

Award-winning magazine of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association



February 2004 – £3.80

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship
and many nights of hard study was rewarded with a
Master of Science Degree in Sports Surface Technology.



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'THE TURFTIME TEASER'
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Welcome

MANY THANKS

Well, thanks for that. Another Harrogate week has come and gone and from what we hear from those who attended - exhibitors, visitors, speakers, press - a great week was had by all. And I say "thank you" because without any one of the human ingredients in the mix, Harrogate wouldn't be the success, you have told us that it has been.

But how do we judge success? In this day and age, with accountants perusing the bottom line with fiendish enthusiasm, how do you come to an assessment that something has been worth doing, and will be worth doing again whether you are an exhibitor or in one of the many categories of visitor?

Of course, there is the anecdotal evidence, by far the most interesting to everyone. Tales of successful deals struck; of successful friendships struck indeed; packed halls; answers to agronomic problems uncovered, all provide the sort of gossip we love to hear. But while we are always delighted that "the mood in the Halls and seminar rooms is positive", it is very much a subjective measure, not likely to sway the bean counters in Accounts Departments or Golf Clubs up and down the country.

No, what is needed are hard and fast facts to make a persuadable, unambiguous case for the success of BTME & ClubHouse, the Continue to Learn programme and all that surrounds Harrogate in the third week in January.

Well, we can oblige thanks to information gleaned from the statistics gathered during the week. Sure, filling out the forms can be a pain but it does let us come up with facts that are relevant.

- The international flavour can be highlighted by the fact that 25 different countries, excluding the home nations, were represented, travelling from five different continents.
- 25% of visitors attended Harrogate for the first time.
- The breakdown for British visitors was South 23%, Midlands 24%, Scotland 15% and North 38%, indicating that Harrogate attracts people from all corners of the UK.
- Other than golf, 15 industries were represented, including local authorities; farms; private estates; theme parks; showgrounds; football; racecourses, tennis clubs and polo fields.
- 35% of those who attended had the power to approve and purchase while a further 26% were in a position to influence approval.
- 10% of those who attend spent up to 25% of their annual budget at the Harrogate show. 15% spend up to 10% of their budgets while a further 38% spend up to 5% of their annual budget.

Compelling figures, I'm sure that you agree. We're particularly delighted that the work we have carried out to widen the visitor base and attract more decision makers to Harrogate is beginning to reap rewards.

That can only strengthen BTME & ClubHouse in the years ahead, thus ensuring that BIGGA can continue to fund the education, professional development and general benefits for its membership.

Of all those who did attend Harrogate 2004, perhaps the most welcome visitor was Neil Thomas' wife, Elaine, who despite Neil's serious illness, managed to maintain the family link to the week.

Thank you for coming, Elaine.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

R&A'S BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The R&A's new website offering best practice guidelines for golf course management throughout the world is to be launched this month. There are to be two events marking the launch of this major development for the world of golf; one in the UK on Wednesday February 18 at The Belfry and the other the following day in Brussels. Access details to the new site will be posted on the R&A's website, www.randa.org, to coincide with the launch.

The R&A's golf course committee has developed the website which offers best practice guidelines on all aspects of golf course management and development, from the clubhouse and management

structure to construction and maintenance.

This professional advice and information, which is provided free of charge, will be of great assistance to golf associations and federations, golf clubs, greenkeepers, architects, planners, government agencies, non-government environment agencies and other relevant groups, and is supported by extensive links to expert organisations who can provide further assistance to those in search of help.

For further information contact Steve Isaac, Secretary to the golf course committee on 01334 460000 or e-mail steveisaac@randagc.org.

ROYAL APPOINTMENT

Avoncrop Amenity Products Limited, suppliers of Turf Management Products,

based at Sandford, Winscombe, North Somerset and Bracknell, Berkshire have been granted the honour of a Royal Warrant of Appointment as a Tradesman to The Queen.

"We are very proud to be associated with this award having supplied The Royal Household for over five years with Grass Seed Mixtures, Fertilisers, Composts and other Horticultural products for the Gardens and Lawns," said Rod Feltham, Managing Director.



PHIL JOINS ALLEN



Following their recent take over of IBEA Power Products Limited, Allen Power

Equipment have appointed Phil Price (53) as Product Manager for the IBEA range and Area Manager for all Allen

products for North Wales and the Western side of central UK.

Phil will bring to his new role many years experience in the industry and his unrivalled knowledge of IBEA products will ensure he is in great demand from his new dealer base.

Phil is married with two daughters and lives in Shrewsbury.

MOVING NORTH

In a bid to offer a nationwide service White Horse Contractors has launched White Horse Contractors (Northern) Ltd with an office in the North Yorkshire market town of Thirsk.

This expansion of the company's operations will provide the opportunity to tap-in to a real and attractive market much more cost effectively. The new company is a subsidiary of White Horse Contractors which means they will be able to maximise the skills and resources of the Head Office which has been operating for over four decades.

Jim Crabbe, a senior Contracts Manager will be leading operations at the company's new office. Since joining White Horse, he has proved his ability

in the development of new markets.

Thirsk was chosen as it is within easy access of the A1 and exactly 200 miles from the company's head office in Abingdon, allowing good strategic and logistic links.

The new company has identified key markets such as local authorities, local education authorities, sports clubs and golf clubs not to mention private clients.

It will undertake all sports turf construction, earthworks, drainage and maintenance as well as environmental works and water engineering.

White Horse Contractors (Northern) Ltd can be contacted Tel: 01865 736272.

NEW WEBSITE FOR GREENKEEPERS

Established in September 2003, golfmanager.co.uk is website/portal aimed at greenkeepers, club secretaries & managers.

The site provides a quick, easy and comprehensive alternative to the many books, fliers, papers, magazines and mail-outs that the club's decision-makers have to wade through, in order to locate a product, service or information.

The core of the site is a comprehensive suppliers section which has contact details and links to websites of many companies for both golf course and clubhouse.

There are also over 200 additional links to golf/information websites and portals – all accessible with one click from the Home page.



WELL DONE DENNIS



A presentation was made recently to Northern Section President, Dennis Cockburn, for services to the Section and importantly the Northern Section Committee for over 20 years unstinting service.

After trying his hand at a number of different careers he settled on greenkeeping, during which time he served as Head Greenkeeper at Courses

such as Branshaw, Keighley, Colne and Silsden Golf Clubs.

Dennis has helped and trained many greenkeepers under him over the years and it is no surprise that quite a lot have gone on to be head greenkeepers themselves.

They all owe him dearly for the invaluable knowledge and skills that he passed on to them (and he reminds them of this all the time).

