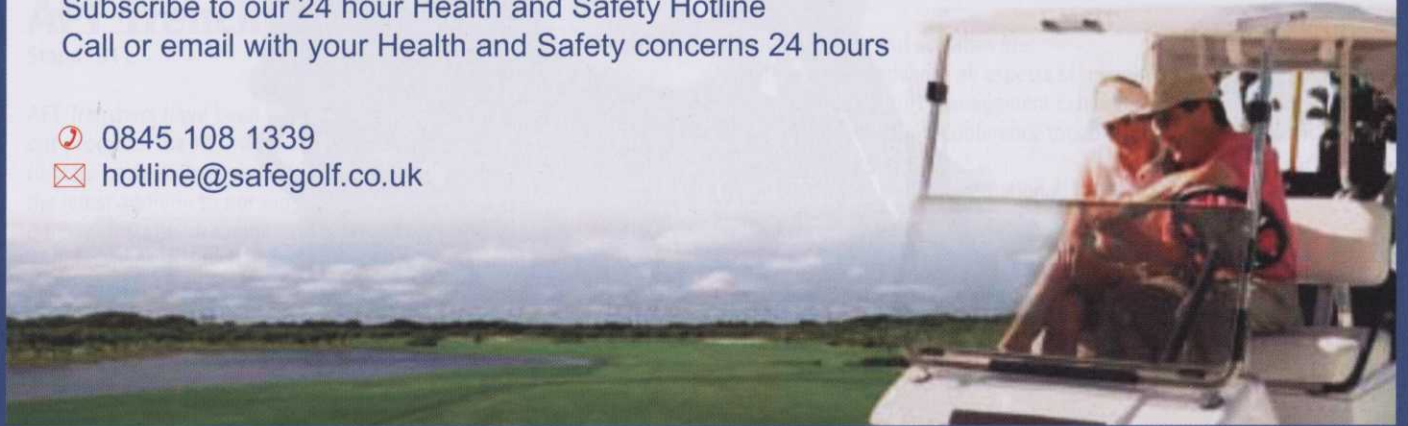
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11



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## Advanta Seeds

Stand: C3

Advanta Seeds will be presenting their two amenity ranges - the premium Advanta MM's, used at many leading sports venues, and the Designer range, which offers quality with competitive pricing, and is ideal for local authority customers. Many Greenkeepers use MM mixtures because of HeadStart, a treatment applied to all Advanta's amenity grass seed. By boosting germination, it helps to repair and improve playing surfaces, even when seeding in less than ideal conditions. New at BTME there will be a complete golf greens renovation guide available for all greenkeepers to collect. We also have tees and fairways guides. We look forward to seeing you on the Advanta Stand for more information. Get Ahead, Get HeadStart.

## AFT Trenchers

Stand: B11

AFT Trenchers have been manufacturing trenchers for nearly 40 years, our products The AFT 45 and the Whizzwheels are all well known with turfcare professionals around the world. And we are proud to introduce the latest addition to our range of trenchers the AFT Sandbander, which quickly installs drainage slits, 25mm wide and to a depth of 250mm, filling them at the same time with consolidated sand. Even moist sand is not a problem for the AFT Sandbander. Come and see us at stand number B11.

## AGCO (Massey Ferguson)

Stand: M11

Massey Ferguson has a comprehensive range of grounds care equipment ranging from high quality medium/high specification cab tractors to a wide range of petrol and diesel ride-on mowers designed to meet the needs of a variety of customers. An ideal higher horsepower range of tractors is the MF 2400 Series from 33 - 82 hp, which are ideal for golf course use on grass tyres. Lower down the horsepower range are the MF 1200 compact tractors 16.5 to 40 hp and the two new MF 1500 compact tractor models, 33 and 40 hp. The compact tractors offer maximum operating efficiency, comfort and economy for year-round work in grounds care.

## Barenbrug UK Ltd

Stand: A20

At BTME 2005, Barenbrug is unveiling two outstanding new cultivars designed to achieve the best performance on fine turf. Barlady has superb fineness of leaf and excellent tolerance to close mowing. It is perfectly suited for a wide variety of applications, from very fine to heavy wear. BarKing is a browntop bent with superb winter colour and wear tolerance for golf greens.

The company is launching its new 2005 catalogue at the show. The guide to the Bar range of professional mixtures also includes advice on applications and recommended sowing rates and depths.

## Bayer Environmental Science

Stand: C44

Four Bayer Environmental Science launches in 2005 Bayer Environmental Science, stand number C44, will have on display their industry leading turf fungicide, Chipco Green, now the only contact turf fungicide on the market that, unlike any Chlorothalonil

based brands, has approval for application via Knapsack sprayers. BTME will be the first trade show in the UK to platform a new selective herbicide, Nocweed, designed for managed amenity turf. The product's unique formulation means that it can even be used on very young turf. As those involved in turf management often also have responsibility for weed control on service areas such as pathways, car parks and around storage and utility areas, a new total herbicide being launched at BTME will be of considerable interest. BTME 2005 will see the introduction by Bayer Environmental Science of a new total herbicide, the first in the Amenity market for a number of years, for soft and gravel surf.

## BIGGA

Stand: Q123

BIGGA was formed as a professional organisation in 1987, being an amalgamation of three similar volunteer-led national associations. It now has over 7000 members, organised into five regions and 27 sections.

Its main objects and activities are:

To promote and advance all aspects of greenkeeping.

To run the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) and ClubHouse, the National Education Conference together with other conferences and courses for members.

To publish Greenkeeper International, BIGGA's monthly magazine, to all its members.

To promote the education and training of Greenkeepers.

To promote the welfare of Greenkeepers through membership benefits and professional support.

## ByWater Services Ltd – Wash Water Recovery

Stand: Q22

Manufacturers of the Oasis range of waste water treatment plant. Specialists in closed loop wash water recycling. Systems including the amazing Enzymatic and ad hoc systems to suit individual site requirements. Turnkey solutions available.

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Email: [sales@bywaterservices.co.uk](mailto:sales@bywaterservices.co.uk)

## Careers Fair supported by Toro

Stand: Q124 & Q125

Your professional development is in your hands.

Visit this CAREERS FAIR and discover the secrets of finding your next job. Free expert advice on how to write your CV, letters of application and negotiating terms and conditions of service.

Book a confidential consultation by calling at the BIGGA stand in Hall Q. What does the future hold for you? Visit the "Job Shop" and explore the wide range of opportunities in the industry.

## Greenkeeper International

Greenkeeper International has long been regarded as the market leading publication and a must read magazine for everyone wishing to keep up to date with developments within the turf industry.

Pure editorial covering in depth interviews with Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers at courses around the UK and beyond; technical articles from some of the foremost authorities in their fields, information



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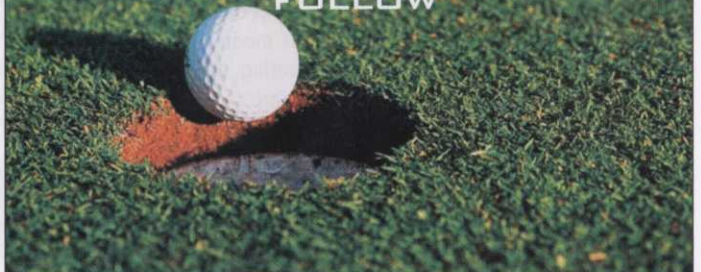
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on new developments, BIGGA and member information and news, together with some of the finest photography available all combine to make Greenkeeper International the definitive publication. - Accept no imitation.

## **BIGGA F1 Racing Simulator sponsored by Ransomes**

Stand: Q61

Visit the Ransomes Stand in Hall A for your Driving Experience Entry Pass.

Sit behind the wheel of the genuine F1 cockpit and wait for the adrenaline to start pumping as the lights turn Green!

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## **Eagle Promotions**

Stand: A19

Eagle will be a familiar name to many visitors of the BTME exhibition. Equally renowned for scorecards and yardage guides, Eagle is the leading specialist in golf club signage for every kind of course and requirement: from the entrance, directions, information on the first tee, course maps, as well as the details on the tee at each hole.

The company provides a complete package: from surveying and advising on the precise needs around the course and clubhouse, through course measurement and yardage certification, to a comprehensive range of signage designs using only the best materials from sustainable sources.

## **Garfitts International**

Stand: M26

Garfitts International Ltd will be present again on stand M26 and sales staff will be present to great customers new and old. The product range continues to expand and offers a greater choice to greenkeepers as a one-stop call for all their needs. Maintenance is becoming a greater part of the greenkeepers responsibilities and this can only be made easier and more cost effective by purchasing good quality products cost effectively. A visit to the stand will prove a worthwhile use of your time and a warm welcome awaits you

## **Hayter**

Stand: C23 & C41

Hayter Limited presents a comprehensive range of commercial turf care machinery, suitable for both golf and municipal applications. Among the machines on show are the new restyled FM524 Fairway Mower, the R324T turbo powered Rotary Mower and the MT313 Tees & Surrounds Mower.

Designed for high output and easy maintenance the products shown will be of particular interest to those responsible for the maintenance of fine turf. From ride on fairway mowers to pedestrian rotaries Hayter has a machine for all areas of the course.

## **Haztek International**

Stand: Q120

Haztek International, Golf Club Health and Safety Specialists, recognise the need for club secretaries and their employees to have easy and accessible health and safety systems in place. We can assist clubs in carrying out the following:

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With a Haztek International Maintenance Plan. We will keep the club regularly updated with legislation changes and carry out an annual audit of the club

This year we are introducing our 24-hour Health and Safety Helpline allowing all golf personnel to call with any Health and Safety concerns or questions at any time.

## **ING Lease**

Stand: A2

ING Lease is the leading provider of asset finance to the turf care market.

ING Lease provides flexible finance solutions for all your business needs including tractors, mowers, cars, commercial vehicles, inputs, office equipment, golf buggies and other specialist turfcare machinery.

ING Lease has a team of field based finance professionals who have an in depth understanding of the financial demands of all areas of the turfcare market. In addition ING have recently developed a state of the art on-line leasing facility.

Please visit us on stand A2 or call our Sales Desk on 01932 359290 to find out more.

## **Lastec**

Stand: C40

Lastec UK (Stand C40) are showing a comprehensive selection of the Articulator range of patented rotary mowers 'for a world that isn't flat'. The line-up includes the best selling 721XR, 621ER and 325EF rear and front mount models with cutting widths of 11' (3.35m), 10'6" (3.2m) and 6' (1.83m) respectively.

The 3696 ride-on Articulator has a cutting width of 8' (2.44m) and cuts an area of 6.79 acres (2.75 hectares) per hour. Latest addition to the range is the 3372, a completely new lightweight line of zero turn radius ride-on articulating rotary mowers. Priced substantially below any comparable machine on the UK or European market, it retains all the traditional Articulator qualities of superior cut, mobility, productivity and ease of servicing and maintenance.

## **Mox UK Ltd**

Stand: M13

Looking to replace some or all of your ageing turf maintenance machinery but the figures don't add up? MOX will help you to acquire your choice of machinery through a competitive finance deal put together especially for you.

Buying through MOX and spreading the cost over the life of the machine enables your staff to operate modern, high performance and reliable machinery. The machinery that every course must have to maintain the standards golfers expect. Please visit the MOX stand and find out how MOX can help you.

## Ransomes Jacobsen

Stand: A23

This year's stand features new products that have been engineered to provide turf professionals with machines that really perform. From Jacobsen, there's the new **AR-3** and the **TR-3** tees and surrounds mowers. Both machines use the same chassis, with the AR-3 featuring 69cm (27") rotary mulching decks which can be used in either mulching or rear discharge mode by simply moving a deflector. The TR-3 has the proven Tri-King cylinders. The award winning **Ransomes Spider** slope mower will also be on stand. Features include 4-wheel drive and steer; 50 metres range; 500cc Kawasaki petrol engine and cutting width of 80cm.

## Supaturf Products Ltd

Stand: A27

### SUPATURF TO SHOW THE NEW REVOLUTIONARY WATER MANAGEMENT PRODUCT AT BTME 2005

Once again Supaturf have come up with a major new product which will be displayed on the Supaturf stand at BTME 2005. In association with Aquatrols Corporation of America, Supaturf will unveil the first PATENT PENDING technology in the water management product field. From Aquatrols, the inventors and the world leaders, five years of research and development has culminated in the latest technologically advanced product for use on turf areas to provide unsurpassed water management control. For those involved in the maintenance of uniform high quality turf in times of increased environmental pressure to reduce inputs and water usage, this new product should not be missed! Come and see us at the Supaturf stand and see for yourself!

## The Green Approach

Stand: B19

The Green Approach sells and installs All Weather Golf Tees and Greens, which are installed in over 3500 locations worldwide. The All Weather Tee System incorporates a unique nylon mesh at its base, retaining the special infills much better than conventional synthetic turf products. On the course, it is an excellent solution both for natural tees that are difficult to maintain and winter tees. At practice facilities, it is ideal for teeing or chipping areas. The All Weather Green System provides an outstanding putting surface, with excellent shot holding capabilities. Greens are installed in golf courses / ranges, schools, leisure / hospitality sites and private homes / gardens and require very little maintenance. An All Weather Pathway / Cartway system is also available.

## Toro Commercial Products

Stand: M12 & M5

Toro is launching the MultiPro 5700-D, a dedicated, diesel-powered sprayer which is ideal for multi-purpose use on golf courses, sports grounds and amenity areas. Styled on Toro's Workman utility vehicle, the sprayer has a 35.5hp Kubota engine and is fitted with a generous 30-gallon spray tank. Accurate application is ensured via the hydraulic control valve, which compensates for variations in ground speed, and when turning boom sections on and off, by changing pump rpm. Also new is Toro's Fairway Groomer, which fits onto the Reelmaster 5000 and 6000 mowers to keep golf course fairways looking immaculate.

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- Foundation Degree in Golf Course Management
- NVQ Amenity Horticulture Level 4

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# The GTC approved college listings

As a member of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, BIGGA is actively involved in raising the Standard of Greenkeeper Training.

The range and quality of training now available means that there is a training course for every greenkeeper which should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses.

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

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

**Ken Richardson**

Education and Training Manager,

British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

Tel: 01347 833800

Email: [education@bigga.co.uk](mailto:education@bigga.co.uk)

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

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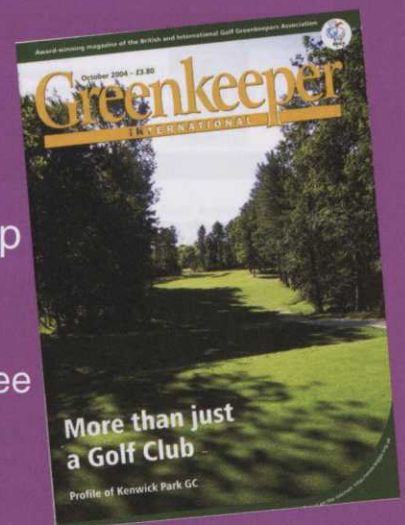
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**ABINGDON AND WITNEY COLLEGE** Warren Farm Campus, Horton-cum-Studley, Oxford OX33 1BY **Contact:** Alan Brown or John Revis **Tel:** 01865 351794 **Fax:** 01865 358931 **Email:** john.revis@abingdon-witney.ac.uk **Web:** www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk **Information:** Warren Farm Campus is the base for Abingdon and Witney College's education and training in Greenkeeping, Sportsturf, Amenity horticulture and allied land based courses for the whole of Oxfordshire. Courses include:- NVQ Levels 2 & 3 in Sportsturf, Landscaping and Nursery. We also offer a range of short courses for the Industry including Health & Safety, pesticide training and chainsaw operation. For more information contact either Alan Brown or John Revis on Tel: 01865 351794 or Fax: 01865 358931.

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE

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



**BERKSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE** Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 6QR **Contact:** Andy Williams **Tel:** 01628 824444 **Fax:** 01628 824695 **Email:** enquiries@bca.ac.uk **Web:** www.bca.ac.uk **Information:** Located in the Thames Valley, BCA has excellent resources for horticultural based training including a six-hole golf training facility opened by HRH The Duke of York. Programmes include the First Diploma, National Certificate and National Diploma in Horticulture, with Landscape Design and Greenkeeping options plus Higher National Diploma/Certificate programmes. Part-time programmes include NVQ Level 2 and 3 Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf. Residential accommodation is available.



**BROOKSBY MELTON COLLEGE** Brooksby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE14 2LJ **Contact:** Student Services **Tel:** 01664 850850 **Fax:** 01664 855355 **Email:** course.enquiries@brooksbymelton.ac.uk **Web:** www.brooksbymelton.ac.uk **Information:** Situated on the A607 between Leicester and Melton Mowbray. Programmes available include NVQ Levels 2, 3 & 4 in Greenkeeping. Work based emphasis for all of these programmes. Short courses available in Arboriculture/Chainsaw work, TDLB training and Pesticide application training.



**BRIDGWATER COLLEGE CANNINGTON CENTRE FOR LANDBASED STUDIES**, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2LS **Contact:** Steve Hasell **Tel:** 01278 655000 **Fax:** 01278 655055 **Email:** enquiries@cannington.ac.uk **Web:** www.cannington.ac.uk **Information:** National Certificate in Amenity Horticulture (Sportsturf), Certificate of Higher Education in Golf Course Management, Foundation Degree in Golf Course Management, NVQ Level 2 Sports Turf, NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf, NVQ Level 4 Horticulture (Sportsturf), FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Off-Road Vehicle Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics. Note: Certificate of Higher Education is available as a part-time option and Foundation Degree.



**EAST DURHAM AND HOUGHALL COMMUNITY COLLEGE** Houghall, Durham, DH1 3SG **Contact:** Ian Lacy **Tel:** 0191 375 4754 / 0191 375 4740 **Fax:** 0191 386 0419 **Email:** enquiry@edhcc.ac.uk **Web:** www.edhcc.ac.uk **Information:** Full-time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship - 1 year; National Diploma in Horticulture Turf Option - 2/3 years. Part time courses:-Greenkeeping and Sportsturf maintenance NVQ Level 2 - Day Release. NVQ Level 3/4 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance Day Release. Short courses: FEPA Modules, Chainsaw certification, Tree inspection, Horticultural Machinery, Safe Lifting and First Aid.



**HADLOW COLLEGE** Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL **Contact:** Sally Flanagan **Tel:** 01732 853162 **Fax:** 01732 853207 **Email:** sally.flanagan@hadlowcollege.ac.uk **Web:** www.hadlow.ac.uk **Information:** National award and National Diploma in Horticulture. NVQ Level 1 Horticulture, NVQ Level 2 & 3 in Amenity Horticulture in Hard Landscaping, Sports Turf and Production Horticulture. NVQ 2 and 3 Retail Operations.