Dennis is well into retirement, however he still continues to be active within the section and it is for this which he has been honoured.

A WELCOME RETURN

John Deere have welcomed back Alec McKee who is returning as Managing Director of their UK and Ireland operations.

Having joined John Deere in the UK in 1972 as a trainee territory manager, Alec has successfully undertaken a succession of increasingly important positions within the organisation. At the end of 2000, he was appointed as Vice President, Worldwide Marketing, based in Kansas.

During 2002, Alec transferred to Moscow, and was responsible for establishing a presence in the market and implementing John Deere's strategic

business plan for Russia.

He replaces Clay Sherrill, who is returning to the Deere Company's world headquarters to take up a key position, responsible for implementing the company's customer focus initiative and to support strategic planning activities.



NEW ROLE FOR SIR MICHAEL

Sir Michael Bonallack is to succeed Mark H McCormack as the new Chairman of the Official World Golf Ranking. The Official World Golf Ranking was devised and created by Mark H McCormack who was Chairman of the World Ranking Board until his death last year. His company, IMG, has been responsible for managing and producing the weekly Ranking, which is now endorsed by the four Major Championships and the six Professional Tours making up the International Federation of PGA Tours, since the Ranking was first introduced in 1986.

DAVID WHITAKER MG



Sports Turf Consultants UK Limited is a new company headed by David Whitaker MG.

David started his career as a trainee greenkeeper in West Yorkshire in 1977, and quickly worked

through the ranks to head greenkeeper before moving abroad to gain experience in Europe.

He returned to the UK in 1989 to take up the post of Course Manager at the prestigious Wisley Golf Club where he achieved Master Greenkeeper Status and remained for 13 years.

"I have been concerned for some time by the ever increasing challenges and demands placed on our younger greenkeepers, and the lack of available support within the industry," said David.

"While there are several reputable agronomists with specialist skills, I intend to offer technical assistance based on 25 years of practical experience."

David can be contacted on 01932 700609 or dave.whit@ntlworld.com

NEW NAME

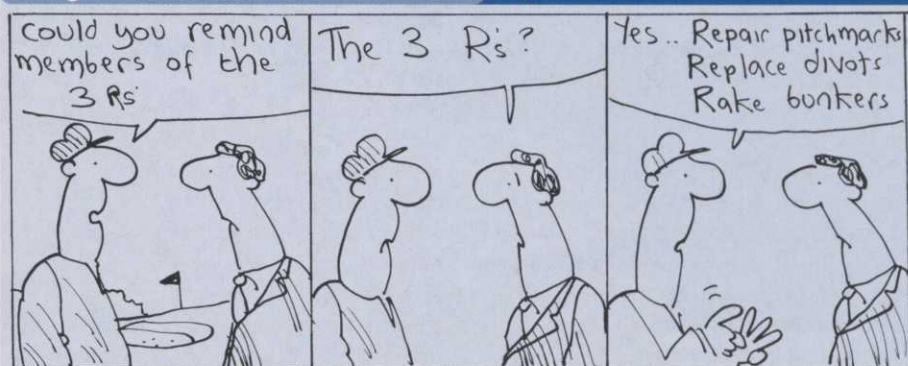
As from this month Boughton Loam Ltd will be trading under the new name of Boughton Turf Management. The company will still be part of Boughton Loam Ltd, but the change of trading name is designed to bring the three depots that the company now operates in Kettering, Iver Heath, and Derby under one common trading name. Previously, the Iver Heath and Derby depots had traded as 'Turf Management Systems'.

This decision is designed to build upon expansion of the business during

2003, following the acquisition of the turf care maintenance division of 'Mitchell Hire Ltd', and the planned expansion of the Iver Heath and Derby operations during 2004.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

Strip Cartoonist of the Year www.tonyhusband.co.uk



NEW MANAGEMENT TEAM FOR ETESIA

In order to facilitate the growth and expansion of its UK business, Etesia has made changes to its management structure in this country and has also taken on two new area sales managers.

The new UK team is headed by former Area Sales Manager, Les Malin, who has been promoted to UK General Manager based at the company's headquarters in Warwick.

All matters relating to management of the UK operation will come under his control and he will be responsible for overseeing the planned growth of the company in this country through increased turnover and expansion of the product range.

Taking over the position of UK Sales Manager is Colin Plumb. Having worked on territory for Etesia for six years, Colin's vast knowledge of the company's range, plus his experience in building a solid dealer network, provide a firm foundation for his new role.

Two new personnel join Etesia's UK team. Ian Collington has been appointed Area Sales Manager in charge of the North of England and the Midlands, while Richard Williams, joins the company as Southern Area Sales Manager.

NOEL MACKENZIE



Noel MacKenzie has launched his own golf course agronomy and management consultancy.

Sports Turf Consulting is an agronomy and golf course management consultancy seeking to promote advanced

greenkeeping techniques for the benefit of greenkeepers and their courses/clubs.

Noel has a proven career record being one of the few agronomists with significant hands-on experience in sports turf/greenkeeping combined with an academic training in agronomy, ecology and management.

He has worked for record ADAS, STRI, Grass Science and TurfTrax.

Sports Turf Consulting will offer a range of bespoke systems to assist clubs on this front to support greenkeeping personnel and their managers. The scope of this support is multi-faceted involving technical agronomy and, where required, management system analysis.

Sports Turf Consulting, Tel/fax: 01285 641825
nm@sportsturfconsulting.co.uk
www.sportsturfconsulting.com

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

IOG CONFERENCE

Celebrating 70 years since its formation, the IOG has chosen Dublin to host its National Conference from April 2-5, 2004.

The choice of Dublin is exceptional for the IOG in that it is its first venture outside the UK. The conference venue in Malahide to the north of the city is close to Dublin International Airport as well as major road and rail networks.

The conference programme will interest a wide range of delegates with the papers and study tours featuring pioneering venues and diverse topics.

The subjects represent many of the challenges facing our industry with papers on increasing pitch playability in The Netherlands, creating a seedbed at 1000m above sea level in the Cairngorms and are synthetic surfaces the way forward?

The study tours are also of great interest with visits to Croke Park, the GAA National Stadium; the



Kildare Golf and Country Club and the parks of Fingal County.

For further information visit the following websites www.thegrand.ie and www.visitdublin.com

For delegate bookings please telephone the Institute of Groundsmanship on 01908 312511.

LELY APPOINTMENT



Lely UK has appointed Simon Squires to manage its Toro Irrigation and Otterbine water management products business.

He takes over from Graeme Francis, who moved to become

managing director of Toro contractor Par 4 Irrigation, in Ripon, Yorkshire.