**HARTPURY COLLEGE** Hartpury, Gloucestershire, GL19 3BE. Courses available include: National Awards, National Certificates and National Diplomas in Green Keeping and Groundsmanship and Amenity & Landscape Horticulture and Day Release training for Apprenticeships leading to NVQs in Sports Turf and Horticulture. For further information contact our Enquiry Line on 01452 702132 or visit the Hartpury College website at www.hartpury.ac.uk



**MERRIST WOOD CAMPUS OF GUILDFORD COLLEGE** Worpleston, Guildford, Surrey, GU3 3PE **Contact:** Joe Paulin **Tel:** 01483 884088 **Fax:** 01483 884001 **Email:** jpaulin@guildford.ac.uk **Web:** www.guildford.ac.uk **Information:** Part-time courses: NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf college day release and workplace visits/assessments at Merrist Wood and at Crawley, Level 2 First Diploma college day release, for those without qualified workplace assessors; NVQ Level 3 Sportsturf college day release and workplace visits/assessments, Level 3 National Award college day release for those without qualified workplace assessors, HNC Turfgrass Science and Management college day release over 2 years plus various short courses including BTLIA Irrigation Certificate Course, throughout the year: HND Turfgrass Science and Management college day release. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice. Career Evenings held regularly at the campus.



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



**NESCOT - NORTH EAST SURREY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY** Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 3DS **Contact:** Gary Stewart **Tel:** 0208 394 3220 **Email:** info@nescot.ac.uk **Web:** www.nescot.ac.uk **Information:** NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options). Part time Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses. Also available - RHS General and Advanced Certificates in Horticulture. RHS Diploma in Horticulture.



**OAKLANDS COLLEGE** St Albans Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL4 0JA **Contact:** Andrew Wight **Tel:** 01727 737080 **Email:** andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk **Web:** www.oaklands.ac.uk **Information:** Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Part-time courses: leading to NVQ Level 2 & 3 Greenkeeping, Apprenticeship Training. Evening Courses: leading to NVQ Level 4. Short Courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw.



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



**REASEHEATH COLLEGE** Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 6DF **Contact:** Chard Spicer **Tel:** 01270 613236 **Fax:** 01270 625665 **Email:** chards@reaseheath.ac.uk **Web:** www.reaseheath.ac.uk **Information:** (Full-time) National Certificate in Amenity Horticulture, National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture with Sports Turf; Foundation Degree/ Higher National Diploma in Golf Course Management; (Part-time) Higher National Certificate in Golf Course Management; NVQ Levels 2, 3, 4 in Sports Turf plus a wide range of NPTC qualifications.

# Training providers guide

## Available courses guide

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

### ENGLAND

Rodbaston College



**RODBASTON COLLEGE** Rodbaston College, Rodbaston, Penkridge, Stafford ST19 5PH **Contact:** John Renshaw **Tel:** 01785 712209 **Fax:** 01785 715701 **Email:** [john.renshaw@rodbaston.ac.uk](mailto:john.renshaw@rodbaston.ac.uk) **Information:** NVQ Amenity Horticulture (Sportsturf) at Levels 1-4. Part-time and flexible study options. Short Courses: Pesticides, Chainsaws and safe use of equipment.

**SPARSHOLT COLLEGE HAMPSHIRE**

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

**The College of West Anglia**



**THE COLLEGE OF WEST ANGLIA** Milton Campus **Contact:** Bob Young **Tel:** 01223 860701 **Email:** [enquires@col-westanglia.ac.uk](mailto:enquires@col-westanglia.ac.uk) **Information:** The College of West Anglia offers a full range of courses for Greenkeepers including: NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf (Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship), NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf Maintenance. TDLB Assessors awards. FEPA, Chain Saws, MO1. Other Courses: National and First Diploma in Horticulture and Garden Design.

**Warwickshire College**

**WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE** Moreton Morrell Centre, Moreton Morrell, Warwick, Warwickshire, CV35 9BL **Contact:** Andrew Turnbull **Tel:** 01926 318285 **Fax:** 01926 318300 **Email:** [aturnbull@warkscol.ac.uk](mailto:aturnbull@warkscol.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.warkscol.ac.uk](http://www.warkscol.ac.uk) **Information:** Greenkeeping Courses: Foundation Degree Sports Turf Management (3 year part-time with the option of an HNC after two years, some distance learning units) NVQ Level 2 & 3 Day Release and Workbased Option. City and Guilds Advanced National certificate Sports Turf - A level 3 qualification, 2 year day release. BTEC First Diploma Sports Turf. Short Courses: Spraying Certificates (PA1, PA2, PA6), Chainsaw Certificate; NPTC certificates; Tractor Driving, Mowing Equipment, Turf Maintenance Equipment. All training and assessment carried out in the workplace.

**Writtle COLLEGE**  
A partner institution of the University of Essex

**WRITTLER COLLEGE** Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR **Contact:** Registry **Tel:** 01245 424200 **Fax:** 01245 420456 **Email:** [info@writtle.ac.uk](mailto:info@writtle.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.writtle.ac.uk](http://www.writtle.ac.uk) **Information:** All Degrees are awarded by the University of Essex. SPORTS TURF PROGRAMMES NVQ Level 2 - Sports Turf Honours & Foundation degree - Sports Turf and Golf Course Management Honours Degree - Sports Turf Science and Management. OTHER PROGRAMMES: First Diploma, National Certificate, National Diploma - Horticulture NVQ Level 2 & 3 Amenity Horticulture. NVQ Level 2 Retail Operation (Commercial Horticulture). NVQ Level 2 & 3 Commercial Horticulture BSc (Hons) & FdSc Horticulture BSc (Hons) & FdSc Landscape and Amenity Management BSc (Hons). Horticulture with Business Management BSc (Hons). International Horticulture BSc (Hons) & FdSc Horticultural Crop Production. FdSc Horticulture (Nursery and Retail). MSc/MA International Horticulture. MSc Horticulture (Crop Production). MSc Post Harvest Technology. NVQ Level 2 & 3 Service Engineering (Agricultural and Groundcare Machinery). C&G Service Engineering Progression Award. SHORT COURSES: NPTC Chainsaw, Health and Safety plus many more.

**elmwood COLLEGE**

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

**GOSTA TRAINING LTD**

**GOSTA TRAINING LTD** 50 Brook Street, Glasgow, G40 2AB **Contact:** Chris Bothwell **Tel:** 0141 556 3999 **Fax:** 0141 556 4999 **Email:** [learn@gostatraining.co.uk](mailto:learn@gostatraining.co.uk) **Information:** SVQ II, III and IV also Modern Apprenticeship in Sportsturf including other options and GTC Training Manual. Attendance Day release from November - March. Distance Learning also available. Short courses with certification include Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Risk Assessment, Abrasive Wheels, Full Range of Machinery Courses, Manual Handling and Fire Extinguisher training. Consultancy service for Health and Safety Policy development, Site Risk Audits, Machinery Permit to Use system, COSHH and Noise Assessment.

**LANGSIDE COLLEGE**  
GLASGOW

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

**Oatridge College**

**OATRIDGE COLLEGE** Ecclesmachan, By Broxburn, West Lothian, EH52 6NH **Contact:** Steve Miller **Tel:** 01506 864800 **Fax:** 01506 853373 **Email:** [info@oatridge.ac.uk](mailto:info@oatridge.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.oatridge.ac.uk](http://www.oatridge.ac.uk) **Information:** Full-time National Certificate in Greenkeeping: SVQ Level II and GTC Manual (Day and Block Release); SVQ Level 3 Sportsturf & SVQ Level 3 Fast Track (Day and Block Release) SVQ Level III in Service Engineering, full range of Amenity Horticulture, Landscaping and other land based subjects at HND and HNC, National Certificate and SVQ Levels; Short Course - FEPA, Chainsaw, Forklift, First Aid.

**south AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL GREENKEEPING COURSE** Chief Executive's Department, Training & Development Centre, 15 Links Road, South Ayrshire **Contact:** Gordon McGinn **Tel:** 01292 678861 **Fax:** 01292 671790 **Email:** [gordon.mcginns@southayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:gordon.mcginns@southayrshire.gov.uk) **Information:** SVQ Level 2 Amenity Horticulture: Sportsturf, SVQ Level 3 Amenity Horticulture: Sportsturf and the Modern Apprenticeship in Amenity Horticulture

**Coleg Pencoed Pencoed College**



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

### WALES

# Your Letters...

## Alex and Co prove there is a future in Greenkeeping

The November issue of Greenkeeper International has fallen on the doormat, and for a change I haven't turned straight to the job page, I wanted to see which Course Manager, with 20 years experience, has won the Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award. It was with great pleasure that I read the article to find the winner is a 26 year old Assistant Greenkeeper and that all the finalist seemed to be under 30 and happy to be in this industry, this the same industry that is so bad, where we get no respect, badly paid and people are leaving in droves to pastures greener. I for one think it is great to see these new faces with the desire to prove themselves against the best, and to be the best in the industry. These young men and women are the future of greenkeeping, I wish them all the very best in their chosen profession and well done Alex.

The reading of the rest of the magazine was not all as cheerful though and two points in different articles stood out as being, in my opinion, wrong. The first point was in the article by Lex van de Weerd about choosing the correct grass species for a new golf project. On the whole the article was good and made interesting reading, but the point made that it required more skill to manage monoculture greens (100% creeping bent) than it did mixed species Fescue Bent greens, to me made absolutely no sense. I think the phrase better used may have been "required different skills", as I am sure managers of good quality Fescue Bent greens are just as skilled as managers on single species greens.

The second point, that I still can't believe was even printed in Greenkeeper International, the "Award winning magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association", was made by Frank Newberry in the article

"How to apply for that ideal job". The comment in question was, "You can, and should, try applying for a job vacancy that does not exist". Not only do I think this is immoral, it actually contravenes BIGGA's own code of ethics. Number six in the code of ethics clearly states, "Members should, pursue job advancement only where vacancies arise and not at the expense of a fellow greenkeeper and abstain from any action, comment or communication not founded on truth which is likely to harm the professional reputation or practice of another greenkeeper."

This is the reason I am amazed that this part of the article ever got to print, I know I wouldn't be best pleased if some one applied for my job or came for a walk round and started telling the club how things could be improved, I'm fairly sure most other greenkeepers in the country would agree with me. And finally I got to the Chairman's Column at the back of the mag, Andy Campbell may not have the literary wit of George Brown, but I think through the year Andy has written his column and added lots of good tips for dealing with people and problems that occur on many courses around the country. It has also been reassuring to know that through a very tough year, with the crazy weather, that a complex such as Carden Park can have similar problems to any other course in Britain. I also think that through his column he has communicated what the Chairman does through his year, it's plain to me that it is not just a jolly up in a red blazer. So well done Andy on your year so far and thanks for all your hard work.

**Les Howkins**  
**Cleethorpes Golf Club**

**Editor's Note:** Frank Newberry was certainly not advocating a policy of applying for a filled position but merely highlighting a well established industry practice of expressing an interest should a vacancy ever arise.

## Bob Scott - A Sad Loss to Greenkeeping

Robert Scott, Bob, as he was known to most greenkeepers, died suddenly on Saturday October 9 2004. Bob was in his 66<sup>th</sup> year, having retired only last January.

He was a greenkeeper all his working life, serving his apprenticeship at Eastwood Golf Club, Loganswell, Newton Mearns. In his youth he was brought up on a farm adjacent to the golf club. He served on a number of courses on his way to being Head Greenkeeper at Elderslie Golf Club, Renfrewshire, where he worked until his retirement.

Bob was a golfer of note among the greenkeeping fraternity in Scotland where he lifted many trophies which still bear his name. To add to his golfing honours he won the Club Championship at Elderslie twice. As time rolled along he joined the local Bowling Club where again he showed his metal, being a winner at bowls. When he retired Elderslie gave Bob Life Membership.

Bob was a very studious and deep thinking man. It is evident that he was an exceptional person and a much loved friend judging by the large amount of mourners who attended his funeral at Woodside Crematorium, Paisley, on Friday October 15.

As a mark of respect, his bowling friends lined both sides of the entrance to the Crematorium, dressed in their Bowling Club attire. Between Bowlers, Golfers, Greenkeepers and Friends, the Chapel was crammed to capacity with twice as many mourners having to stand. The Service was conducted by a gentleman from the Humanist Society who spoke of Bob's life with many anecdotes and humorous stories.

It is always a distressing time for a family when a loved one is suddenly taken from them without achieving the promised "three score and ten". Our thoughts are with Mrs Scott and her close family at their time of deep mourning.

**Cecil George**  
**BIGGA Life Member**

## Bob Scott - A Great Greenkeeper, A Great Bloke

I have the sad duty of having to inform you of the death of Bob Scott who was the Head Greenkeeper at Elderslie GC for 38 years. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his wife, Jeanette, sons, Ross & Tommy, and all the other members of his family.

Bob started his career in greenkeeping at Eastwood GC before moving on to Williamwood GC where he worked under John Donnelly. The training he and other members of staff received there was obviously of a high calibre as many of the assistants that worked alongside Bob went on to be Head Greenkeepers within the South side of Glasgow, names such as Dobson, McNiven & Fitzpatrick come to mind. Bob was a keen advocate of "Best Practice" greenkeeping long before names such as "IPM" and "Best Practice" were used, i.e. minimal feeding, little irrigation, sensible cutting heights and keeping a healthy living rootzone on which grass could grow quite happily. The legacy Bob and other greenkeepers of his ilk have passed on will still be practised many years from now and I am sure that is the biggest complement I could pay a man who was a great boss and mentor.

**Brian Bolland**  
**Course Manager**  
**East Kilbride Golf Club**

**YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!**  
**Send to: Scott MacCallum, Editor,**  
**Greenkeeper International, BIGGA**  
**HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York YO61**  
**1UF, or email them to:**  
**scott@bigga.co.uk**

## Thanks for the memories

What a pleasure it was to read of Scott MacCallum's sufferings, trials and tribulations as a young writer, when bones could suffer the pain of exposed springs in B & B's and the long and tiresome journeys to and from map references which only he in his thoughtful moments of bygone days can recall. On reading your editorial in the November issue of Greenkeeper International it brought back long forgotten memories of when I started greenkeeping in 1940. I won't mention the name of the club but, believe me when I say, at that time it was noted for being more than difficult to get membership no matter what status or wealth you had attained.

If your Dad, Uncle or influential friend put forward your name after a long period of waiting time and some very strict interrogation you might be considered eligible to join that select membership.

Needless to say this was a very wealthy club who chose their members from a long waiting list. If only they had been half as efficient in looking into the wages and conditions that their greenkeeping staff labored under!

There were two sheds, 'wooden' of course, one where the horse had been stabled in the not far distant past, and the other had been built to house the two Allan tractors, which were really just Ford T cars that had been adapted to suit the golf course by a firm called Pattisons, which many greenkeepers will still remember, who were at that time the main supplier of most golf course equipment.

It seemed to me as a young lad of about 15 years that everything on a golf course belonged to someone called Pattison, as the name was stamped or printed or painted on everything that greenkeepers used to maintain the course.

The club committee saw to it that anything to benefit the course was purchased without thought of expense. When it came to the greenkeepers and their welfare the blindfold was put on.

No water, except the 'burn', to make a cup of tea or wash your hands (soap and towels I won't mention, neither did the golf club committee).

Our toilets were the woods. Our Bothy consisted of some benches in the tractor shed with a dirt floor and the smell of oil and fertilisers which were stored in one corner, with more care than the greenkeeping staff got.

When I think back to those days, and the pittance for a wage (10/-per week), it gives me great pleasure to know the wages and conditions which now exist. I had the privilege of selecting the Golf Courses of the Year in Scotland for the first few years of the Competition. What an experience, eye opener and insight into the effort in practical greenkeeping put into the presentation of the courses of those who entered the competition and their knowledge of what I was expecting.

I and many like me have had a great life in greenkeeping. All I can say now is to thank you, Scott, for kindling an old flame which was burning rather low! Keep up the editorials. "Lang may yer lum reek"

**Cecil George**  
**BIGGA Life Member**

## Environmental Winner Gracious in Victory

Thanks so much for your support and advice - I was absolutely staggered to have been presented with the BIGGA Golf Environment Award yesterday - I am so pleased for the team at Minchinhampton Golf Club, they really have worked so hard and considering that we only employ 10 full time outdoor staff (which includes me) to run the three golf courses, the work they put in is nothing short of miraculous at times. The time they make for the environment is very precious indeed.

I am fully aware that we still fall short in some areas, but we do at least know which areas need to be strengthened and where we need to re-focus. I think our next major project will be to move the composting project indoors, and to use that outdoor area as a reed bed to filter the machine wash-off water.

I'm already booked to give the presentation to the club members during January - so I will have to alter the lines I had prepared in praise of the winning club. My presentation at the South West Region BIGGA Seminar went really well, going last was a bit of a handicap but at least I was able to plagiarise one of Bob Taylor's famous lines in which he refers to "a subliminal feeling of wellbeing", my opening line was, "I have a subliminal feeling of blind panic", so thanks for that one! Happily, it soon passed - within a split second of starting to speak. I now have to psyche myself up for Harrogate - last year I felt like a rabbit in front of the headlights when I suddenly turned round and saw just how many people were in that room (and some of them quite famous too).

I have just received our second report under the EGU/English Nature funded English Golf Environmental Advisory Scheme and so again we are really pleased with our accreditation under that scheme. New hedgerows are going into the course shortly, and The Duchy of Cornwall Farm are coming to cut some of the wild flower areas for winter cattle feed.

The whole issue of the Environment is critically important to the future, so huge thanks to Bob Taylor and Lee Penrose and to BIGGA for their role in judging the competition, all the sponsors, and for your support.

With Best Regards

**Paul Worster**  
**Courses Manager**  
**Minchinhampton Golf Club**

## Thank you for the support

I started my career at Langland Bay Golf Club on June 14 1983. I joined a small happy team led by Head Greenkeeper Ken Payne.

Ken started working for the club in 1967 as an Assistant Greenkeeper, rising to Head Greenkeeper until his retirement at Christmas 2000. I also worked closely with Mary Onions, First Assistant, also ladies club champion for many years, now retired.

My greenkeeping education was at Penoeed College, where I completed phase one and two City and Guilds turf culture, plus pesticide spraying qualifications. When Mary retired I became First Assistant until September 2002, when I had to stop work due to ill health. In January 2003 I was admitted to hospital for six weeks. During this time, after various tests, I was diagnosed with the condition Syringomyelia Hinbrain Hernia.

Due to a build up of brain fluid causing pressure around the skull, a shunt valve was placed in my brain to drain excess fluid away. Due to the sudden pressure drop I now have low pressure headaches. A large cyst in the spinal cord cannot be removed because of possible paralysis.

I would like to thank Ken and Jean Payne and everyone at Langland Bay Golf Club for being supportive and understanding. Also thanks to Peter Lacey for the support and advice.