"I'm delighted to be given the opportunity to head up the Toro Irrigation and Otterbine team at Lely. It's an exciting challenge," said Simon.

"My priorities are to develop relationships with

new and existing installation contractors and explore new, untapped markets."

Simon is responsible for all sales, service and warranty-related business for both company's product lines. He is already working closely with Lely's contractor group and is continuing to develop their alliance to achieve greater market penetration of the products.

With 13 years' experience in the irrigation industry, Simon joined Lely in 2002 after its appointment as distributor for Toro Irrigation. Lely was subsequently also appointed as exclusive UK distributor for Otterbine water aeration systems, fountains and other associated water management products in 2002.

URI TAKES DELIVERY

"It's the best tractor we've ever had," said paranormal practitioner and TV personality Uri Geller, about his recently delivered 24 hp John Deere X495.

Equipped with a 48 inch mid mounted rotary deck, rear 3-bin power-flow collector and Lewis front end loader, the tractor is used around the grounds of Uri's house in Berkshire.

According to the Doomsday Book, the house is located on an ancient spiritual site. This tradition is carried on today with a pyramid-shaped retreat within the grounds.

Each year, many people arrange to visit Uri to gain inspiration and motivation from the power of positive thinking. With such a high throughput of visitors, the grounds around the

pyramid have to be maintained to a professional standard.

Uri's household received operator training from Wokingham-based John Deere dealer Golf and Turf Limited.

Uri takes his turn using the tractor and says, "It's easy to drive and well built, and the green and yellow colour combination is strong but relaxing."



Education



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

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Another Harrogate week has gone by and if any of you attended the AGM, you will have heard me talk about the successes that we are having with Regional Training. I explained that for the very low price of £30 per day (plus VAT) you could attend excellent training courses local to your home/golf club. This is all possible thanks to the contributors to the Education and Development Fund (as shown on this page). Each day of training is currently subsidised by approximately £80. Therefore, attend just two days of training per year and your annual membership is more than covered.

Courses for spring 2004

FEBRUARY

18	Fire Safety and Manual Handling	Lingdale Golf Club, Loughborough
24 & 25	Next Steps in Management Skills	Wokefield Executive Centre, Reading

MARCH

16 & 17	Communicating with Committees	Shirley Golf Club, Shirley Warwickshire
25 & 26	The Influential Manager	De Vere Carden Park, nr Chester

APRIL

14	Integrated Pest Management	De Vere Carden Park, nr Chester
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Remember to ask your Section Secretary about further subsidised training in your Section.



Golf Environment Competition

BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

Despite losing the support of the R&A for this year's BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, I am pleased to say that thanks to the continued support of Scotts UK Professional and by Syngenta Professional Product, plus support from the STRI, the Competition will continue to reward golf clubs that are committed to good environmental management. Further details will be sent to all golf clubs in Great Britain, later this month.



▲ Austin Sutton, of Syngenta, and Matt Reed, of Scotts, present Geoff Henderson and Ian Shepherd, of Kenwick Park GC with the BIGGA Golf Environment Trophy, watched by George Brown and Bob Taylor, Senior Ecologist with the STRI.

YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

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

New Way Forward?

Recently I have been reading with interest various articles about the new way forward in cutting, namely non-contact mowing and the relief grinding of cylinders.

Have I missed something as relief grinding and non-contact mowing was "sold to me" in 1992 when our Hunter Grinder was installed at our new facility and since then has been our preferred way of grinding and mowing!

As a result during the past 12 years we have experienced the benefits of giving extended life to cylinders and bottom blades and also the reduction in fuel, all in all giving less mechanical stress. Not to mention the agronomic benefit to the turf itself.

Jim Campbell, Senior Mechanic,
Westin Turnberry Resort

Re: Sustainable course management

It is most encouraging to read articles such as those on greenkeeping in Denmark (March 2003 and January 2004) and Cumberwell Park (June 2003), which record successful course management through the implementation of sound greenkeeping principles. We believe these pieces reflect a silent majority of greenkeepers throughout the UK and continental Europe who are practicing both environmentally and economically sustainable course management. Those who achieve this while, at the same time, maintaining course quality and playability should be acclaimed and we offer our full support to all who rise to this challenge.

Steve Isaac, Secretary to the Golf Course Committee, R&A Rules Ltd

Reflections of Harrogate

It seems a very crass statement 'it gets better every year' but as far as I'm concerned this was certainly the case this year with BTME. We arrived under very difficult circumstances with Neil Thomas very ill. There was a show and conference for the HQ staff to organise, but always in their minds, and ours, was Neil.

The full programme of workshops and the conference started on Monday. The conference gave us a wonderful range of presentations, Billy McMillan was the highlight for me. His presentation looked at how course management has changed and highlighted what makes greenkeepers so special. Commitment, passion and dedication were just some of those ingredients and it was covered in an excellent presentation which was sharp, witty and very moving at times. Thanks Billy!

Monday night and the conference dinner which was superb. After dinner speaker Jimmy Bright was in side splitting form reeling off so many stories and gags and the top table were the brunt of much of Jimmy's jibes. Tuesday was back to the conference and another day packed with presentations. Kate Entwistle and Terry Buchen were my pick of the day and then it was time for the show.

Wednesday was key note speaker day, always a highlight of the week. I vividly remember Frank Dick, who was our first Keynote speaker. I never thought I would see a better motivational presentation but it was eclipsed by Alvin Law. His very powerful presentation 'No such word as can't' took us on a rollercoaster ride of emotions and experiences. His determination and will to succeed was a lesson to all of us and the standing ovation was inevitable and much deserved. I will remember this presentation for a very long time, I wasn't the only one in the audience found wiping a tear from my eye. Thanks Alvin!

The seminar programme followed with many excellent presentations covering a wide range of topics from stress management to greens construction. The show was bigger and better than ever and was very busy with much positive feedback from the stands that I visited. Wednesday also saw a glimpse into the works of our 'futures committee' during a presentation. They have identified many areas of concern and are currently working hard to shape our associations future as well as address a directive into the concerns over education within the industry. This was followed by the AGM which run very efficiently and professionally and saw the Chairmanship pass from George Brown to Andy Campbell.

Well done, George, for last year and good luck to Andy in his year in office. The whole week was rounded off by the banquet and the sounds of 'Bootleg Abba' I didn't realise so many greenkeepers were Abba fans. We were treated to a collection of their greatest hits and the dance floor was packed all night. Another great night!

Alex McCombie, Parkstone GC

Available for Work

I am in the process of looking for a job in the UK and would like to know if you can help me. Or put me in contact with someone else that can; I will arriving in the UK in mid February.