Good luck and best wishes to Jim Jenkins and all green staff at Langland.

**Paul Houlton**

# Win £1,000

## HOW TO ENTER

Pick up a score card at the entrance to **BTME & ClubHouse**. The companies taking part in the competition will be listed along with their stand number.

Simply visit these stands to get the card stamped. Once you have had all 18 holes stamped, fill in your details and post in one of the entry boxes on the **BIGGA** stand - Q123 or at any exit in Halls A, M or Q.

The winner will be selected at random and announced in the February issue of **Greenkeeper International**.

## in holiday vouchers



&



Harrogate, England  
18 - 20 January 2005

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# Image is Everything

Frank Newberry continues his guide into job hunting, this month concentrating on the all important interview stage.

Last month I described to readers how to go about finding their ideal job. In this second of three articles I consider what employers look for in the ideal candidate and outline how to:

- Prepare for difficult questions.
- Make a good first impression.
- Gain a rapport with the interviewers.
- Present yourself as the ideal candidate.

## Ability, Visibility and Image

Recent research has uncovered three main factors that affect your career progression. First, is your ability, second is your 'visibility', this is the extent to which your ability is already known to your prospective employers.

You can influence your visibility by visiting your prospective employer for 'a chat and a look around the place' before you even apply for a job.

Third, and the most significant factor, is your 'image', i.e. whether you look the part when you turn up at the premises. It is perhaps regarding your personal presentation that the 'plus one' rule might apply.

You should dress up as if you were holding or applying for a job that was one higher than the one you have now. The statistics are sobering, in a world where you only get one chance to make a first impression:

- Your ability is important to 10% of prospective employers.
- Your visibility is important to 25% of prospective employers.
- Your image is important to 65% of prospective employers.

## Preparing for interview questions

First, you should prepare yourself thoroughly to answer any interview questions that arise from statements you have made in your CV.

Next, even though you may not be asked them all, you should rehearse concise answers – until they sound confident and natural – to the following ten questions:

1. Tell me about yourself ...
2. Why did you apply for this job?
3. What are your strengths and weaknesses?
4. Why do you want to leave your current job?
5. What makes you think you are qualified for this job?
6. What did you learn at college that could be used in this job?
7. What have you done that shows you are resilient and punctual?
8. What sort of difficult problems have you faced at work?
9. What do you know about our club?
10. Do you have any questions?

While some of these questions may seem intimidating, you will find, as you start to ponder and rehearse answers, that they will seem less fearsome.

An experienced interviewer will probe you to answer some of the questions in more depth, or in greater detail, e.g. 'How did you handle that particular problem?' or 'What happened then?'

## Aggressive interview questions

Some inexperienced and unprofessional interviewers may ask you questions that are designed to unsettle you. You should try and prepare answers to questions (if asked) like:

1. Why should I employ you?

2. Tell me about something you are not very proud of?
3. What are some things your last boss did that you did not like?
4. What did you like and dislike about your last job?
5. What sort of money were you thinking of?

This 'money' question is a tricky one because it implies that the selection may be being made largely on the grounds of cost.

It may be best to say that you would 'be happy to talk about your salary after an offer, subject to agreement, has been made'.

## Nerves, body language and rapport

Upon entering the premises and the interview room you should stride purposely forward, make direct eye contact and give your name clearly e.g. 'Good morning (smiling), I'm John Smith, how do you do?'

Listen carefully to the names people give you and try to use them occasionally when you answer questions, this will help build a rapport, as will nodding at the interviewers as they speak or explain things to you.

Sit in an upright position and lean forward slightly to show that you are keen to answer their questions. Be prepared to use paper and a pen to draw diagrams etc to help you give more meaningful answers.

Good interviewers will understand that you may be nervous at the beginning of the interview and will make allowances. Before getting into your reasons for applying, they may start with an easy question like 'How was your journey?'

## The ideal candidate

The ideal candidate for the job will have specific skills and personality traits that are listed on a document called the 'employee specification'. You should ask for a copy of it before you apply for the job because you 'don't want to waste their time'.

If the employer does not have the document then ask the employer in advance, preferably on a visit, 'What sort of person are you looking for?'

Their specific answers can then inform all of your answers at the interview and you will be able to present yourself as the ideal candidate.

## A positive attitude and a cheerful disposition

In general, most employers offer jobs to people with a positive attitude and a cheerful disposition. You must reflect these qualities in all your dealings with your prospective employers.

In summary then you will need to:

- Do some research, preferably by visiting your prospective employer.
- Prepare for a wide range of good questions, and some bad ones, and expect to be probed.
- Rehearse concise answers until you start to sound confident and natural.
- 'Look the part' and present yourself as cheerful and positive.

## Careers Fair

You can do a practice interview and get help with all aspects of being interviewed, at the Careers Fair which runs at BTME 2005 on 18 - 20 January 2005 in Harrogate.

In the meantime if you have an interview before then or a job application coming up soon and you have a question I might be able to help you with, please visit my website, [www.franknewberry.com](http://www.franknewberry.com), and follow the 'Contact' link to the 'Request Information' page.

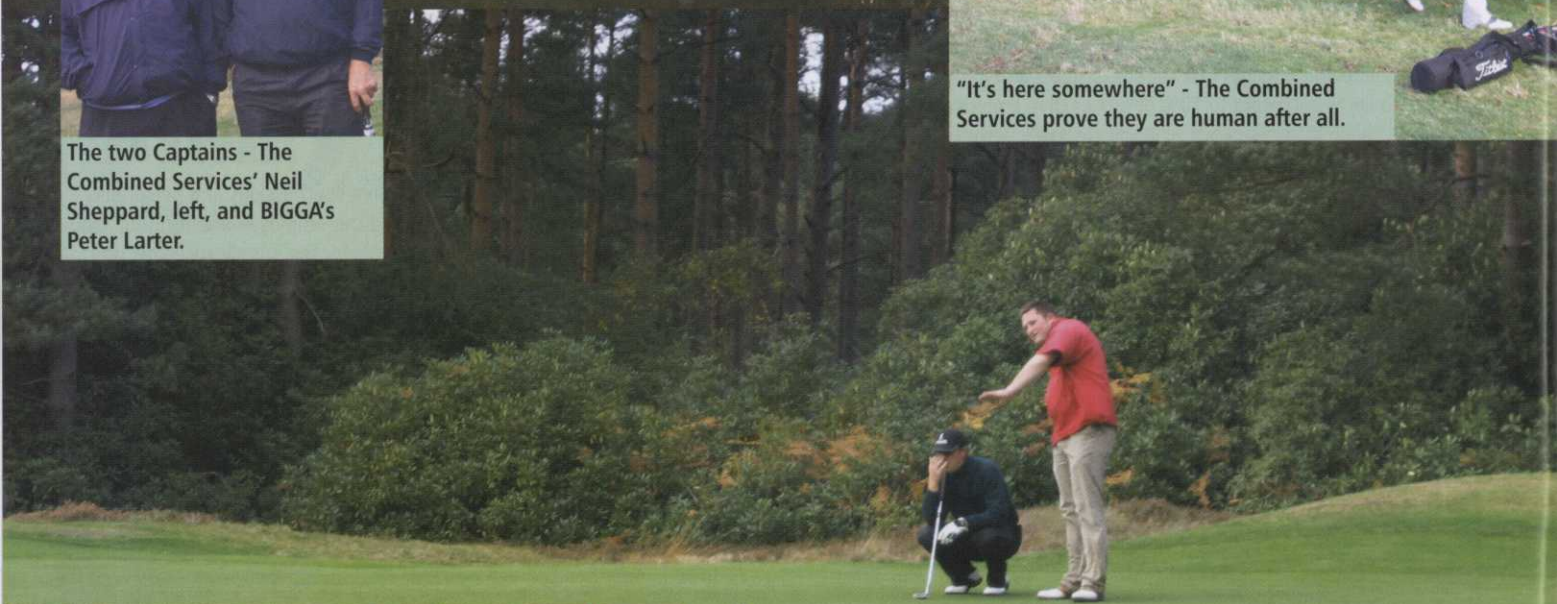
BIGGA's National Champion Graeme MacDonald approaches the green during his tight match.



The two Captains - The Combined Services' Neil Sheppard, left, and BIGGA's Peter Larter.



"It's here somewhere" - The Combined Services prove they are human after all.



Richard Barker putts on the 1st as team mate Chris Lomas watches on during their greensomes match.



Despite defeat the BIGGA Team could hold their heads high and force a smile.

# The Combined Services V BIGGA Scratch Challenge

## Gareth Jones reports on the inaugural match between the Combined Services Golf Association and BIGGA.

The historic Blue and Red courses of The Berkshire Golf Club, near Ascot, were the settings for the first match up of BIGGA and the Combined Services Golf Association (GSGA).

An impressive looking BIGGA team, captained by Peter Larter, contained the Crawford brothers, Noel and Eamonn, Andrew Unwin, Mike Hughes, Mark Davies, Rob Welford, David Beale, John Jarrat, Gerald Bruce, Richard Barker, Chris Lomas and Graeme MacDonald.

At 8.30am the battle commenced, with four ball better ball being fought out over the challenging Blue course.

The Combined Services of RAF, Army and Navy men had home advantage and, despite BIGGA's secret weapon of The Berkshire's Course Manager Chris Lomas playing for them, the Combined Services took a commanding 6-0 lead into the clubhouse at lunch.

BIGGA needed an exceptional afternoon of greensomes to get back into the contest and, after an inspiring pep talk from BIGGA's version of Bernhard Langer, Pete Larter, the team went out determined to pull the score back, but not before some lunch of Steak and Kidney Pie and a quick pint.

The greensomes on the Red course proved to be more fruitful for the BIGGA outfit. The first pairing out in the afternoon was Noel Crawford and Mike Hughes and the two greenkeepers combined to claim an excellent 1 up win.

The greensomes continued to provide more success as the team of Gerald Bruce and BIGGA National Champion, Graeme MacDonald, gained a 1/2 point. However the damage inflicted in the morning was too great to recover from and, with the Combined Services grabbing victory in the remaining four matches, BIGGA were well and truly defeated 10 1/2 to 1 1/2.

The BIGGA team came off the course beaten, but with their heads held high having played some good golf on tough, but excellent, courses. Ex footballer, and television pundit, Jimmy Hill is a member of The Berkshire and, with most of the matches finishing with tight score lines, I'm sure his message to the lads would have been "chin up".

"I was very pleased with the positive response of our members when they were invited to play in this, the first match. Obviously both the team and myself are very disappointed to lose so heavily, but there were many close matches. In the end we were beaten by a team of very good golfers, who are used to playing team matchplay. The entire team did BIGGA great credit," said BIGGA's non-playing Captain Peter Larter.

Opposing Captain, Neil Sheppard, had similar feelings regarding the day's play and was respectful in victory. "The BIGGA team got off to a slow start, and with us having a lot more matchplay experience that helped us through the event and secure the win. It has been a fantastic day, the weather held well and some excellent golf has been played. Both courses were in great condition, which helped us witness some good golf. We are already looking forward to next year's match now."

The event also exposed BIGGA to another major golfing group, and BIGGA's Chief Executive, John Pemberton, was on hand to inform the hosts of BIGGA's crucial role in the golf world.

The day was such a success that arrangements are already in place to hold a rematch in mid October 2005 at a course in the Midlands area, where BIGGA will have home advantage and be looking for revenge.



Above: A Combined Services player strikes a superb tee shot. Right: John Jarrat with a difficult recovery shot out of the trees. Below: Graeme MacDonald putts to halve the hole.



GSGA		v	BIGGA	
Morning Four Ball Better Ball	Name	Result	Name	Result
Match Number				
1	S. Gilbert	5/4	N. Crawford	
	A. Paterson		E. Crawford	
2	M. Blaber	4/3	A. Unwin	
	B. Loomie		M. Hughes	
3	D. Marshall	1 up	M. Davies	
	L. Meathie		R. Welford	
4	R. Shimwell	2/1	D. Beale	
	G. Norris		J. Jarrat	
5	D. Maclachlan	3/2	G. Bruce	
	C. Audin		R. Barker	
6	B. Churchill	1 up	C. Lomas	
	A. Hawkins		G. MacDonald	
Afternoon Foursomes	Name	Result	Name	Result
Match Number				
1	M. Blaber		N. Crawford	1 up
	D. Maclachlan		M. Hughes	
2	B. Loomie	1 up	A. Unwin	
	S. Gilbert		E. Crawford	
3	A. Paterson	2/1	M. Davies	
	C. Audin		D. Beale	
4	D. Marshall	5/4	R. Welford	
	B. Churchill		J. Jarrat	
5	L. Meathie	1/2	G. Bruce	1/2
	R. Shimwell		G. MacDonald	
6	A. Hawkins	1 up	R. Barker	
	G. Norris		C. Lomas	
<b>Total</b>		<b>10 1/2</b>		<b>1 1/2</b>

# THE IDENTIFICATION OF GOLFING GRASSES

Jim Arthur explains how to correctly identify the various grass types found on a golf course and their subtle differences.

It would seem self evident that, at every level, those concerned with the theory and practice of the management of sports grass, whether fine turf or football pitches, must know their grasses.

While there are many expert greenkeepers, again at all levels, who really can identify at least the main grasses with accuracy and confidence, there are far too many advisers, lecturers, salesmen and, sadly, greenkeepers to whom all this is a closed book. Many wrongly identify turf grasses, but far too few are challenged.

I always remember the eminent superintendent of a Californian course claiming that his 100% *Poa annua* greens were Pennncross because

they spent so much money over-seeding them with Pennncross every year!

It is not, I admit, initially easy but we are, after all, talking about so very few good and bad grasses on golf courses that practice should soon make perfect.

A major problem is that there are so few books which help - illustrations of flowering heads are not much use in identifying grasses in mown swards (*Poa annua* excepted).

I have watched, with dismay, college lecturers clutching bouquets of the flowering stems of grasses, but who had no idea how to identify them by characters based on leaf and stem.

I am not addressing these words to experts but trying to make it easier for beginners to pick out the handful of grasses that form our turf. It is rather like bird watching.

At first all small birds look alike - "little brown jobs" - but a few days with an expert creates confidence and a good guide separates them out.

A brief key will, I hope, help beginners. Remember that not every plant shows



**Holcus lanatus/Yorkshire fog – note hairy leaves.**

such characteristics - but you only need one in a patch of that grass.

The only comprehensive identification key for all grasses that I know of is Hubbard's Grasses, Penguin Books 1954. It most certainly is not for beginners, nor indeed for most.

Therefore I suggest a simple guide to the relatively few grasses, which are of economic importance in greenkeeping - for good or bad - based on simple observable features which can largely be seen with the naked eye. Chapter 10 in Practical Greenkeeping gives a detailed guide to a limited number.

One thing is certain, that if anyone really can identify say five useful and five weed grasses they will be experts and can be sure that no one will challenge their diagnosis in the field.

Certainly a good botanical grounding is an enormous asset, especially in these days when experts, agronomists etc have all too rarely any botanical background.

I owe an enormous debt to my mentor, Richard Libbey, when I joined the then Board of Greenkeeping Research (now

STRI) at Bingley in 1946. He was a botanist of international standing and knew his grasses as well or better than I knew my birds.

What therefore should we be looking at? Flowering heads are useless as a guide in mown grasses but it does no harm to check back on vegetative features on a species identified initially by its flowers.

Not many seed heads (save *Poa annua*) in mown turf. Remember always that we are dealing with very few grasses - anything tall can be left to another day!

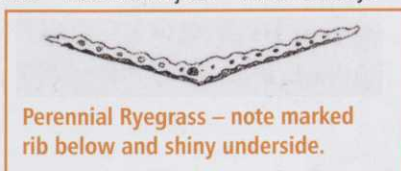
There are, after all, well over 300 different native grasses and we want to firmly identify only 10. These few species cover almost all our mown

turf and indeed native swards on poorer land, on which our best grasses thrive naturally.

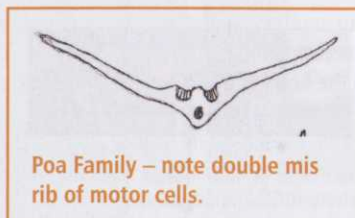
Note that at this stage we should not confuse ourselves by looking at all the tall native or agricultural species, but restrict our work to low growing grasses (some of these can grow tall).



**Yorkshire fog - leaves covered in soft hairs.**



**Perennial Ryegrass – note marked rib below and shiny underside.**



**Poa Family – note double mis rib of motor cells.**



**Agrostis, etc - evenly tapering leaves to a sharp point, no ribs.**

The commonest are three, namely *Agrostis* spp (bents); *Festuca rubra* (fine fescues); and *Poa annua* (annual meadow grass), which together form 95% of our close swards. *Lolium perenne* perennial ryegrass favours richer soils and is really an agricultural grass. *Phleum pratense* Timothy grass grows naturally on links but is primarily an unimportant grass of wet land.

All the rest are weeds (or rarities), chief amongst them are *Holcus lanatus* (Yorkshire fog) and its close relative *Holcus mollis* (creeping soft grass); and *Cynosurus cristatus* (crested dogstail).

It is helpful to know a few agricultural grasses, e.g. *Dactylis glomerata* cocksfoot and a few common tall weed grasses of the rough, e.g. *Molinia caerulea* tussock grass, as well as small ephemerals (short lived) species, such as *Aira praecox*, are early hair grass which dies in June to re-establish from seed in autumn when it may be mistaken for fine fescues.

We will not worry at this stage about strains or even species - e.g. the Poas, annual, rough and smooth stalked meadow grasses or the various strains of bents and fescues at this stage, though they are quite different grasses. The features we must look at are leaves and stems.

Pull out an entire plant, by the roots. Peel back the basal leaves and look at the colour of the basal stem. If it is red/maroon it is ryegrass.

If it is yellow it is crested dogstail and if it shows parallel mauve stripes it is Yorkshire fog, if brown, Timothy. Remember that not all stems will show strong or indeed any colour. A hand lens (x8) can be helpful.

Then look again at, preferably, undamaged leaves and stems. If they are large and severely flattened or folded in section, then it is cocksfoot. In contrast, if they are small, needle-shaped and rounded, then they are fine fescues or *Aira*. If they are partly folded, non-fibrous with blunt 'cupped' or boat shaped tips and almost parallel sides, then they are one of the *Poa* family (meadow grasses).

Are they uniformly tapering from broad(er) base to sharp tip - and no mid rib? Then they are probably bents (*Agrostis* spp), but check colour (dull dark green, not shiny or fibrous). Young leaves crumpled

horizontally are characteristic of *Poa annua*.

Look at the ribbing - or the lack of it. If only parallel ribbing and no central line, think *Agrostis* - but remember to look for tapering leaves and colour. If there are two distinct parallel central ribs coupled with a hooded 'boat's prow' shaped tip (see illustration) then it's one of the *Poa* annua.

Then leaf colour. If the undersides are strong, shiny dark green, then it is *Lolium* (ryegrass) or *Cynosurus cristatus* (dogstail). The first has red basal stems, the second yellow.

Very hairy and pale colour is *Holcus lanatus* Yorkshire fog, or smooth and pale, *Dactylis glomerata* cocksfoot. A dull grey green sometimes tinged with purple, *Agrostis*.

A yellowish grey green with needle leaves and dense turf is *Festuca rubra*. A soft sappy pale green grass (sometimes seeding under the mower) is *Poa annua*. Blue green leaves, tapering to a point, but with a mid rib, is Timothy (*Phleum*). Note brown basal stem colouring on older plants.

At what angle do the leaves subtend (leave) the stem? If very much at right angles then it's either *Cynosurus*

*cristatus* dogstail (yellow stem base and shiny leaves), or *Phleum pratense* Timothy (note swollen bulbous base, sometimes brown, and grey green folded tapering leaves). Note Timothy can also be found on sandy links, but is traditionally a wet land grass (see key leaves table).

Certain grasses are characteristic of some specific environments. Light sandy soils will normally have a fine natural cover of bents and fescues.

Acid heathland will see bent dominant. Alkaline links favour fescues. Over-fed (and over-watered) turf will be dominantly *Poa annua*. More fertile soils will support ryegrasses. Less fertile will favour dogstail which, though widespread, is rarely dominant.

All these grasses and more I find in my lawn - save one. The only plants of *Poa annua* that I could find (to draw) were on a fox-scald, in that small patch of lush fertile turf.

There is a message here - not to eradicate my 'tame' foxes but to avoid feeding (in this case locally with their urine). My lawn has had only an occasional application of lawn sand in 22 years.

I hope this and the illustrations will help, but do not be daunted. Keep on picking grass leaves and you will soon gain confidence. If it

helps, remember that very few will dare to contradict you!

However no one is omniscient and I myself, after making a too hasty identification many years ago of a purplish line grass on one of the Old Course greens at St. Andrews, was corrected by a young John Philp - it was fine fescue not bent, under designedly adverse conditions in winter.

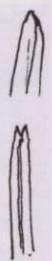
With that early level of expertise no wonder John has become such a top Manager of such well maintained and presented courses at Carnoustie.

There is nothing like a little practical help - if any students or enthusiasts want advice, e.g. on books or practical tips they have only to ring 01395 442966 - or buy, post free, a signed copy of Practical Greenkeeping, if they have not already got one.

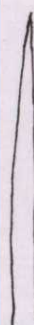
**Meadow grasses - very obvious parallel double mid rib.**



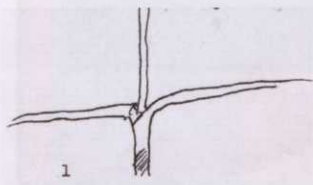
**Meadow grasses - boat shaped tip to leaves - which splits open when flattened.**



**Ryegrass - fairly parallel but tapering to a point.**

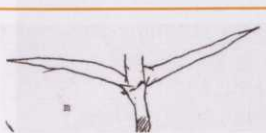


**Crested dogstail - leaves at complete right angles from stem and shiny underneath.**

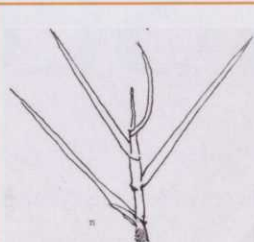


are large and severely flattened or folded in section, then it is cocksfoot. In contrast, if they are small, needle-shaped and rounded, then they are fine fescues or *Aira*. If they are partly folded, non-fibrous with blunt 'cupped' or boat shaped tips and almost parallel sides, then they are one of the *Poa* family (meadow grasses).

**T for Timothy - nearly right angled.**

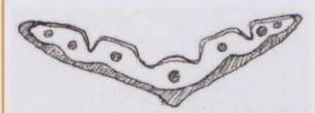


**Ryegrass - leaves subtend diagonally.**



**Red fescues in arid conditions.**

***Holcus lanatus*/Yorkshire fog - note hairy leaves.**



**Red fescues in wet conditions - opened up.**

## KEY LEAVES

### Shape

- Tapering uniformly from a broad base to a sharp tip. Flat not ribbed (Agrostis spp).
- Parallel or nearly so edges culminating in a round (hooded) tip (Poa spp).

### Needle shaped

- Festuca and Aira praecox.

### Ribbing

- No marked ribs (Agrostis spp).
- Twin parallel lines (Poa spp).
- Central mid rib (Ryegrass, Cocksfoot, Timothy).

### Stems

- Flattened (Cocksfoot).
- Fine and rounded (Festuca ruhra and Aira praecox).
- Elliptical or oval section (Ryegrass).

### Basal Sheath colour

- Red. (Ryegrass, also Hybrid ryes and meadow fescue).
- Yellow. (Crested dogtail).
- Mauve stripes. (Yorkshire fog).
- Brown. (Timothy).

### Hairiness

- Yorkshire fog.



Perennial Ryegrass – note marked rib below and shiny underside.

# Grade 'A' Seed Value



**A**berElf dwarf perennial ryegrass from British Seed Houses offers good growth and excellent fairway cover at **West Midlands Golf Club**, Barston near Solihull without running away from the greenkeepers. "There's enough growth for divot recovery, but not too much," explains owner Nigel Harry. "People have been afraid of ryegrasses in the past due to their reputation for fast growth, but we've actually cut mowing time in half since we used AberElf on the fairways and tees."

Nigel believes that he's saving the labour equivalent of two men – about £25,000 per year. "And we're shaving about 1,000 hours off our annual machinery use, as well as increasing the amount of play on the course. If we're not mowing, people can play – that's priceless."



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# BIGGA's Fantastic Outdoor Range

**B**IGGA currently have a great range of outdoor clothing at fantastically low prices for its members. BIGGA have stocked up on coats, fleeces and waterproof clothing in order to help you keep warm and dry all year round. All products are available in numerous sizes and can be purchased by contacting Rachael Duffy on 01347 833800 at BIGGA HQ.

1. The Highlander Cargo Suit is the whole package. What more can you ask for than a matching waterproof jacket and trousers combination? The suit features a coated micro fibre shell and waterproof breathable lining, with two cargo style pockets, plus one covered back pocket on the trousers.



This suit has a one year waterproof guarantee and is available in navy, with lemon trim, or black, with pale blue trim. The suit comes in S, M, L, XL and XXL, with the trouser inside leg 29, 31". £55



**PHONE  
Rachael  
Duffy on  
01347  
833800  
to order  
your kit  
today!**

2. This does exactly what it says on the tin. The Four Seasons Breaker is just that, perfect to wear all year round. This item is a multi option pullover style top with a short zip and elasticated draw cord. This breaker zips off in two places to create three different garments, full sleeve, 3/4 sleeve or a sleeveless top. Available in a multitude of colours and sizes. £26

3. When it blows, it really does blow and the Windbreaker ensures that you don't feel any of the resulting chill. This stylish top features a soft Teflon coated microfibre outer coat and is a pullover style, with high v-neck and two side pockets. It's super lightweight and fully lined. It comes in the following colours; navy, black, wedgwood, bronze weave and red. Sizes S, M, L, XL and XXL. £25



4. The Sleeveless Windbreaker is a stylish top that protects you from wind and rain equally well. Suited for all year round use, this item comes fully lined, with a v neck, it is shower and windproof and contains super soft Teflon coated microfibres. Available in navy, black and indigo, sizes arrange from S - XXL. £22



5. The Gear Crew Neck Fleece is ideal for work and play. If not keeping you warm while vertidraining or slitting, this versatile fleece is equally effective during a friendly round of golf or when enjoying a quick pint in the clubhouse. Available in S, M and L. Colours red, navy and grey. £22

**PHONE 01347  
833800 to  
order your  
kit today!**



6. If you truly want to be protected from all the elements this winter and, in fact, all year round then look no further than the Outerwear Jacket. This strong jacket is a acrylic coated waterproof, has a full zip with storm flap, and concealed hood. It is available in a multitude of colours and sizes. £35

7 & 8. These smart, yet tough, polo shirts are perfect for work and play. They are made with a dry gear fabric that actively pulls moisture away from the skin by rapid evaporation, making sure you stay dry in any weather. The Dry Gear shirt is just £16 and is available in white, with either blue, green or red collar trim.



The Nailshead polo shirt is moderately priced at £19.50 and boasts a 65% cotton, 35% polyester mix. The Nailshead is available in navy, light blue or rust.



# NEW PRODUCTS



## THREE'S A CHARM FOR KUBOTA

A three model range of stylish, yet highly functional compact tractors has been introduced by Kubota into the UK and Ireland.

Known as the STV Series, the STV32, STV36 and STV40 tractors are powered by Kubota water-cooled diesel engines rated at 32hp, 36hp and 40hp respectively.

Renowned for its low levels of noise, vibration and fuel consumption, Kubota's three vortex combustion system (E-TVCS) engine offers consistent output and a high torque rise for exceptional working efficiency, even at low-speed applications.

The engine's design also produces a very thorough burn with resulting cleaner emissions.

Equipped with a high capacity three-range hydrostatic transmission as standard, the STV Series offers users infinitely variable forward and reverse travel up to a maximum speed of 30km/h (19mph).

Cruise control allows driving speeds to be altered and set at the touch of a lever, with a grooved lever compartment giving great accuracy of setting to produce a constant speed over any terrain.

As befits a tractor of this size and

performance, Kubota's unique Bi-Speed Turn system is standard on the STV Series, speeding up the front wheels on tighter turns to help "pull" the tractor through corners without scuffing the tyres or the surface.

Operators will appreciate the tractors' new engagement system for the single speed mid and two-speed rear PTO drives.

In place of a floor-mounted lever, Kubota has fitted a simple twist-on, push-off electromagnetic switch positioned to the right-hand side of the seat.

Hydraulically actuated, the system allows the PTO to be engaged and disengaged totally independently of tractor movement.

A new brake function brings the powered implement swiftly and safely to a halt when the PTO is disengaged.

With its spacious flat deck platform, wide seat and new, enlarged instrument panel, the workstation of the STV Series tractors is designed for optimum driver efficiency and comfort.

In addition to displaying engine rpm, water temperature and fuel level, the instrument panel informs the driver also when Bi-Speed Turn and the mid and rear PTOs are engaged.

All main control levers are located conveniently to the driver's right hand.

For further information Tel: 01844 268111.

## PIN POINT ACCURACY

A brand new card system, 'PinPoint', allowing golfers to see exactly where the hole is cut on each green, together with the yardages from front and side of the green has been launched at the Wentworth Club, Surrey, England. The Wentworth Club is issuing PinPoint cards everyday to golfers using their three courses.

'PinPoint', a Patent applied for product, offering a world first in accurate daily pin positions on a card system has been developed by Sports Analysis Ltd to meet the needs of golfers and golf courses.

"In our discussions with golf course operators it became clear that more and more golfers were requesting accurate pin locations.

"We have developed PinPoint to meet this need while also ensuring that the system is easy to operate," said Simon Roper, Director of Sports Analysis.

PinPoint is currently being launched at 11 courses in the UK and Ireland, with other courses lining up to introduce the product.

PinPoint was also used in conjunction with the European Seniors Tour at the Travis Perkins Senior Masters. Both the existing hole location sheets and the Sports Analysis PinPoint cards were issued to all competitors on all three days of the competition.

Sports Analysis creates a highly accurate geo referenced map of the golf course. This is then combined with industry leading patented software to create the PinPoint system.

New hole location is identified on the green and a GPS handheld is held over the spot and within seconds a reading is taken and transmitted back to the host system.

The new location can be seen on the screen and when all 18 holes have been marked, the cards can be printed off.

Chris Kennedy, Wentworth Club Golf Courses Manager, said, "Our greenkeepers have found the PinPoint system

Above, before and below, afterwards.



quick and simple to operate and have taken a real pride in seeing the cards being so well used by our golfers."

Accuracy is within a yard for the standard product but can be reduced for Tour events down to within 25cms, using more expensive equipment.

For further information Tel: 01344 623112.





## MAKING SAFETY SMARTER

The new 'Integra' helmet has been specifically designed for chainsaw and clearing saw users who need comfortable protection for the head, face, ears and eyes.

Helmets with ear defenders and visor are commonplace, however, STIHL has added integral safety goggles to the new 'Integra' helmet, giving all-round protection with minimum fuss.

The lightweight helmet meets appropriate safety

standards for chainsaw and clearing saw use and excellent shell ventilation ensures comfortable wear, even in warm conditions.

A large nylon visor gives good protection to the sides of the face and the ear defenders, with a high attenuation rate SNR 26db(A), are well padded for optimum comfort. Finally, the innovative safety goggles are tested to EN 166 - giving effective eye protection without the need to wear, or keep track of, separate safety goggles.

For further information Tel: 0800 137574.

## STAKING YOUR REPUTATION

Tackling problems such as turf erosion with rigid, non-organic ground stakes poses a serious risk of injury to individuals and damage to valuable equipment.

A revolutionary new biodegradable solution - the GreenStake from turf management specialists Farmura - offers an eco-friendly alternative to traditional staking, yet is not just kind to the earth.

This innovation offers powerful advantages over competitors, is cost-effective, quick and easy to deploy and, in today's compensation culture, could play a vital role in minimising the risk of costly accidents.

The innovative breakdown mechanism of the eco-friendly stakes ensures that once driven into the ground, where they pose no risk to individuals, they can simply be left to dissolve over the space of two years (sometimes less, depending on ground conditions).

Microbes found in the ground naturally consume the stakes from the moment of insertion, dissolving them into the carbon dioxide, water and biomass already found in the natural environment.

The added advantage of biodegradable solutions is that they are specifically engineered to be better performers.

The 'green' stakes are able to both hold their ground and bend where necessary.

By combining larger, smooth heads with hooked ends they increase the area of holding force applied to fabric and turf, and by doing so ensure netting and meshes remain firmly in place.

Unlike the older alternatives that can easily snap, causing a jagged object to protrude from the ground, eco-friendly stakes also withstand heavy traffic from people and machinery by absorbing moisture from the ground to increase their elasticity.

Although the head of the stake becomes more pliable as it becomes more elastic, it still retains all of its holding strength, not shattering when hammered, or ripping through fabric and turf if tugged.

For further information Tel: 01233 756241.

## RIGBY TAYLOR GETS ACTIVATE

Mascot Activate R from Rigby Taylor is an established biostimulant for use on amenity turf, improving root development and nutrient retention.

The benefits of this multi component product have now been further advanced by the addition of an Enhanced Root Developer (ERD) system.

Four years of independent trials on Activate R with the ERD complex showed it to have significant beneficial effects on both shoot and root development, with root mass being increased by 21% while root length increased by 32%.

In sand constructions the uncharged surface of the sand particles cannot hold nutrients, and

large amounts of fertiliser input can be lost due to leaching.

Humic acids, contained in Activate R, give the sand rootzone a negative charge, thus creating molecular attraction between the negatively charged sand particles and the positively charged nutrients (e.g. fertiliser).

Humic acids hold nutrients in a form that can be used by the plant, having a natural chelating effect, so improving the transfer of nutrients within the plant.



Soils with a high clay content can become compacted and resist plant rooting. Humic acids work on the soil by altering/rearranging the soil platelets allowing air and water penetration, which is especially useful when high salt content in the soil has caused clay platelets to bind very tightly causing compaction.

Humic acids biologically stimulate plant enzymes and increase their production, stimulate root growth, increase root respiration and root formation and promote the development of chlorophyll, sugars and amino acids as well as aiding photosynthesis.

Activate R + ERD is available in a granular formulation, and also as a liquid which is tank mix compatible with Mascot Microflow liquid fertilisers and products from the Mascot Specialities Range.

For further information Tel: 0800 424 919.



## NEW TRACKER DELIVERS FULL POWER

Terrain Aeration has launched Airforce Tracker, the company's latest terralift aeration machine, following tests of the prototype in a waterlogged garden.

Weighing 400 kilos, 690mm wide, and mounted on twin rubber tracks that give a ground pressure of just 5 PSI, Airforce Tracker is nimble enough to work within established plantings, but delivers all the power of the ride on Airforce machines.

Terrain's MD David Green, who has designed and built the new model, says Tracker has the same hydraulic hammer and probe as his standard Airforce machines, but it's mounted on a Honda HP500 Powered Barrow.

"The diesel powered compressor stays on the trailer and a 50 metre long, high pressure hose connects the two pieces of kit," he explains. "This means we can inject compressed air up to 20 bar, but have the manoeuvrability needed to work in small spaces."

Designed principally to relieve compaction panning in domestic gardens, where access is generally limited, Airforce Tracker can be used to treat lawns between flowerbeds in municipal parks, and, due to its light weight and low ground pressure, heavily waterlogged golf greens and sports fields.

For further information Tel: 01449 673783.

# What 'wood' you do?

Mark Gordon answers the top ten questions about tree and woodland management asked by greenkeepers and Course Managers.

When you visit golf courses on a regular basis to advise, certain questions tend to crop up again and again. This article seeks to answer the top ten questions asked by greenkeepers and course managers about tree and woodland management.

## 1. What fast growing trees can I plant?

It is true that certain species grow faster than others, but the thing that is frequently overlooked is that maintenance has a far bigger impact on tree growth than species choice. A tree, where the weed competition is controlled by herbicide, will grow up to five times faster than an untreated tree. The first point I would make is, plan to maintain the trees you plant to achieve the fastest growth, rather than relying on the type of tree you plant.

Secondly, faster growing species can often have other drawbacks. For example poplar was commonly planted in the past to create "quick growing screens". Unfortunately, this vigorous pioneer species has left a legacy of problems for today's

greenkeepers. It has a low lignin content, thus making it prone to branch breakage and windsnap.

This results in branches being liberally and repeatedly scattered over fairways and greens. A tendency for branch breakage means that poplars pose a significant safety risk when situated near paths, car parks or buildings.

Poplar, along with willow species, have extremely vigorous rooting systems that can quickly penetrate underground pipes and cause problems for tees and greens with their shallow rooting.

In recent years the fashion has been for leylandii planting. This tree does grow quickly on a variety of soils, however they often look out of place within the surrounding landscape.

They are typically planted in rows beside tees, see photo one, or along boundaries. They tend to be short-lived and when they fail the club is then faced with the problem of replacing them while trying to maintain a viable screen.

I have recently seen an example where leylandii, in warm dry weather, were set alight by vandals. The high resin content and dense foliage means they can be quickly and easily turned into flaming torches!



1. Leylandii planted to screen tees are out of keeping with surrounding woodland landscape.



2. Mature beech trees established many years before the greens construction.

The best way to achieve fast growing trees is to plant small trees (less than 1m high), suitable for the site and control the weed competition.

## 2. Should we move this tree?

Trees do not move around. This is an obvious fact, but probably so obvious that people forget about it and think that the tree won't mind being shifted from A to B.