I'm a fully qualified Golf Course Superintendent and was working on a 18 hole course with 700 members. The course I worked on is in New Zealand and I had worked there for the last six years. During my time at the Feilding Golf club I helped install fairway watering systems, numerous constructions of new tees and greens.

I love the game of golf and I am currently on 1 handicap. At the moment I am working for a company called Irrigation and Turf. This company took me on knowing that I was leaving for the UK and they were willing to give me the extra experience working on different machines. During my time there I have done a variety of jobs like helping fine tuning the first slit drain machine in New Zealand, laser leveling tennis courts and golf tees, turf work, turf advising, installing irrigations and drainage and spending over 100 plus hours on a digger.

I am 23 years old. I am married and my wife is a primary school teacher. We have no children and are looking to experience life and new challenges.

I would be very interested in an assistant superintendent or superintendent job on a course with 18 holes plus. I recently won Trainee of the Year which is the best trainee in New Zealand.

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FEBRUARY'S MEMBERSHIP DRAW WINNER

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA Clock/calculator/calendar and alarm. Our congratulations go to Peter Marsh, Stoneham Golf Club.

Message of the Month Winner

Each month the person who has written the best message on the BIGGA Bulletin Board, which is found on the BIGGA website www.bigga.org.uk, receives an 18 litre Gelert Rucksack featuring a multi function organiser, 2 mesh pockets and a grab handle. (Rucksack supplied may be a different colour to that featured).

Our congratulations go to February's winner, Stuart Stenhouse from Tulfarris Golf Club whose message was posted on January 8th 2004 under the 'Talk about Turf' section.



NEW Additions to BIGGA Merchandise

New to the BIGGA Merchandise range is the "Four Seasons Breaker" a multi option pullover style top with short zip, elasticated draw cord, this breaker zips off in two places to create three different garments, Full Sleeve, 1/2 sleeve or sleeveless top with a mesh lining, available in a multitude of colours and sizes. Priced at £26.00.

When it comes to performance fabric why not try our Dry Gear or Nailshed polo shirts. These garments feature Dry Gear fabric that actively pulls moisture away from the skin for rapid evaporation. In the heat of competition nothing is more important than staying cool and dry. The polo shirts are again available in a number of sizes and colours. Priced at £16.00 for the Dry Gear or £19.50 for the Nailshed Polo.

For further information about the new range or to place an order, why not contact Rachael Foster on 01347 833800.

From
this



To
this



And
even
this!



Course Feature

Meeting the Demands Head On

Scott MacCallum visits Tyneside Golf Club where the pressures on traditional golf clubs are being tackled admirably.



▲ The 11th

These are testing times for traditional British golf clubs. No longer can a Secretary merely cast his eye down the membership waiting list for a new candidate when a vacancy occurs. Golf Club waiting lists are now as rare as gross birdies in the Rabbits' Open while competition to attract societies is greater than ever. In fact every little edge has to be fought for to bring in additional revenue.

On top of that courses are played more regularly in all weathers and Health and Safety officers are no longer taking a relatively relaxed approach to issues at golf clubs.

Yes, the demands facing golf clubs are now more intense than ever but that needn't be bad news. Clubs can rise to the occasion and with hard work, an open minded approach to the job and well trained staff the satisfaction in facing up to these demands and gaining an edge over rivals is certainly there.

Tyneside Golf Club, sitting high above the famous river from which it takes its name and about seven miles from the centre of Newcastle, is a fine example of a traditional golf club which has faced up to those challenges and made the most of its situation.

Course Manager, Dave Simpson, and his team aim to ensure his members and visitors have the best possible conditions for all four seasons of the year. He has worked hard to ensure that the current course, designed by Harry Colt and laid out in 1903 meets the exacting examinations set by today's Health and Safety Executive. The club was actually formed in 1879 and played on a

course which is now Ryton Willows down the hill and closer to the Tyne.

When I visited the club, just after Christmas, Dave and his team were ready, waiting and a little disappointed that a hellishly wet day would not show off their course to its best. But they were well prepared as the first approach to feature Tyneside Golf Club in print was made 30 years ago! The previous Head Greenkeeper, Steve Pope, now enjoying an active retirement, renewed that original request when he met BIGGA's John Pemberton at a Section event last year. John passed on that request so it is the Tyneside Golf Club of January 2004, and not January 1974, which is featured.

"We're keen to produce as good playing conditions in winter as we possible can," said Dave smiling, as we looked out from the clubhouse at rain pounding the course. A golfer with any hint of sanity was finding something else to occupy his or her time on that Thursday morning.

"If we can pick up as much financial benefit as we can during the winter months, the time people would class as the quietest of the year, then it relieves a little of the burden in summer when, of course, we are still trying to maximise



▲ The Tyneside team with Dave Simpson centre

everything as much as possible," explained Dave.

He added that they were fortunate the course was laid out of sand and gravel, drained easily, and was often open when other courses in the area were forced to close.

"The whole game is now a lot more financially driven than it was before. The reason being we are now businesses as well as clubs and there is much more competition to survive.

"In the past courses more or less shut down in the winter months and were re-carved out in the spring. Nowadays we can't afford for that to happen and what is expected, and needed, is for there to be as near summer playing conditions as possible all year round which gives the golfer the feel good factor so they can enjoy their day's golf and go away with a feeling that they want to come back," said Dave, sounding more like the General Manager of a large golf hotel development than the Course Manager at a traditional members' club.

To illustrate his point he recalls the old days when a new set of flags, pins and hole cups, together with spruced up tee markers and other course furniture were introduced for the first major competition in the spring.

"We don't wait until things are old and in need of replacement now. We have new flags whenever they're needed and we try and maintain the standards of that first spring competition all year round."

"We've got members who would play seven days a week. If they were restricted to once a week, 52 games a year, they'd think their legs were cut off – 'Just 52 games? That's less than a month and a half!'"

Dave also uses all means at his disposal to help with agronomic and other course issues when it comes to identifying and solving problems.

"I use the magazine a lot for reference and through that and the Internet I contacted Kate Entwistle for help with a recent Fusarium problem Tyneside has shared with a great many clubs in recent months. Kate was absolutely superb and emailed me back with reassurance that we weren't doing anything wrong within our agronomic practices. It just shows how in the modern age you can tap into more avenues when you encounter issues.

The team also shows common-sense when it comes to the on-course work it does during periods of foul weather.

"On days like this we don't do anything on the course that involves machinery and things being transported over the course that would create more damage. We do work that is complementary to the weather."

A point emphasised by the fine brushwork and studied attention to detail one of the team had been displaying on tee markers back in the sheds earlier in the day.

To aid the year round condition of the course the club has introduced several "damage minimising" measures including teeing up on certain holes and the introduction of McDivot, divot anchors.