Lets go back to basics. The root system of a tree is typically 2 – 2½ times wider than the crown of the tree. With a tree crown of even just

1m wide you would need to move a rootball 5m<sup>3</sup> to get the entire root system.

It is not difficult to see that when moving even a moderately sized tree a large proportion of the root system is going to be lost. The tree is then placed in a new hole and expected not only to survive but also to grow happily!

Yes, the tree may survive. Like all living things there is a will to live and the tree will use the reserves it has built up to produce more fine roots.

However, while it is doing this, shoot growth will be impeded and the foliage often dies back.

The tree is seeking to survive by reducing the demand on the root system. It is common for new - coppice - shoots to appear at the base and the remainder of the tree to die. A tree will often focus its efforts on producing seed, so a recently moved tree may have a spectacular blossom display, its last gasp effort to reproduce itself before it turns up its toes!

## 3. Where should we plant?

The golden rule to remember is that trees and golf do not mix! Therefore the majority of all tree

planting should be kept away from active areas of play. Frequently key trees were established and reached maturity many years before the golf course appeared.

It is said of an oak tree that it spends 200 years growing, 200 years living and 200 years dying. So even if your club has recently celebrated its centenary, to many of your trees you are only a recent phenomena.

Therefore placing a new tree where a previous veteran stood is often unsuccessful as the golf ball damage and mowing pressure is too high for the young tree to survive, see photo two.

The best place to plant is well away from the golf holes. In practical terms this means identifying areas of "dead" ground. If, when choosing your

planting areas, a committee member says, "I have never been on this part of the course", then you are on the right track!

Aim to link planting to existing woodland or scattered trees as this produces a cohesive landscape, see photo three. Scallop planting back from landing areas and bunkers. Maintain a strip of rough from fairway to the planting area and increase the width when the land falls away towards the planting.

#### 4. Why plant new trees so close?

When planting to create a woodland the trees are usually between 2 - 3m apart. This often appears too dense, especially to green staff when they are mowing between the trees.

However, there is reason behind our madness. Naturally trees produce millions of seeds and tens of thousands of seedlings per hectare, so the aim of new planting is to economically reflect this natural pattern.

The first objective is to close a woodland canopy, so that the trees shade out the weed competition and the closer together the trees are the quicker this objective is achieved, see photo four.

Secondly, the trees provide mutual protection from exposed conditions and golf balls, improving the overall survival and growth rates. Thirdly, widely spaced trees tend to grow outwards rather than upwards resulting in a scrubby form. Closer spacing forces the trees to compete for the light, producing trees with clear, straight stems that form more attractive trees in the long term.

#### 5. Should we mow between young trees?

To mow or not to mow, this is a question that recurs time and again on different courses. For young trees the answer is generally yes, at least for a short while, then NO. The factors that have to be borne in mind are:

For:

- Grass is maintained as the dominant "weed", reducing the invasion by noxious weeds such as nettle, thistle and ragwort.

- Golfers can find lost balls more quickly and this reduces slow play.

- Easier access for other maintenance operations, such as spot weeding.

Against:

- Mown grass is more competitive for moisture and nutrients, thus slowing tree growth.

- Inter-tree mowing is time-consuming and therefore costly.

- Increased risk of damage to trees from cutting machinery.

On balance I tend to recommend inter-tree mowing a couple of times per year for the first few years - up to five - then phasing out to allow the woodland understorey to develop. As the woodland canopy closes, grass growth is increasingly suppressed by the reduced light.

The mowing should be focused to where it is most needed, specifically within the first 5-10m of the edge and in places that receive a high proportion of golf balls, see photo five. Where tree shelters have been used to protect the trees from animal browsing, they provide additional benefit of increased protection from mowing.

Where the planting is more parkland in character mowing may want to continue for aesthetic reasons, but from the trees' point of view uncut is better. It can often be worthwhile weeding around mature trees to reduce the risk of mower damage to the base of the trunk.

#### 6. Is this tree dangerous?

Or the other favourite variation is "Why is this tree dead?" Both these questions are specific to the site, and the actual tree. However, some general observations can be made.

A tree may be subject to the following pressures: old age, rot infection, squirrel bark stripping, golf ball damage, strimmer blight and drought or waterlogged soil.

Normally a mature tree is not killed by one specific factor but rather a combination, with one factor proving to be "the straw that broke the camel's back."

Trees live symbiotically with a wide variety of organisms from tiny beetles to red deer, aphids to golfers. The problem occurs when one or more of these pressures exceed the trees' own resources. A larger mature tree will have more resources than a one-year old seedling, hence the reason why newly planted trees are at greater risk.

The other major consideration is who or what is the tree a danger to? An old rotten beech tree in the middle of a wood is completely different to one



3. Extending an existing wood into 'dead' ground to separate holes.



4. Close planting causes trees to begin to close the canopy after five years.



5. Inter-tree mowing focused on the edge of the tree planting block.



6. A mature oak clinging on to life on the edge of a fairway.

next to the captain's car parking space!

When assessing if a tree is dangerous you have to take account of both how likely it is to fall and what, or whom, it would damage if it did fall. Golf clubs have a legal responsibility to take reasonable precautions for tree safety on their course.

#### 7. Do we need permission to fell these trees?

Yes and no. The Forestry Act requires that you obtain permission in the form of a felling licence before you undertake any tree felling, unless:

- The tree is dead, dying or dangerous. The onerous will be on you to prove the state of the tree prior to felling.
- The timber volume is less than 5m<sup>3</sup>, or 3m<sup>3</sup> if the timber is to be sold, per quarter. This is a relatively low threshold and may be exceeded by two or three large trees.
- The felling is part of a planning approval.

If the tree is covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or within a conservation area you will require permission from the local council for any tree works, from pruning to felling.

In fact, any operation that might impinge on the health of the tree, such as tee extensions, will require permission from the council tree officer. Photograph seven shows the woodland at Oakmere Park golf course before the creation of three new golf holes that required planning approval before the trees could be felled.

#### 8. Can we get a grant for our woodlands?

Again the answer is yes and no. Over the years it has become increasingly difficult to source funding for woodland work on golf courses. This is due to the government focusing money toward priorities that do not favour golf courses, such as public access, larger woods and agricultural diversification. Photograph eight shows a new planting block of over 1/4 hectare, the minimum area permitted, at Ashton-in-Makerfield golf course.

The main source of funding for woodland operations comes from the Forestry Commission. The current trend is for regional targets and this has started with separate grant schemes for England, Scotland and Wales.

Funding is readily available within Wales and Scotland, however the grant scheme in England has recently been closed to most new applications due to a shortage of money.

The new English WGS, due to be launched in April 2005, appears to provide good opportunities, with new grants toward management plans and increased levels for restocking and existing woodland work. But serious concerns remain about the level of overall funding available for the next few years.

#### 9. What's the best way to deal with tree stumps?

If by best you mean cheapest then the answer is to "do nothing", the stump and roots will eventually rot away. Generally, felling trees at ground level is the best option to minimise stump size. However, in areas of long rough it can be beneficial to have higher stumps, so they are obvious to machine operators.

Most broadleaf trees have the capacity to regenerate by producing new

coppice shoots from the stump. The amount of coppice growth depends on the species and age of the tree.

Species that will readily coppice include: willow, poplar, ash, elm, and younger trees, which produce more vigorous growth. This survival mechanism can be exploited to produce usable timber products, such as sweet chestnut coppice, or to rejuvenate an old hedgerow.

Where new growth is not desired the best option is to treat the stump with an approved herbicide immediately after felling. The aim is to kill the cambial layer, the outer dividing layer of the tree, which produces the coppice shoots.

Where coppice shoots do occur they can then be treated with a translocated herbicide, e.g. Roundup, to kill the root system and prevent further growth. With young vigorous species, such as poplar, several applications may be required.

The most expensive option is stump grinding and this is usually only considered where the stumps are considered unsightly or pose a risk to mowing equipment. The stump is ground into chips that can be disposed of

in and around the hole created. It is most cost-effective to identify several stumps for removal around the course.

#### 10. How can we screen effectively?

An effective screen requires ground to tree top vegetation and this can be best achieved by planting a mixture of species in a graded edge.

The core area contains the climax species such as oak, lime and evergreens like Scot's pine. Pioneer species like ash, birch and rowan form the next layer and produce the faster growth.

Then the edge will contain shrub species such as dogwood, field maple and spindle.

A graded edge has several advantages including: reduced shading of tees and greens, a long-term sustainable screen, variety of wildlife habitats, and year-round colour and interest, see photo nine.

The commonest problem with screens is a lack of space. Frequently a narrow strip is all that is available and this leads to planting of a single species in a line, such as leylandii.

Firstly, this can look very artificial and out of keeping with the overall landscape. Secondly, and more importantly, all the trees begin to decline and fail at a similar time.

The club then faces the even harder problem of replacing a mature screen with young trees.

In these situations a phased removal, normally a third of the trees at a time, over several years tends to be the best option. The gaps created can be filled with new planting that becomes established before the next phase.

Trees and woodland create beautiful and secluded landscapes that are enjoyed and appreciated by golfers and greenkeepers alike. The problems faced by greenkeepers are common across the country and lessons can be learned from others experience. Hopefully, this article has gone some way to answering your tree queries.

**Mark Gordon is Associate Director of woodland consultants Eamonn Wall & Co.**



7. Mature woodland at Oakmere Park course before the creation of three new golf holes.



8. Tree planting done with grant aid at Ashton-in-Makerfield golf course.



9. Graded woodland edge on the right and commercial plantation on the left.

## Behavioural Safety

### Tutorial Seven

Not many people in the golfing industry understand the saying "Behavioural Safety". This terminology refers to the attitude of the individual or team in respect of actions to work and behave safely. Behaving safely is an attitude that many workers, employees, etc need to adopt to really improve the safety at their club.

#### So what does behaving safely really mean?

Behaving safely means taking the extra care and consideration to not put your own or others safety at risk. An example of not behaving safely in everybody's lives is driving too fast and without due care. The government estimated that approximately 40% of drivers drive without any consideration for their own or fellow drivers safety.

This statistics is reflected in the number of road accidents per day, the number of fatal accidents and the number of pedestrians killed. Almost all accidents are preventable and approximately 98% are caused by human error. So what goes wrong in this example; the main element is the driver, or drivers, forget the basic rules of driving safely and forget the respect and consideration needed to operate what is dangerous machinery. Quite often the drivers only really ever learn the hard way after the event when serious injury or even the cause of a death has occurred.

So what has this to do with the golfing fraternity; Golf courses require the use of some heavy and dangerous machinery as well handling of dangerous chemicals and in some cases lifting awkward and heavy loads.

If we as the golfing fraternity are behaving safely we will do things the right way which means the following:

- Take sufficient time and planning.
- Ensure we are trained for the task.
- Understand the hazards and risks.
- Comply with club procedures.

- Use the correct tools.
- Ask questions.
- Do not proceed if unsure of any item of the work.
- Act with respect to fellow workers and people in the area.

If we were not Behaving safely we are likely to carry the job out as such;

- Start the job without understanding what can go wrong.
- Use wrong tools and not change them due to delay in completing the job.
- Proceed without respect for persons around them.
- Not gain approval to proceed.

The concept of behaving safely becomes a new way of thinking for many people that have previously taken safety for granted, ie "It will never happen to me". It starts to become the right way, not the wrong way, it becomes an attitude passed on to others, it encourages more efficiency and pride in ones work, it promotes a positive way of thinking that will reflect in many other aspect of the club's performance.

Behavioural Safety is not something that happens instantly but takes time for persons to change their mindset and to adopt a better attitude. A person who is convinced of behavioural safety will ask a fellow worker a question as to the safety of a task with the aim of assisting them or preventing an accident.

Learn more about behaving safely and watch your work change for the better.

Jerrard Winter, Haztek International Golf Health and Safety Specialists. 0208 905 7552



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# News from the Chief Executive

It's December and as we enter the final stages in the planning for BTME & Clubhouse 2005 I wonder where the year has gone. Having recently renewed acquaintances with an old friend I am reminded how easy it is to lose contact and how a great many of us use occasions such as Harrogate as an opportunity to catch up on those lost friendships.

The 'Harrogate week', as it is often referred to, is more than just an exhibition, more than just an education opportunity, it is a bringing together of like minded people who have one over-riding common interest – greenkeeping - and the provision of the best facility possible regardless of the resources available.

No matter which country they come from and no matter what type of golf club, the conversations revolve around the latest in equipment, the current thinking on maintenance and presentation of the golf course and an open and frank exchange of problems, solutions and ideas.

In recent years the addition of the Clubhouse Exhibition and a range of seminars aimed at golf club Secretaries, Managers and Owners has resulted in a steady increase in the number of this category of visitor. Harrogate used to be seen by many as an excuse to get away from work or home and enjoy some of the other attractions of the town, often to excess! I am pleased to say that we have moved away from this less acceptable image. I hope that BIGGA can rely upon your support, if only for a day, and don't forget to bring with you the Secretary or Manager or perhaps the Chairman of Green.

On Friday January 21 2005 BIGGA will host at Harrogate an International Summit. This has usually been held at the GCSAA show and I feel very privileged in being able to organise this event. The summit has developed over recent years to become a forum where greenkeeping associations and other related organisations from around the world are able to discuss and progress initiatives of common interest.

There are two main items currently on the agenda: One, A Global Environmental Policy and, two, the development of a set of standards for professional golf course management. Both of these items have been extensively discussed during the year and by consolidating various existing proposals and policies it has been possible to produce draft documents for consideration at the Summit.

In November I attended the conference held by the South West and South Wales Region when the theme for the day was 'The Environment'. The presentations were excellent and I hope that those delegates not already directly involved in an environment project went away duly motivated enough to think about their own golf course. It is all too easy to blame a lack of resource, be it manpower or funding, however there is quite a lot that can be done with very little effort or cost. Golf courses are a major user of land and one of the Association's projects for next year is to try to establish the extent of environmental best practice being carried out in Britain. This will then give us a 'benchmark' against which we can measure the future.

Legislation and the demands for a more discerning golfer will force many clubs down a route that they have chosen to ignore. It is proposed to hold a series of workshops next year on the development of an environment policy and the R&A have agreed to make a grant towards the cost of the training. If you need more information on this or help in getting started then please do not hesitate to contact Ken Richardson or Sami Collins at BIGGA Headquarters.

Finally I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please note that BIGGA HOUSE will be closed between Christmas Eve and January 4, staff being obliged to take some of their annual holiday at this time. An emergency telephone number will, however, be left on the answering machine which in itself will be regularly checked. Lets hope 2005 is a drier year, on the few occasions that I played golf in 2004 I more often than not seemed to get wet. Perhaps someone is trying to tell me something!

**John Pemberton**



Peter Boyd  
**SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND**  
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## SCOTTISH REGION

### Ayrshire

Hello once again, hope you're all well and have got off to a good start on your winter projects. The machinery demonstration/AGM day went well with a good turnout on what proved to be a bitterly cold day. Our thanks to Hamilton Bros for their efforts in displaying a wide variety of their inventory and entertaining PowerPoint presentations. Thanks also to Jim Paton for his part in organising this successful event. The AGM portion was efficiently dispatched under the auspices of Secretary Derek Wilson and outgoing Chairman Martin Lothian. Derek, it was unanimously agreed, should continue as Secretary while Marshall Sloss takes over as Chairman with Stephen Higgins his Vice-Chairman.

Tumberry's Brian Aitken has been recognised by Langside College with an award for outstanding achievement for his recently completed HNC in Golf Course Management. So on behalf of the Section, "Well done Big Bri!"

What have I been up to you ask? Well in October I went down to Leeds to play in the National Championship for the first time and after the first round I found myself leading! No really! Normal service resumed the next day and I played like a big girls blouse! I thoroughly enjoyed the two day event and would highly recommend it to anyone thinking of going.

Good news though, as I have recently been invited to go on the BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhards, to travel to Orlando in February. Come on! It was the first time I sent back the card that was in the magazine, so if you have been sceptical before maybe next year you should give it a go.

Y'all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year now, Y'Hear!

Phone me on 07939 104701 if you want.

**Dennis Tweddell**

### Central

The Section AGM was held at the conference facilities at Elmwood Golf Course, on October 27, when 20 members (out of a membership of 240) made the effort to attend and we were treated to three excellent presentations prior to the AGM by Tim Earley, from Waste 2 Water, Fiona Miller, from The Scottish Golf Environment Group, and Douglas Shearer, from Elmwood College, due to the interest shown in each speaker the timetable for the day went completely out of the window.

Nevertheless a very constructive meeting took place when many issues were discussed and answers given to numerous questions put to the committee, answers to the questions unanswered will be sought from those who know. I won't tell you what the questions were because you should have been at the meeting to find out!

Following the meeting, Course Manager, Andrew Mellon, took us on a tour of his excellent newly constructed facilities, if you wish to visit them just get in touch with Andrew and he will be more than happy for you to visit, it would certainly be worthwhile to take a member of your club committee with you just to let them see what should be provided for golf course staff, especially to keep within the Health and Safety Legislations which are coming at us thick and fast these days.

Anyway, I know you are all dying to know who your new committee are for the next year, so, are you sitting comfortably, then I'll begin!

Chairman, Stuart Cruickshank, Deer Park Golf & Country Club; Vice Chairman, Deek Scott, Scoonie Golf Course; Past Chairman, Andy O'Hara, Leven Links;

Committee, Archie Dunn, Auchterarder Golf Club; Ian MacMillan, Murrayshall Hotel & Golf Course; Andrew Mellon, Elmwood Golf Course and Euan Grant, St. Andrews Links; Patron's Representative, Kevin Brunton, Greentech Sportsturf; Corporate member, J. Finlayson, Scotlube; Secretary/Treasurer, yes you're stuck with me again, John Crawford, Stirling Golf Club.

As this is the final report for this year I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us this year, i.e. the Patron's of the Scottish Region, the numerous golf clubs for the courtesy of their facilities, the Section Committee and those members who supported our events, to those of you who didn't, thanks anyway for being part of The Association!

Awrabestfurtwathoosanananive.

**John Crawford**

### North

Only one new member to report this month and this is Simon Donald who is an apprentice at Peterhead Golf Club. Welcome to the Section Simon.

The AGM was held at the Links in Aberdeen on October 14 and Dougal Duguid and Stuart McBain stood down from the committee. Our thanks go to these guys for all their



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hard work to the Section over the years. They were not replaced, as there are enough on the committee for the present.

The seminar evening was held at The MacDonald Golf Club, in Ellon, on November 12 and was a resounding success. The speakers went down well and are to be thanked for their contribution, with the main speaker being Dave Renwick, who is currently Vijay's Singh's caddy, the number one golfer in the world. Dave had to answer many questions and this proved to be very entertaining. The other speakers were Dave Watson, of East Aberdeenshire GC, and John Cavin, of Paul Lawrie Management. Our thanks also go to MacDonald Golf Club who fed us superbly with a carvery and also kept us well watered. There were about 80 people attending and this was up on last year. £100 was raised for the Archway charity, which helps look after disabled people.

It was also noted that a certain chirpy bluenose bought a round of drinks and this was thoroughly appreciated by everyone. He also had a tie on for the first time ever, honest.

The outings for next year are at Murcar in the Spring and Garmouth in the Autumn. The Scottish National Championship for greenkeepers is to be held at The McDonald Golf Club, in Ellon, on June 23, 2005.

The tickets for the 200 Club will arrive sometime in the new year and Hughie McIclatchie, from Peterhead, is running the club. He can be contacted on 01779 470173.

The show at Scotsturf was held on November 10 and 11 and was a lot smaller a show than anything I have been to before at Scotsturf. The fertiliser companies were absent and this made it possible to walk around the show in no time at all. For anyone travelling a great distance this may have been disappointing.

The Patron Award winners are heading to Stirling shortly to pick up their awards and they are David Duggan, of Fortrose GC, and Duncan Adams, of Nemmacher GC. They also get a trip to Harrogate for their award.

I would also like to wish Mike Wilson all the best for the future. Mike, formerly of Forres GC, always had the course in pristine condition and on behalf of the members I would like to wish him and his family all the best for the future.

Have a Merry Christmas, a good New Year and a hassle free holiday period.

**Iain Gunn**

#### West

Our AGM was held at Hampden Park on October 27 and it was great to see such a big turn out. There were 38 members in attendance and they were treated to a tour round the complex. Scottish Grass Machinery sponsored the day and laid on several different demonstrations of equipment. Thanks to David McInroy for his continued support and to Kenny Hunter for organising the programme.

The day ran very well and the new committee is; Fraser Ross, Chairman; Douglas McIntosh, Vice Chairman; Brian Bolland, Past Chairman; Gavin Jarvis, Secretary; John Robertson, Education; Derek Duthie, Trade; Kenny Hunter, Trade. There are two new members, Stuart Taylor and Eddie McGee welcome aboard. I would like to thank Brain Bolland for his two years as Chairman, he worked very hard for the Section, attending various seminars, golf outings and many other duties involved with the post.

Gerry Bruen, from Williamwood Golf Club, is moving on to pastures new, he has been appointed Head Greenkeeper of Killeel Golf Club, in Northern Ireland. I'm sure we all wish Gerry all the best, many thanks for the hard work you carried out for the Section over the years.

There are three new members this month Andrew Peace, Port Glasgow Golf Club, Steven Copland, Kirkintilloch Golf Club, and Alan Dykes, World of Golf, welcome to the Section.

It's with great sadness that I announce the death of Robert (BOB) Scott who was Head Greenkeeper at Elderslie Golf Club for many years. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time (see the letters page for a tribute to Bob).

This year's dinner has been a big sell out, we will try to get more tickets for next year. On a personal note it's a great honour and pleasure for me to be the Chairman of the West Section. I will do my best to represent the Section over the next two years.

**Fraser Ross 07970 366 355**

## NORTHERN REGION

#### North West

October has been a reasonably quiet month for the Section, with no golf competitions to report on, although the National Championship was played at Alwoodley Golf Club on October 4 and 5, which is in the Northern Region.

Unfortunately only one member of the N/W Section grasped the opportunity to play this truly superb course, and that was Peter Hogan, who will receive £50 towards his costs from the Regional funds.

The environment award is once again up for grabs, and Wilmslow Golf Club has once again entered, so let's hope Steve Outtram and his team can pull it off this time. Wilmslow GC have in the past won the Regional award, so it is worthwhile to keep on trying.

Two members in the Section have increased their families, both with daughters.

Aidie Holt and his wife have a little girl named Cerys, and Duncan Smith and his wife have a little girl called Katie. All are doing well, and I suppose both dads are taking their turn at doing night shifts. How time flies, we will shortly have Christmas upon us, so in order for me to save money on cards and stamps I will wish you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

You can contact me on 0151 724 5412 or 07761 583357.

**Bert Cross**

#### Northern

Hi all. I must start this month with an apology for the lack of a report in last month's magazine, this was down to me sending it to the wrong email address.

September 15 saw the long awaited return of the match between the Northern Section and the Sheffield Section. The match was held at the fantastic Huddersfield Golf Club, and may I take this opportunity to thank everybody at Huddersfield for the superb course, food and hospitality on the day.

The result was a 3-3 draw but after looking back through the archives it was found that when the match was last played, some 25 years ago, the Northern Section were victorious so I'm pleased to say that as holders the trophy stops up here for another year. It has just been confirmed that next year's return match is going to be played at Hillsborough GC on July 13. A big thank you must go to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the day, especially Mike Brear for his help in setting up the day.

The Autumn tournament and AGM was held at Low Laithes GC on October 13 and yet again the AGM was a huge disappointment with just 23 members from the Section attending. The golf, on the other hand, was a great success with the results as follows: DIV1. 1. Andy Clarke, 38; 2. Dave Collins, 36; 3. Andy Slingsby, 34. DIV2. 1. Frank Stewart, 38; 2. Roy Armitage, 33; 3. Adam Speight, 31. DIV3. John Watts, 40; 2. Simon Rothwell, 30; 3. Jo Baxter, 27. Thank you again to Alpha Amenity and Scotts UK who sponsored the event and for their support of the Section.

Congratulations to Chairman Andy Slingsby who, on November 4, made his television debut on local news programme Calendar. He found some stolen Shetland ponies wandering the fairways of Moor Allerton Golf Club and was interviewed following his heroic equine rescue. He promises to have a shave and do his hair before his next appearance!

With Christmas fast approaching, Chairman, Den Cockburn, has added a new pair of driving glasses to his wish list. This is due to the fact that when dropping his son at work, he ran into a closed barrier, resulting in a shattered windscreen, among other things! Luckily the barrier survived the incident, I'm pleased to report.

Finally, thank you to John Watts and Frank Stewart, who have both volunteered to be on the committee with immediate effect.

Merry Christmas and a very happy 2005 to all members and their families, I hope Santa is kind to you all!

Adam Speight, Tel: 01274 638366, Mobile: 07739319060, Email:

**adam@speight1156.fsife.co.uk**

#### Cleveland

Firstly I would like to apologise for the lack of news over the last few months - however this was due to some technical problems within the 'Electronic World'. The relevant computer at Headquarters did not receive the notes! Therefore if I have repeated any items please bear with me.

However congratulations are in order for Martin and Joanne Woods. They have recently had a visit from the stork, who delivered their first child, little Charlotte, who weighed in at 7lbs 2 oz. Good luck to all three of you. Bags under the eyes and dirty fingernails will soon be evident in the Bedlington sheds! Best wishes also go to Phil Hargrave, of Crook Golf Club, who married Suzanne in early July. Good luck to you both from all Cleveland members.

The Autumn Tournament took place recently, at Saltburn Golf Club, kindly sponsored by Brendan Brown of Norlube. This type of main sponsorship is very much appreciated by our Section - thanks Brendan. Phil and his staff have the place in first class order - well done. Mind you the course certainly takes its toll on the 50 plus brigade who have dodgy knees. It was Saturday before I could walk again.

First prize went to Ian Holoran, of Middlesbrough Municipal, he nudged out Barry Walker on the back 9 scoring, both players scoring 34 points. Martin Woods, of Bedlington, finished a close third with 33 points. Ian said a few words at the presentation, he said how pleased he was to take first prize but, more importantly, he took a quid off his golfing protégé, Tony Smith, of Teesside. Results of the Whitelaw Bowl held at Penrith on September 8: Tony Smith, Teesside GC, came 3rd;

Ian Holoran, Middlesbrough Municipal, came 2nd.

News from an UN-NAMED 'reliable source'; In the Middlesbrough Municipal Open held on August 15, in a Four ball-Better ball competition, Tony Smith (partner was Ian Holoran) got on the scorecard only twice! Comments were that if we converted the number of Tony's putts into points in a Stableford competition, they would win 99 times out of 100! Practice required here Mr Chairman!

The jobs merry-go-round has begun. Barry Walker has moved from Wearside to City of Newcastle. Good luck Baz! I wonder how he will cope in the heartland of the Mags?

Any suggestions for winter lectures or visits please contact Ian Pemberton (07989508878). The annual T.S.L. Quiz will take place, as usual, at Mount Oswald Golf Club, 7.30pm start on Wednesday December 8. The Greenkeepers have the title to defend so get the details in your diary NOW! I have had a request from the Section committee, which I am pleased to comply with. They won the quiz last year after many second places. The main difference in 2003 was that their usual losing team captain, Kevin Heslop, from Brancepeth Castle, was unable to attend. Therefore, if any member of the Section knows any policemen in the Crook area can you please ask them to detain Kev at 6.30 pm on the night. He could be released at around 10 pm.

News please to El Prez on 07831 214879.

**Terry Charlton**

### Sheffield

This is the last of my monthly newsletters. As most of you know I have accepted an invitation to become Vice Captain at Gainsborough GC and as a result of this I shall no longer have the time to commit myself to anything else at present. I must say a big thank you to all who have contributed to the newsletters and I hope you will support whoever takes on the role of compiling the editorials after me.

The lecture season is upon us once again and the first held, as usual, was at Rotherham GC (our thanks go to them for the use of their clubhouse). The lecture was by Jerrard Winter, of Haztek International, so many thanks go to him for a very enjoyable talk and interaction on Health and Safety.

There was a reasonable turnout but it goes without saying really that we would like to see more members attending, especially new members, as our Chairman has worked very hard in acquiring a wide range of different and informative topics, hopefully for you all to enjoy. Please don't let all his hard work go to waste, come and support the Section and chat with old friends and make some new ones.

The Rigby Taylor Trophy between Sheffield and the Northern Section took place at a sun kissed Huddersfield GC in September. The day was a great success, everyone taking part really enjoyed themselves. The result was a honourable draw, three matches each, but the Northern Section actually retained the trophy because they won the last time this match was played back in 1984. The return match has already been arranged and will be played at Hillsborough GC on July 13 next year. We look forward to this encounter and we shall be determined to get our hands back on the trophy this time having home advantage.

Congratulations go out to our ex President, Ken Arnold, on a hole in one at the second hole at Abbeydale GC recently. Ken Arnold is one of the oldest members at Abbeydale and achieved his feat in the same week that the youngest member also hit a hole in one at the very same hole. Many thanks once again for your support.

**Geoff Wells**

### North Wales

Ian Buckley, from Northop GC, has a new position at Rhyl GC, we wish him well there and Don Pemberton, ex Vale Royal Abbey, has started with Arclid, based in Sharrocks as a Representative for the Kubota range of machinery.

Penybrlyn driving range has opened a 9-hole golf course, just across the way from North Wales's Pebble Beach resort of Nefyn. The owner, Mr Will Owen, had the original idea for his land with great sea views and this, combined with the large caravan park next door, plus the driving range, will attract a lot of holiday traffic starting the 2005 season. It will also host the 'Wake fest' held in June each year on his adjoining fields with over 10,000 surf enthusiasts from all over the globe partying through the night.

Terry Adamson seems to get into these notes every month, this time it is for the car crash he had on the A55 near to Bangor, he was coming to stop at the roadwork's temporary traffic lights when the car coming up behind him at about 40mph decided not to stop, Terry got shunted up the back and pushed across to the verge of the dual carriageway, he was trapped for a few minutes as the car door had jammed with the impact, he has sustained whiplash and is still having nightmares of the car coming up behind him in his rear view mirror, he is currently recuperating over at Tequiza GC, in Tenerife. We wish him well and hope he can take off the neck brace when he returns to play at our Christmas tournament on December 8 (results next month).

Also next month is Harrogate BTME, we are a little under six weeks away, January 18, 19 & 20 2005. I am always saying "make sure you book your accommodation", with all the extra activities going on at the night time it really is essential to book in

early as most of the primetime walking location places will have gone by now. For those of you attending the GCSAA show in February again in Orlando, Florida, there is still a chance to get some great deals both on flights and accommodation. The GCSAA also hosts a night at Sea World for attendees to get together.

Well it is just short and sweet this month as we head up to the festive season, and it leaves me to do wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Mesen Cymru

**Andrew Acorn** [acorngolf@supanet.com](mailto:acorngolf@supanet.com)



### East Midlands

This year's annual Rigby Taylor golf match against the Midland Section was kindly hosted by Lingdale GC on October 14. The previous day saw an exceptional amount of rainfall and the day started with even more rain, for the morning Greensomes. After the morning round the East Midlands led by 3 points to 2, with a fine 6&5 win from Richard Barker and Chris Brown.

The other two points came from Adi Porter & Stuart Raybould, and Steve Donoghue & Gavin Robson. After our lunch, the weather had brightened up ready for our afternoon singles round, with us needing a further four and a half points to retain the Shield. The afternoon round consisted of some very big wins for both sides, Adi Porter winning 7&5, Antony Bindley winning 7&6 and, unfortunately, Stuart Raybould obtaining a walkover as one of the Midlands players was unable to continue.

The other victory came from Andy Marsh, 1 up, with Richard Barker earning a hard fought half. This resulted in a tie, but as previous winners we were able to retain the Rigby Taylor Shield. Our other two remaining players to make up the ten man side were Dave Leatherland and Russell Allen.

Our thanks should go to Lingdale GC for hosting the competition and thanks also to Andy McGreal and his staff for presenting a superb golf course in such wet conditions.

Also thanks to the Steward and Stewardess for a really great meal. A special thank you should go to Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the day, especially to Tony Cheese and Geoff Little for all their superb work in organising the day.

Also could I once again remind all members to return their entry forms and payment before the closing date of any event, the reason for this is that numbers and tee-off times have to be confirmed with the golf clubs.

**Antony Bindley**

### Midland

It must be something in the water (by any other word poison)! Stupid me, with grain or grape, nectar. Plying has worked well for me in the past, although somewhat distant. "So what's the mad fool on about now?"

Congratulations to three of our chaps, and of course their fair lasses. L. Swann and fiancée, Sonia, with baby girl, Amy, who shall be the little sister of Joshua. D. Maydew and wife, Jill, with baby boy Daniel. C. Tidmarsh and wife Emma with baby boy George, I know Asda's cost effective but that's extreme Craig. There is also another on the way, but I shall have to keep you in suspenders for now, all shall be revealed soon enough. It must be an adult thing, I'm so glad one is still a boy.

As you maybe aware, for many years our Section has played an annual match against our good friends and neighbours, the East Midland Section. This year we were blessed with the pleasure of playing Lingdale Golf Club. Our thanks to Mr A. McGreal and his fine team for producing such fine standards in the most difficult and inclement of weathers. Very well done gentlemen. Also, thanks to Lingdale for affording us the pleasure of their course.

The match was eventually a tie, but as winners of last year the East Midland team retain the shield. Well played gentlemen. Our thanks to A. Bindley for sorting out the opposition team, and to T. Cheese, of Rigby Taylor, for their kind sponsorship of this very successful event. Long may such continue.

On October 31 we held our annual angling match against our friends from Middleton Hall Anglers Association. We had a lovely morning's fishing in great weather, followed by a delicious buffet and drinks. The Greenkeepers won this year, but I was a little concerned with the amount of flasks P. Johnson had in his creel. Peter cleaned up very nicely thank you with largest fish, heaviest bag, and obviously the sweep. Combined worth in the region of £90, not bad for a morning's fishing. Other prize winners being A. Shore and yours truly. Our greatest of thanks to Mr A. Southam, of Hanson Aggregates, for organising the event, the great prize table and for putting on such a great spread which contained some of Mrs Southam's lovely 'trifle'. Thanks also to Middleton Hall Anglers for making us so very welcome, we look forward to next year's match. Cheers Allan.



**SOUTH EAST**

**Surrey**

Due to Surrey Section not having an autumn golf competition, there is little to report on this month, except to welcome back, after a break of 18 months, Ian Jennings, who has taken control at Wimbledon Common GC as Head Greenkeeper. Ian, who was at Esher & Thames Ditton GC for more years than one can remember, is pleased to be back and would like to buy a drink for any of his old friends if they are able to catch him on payday.

Please also congratulate Anne Farley, who gave birth to Jon Anton Lee, 8 lbs 5 oz, on August 26. Her husband, Darren, RAC GC, looked remarkably well.

A report on the Turkey Trot tournament and AGM, at Laleham GC, on December 2 will appear in the January edition.

Since my last report in the October edition, I have, as some of you know, been on holiday in China. The two week tour was fascinating and included a 400 mile cruise on the Yangzi River, three internal flights, visits to the terracotta soldiers, Tiananmen Square, the Great Wall, at least 50 palaces and temples, a silk factory, a jade factory, a very brief hello from a Madame in one of those bars, a foot massage (yes, foot) and finally a shopping expedition to Bob's Golf shop in Beijing.

Bob, like most of the Chinese we met, had a wonderful sense of humour, spoke good English and insisted that all his products for sale were as genuine as the Rolex watch I had bought the day before. Needless to say, my brother-in-law, Paul, and I saw through this sales ploy and left empty handed, apart from the dozen Callaway shirts and the latest Taylormade R5 driver. The Taylormade R7 driver made us a little suspicious as to its authenticity when the moveable weight system in this Chinese version refused to move.

And finally, good luck to Tony Worsfold, Head Mechanic at the RAC GC, who, in addition to other duties, looks after the club's veteran vehicles. The 1903 Mors enters, once again, the London to Brighton veteran race and Tony will be there to ensure that it makes it to the finish.

**Brian Willmott**

**London**

The London Section hosted its first education seminar under the new committee at Porters Park Golf Club, last month. Although the quality of speakers were excellent, the turn out to listen to them did not reflect this. I agree that everyone must start somewhere, and this maybe is the start of something to build on, however, I do not see 22 members out of a possible 197 being successful.

These notes are the only real chance to get messages across to our Section members so I need to use them constructively and honestly, if we are to realise our goal of becoming a strong and organised Section. We want to reach out to all levels of greenkeepers, from the apprentice up to the Course Manager so when you read these notes, call me with any feedback or ideas that can benefit everyone in our Section.

Enough ranting, and back to Porters Park. A very special thanks to all our speakers, who were Rob Phillips, Duncan McGilvary, Katie Walls, Billy McMillan and the ever enthusiastic Frank Newberry. A wide range of areas were covered with the importance of communication and benefits of education standing out, as well as Billy's philosophy of keeping it simple. Many thanks to Porters Park as well for the use of the clubhouse and lovely lunch that was laid on.

I must also add that it was great to see our new Regional Administrator, Clive Osgood, there and, personally, I hope we get a lot more opportunity to meet with Clive and I am sure the whole Region will benefit from Clive's knowledge and experience. Next month we will have the results from our turkey trot, being played at Ashridge Park, as well as a report on our AGM, until then I'll just keep picking up leaves!