"One of our better golfers pointed out that as we use forward tees in the winter and a shortened course, balls are landing in the areas he would be landing in during the competition season in the summer and that those areas were becoming more damaged.

"That was part of the reasoning behind using the McDivots. Not only did it anchor divots down but when they were handed their pack of McDivots in the

Pro Shop it also encouraged people to thinking about their golf course," said Dave, whose own personal preference of mats has still to receive sufficient support from the membership to make it an option.

With a membership which includes a lot of older guys and a hilly, undulating course a no trolley policy is a non-starter at Tyneside.

"Some of the trolleys you see now are so big you could virtually sleep in them. They are unbelievable things for carrying a maximum of 14 clubs and lot of clubs have stopped them in the winter but it won't happen here. I tried it once and it lasted a day. It was just after Christmas, play was borderline and people were itching to get out. I said 'yes' to golf but 'no' to trolleys and added that I wouldn't be taking any machines out either. I got absolutely slaughtered," he recalled.

"That's fine, but people have to realise that for every action there is a reaction and that there were consequences to taking trolleys out in those conditions which we had to deal with months later."

Like a house of a certain age an older golf course does require on-going maintenance and the five strong team has been working hard over the winter on an issue on the 15th hole which had major health and safety consequences.

The hole boasts a ravine just in the ladies' and older male members landing area off the tee which has become steeper and steeper as the years have gone on.

"We cut it as semi rough and initially we could do it with a ride-on - rotary on the back of a tractor and then an out front rotary - but then the banks altered, became steeper and cavernous potholes began appearing. It became more and more dangerous to maintain," said Dave, who in the final stages was using a borrowed Ransomes Bobcat before deciding that the only way was strimming.

The team, along with Fosters Landscaping, has worked hard at re-contouring the entire ravine making it much safer to maintain while retaining the excellent feature it has always been.

"The membership are happy with how it looks and we will see what more is needed by way of contouring in the spring, then drill and seed it," said Dave, as he overlooked the work from the bridge spanning the ravine, installed by the army some years ago as an exercise.

The other major job the team carried out recently with health and safety issues was on the 14th which runs over a popular public footpath which winds its way down to the banks of the Tyne.

With the tee a mere 50 yards behind the path the dangers were obvious until the land tee-side of the path was raised to a height of nine feet, giving 100% protection to the public.

"It was originally built in the 50s but had become a practical but less than attractive feature," recalled Dave, who produced a report for the HSE detailing exacting mowing and transportation procedures for every hole on the course.

"Then there was a landslide and a huge crack appeared following a wet rainy summer about two years ago. The whole thing had to be redone and we got a contractor to pull the land back behind the upright concrete poles. We finished it with telegraph poles, which were in good supply at the time, and re-turfed the top."



▲ The 10th

The result is a very attractive professional job, fulfilling all the objectives of providing safe passage to the ramblers and dog walkers who use the path.

Dave, who is 39, became Course Manager, on Steve Pope's retirement in '95 having been Deputy. Prior to that he had worked as Deputy Course Manager at Washington GC, before that Ponteland GC and Newcastle United GC (a name the club had before the football club which is the object of the Toon Army's affections).

"I have a very good team, who, but for recent recruit Alex Wishart are trained to Level 3. Michael Gunn is my Deputy, Steve Richardson, the Mechanic/Greenkeeper, and Jeff Cullen.

As he ran through the names Dave highlighted their attributes and added that as a small team they all relied on each other to ensure success.

"To produce the goods you need a good team behind you who all have the knowledge. I'm a great believer in not holding anything back. I'm not a fly-off-the-handle guy and that means when mistakes are made, and they are, they come and tell me. If you are too autocratic you often don't get to find out what the problems are."

Dave and his team understand the demands of modern day greenkeeping at a traditional members' club and embrace the particular pressures such a combination brings.

"The industry is a lot more professional now than before and there are a lot of opportunities. I'm happy to stay in the industry and see it progress," concluded Dave.



▲ The 14th hole with the public path shielded by the recently refurbished wall of sleepers



▲ The remodelled ravine on the 15th hole

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A page from the Health and Safety guidelines produced by Dave and Michael showing the dos and don'ts for each maintenance operation

Photography by Graeme Peacock (www.graeme-peacock.com)

Hole Three

Tee

Main tee area cut using ride on triple mower. No sharp turning on main area or on sides. Sides of tee to be mown using flymo

Semi-rough.

Semi-rough on this hole is to be mown using semi-rough cutter. Ground speed appropriate to conditions. Care taken to avoid any notable hazards. Always cut up down any slopes rather than across.

Fairway.

The fairway is to be cut using the fairway ride on mower. All cut directions are permissible. Speed of cut to be appropriate to ground conditions. All turns to be at reduced speed fairway cut from end of carry to approach to green.

Approach.

This area to be cut using ride-on triple mower. Reduce speed and remain vigilant when cutting around bunkers and top of slope at rear of green.

Green

The greens mower is to be used for mowing greens only. Care to be taken on turning three point turns where turning would be tight. Slopes and bunkers around greens are to be avoided at all times.

Bunkers

If slope falls into bunker hand machines only to be used on slope. Bunkers sloping away from bunker may be cut around with ride-on mowers.



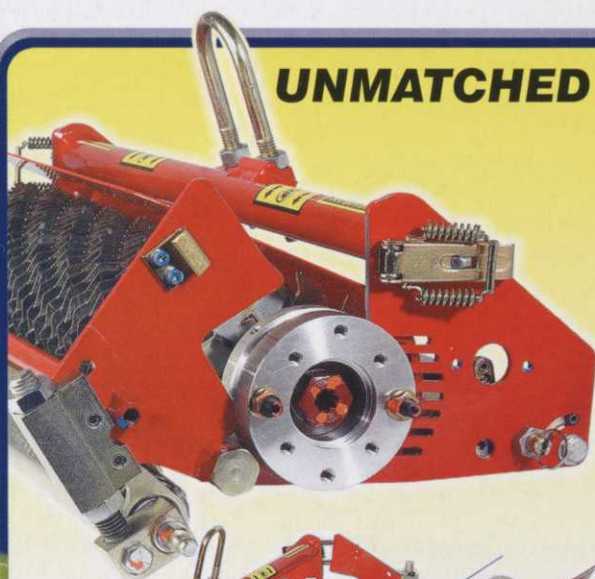
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Andy Campbell MG CGCS - A Qualified Success

Scott MacCallum profiles Andy Campbell, who will lead the Association for the next 12 months

BIGGA has been blessed with some outstanding Chairmen since its inception in 1987 but in the 2004 Chairman the Association can honestly claim to have secured the services of a man whose qualifications are second to none.