**Alec MacIndoe 07780955817**

**East Anglia**

62 members braved the weather forecasters prediction of a wet and windy day in the East Anglia area by making the journey to Ipswich to play in our October meeting at Rushmere Golf Club.

On arrival we were shocked to see the bar area cornered off due to structural renovation and many of us were relieved to find out that in each corner of a lengthy bar there would be provision for us to acquire our favourite tippie.

Before golfing commenced egg and bacon rolls were served. Egg yolk on shirts became the hazard of the day. As for the weather forecast, the rain stayed away but there was a firm breeze blowing throughout the day, which was causing problems for some but not for others.

Once on the course it was evident to everybody how good a playing surface Pat

As you may recall, earlier in the year BIGGA, in association with Bernhard, ran a competition to win a trip to the GCSA show in Florida. M. Gash has been successful in his application. I have every confidence that Mike shall represent our Section to the highest of standards, and shall return with some great stories. Watch this space.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome four new members to our Section: Mr Timms, Mr N. P. Heywood, Mr E. G. Mutch, and Mr J. A. Cunningham. Also I would like to include the new members that I had included within last month's notes, but due to a reason beyond my simple comprehension was not published. Such being: Neill Smith and Christopher Roberts, from Ludlow GC, Charley Allwood, from Brockington Hall GC, and lastly my old friend Paul Whitten, from Fulford Heath GC (I hope you are not kipping in Lysa Jones' old bedroom or I'll have to kill you). Lee, if you read this ring me on the following, I'd love to catch up with you, 0121 515 4331.

Finally congratulations to Mike Hughes and Dave Fellows for finishing 3rd Gross and 3rd Nett respectively at the National Championship, held at Alwoodley Golf Club, and to the Midland Region for winning the Team Trophy.

Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year from the Midland Section.

**Sean McDade**

**East of England**

October 21 was the date of the Section's final golf meeting of the year and was held at Boston Golf Club. The day was attended by only 15 greenkeepers and seven trade members. Our thanks go to Bruce Hicks and his team for the course and to Boston Golf Club for allowing us to see the club's facilities.

The day was sponsored by Nigel Lovatt, from Toro, and thanks go to him for the prizes on the day. The winners were: 1. Russ Moody, 39pts; 2. T. Shinkins, 30pts; 3. Jack Fairman, 30pts. The trade/guest prize was won by D. Coupland, 32pts. Longest Drive. S. Dickinson. Nearest the Pin. Russ Moody.

The order of merit for 2004 was also decided at Boston. The prize was still up for grabs but needed a mathematical miracle for anyone to catch the eventual winner, Russ Moody. Well done Russ, who has had by far the most consistent season, enjoy the glory Russ, your handicap has been cut for next year.

As the year is coming to an end I will take this opportunity to thank all the clubs that have allowed us to visit and have made us feel very welcome, also thanks to all the companies that have sponsored the events through the year, and the Trade members that turn out at every event and bring raffle prizes and to the members that come and support these events. All of these people play an important part of making these events successful but more support from greenkeepers around the Section could make them even better.

Planning is under way for next season and we are currently looking for venues for the season, so if you have any ideas where we can play or would like to offer your course please let me know ASAP on 07702 435122.

As a committee we are always looking for new ideas on events that could be held and we are trying to organise an educational seminar in the winter. More input from Section members would help us pick subjects that are relevant and of interest to you all. So please help us out with some communication and try to support your Section as much as possible.

**Les Howkins**

**Mid Anglia**

Hi folks, here's the latest news from our Section. October 27 saw almost 40 members descend on Woburn Golf & Country Club, to thrash around in their glorious trees and enjoy the splendour of the Duchess course. A great day was had by all, due to the impressive work of Chris Hunt and his team, and all the helpful bar staff and waitresses. It really was a treat to walk the same course where so many great pro's had played before (although I think we found some places the pro's never found!).

The results were as follows: 1. Gary Boulton, Dunstable Downs; 2. Nigel Phelan, St Andrews Hospital; 3. Mathew Reed, Bocket Hall. Longest Drive. Neil Pestle, Bocket Hall. Nearest the Pin. Richard Goddard, Ashridge.

The whole day was sponsored by DFL/Seol-Nassau, so big thanks go to them and everyone else involved in the day.

BIGGA's very own John Pemberton was our guest for the day and he gave a short speech all about what was happening at HQ and generally, on the whole, that it's a good time to be a greenkeeper and a member of BIGGA.

Woburn was also the venue for our AGM, which as usual was quiet but very well attended. Everyone on the committee was voted back on for another year, aside from Mark Ellis and John Wells, who had previously stated that they'd be stepping down.

So once again we go on, lead by our Chairman, Steve Mason, to see what another year brings. By the time you read this Christmas will be on its way, we'll all be skint, but hey it's Christmas! So if the good Lord is willing and the creek don't rise I'll be writing again, real soon, but until then... merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

**Bob Butfoy**

Swinn and his staff had produced through the year. After a number of dry years causing areas to suffer drought and fire (this is common land after all) everything was in very good shape. This was reflected in the abundance of good scores.

The bandits fared well as usual. Not in the least our Section Secretary which will be of no surprise to any of you! After a short word, prizes were presented by Rushmere Golf Club's Captain, Mr Brian Perks. The overall winner with 44 Stapleford points was N. Kidd. 0-9 handicap section. 1. P. Howard, 36 points; 2. M. Buck, 35 points on countback; 3. A. Curson, 35 points. 10-18 handicap section. 1. I. Willett, 41 points; 2. M. Turner, 38 points; 3. D. Fanner, 35 points. 19-28 handicap section. 1. N. Kidd, 44 points; 2. R. Ransome, 38 points; 3. G Rayfield, 35 points.

Trade and Guest Prize. 1. N. Ashman, 38 points on countback; 2. B. Perks, 38 points. Nearest the Pin. You've guessed it..... I. Willett. Longest Drive. A. Scott.

The loo seat was won by someone who would normally not be associated with any calamity on the course and in this instance he was not! Peter Howard, as always, once in the clubhouse busied himself selling raffle tickets (a favourite occupation of his).

What he kept as a closely guarded secret was that it was his 60th Birthday. Unknown to him and the majority of members, his wife, daughter, son-in-law and grand daughter, Kate, were being ushered through the clubhouse to an area where they could prepare a Birthday cake for a presentation in full view of the golf club.

Resounding applause greeted a speechless Peter, who still managed to blow out ALL the candles! Still in a state of surprise Peter said a few words cumulating in an offer of a drink on his tab, and for many this was as welcome as the piece of his cake, which I have to say was lovely. So for his failed attempt at secrecy he was presented with the loo seat.

Many thanks to all our sponsors. The main sponsors of the day were Tomlinson Groundcare, who supplied all golfing prizes, and not forgetting all those who donated prizes to the raffle; Atterton Bernard, John Deer, Atkins, Batrum Mowers, Textron, Toro UK, Consult Clarkson, Vitax Scotts UK, Sherriff Amenity, Ben Burgess and Rigby Taylor.

Despite relaxed dress code the majority of members still wore a jacket and tie, as one would expect from a professional organisation such as ours. A standard we should always adhere to.

As you may be aware from our last AGM all venues have been booked for 2005 and for your information all venues for 2006 have been provisionally booked. This shows that as a Section we are in good stead for future events, showing a positive attitude toward the Association from clubs in our area.

Many thanks to Colin Rushbrooke, our Section President, for his time in liaising with prospective golf clubs and to Ian Willet, our Section Secretary, for following through with firm bookings and organisation.

Hope to see you all at Thorpeness Golf Club on Wednesday December 15 (please note change of date) for our Christmas Texas Scramble and AGM.

Steve Millard

## SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

The South West and South Wales Region would like to thank Amenity Technology for once again sponsoring the visit to BTME. This year will see the accommodation subsidised, instead of the transport, as in previous years. Reservations are for a three night stay. To make a reservation or to obtain details of prices please contact Jane Jones, South West and South Wales Regional Administrator on 01454 270 850 or mobile 07841948110.

### South West

Hello Boys - I'm back!

Yes, after 12 years of that most painful of afflictions "Greenkeepers' Block", and mainly because we couldn't afford Marc Haring's professional fees, I'm back in the fold as Fixtures Secretary and Press Officer.

Actually, it was all a ghastly mistake - I was just nodding off in the back of the AGM when I thought someone said - "Who wants to fix the Secretary?" - I leapt to my feet to scream, "Yes I'll fix the Secretary all right. Inventing that blasted silly yellow ball game," My son was mentally scarred for life last year, losing the double-point scoring yellow ball with his first shot in anger. He's now taken to obsessively searching for things, day and night. I've had no end of broken nights as he sleepwalks into our room in the small hours, and blunders around in my drawers muttering "I know it's here somewhere, just another couple of minutes". But unfortunately by the time I realised it was actually a Fixtures Secretary they were after, the doors had been locked, Chris Sealey had bellowed "All In Favour" and the rest of the room thundered "AYE". So it was too late.

So let's get one or two things straightened out. This is not my column, it's your

column. I can't write it properly unless I've got some actual news. This is your opportunity to share problems, information, and news, any issues however small - send them and I'll include them. One thing we greenkeepers don't do so well is share information and ask advice, so now's the chance.

You have a set of Section officers unsurpassed in recent times, and in Nobby Knight we have one of the most enthusiastic Secretaries ever. But even they can't run the Section well if they don't have our support.

Section Meetings are not just "a day off work playing golf", they are so much more. I personally went home from Chipping Sodbury inspired by the condition and presentation of the course on that day, and determined to do better at my own club. To me it was a crying shame that more members weren't there to share that experience.

Of course Paul Godwin featured strongly in the prizes - again! Chopping his handicap hasn't stopped him, so perhaps chopping the head off his driver will slow him down. However, if that fails.....

Full results were: 1; Paul Godwin, Kendleshire, Nobby Knight, Marlborough, Robin Greaves, Countrywide Farmers, 105 pts; 2. Tim Needham, Chipping Sodbury, Adam Matthews, Minchinhampton, Dave Rosselli, Minchinhampton, 86 pts; 3. Elliot Nicholls, Cotswold Hills, Andy Akerman, The Orchard GC, Chris Sealey, Chippenham, 85 pts.

Many thanks to Chipping Sodbury for the courtesy of the course and looking after us so well - special thanks to Clive, John, Tim, Anthony and the team for the presentation of the course which was just outstanding given the weather conditions and the time of year.

At the AGM, all officers were re-elected, apart from David Bougen who steps down after several very successful years as Fixtures Secretary. Many thanks Dave for arranging so much quality golf. Guy Woods carries on in Education, and continues our partnership with Training Express. One example of Guys' expertise was the recent Training Day at Bath GC, which was so successful. Give Guy a ring on 01225 333928 to discuss any specific training needs.

The next Section meeting is the Christmas event at Kingsdown, on December 8. Kingsdown is a superb hilltop course with dry walking, so with bacon rolls and coffee, a brisk game of greensomes, the Christmas meal & raffle, and a bargain cost of £16, lets support our sponsors and have a really good day.

A final word of warning - if I don't get plenty of info for next month, you'll be hearing all about my holidays or something equally boring!

Paul Worster, 01285 651908 \ 07768 394593. paul.worster@tesco.net

Paul Worster

### South Coast

As I sit here writing these notes I can hear a crescendo of fireworks. The sky is lit up by another cascading rocket, no doubt followed by the inevitable "oo's" and "ahh's" from spellbound children. Yes it's bonfire night. It seems incredible that another year has passed and Christmas is almost here.

Winter programmes are in full swing and preparations for staff Christmas parties are finalised. Staff parties are always a great time and ours is always a topic of conversation for weeks after, particularly with the General Manager after she receives the bar bill! This is where our communication skills are put to good use. Frank Newberry skills in training us to be effective communicators and this covers every eventuality, thanks Frank!

I have it on good authority that these notes are read by friends of the Section all over the world, it seems incredible but true. As we are bracing ourselves for the winter Alan Devlin, "Devo" to his mates, is busy sunning himself down under. No doubt the barbie is out and ready for Christmas dinner on the beach, oh what a life. G'day Devo! We look forward to seeing you next Christmas.

The fireworks display has finished and on Sky Sports is golf from Atlanta Georgia. East Lake is the host of the Tour Championship and a golf course I was very fortunate to visit when I travelled with the BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard, two years ago. It looks different to the course we walked which was in dormancy at the time of our visit.

The successful representatives for the next Delegation in February have now been informed and we have to pass on our congratulations to Tim Rockey, of Parkstone Golf Club, for being chosen. I know Tim was very disappointed last year when he missed out but was determined to push this disappointment to one side and apply again this year. His determination was rewarded and should be an example to all of those who have been unsuccessful this year. I know Tim will have a fantastic, but hard, week in Orlando and I look forward to hearing all about his trip.

Some more good news from Parkstone, Paul and Jackie Cooper have been blessed with a beautiful daughter, Elouise. Congratulations to you both and by the time you read this I'm sure Elouise will have settled down and you will be able to get some sleep.

I did mention last month that I would give details of the section AGM. The meeting ran very smoothly and lasted 20 minutes. The committee has stayed the same with the inclusion of two new members, Chris Bitten and Kevan Glass. We are always keen to welcome new members to the committee and if you wish to mould the future of the Section and Association then it's a great starting point. If you are interested then please contact me.

The AGM reported the great success of the Section and it is not by luck or chance that we are such a great success. This is down to the hard work and dedication of your committee and the great support we receive from you all, long may it continue!

Make sure you support and attend again next year at our golf days and Section seminar, which will be held at Canford Magna Golf Club on February 24. We have another great line up of speakers and full details will be with you very soon, it will be another great day!

It gives me great pleasure in informing you that our new Regional Administrator has now been appointed. We wish Jane Jones a very warm welcome to the Association and we look forward to seeing her at many of our Section events.

Having spoken to Jane she is full of enthusiasm and will be a great asset to our Section and Association and, as she is a keen golfer, has every intention of playing in as many of our golf days as possible. We look forward to meeting you Jane!

It would be very remiss of me not to thank all of our sponsors for their valued support over the last year. We could not have such wonderful golf days and a great seminar without them. We really do appreciate your generosity and look forward to working with you all again next year.

I would also like to thank all of the staff at headquarters for all their hard work and help over the last year. They all work extremely hard on our behalf and, like many greenkeepers, get little thanks most of the time. They have certainly made my job a lot easier and it's much appreciated! Thank you.

It just leaves me to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Make 2005 a great year!

Alex McCombie

#### South Wales

A great day was had at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, where 32 windswept golfers took part in the autumn golf day. Thanks go to Keith Morgan Mowers for their kind sponsorship and for supplying an excellent prize table. The course was in superb condition, David please accept and pass on our thanks to you and your team for their efforts. The prizes were taken by: 1. Andy Roach; 2. Rees Thomas; 3. Peter Lacey, who narrowly beat Angus Macleod on count back.

Our next match will take place at Pyle and Kenfig Golf Course on December 10, hopefully you will have received this by then, please make every effort to come but be warned early booking is essential as this is a popular day. To book contact Peter Lacey. Next year's fixtures will be published in early 2005, they will be forwarded on to you.

Kerry Jones



Firstly this month I would like to once again thank our very generous sponsors who supported the Section's golf days throughout this year. They are Kevin and Cahill Gates, from Ultra Plant Spreaders, Coburns of Banbridge, Scotts Sands of Toomebridge and Brodericks Machinery at Mallusk. Your support is greatly appreciated by our members.

The AGM will take place at Fort William GC in December. The exact date will soon be finalised. Our Section committee would like to see a good attendance at our AGM and hopefully a few new faces will come onto the committee for 2005.

The National Championship was once again well supported by greenkeepers from Royal Co Down GC. Noel Crawford, Eamonn Crawford and son, Gary, were joined by Michael King on the annual trip in early October. The venue this year was near Leeds at Alwoodley GC. Many congratulations go to Noel Crawford, who once again lifted the Scratch Champion prize for the two days. Noel had a total score of 152, an excellent performance on a very difficult heathland course. Basically Noel steps off the plane at Leeds/Bradford Airport and onto the first tee without a practice round and little time for adequate preparation. Noel has won the Gross prize three times in the last five years, which is a tremendous achievement. Noel's brother, Eamonn, won the best Gross prize on day two with a 74 and Eamonn's son, Gary, won the best Nett prize also on day two. The guys from Royal Co Down would like to thank all at BIGGA and their fellow players for the hospitality and kindness shown towards them.

As a result of their fine performance at the National Championship Noel and Eamonn were selected to play for the BIGGA Team against the Combined Services at the Berkshire Golf Club in late October and a full report of how they got on can be found in this magazine.

Andrew Ferguson, from Brodericks Machinery at Mallusk, very generously provided sponsorship of £250 to assist with Noel and Eamonn's travelling expenses over to the Berkshire. Many thanks to Brodericks for their generous support.

Well that is about all my news for this month, I would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.

Ken Henderson

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## WE HAVE A NEW LOOK FOR THE BUYER'S GUIDE!

Because we have had such a good response to our competition over the last year, we thought things might be getting just a little bit too easy for you.

So, as we know you like a challenge, we have changed the Buyer's Guide to include a teaser which will hopefully be a bit more taxing!

Take a look at the picture on the left and try work out what problem you think it might be.

The answer will be hidden somewhere in the Buyer's Guide section. OK, for the time being we might not be giving you a prize to work it out, but just think of the satisfaction of getting the problem solved!

The solution to the final Turftime Teaser in November was 'Tony Holmes Landscapes Ltd'. The lucky winner of the Red Letter Day was Mr M Chapman from Durham City Golf Club.



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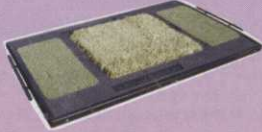
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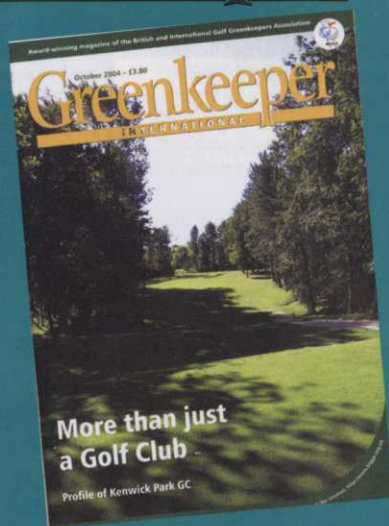
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## Chargehand Greenkeeper

£226.20 plus bonus + attendance Ref 774/04  
Camperdown Country Park

You will be responsible for supervising and training a small team carrying out the day to day running of the golf course. This includes weekend working.

You will require relevant Greenkeeping qualifications and Pesticide Certification with five years' greenkeeping experience. A full driving licence is essential.