Andy Campbell MG CGCS, Golf Courses and Estates Manager for De Vere Carden Park, is the only British greenkeeper to hold those two qualifications and is the living embodiment of how the education and training available to today's greenkeepers can open doors to, previously out of reach, employment opportunities and ensure the pressures inherent in those jobs can be met successfully.

For a 42 year-old to have achieved such a important role at such a prestigious resort as Carden Park - in addition to being in charge of the 30 greenkeeping staff he is also responsible for the team of pros, the starters and the rangers as well as being the Chairman of the Golf Club - you would imagine it to have been an unhindered march to the top of the career tree. However, the truth is far from the case and resembles more of a game of Snakes and Ladders, including a six year period out of the greenkeeping business altogether and a spell away from Carden Park when the Resort fell into receivership. It says all you need to know about Andy's strength of character, as well as the uncertain times in which we live.

"Recently I met up with Richard McGlynn, an Irish lad who used to work for me and who is currently working in Austria. Over a pint he said 'You might not be the most talented greenkeeper I've ever seen, but you are the most persistent.' I don't know if it was a compliment or not but I think I know what he means," said Andy, as we sat in the splendid clubhouse which overlooks the 18th hole of the Cheshire Course, the first of the two built at Carden Park. The other being the Nicklaus.

"That's the way I would sum it up 'Persistence'. I've always had the ability to get up, dust myself down and get on with it."

When it came to a career, greenkeeping's gain was very much the loss to two other professions and if things had turned out differently it could have been Andy Campbell's name at the top of this piece, profiling the new Chairman, and not Scott MacCallum's.

"I was a junior member at Chester Golf Club and at 16 was planning to stay on at a school and do A Levels with a view to becoming either a journalist or a banker and had gone so far as get the careers' information back from the training bodies of both," said Andy, whose journalistic interest stems from a relative who worked for The Daily Mail.

"But I'd been playing a fair bit of golf and wasn't too keen to go back to school for another two years. I'd always had a background in gardening, from my maternal grandfather who lived locally and I was



always in his greenhouse and cutting the lawn for pocket money, while my paternal grandfather was Head Gardener on an estate near Inverness."

It was around this time that a job became available as an apprentice at Chester Golf Club and Andy saw the opportunity to combine his two great interests.

"I got the job and first thing I had to do was resign from membership because in those days you couldn't do both and you weren't allowed in the clubhouse."

Chester, however, provided a superb starting point for Andy and he is particularly indebted to two individuals at the club.

"I was fortunate while I was there that Chairman of Green was Alf Jiggins, an ex City Surveyor for Chester, who'd done some golf course design work with Hawtrees. He was the man who got me involved in going to committee meetings when I'd been given the role of Senior among Equals. Len Sproston, was the Head Greenkeeper, who has recently retired, and he was one of the more forward thinking greenkeepers of the time."

With Len, Bill Lawson, Terry Adamson, Keith Holmes and Phil Davies, Andy was one of the men who took the decision to set up the North West Section of the EIGGA, much to the annoyance of many of the old BGGGA members.

He applauds the legacy, which had been left by the men who first made inroads into greenkeeper education.

"It is quite unusual for a group of people who want to move themselves forward without the pressures to do so being imposed by outside forces like business and bosses but that is what happened at the beginning. Greenkeepers have always had a thing about wanting to help themselves."

Andy left Chester in 1984 to become Course Manager at Eastham Golf Club on the Wirral, at the time a 13-hole course but when the move didn't work out he left the industry and set up his own landscaping business, employing at one time 11 people.

"In '92 my mum, who knew I wasn't particularly happy in landscaping, spotted an advert in the local paper for a Course Manager at Carden Park. It was the early 90s and it was getting increasingly difficult to get paid and there was a lot of pressure - so I applied and got the job."

They finished all the landscaping work over the next three months and Andy was back in greenkeeping, with thanks, on this occasion, to Brian Hatton, the Estates Manager, who had recognised what Andy could bring to Carden.

"The beauty of this place at the time was that it was really a big landscaping job. The golf course was halfway through construction, there was not hotel or clubhouse or even roads and I had knowledge of working with contractors and knew where corners might be cut."

All went well at the privately owned club until it went into receivership in October '94 and although initially retained Andy resigned when he was asked to compromise health and safety with a temporary maintenance facility and said he wasn't going to be responsible for working in those conditions.

He endured a miserable winter, including the '95 Harrogate, before being asked back by the Receiver as a consultant.

"I was basically last man standing when St David Hotels came in and took over. I had the keys as the Receivers had left the day before and Brian Hatton, sadly for him had been made redundant."

St David Hotel's injected the investment, which made Carden Park much of what it is today before De Vere bought over the group.

"My job role has increased as each hurdle has been jumped, the last being on January 1 when I became responsible for all the Pro Staff, the Starters and Rangers from both a financial and operational point of view."

This time his job title has remained the same "Golf Courses and Estates Manager".

"I don't feel the need to change it and if it's good enough for George Brown, it's good enough for me," said Andy, who also credits Jon Scott,

agronomist for the Nicklaus Group and the US Tour, for guiding him through some tough times particularly when it came to dealing with politics.

"He taught me only to fight the battles you have a chance of winning."

Through the growing demands of his job and the growth of Carden Park in terms of size of hotel and the construction of the Nicklaus Course, Andy studied hard to first achieve his Master Greenkeeper status in 1997 and then the CGCS (Certified Golf Course Superintendent) in 2001, becoming the only person in the country to hold both.

"I was conscious that if I could get my Master Greenkeeper certificate it would make my role more secure within the company and it was the same with the CGCS certificate as well," said Andy, who hopes Ken Seims, Course Superintendent at Loch Lomond Golf Club, the only other holder of the CGCS goes for his Master Greenkeeper, as that would make two.

"I do get some criticism for putting MG and CGCS after my name. I only do it on certain correspondence but I want people to turn round and ask what it means. It's all part of the battle to change people's perception of greenkeeping."

Surprisingly for one who has taken such advantage of the educational opportunities available to him Andy sees the biggest benefits he's had from BIGGA coming in the networking opportunities.

"Meeting people like Walter Woods, Jimmy Kidd, Bill Lawson and George Brown - I never thought I'd be the guy he'd ask to be his Vice Chairman - was great and they have influenced so many young greenkeepers," said Andy, who added that he was fortunate that he had a boss who encouraged him to go to the Conferences where he met those people.

"You used to think what would happen when those guys left the industry, that there would be nobody to take their place. But someone said 'Ah, but you'll be that guy one day'. I thought 'yeh sure' and I still don't believe that but there are other guys who have followed in their footsteps. People like Gordon Moir and Eddie Adams have come through."

So what of the Campbell year in office? What can we expect?

"Greenkeeping is a microcosm of what is happening in society today. The pace of life is so hectic it is getting more difficult to encourage people out of their homes at night for Section gatherings.

"The challenge for the Association is to find ways to serve those people and service them in new formats. That will come at a cost in terms of technology but more people are able now to use computers and there must be a way of bringing the Association, and what it offers, to more people."

He is also aware of the uncertainties the Association faces in the coming months.

"Neil (Thomas) has built a strong team at BIGGA which is capable of managing the Association and that has been borne out over the last six months and I've no doubts that John Pemberton can continue to do the job he has over the last six months.

"As to what I can do. Well, 12 months isn't very long but I hope to keep people on board and all going in the same direction. I'm always going to bang the drum for education because of what it has done for me and I do believe in it.

"You don't stop on the level of education you've reached. We're in a fast paced environment and there are going to be many challenges to face over the next few years and we're going to need the skills to deal with them."

So what has BIGGA's best-qualified greenkeeper have in mind for his own personal development?

"Well, speaking to George Brown I don't think I'll have much time for books over the next year but I do want to work towards a business administration qualification, while I also want to learn Spanish as so much of the world's greenkeeping population speaks that language."

That's a challenge he may be facing with a well-known Real Madrid player soon... the Spanish, not the Business Administration!

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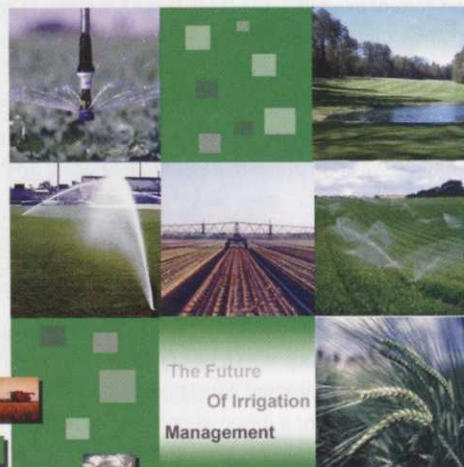
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Review of 2004

Always a Relief

There is always a sense of trepidation in the lead up to a Harrogate week that for some reason it might not live up to expectations. It may be down to something out of control of BIGGA staff - bad weather springs to mind immediately, but you could include things like general economic climate, industrial action, even something like the fuel protests of a few years ago would have a significant impact on the success of a Harrogate week. You never know, do you?

So it is with a sigh of relief that we can report another good week. Weather was amenable and there wasn't any outside factor to act as a fly in the ointment of the week.

More importantly the feedback we've been receiving has been excellent with the vast majority of exhibitors reporting they had enjoyed a successful show and were keen to rebook for 2005.

The statistics also bear out the fact that BTME & ClubHouse 2004 went well.

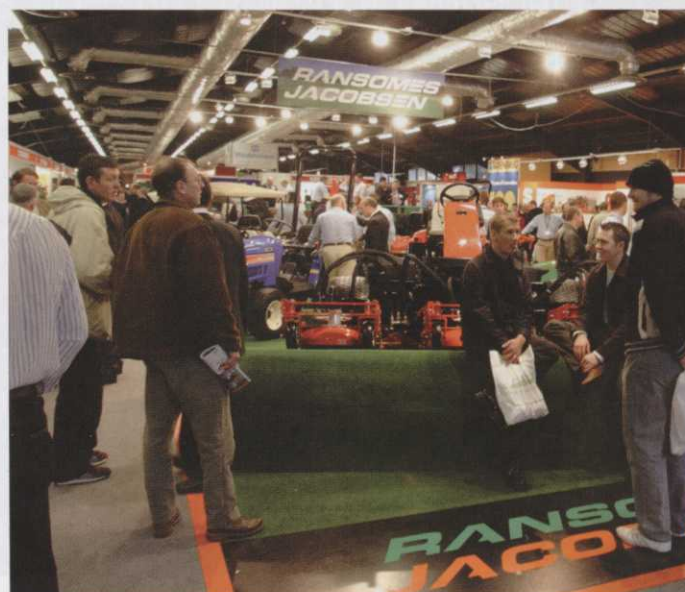
- 25 different countries, excluding the home nations, were represented, travelling from five different continents.
- 25% of visitors were attending Harrogate for the first time.
- The breakdown for British visitors was South 23%, Midlands 24%, Scotland 15% and North 38%, indicating that Harrogate draws from all corners of the UK.
- Other than golf, 15 industries were represented, including local authorities; farms; private estates; theme parks; showgrounds; football; racecourses, tennis clubs and polo fields.
- 35% of those who attended had the power to approve and purchase while a further 26% were in a position to influence approval.
- 10% of those who attend spent up to 25% of their annual budget at the Harrogate. 15% spend up to 10% of their budgets while a further 38% spend up to 5% of their annual budget.

We'd also like to salute the 120 people who have attended all 16 Shows. Let's hope you can keep your attendance records at 100% for many years to come.

It is statistics like those that encourage us to think that we have something to build upon for next year, but no doubt those feelings of trepidation will still be there come January 2005.



▲ George Brown officially opens the show at the Hall M entrance watched by some eminent Past Chairmen



▲ A busy Hall A

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**A NEW BREED
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You Had to be There

Scott MacCallum takes a back seat at the Harrogate week

Change was very much apparent to visitors to Harrogate this year from the moment they arrived.

This was mainly due to the fact that the Continue to Learn Education Conference, supported by the John Deere Team Championship, was being held in Hall D of the Harrogate Conference Centre and not the Majestic Hotel.

The reason was simple. As there is major renovation work required on the Royal Hall which has been the traditional home to the Seminar Sessions, Keynote Speech presentations, etc. a new home had to be found.

Ken Richardson took the decision to create a lecture theatre in Hall D, on the First Floor of the Exhibition Centre which last year housed the ClubHouse Exhibition.

As this had to be created specifically for BIGGA it was felt that we should make the most of this new temporary facility, so moving the education conference to Hall D as well made perfect sense.

With state-of-the-art Conference technology, including a series of screens placed down the sides of the theatre to assist with the viewing of photographs and graphics, it proved ideal and the interesting and thought provoking papers delivered by the speakers were given the ideal stage.

The Golf – Sport and Business theme to the Conference, under the excellent Chairmanship of Roger Greenwood, caught many an imagination and the quality of both paper and speaker were superb.

The morning started with Andy Campbell MG CGCS, at the time the soon-to-be-elected Chairman of the Association and Golf Courses and Estates Manager at De Vere Carden Park, who spoke on how performance is now judged on the daily figures produced by the resort as much as by the quality of his two golf courses.