You should be able to present yourself well for meeting the public and must be able to take initiative when required.

This post is not open to job share.

To complete an application form on-line, please visit our website at [www.dundeeccity.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.dundeeccity.gov.uk/jobs) OR application packs are available from Personnel Department, Dundee City Council, 8 City Square, Dundee, DD1 3BG, Tel. (01382) 434065/434054.

Closing date 17th December 2004.



As part of the Council's equal opportunities policy, applications are welcome from persons regardless of disability, marital status, race or sex.



Leisure & Arts

[www.dundeeccity.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.dundeeccity.gov.uk/jobs)

## Largs Golf Club (Est 1891)

require a

## 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Greenkeeper

(Recognised 3<sup>rd</sup> in charge)

Applicants should be articulate, enthusiastic and self motivated with a desire to progress in the greenkeeping industry and should be suitably qualified for the position with a minimum of 5 years practical experience.

Further information on Largs Golf Club can be found at [www.largsgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.largsgolfclub.co.uk)  
Salary negotiable

Please submit a written application with a current CV marked 'confidential' to: Iain Barr, Largs Golf Club, Irvine Road, Largs, Ayrshire, KA30 8EU.

## LEE ON THE SOLENT GOLF CLUB

A members club founded in 1905

We are seeking to appoint

## 2 Assistant Greenkeepers

Applicants must have a minimum of 2 years experience and qualified to NVQ level 2. Spray certificates not essential but must be aware of all Health & Safety requirements, be motivated and enthusiastic.

Salary negotiable depending on experience. No accommodation.

Please apply in writing with C.V. to:

Ian Walton, Club Secretary,  
Lee On The Solent Golf Club, Brune Lane,  
Lee On The Solent, Hampshire, PO13 9PB.

## SCARCROFT GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the post of

## HEAD GREENKEEPER

To manage the continuing programme of parkland course development and maintenance activities. The successful applicant will be self motivated and an enthusiastic, committed leader able to direct the existing team of five greenstaff.

Applicants should possess the following qualifications:

HNC/HND or NVQ to level 3 or nearing this level of academic qualification through current study.

Sound understanding of modern greenkeeping practices  
Thorough knowledge of turf machinery and irrigation systems  
Conversant with Health & Safety legislation and regulations.

The successful applicant may currently be in a senior position although not necessarily as a Head Greenkeeper.

The salary and conditions will reflect the importance the Club place on this appointment. Applicants are requested to apply in writing, or by email enclosing a full CV to:-

Darren Tear, Secretary/ Manager  
Scarcroft Golf Club  
Syke Lane  
Scarcroft  
Leeds LS14 3BQ  
0113 2892311

Email - [secretary@scarcroftgolfclub.com](mailto:secretary@scarcroftgolfclub.com)

Closing date for applications 6<sup>th</sup> January 2005.  
All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.



## Vale Royal Abbey Golf Club Course manager designate

As our present course manager approaches retirement in early 2006 we wish to appoint his successor in good time to be fully engaged in the ongoing course improvement programme.

This programme, underpinned by our Course Policy Document, is designed to fulfil our presidents ambitions of making Vale Royal Abbey Golf Club the best course of its kind in Cheshire.

The successful applicant must be qualified to HNC/HND or equivalent along with PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates.

This person will have a proven track record in all aspects of course management including budget control, staff management, health and safety regulations and experience of computerised irrigation systems.

Salary negotiable in accordance with experience.

Closing date for applications 31/12/2004

Applications in writing with full CV to:

Club Secretary  
Vale Royal Abbey Golf Club,  
Whitegate, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 2BA  
Tel 01606 301 291 Fax 01606 301 414  
[www.vra.co.uk](http://www.vra.co.uk)



## **R**OEHAMPTON CLUB require an **A**ssistant Greenkeeper

Roehampton Club is a sports club in South-West London consisting of an 18-hole golf course, 41 tennis courts, 4 croquet lawns, swimming pool and gym complex, 5 squash courts and extensive gardens.

We are looking for an assistant greenkeeper to work within a team of 7 mechanic and Head Greenkeeper. Ideally the successful candidate will be a golfer and qualified to NVQ2 and have 2 years golf course experience, spraying certificates advantageous.

Single accommodation may be available. Please apply with CV by 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 04 to:

**Anthony Freeman, Course & Grounds Manager, Roehampton Club,  
Roehampton Lane, Roehampton, London SW15 5LR.**

## **ISS WATERERS LANDSCAPE**

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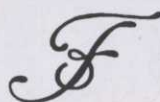
### **EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER**

For a Championship golf course near Reading.

Candidates will have at least five years previous experience, preferably on a championship course, with a minimum of an NVQ2 in Greenkeeping or equivalent. General duties include grass-cutting, preparation of greens, tees and bunkers and general grounds maintenance. Candidates should be well presented, punctual and reliable. Previous experience of large grass-cutting machinery essential.

Please apply to Beverly Hodgson, Personnel Officer on  
Free-phone 0800 389 0666.

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**FARRINGTON**  
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require a

## **Head Greenkeeper**

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The successful applicant should have the following attributes:

- A minimum of 5 years experience as Assistant or Head Greenkeeper
- In depth knowledge of turf management, irrigation, drainage and equipment maintenance
  - Self motivation and team leadership
  - Relevant qualifications
- Attractive remuneration package available for suitable candidate

Please apply in writing to:

The General Manager, Farrington Golf & Country Club Ltd,  
Marsh Lane, Farrington Gurney, Somerset, BS39 6TS.

Tel: 01761 451596

[www.farringtongolfclub.net](http://www.farringtongolfclub.net)

## **Moyvalley Golf Club, Moyvalley, Co. Meath, Ireland**

Applications are invited for the position of

### **Superintendent**

This Darren Clarke designed course is still at construction phase and is due to be completed in the summer of 2005. This position offers the applicant the advantage of working through the construction and grow-in phases, leading to the daily maintenance of this facility. The course is being constructed to USGA specification, with A4 greens, Rye grass tees and fairways and fescue rough.

The successful candidate will have the relevant qualifications and experience. They must be able to work as part of the development team, be highly motivated and enthusiastic.

The salary is negotiable.

Applications should be made in writing to  
**Declan Branigan Design, Ballydonnell,  
Baltray, Drogheda, Co. Kildare. Ireland.**

or by e-mail to

[ronan@declanbranigandesign.com](mailto:ronan@declanbranigandesign.com) no later  
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**Tower Chemicals Ltd  
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T: 0113 2568 111

F: 0113 2569 111

E: [david@towerchemicals.co.uk](mailto:david@towerchemicals.co.uk)

W: [www.towerchemicals.com](http://www.towerchemicals.com)

## BILLINGHAM GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of

### Assistant Greenkeeper

The successful applicant will have the following:

- Minimum NVQ2 or equivalent
- Must have golf course experience
- Ability to work alone or as part of a team
  - Must hold PA2 and PA6

Please apply in writing with your CV to:

The Secretary, Billingham Golf Club, Sandy Lane, Billingham,  
Stockton-on-Tees, TS22 5NA

Closing date 31<sup>st</sup> December

## Leeds Golf Club

Cobble Hall

Has an immediate vacancy for a

### FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The successful candidate will have:

- 5 Years greenkeeping experience at a reputable golf course
- Qualifications to a minimum of NVQ Level 2 or equivalent
- PA1, 2 and 6 spraying certificates would be an advantage
- Awareness of modern greenkeeping practices and current health and safety regulations
- Be self-motivating, hard working, and be able to deputise for the Head Greenkeeper in his absence.

Apply in writing, including C.V. to:

Neil Hullah, Head Greenkeeper, Leeds Golf Club, Elmets Lane, Leeds, LS8 2LJ

Closing date: Friday 14th January 2005.



## SUNNINGDALE GOLF CLUB

require

### Mechanic/Greenkeeper

- Minimum 5 years' golf course experience
- Proven experience of maintaining a substantial fleet of equipment using grinding and welding equipment
- Experience with TORO preferred
- Ability to maintain service and repair records

### Gardener/Greenkeeper

- Minimum 3 years' experience
- Greenkeeping/horticulture experience to NVQ2/3 - preferred but not essential
- Proven experience of maintaining public/clubhouse gardens and surrounds to a high standard
- Position to include driving range and general greenkeeping duties

Both applicants should be self motivated, committed and hardworking as well as having the necessary experience and ability to maintain the amenities of a world top 50 golf club.

**Competitive salary - accommodation not provided.**

Please apply in writing or email with full CV to:  
Jane Tye, Sunningdale Golf Club  
Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berks SL5 9RR  
[janetye@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk](mailto:janetye@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk)

Closing Date for Applications: 31 December 2004

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Applications are invited from candidates with a desire to succeed and proven selling experience within this competitive field.

Must be enthusiastic, highly motivated and committed.

An excellent package will be offered to the successful applicant.

Closing date for applications is 14 January 2005

Applications in writing with CV to:

Tim Banks, Managing Director,  
Banks Amenity Products Ltd, 4 The Point Business Park,  
Rockingham Road, Market Harborough,  
Leics, LE16 7QU



St Andrews Links

invites applications for the following position

### HEAD GREENKEEPER COURSE No. 7

Construction is scheduled to begin in March 2005 on this course, which has been designed by David McLay Kidd.

The position requires an enthusiastic, conscientious and self-motivated professional, who will be involved in the project from the beginning of construction and work very closely throughout with the golf course architect.

Reporting to the Links Superintendent, the successful applicant will be responsible, in conjunction with the architect, for construction of the golf course to the highest standard. As the project evolves he will become the leader of the greenkeeping team, involved in much of the finishing work, the grow-in and ultimately the maintenance of the golf course.

We would expect the candidate to have NVQ/SVQ level 3 or HNC as well as being technically qualified in all aspects of greenkeeping and have experience of golf course construction and grow-in.

In return we offer a competitive salary, contributory pension scheme, BUPA and other benefits.

**Those interested should send a letter with accompanying CV to:**

**Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent,  
St Andrews Links Trust, Pilmour House,  
St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9SF  
or email [gordonmoir@standrews.org.uk](mailto:gordonmoir@standrews.org.uk)**



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## COLONY CLUB GUTENHOF

Vienna, Austria

requires

### Assistant Greenkeepers

for their 36 hole Championship complex

All applicants must be suitably qualified to NVQ Level 2 or equivalent and have a minimum of three years experience.

**The successful applicants will be expected to work as part of a hard working team and contribute to the running of both golf courses.**

Accommodation and 1<sup>st</sup> flight provided.

Please send C.V. and photograph to: John Jackson, Head Greenkeeper, Fillgrader Gasse 21/3 A-1060 Vienna Austria.

## ENVILLE GOLF CLUB LTD

Highgate Common

Enville

Nr Stourbridge

West Midlands

DY7 5BN

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

Due to the impending retirement of the present post holder, we are seeking an experienced

## COURSE MANAGER

The successful applicant will report to the General Committee through the Secretary Manager and the Greens Committee and will be an essential part of the Management Team.

The successful applicant should ideally possess:

- A minimum of five years experience as a Head Greenkeeper.
- A proven ability to prepare work programmes and to meet deadlines.
- A proven ability to prepare and work within annual budgets.

**The position offers an attractive salary with additional benefits.**

Please apply in writing with full CV To:  
Mr J.J.Bishop, Secretary Manager, Enville Golf Club Ltd, Enville, Nr Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY7 5BN.  
(No accommodation available)

## Recruiting? Perfect timing...

If you are looking to recruit new members to your team during the lead up to BTME & ClubHouse exhibition in January, then **STOP!** Look no further!

The **GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT PAGES** are here to help you match the right person to the right job.

During this period **EVERY** Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager in the UK will receive the magazine as well as every Club Secretary – an increase of 3,000 to our normal circulation – ensuring more people than ever will see your advert!

All adverts placed will go on to our website for a month **FREE OF CHARGE.** **PLUS** any adverts booked for the January edition in December and by the 10<sup>th</sup> January for the February edition of the magazine, will automatically appear on our career boards at the exhibition – **FREE OF CHARGE.**

### So, how can you take advantage of this?

Simply select the size of the advert you require:

1/8<sup>th</sup> page = £435

1/4 page = £560

1/2 page = £910

Add 20% to the price if you want a **colour** advert and then...

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## GLYN ABBEY GOLF CLUB

are seeking a

### General Manager

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Located in Trimsaran, near Kidwelly in Carmarthenshire, Glyn Abbey is renowned for having the best technical layout in the whole of South Wales and, as a result of the Management's efforts, is widely acclaimed as the most improved golf course (and indeed Club) in the area. Continued improvement in all areas is essential and therefore requires a highly motivated individual not afraid to muck in and get their hands dirty whenever and with whatever is needed. The Managing Director is such an individual and is looking for the right person to assist him and the Professional.

Keeping up with these two is a real challenge. Budgets are of necessity tight and a highly commercial outlook is a pre-requisite.

Applicants need to have greenkeeping qualifications and experience at least to first assistant level as the Course is the prime product.

On site accommodation is a possibility short, medium or long term as part of the package if desired.

Applications should be made in writing in the first instance, enclosing a detailed CV including current remuneration, addressed to The Managing Director, Glyn Abbey Golf Club, Trimsaran, Carmarthenshire, SA17 4LB.



### Club House Manager

Based in East Sussex, Management of all bar and catering staff, working with Head Chef and Bar Manager.

Previous experience essential and knowledge of golf an advantage. Responsibility for Society bookings and reception. For more Details log onto [www.golfjobs.co.uk](http://www.golfjobs.co.uk) & see job Ref: 692



122-126 High Road,  
London, NW6 4HY

Tel: 020 7692 0885

email: [Support@golfjobs.co.uk](mailto:Support@golfjobs.co.uk)



### Manager / Administrator

Based in the West of Ireland, Founded in 1904, The Golf Club invites applications for the position of Golf Club Manager/Administrator.

The successful candidate will work with the Management Committee and members to continue with our goal of making our Golf Club the quality inland course in the Galway.

For more Details log onto [www.golfjobs.co.uk](http://www.golfjobs.co.uk) & see job Ref: 664



122-126 High Road,  
London, NW6 4HY

Tel: 020 7692 0885

email: [Support@golfjobs.co.uk](mailto:Support@golfjobs.co.uk)



### Golf Operations Manager

Based in Dublin, this is a new role in one of Ireland's newest Championship courses. You will be responsible for the day to day operations of the club. Reporting to the PGA Director of Golf, you will have experience in a similar role for a leading course.

For more Details log onto [www.golfjobs.co.uk](http://www.golfjobs.co.uk) & see job Ref: 692



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## Feature listing from December 2002

**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 Annuua; 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.

**August 2004;** Neil Thomas Memorial Golf  
Day; Open review; Royal Cinque Ports;  
Irrigation; Mowers (2); Saltex Preview; Best  
Practice; Top Dressing.

**September 2004;** Toro Student Greenkeeper  
of the Year Preview; Ravensworth Golf Club;  
Turf Disease; Royal Holloway College; Tractors;  
The Greener Approach to Greenkeeping.

**October 2004;** STRI 75th Anniversary;  
Kenwick Park GC; Ecology; John Deere  
National Team Championship; Best Practice;  
Top Dressing; Saltex Review; Aeration.

**November 2004;** Toro Student Greenkeeper of  
the Year Final; The BIGGA National  
Championship; Comrie GC; CV Advice;  
Drainage; Construction; Fences.

# Chairman's Column

## Make the Most of Conference Season

With the 'Conference Season' now upon us and our winter programme in full flow, the days seem just as busy as those of spring and summer. Normally for me November is not the best of times as I struggle to come down from the high of frantic, fire fighting activity, which is life at a busy resort facility.

It may also have something to do with the cold, wet miserable weather that we typically experience in the west of England and with it all the necessary drainage work, etc that ensues.

This year however things have been different. The 'winter' sunshine of Arizona and the company of Eddie Donlan, from the GCSAI, and David Hart and Howard Storey, from John Deere; and the delight of watching (twice in one week) Cameron hitting balls on the range with his new (birthday present) golf clubs – a small happening maybe, but good for the soul nonetheless.

The reason for being in Arizona was to accept a cheque from John Deere for £8,825 to be used as funding for education within BIGGA. This is a result of the widespread support for The John Deere World Team Championship, from dealers and golf clubs in the UK.

If proof were needed of the value of bringing together the whole management team from within a golf club, then it was manifested in the team from Worfield GC representing the UK and Ireland.

While talking to them it was obvious that their relationship was a strong one and their business a happy and successful one. They were a credit to us all and a pleasure it was to be in their company.

David and Howard helped prove once again the real strength of this industry- work hard, play hard. We are more than fortunate to enjoy close relationships with our trade partners and the feeling that we are all in this together always comes through.

I know some of you may think this is all well and good for those of us lucky enough to go on these kinds of trips, however talk is often on these occasions of how we can improve the lot of all greenkeepers, and the above event certainly helps enormously in this respect.

My earlier reference to the 'Conference Season' again probably highlights the gap that exists between those fortunate to receive the support of their employer and those that don't. There are few of us, in these tough economic times for golf, who can simply fill out the registration form and demand a cheque from the club.

Indeed for most this has never been possible anyway. As with all expenditure the request has to be reasonable and it has to be justified. How many of us are in a position to be able to prove the return on investment as a means of convincing our employer of



the merit of supporting our continuing professional development?

If this is an area you are unfamiliar with then pick up the phone and speak either to an officer at HQ or me.

We would be delighted to help and you will find that, contrary to popular opinion, BIGGA is not just a clique and all are welcome - you never know, you might even speak to somebody that just happens to hold the Master Greenkeeper Certificate (these people, unless they happen to be wearing a blazer with the MG badge on, are indistinguishable from other members) and I'm sure these guys will also dispel some, if not all, of the widely held opinion that we are elitist and above talking AND listening to other members.

The number of education opportunities and conferences, in particular, continues to grow and with it the decision on which to attend becomes more difficult. Each will offer a different opportunity and the important thing is that you come away from it with something of value that you can use to better your chances of success both for you and your golf club.

At BIGGA we believe we are in the best position to make this happen and to that end we continue to focus on the education and training of ALL our members at multiple locations around the country throughout the year, with Harrogate being the highlight of the year and offering, as usual, not just education but a one stop shop in which to view the latest developments in the industry. You are a vital ingredient in its success and I look forward to seeing you there and/or at one of the other events taking place this winter.

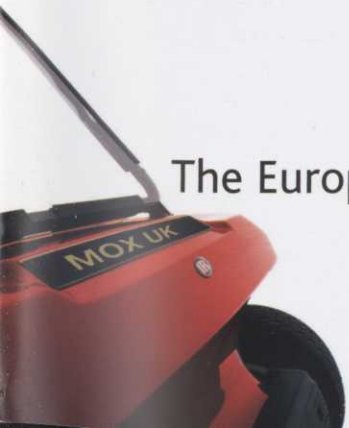
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