Then came Peter McEvoy OBE, the inspirational Captain of a successful series of Walker Cup teams, who revealed how he got the most out of his team and ensured no inferiority complex when they faced up to their American opponent and also gave a glimpse into a new "golf in an hour" concept he is building near London.

Next, Billy McMillan, Course Manager of Tyrells Wood GC, who interrupted his paper to deliver a hilarious story about visiting the blood transfusion service, was as usual riveting self.

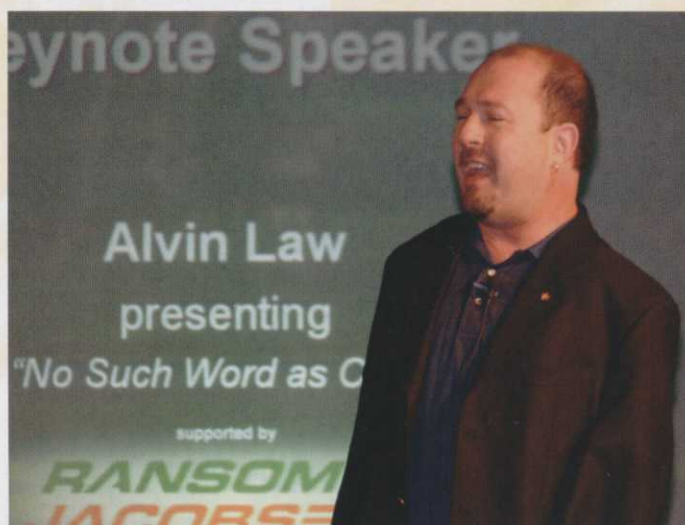
Last on in the morning was Professor Al Turgeon, Professor of Turfgrass Management at Pennsylvania State University, who was excellent, particularly when you consider that due to a cancelled flight he hadn't arrived in the UK until a few hours before he was due to speak.

The afternoon saw Chris Hartwiger, agronomist with the USGA, speaking on Raising the Bar – How High Can it Go?, and encouraging people to concentrate "down the middle" on tees, fairways, greens, bunkers, etc. and not to become drawn into peripheral work which, in a drastic case he'd seen, included dying the wood chippings used to line wooded areas.

Chris was followed by Kenny Mackay, Senior Course Manager, at the Marriott Forest of Arden Golf Club, and then Alex McCombie, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Parkstone GC, before Professor Al Turgeon returned to deliver a second paper entitled How Turf Science can Help to Overcome and Future Management Problems.

While the delegates were enjoying an invigorating range of papers at the Conference another group were engrossed in one of three workshops being held in the neighbouring Moat House Hotel.

Dennis Mortram led one on Water and the Golf Course; David Bancroft-Turner another on Real Influencing Skills with Jerrard Winter, hosting the Health and Safety Workshop.



▲ Alvin Hall was a truly inspirational speaker and was given a standing ovation from the audience at the end

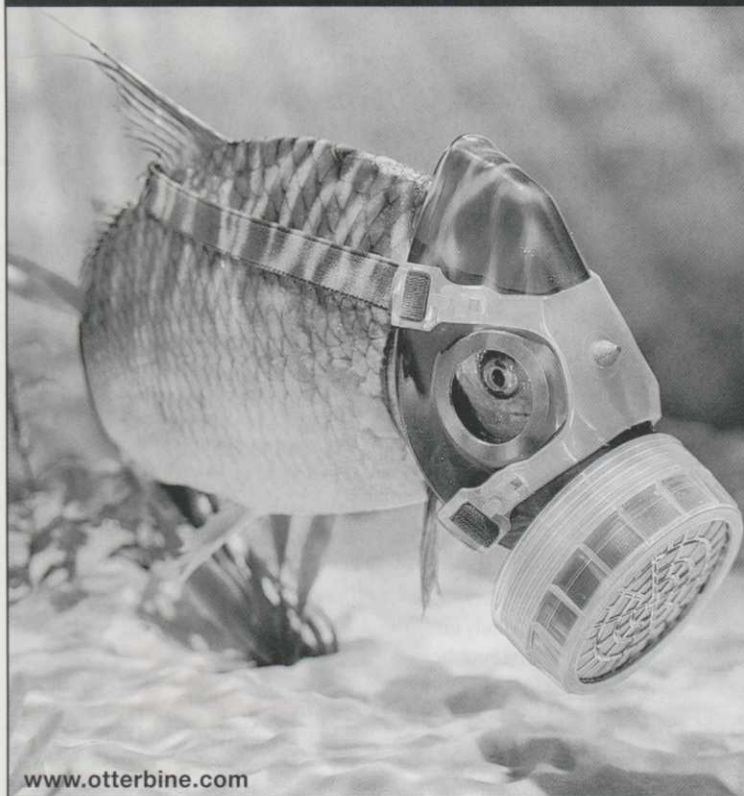


▲ Billy McMillan, Course Manager of Tyrells Wood GC, spoke on the Education Conference and again at the Future's Sub- Committee presentation.



▲ David Bancroft-Turner led one of the three workshops in the Moat House Hotel

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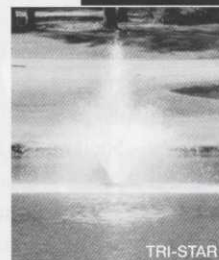
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"This is our first time at this show and much interest has been shown in our caps and in particular the battery operated golf trolley. A good attendance with a range of attendees."

Clive Helder

While the Education Conference was well under way preparations for BTME and ClubHouse were getting to the frantic stage by Monday afternoon.

It never ceases to amaze how quickly the Harrogate Halls go from being a series of vast empty shells to a home for over 230 colourful, varied and exciting stands.

With a few hours to go you would bet your house it wouldn't be ready in time but with a few minutes to go everyone is ready for a drink and a nibble at the Pre Show party and you're looking forward to life on the streets wondering why you were so daft as to bet the family home on a bet you always lose.

The Education Conference Dinner proved to be a superb occasion and in Jimmy Bright we had a speaker who was obviously towards the front of the queue when new jokes were being issued.

Tuesday saw the opening of the BTME and ClubHouse with the usual buzz that surrounds it each new year. For a change the official opening occurred at the entrance to Hall M rather than Hall A and George Brown proved to be extremely adept with the sheers.

Day Two of the Education Conference saw papers from Dr Kate Entwistle, of the Turf Disease Centre, who posed the question, Will Future Legislation Ban Pest Control? She was appropriately followed by Jeff Carlson CGCS, Superintendent at The Vineyard Golf Club in the States, who spoke on, Managing a Course without Chemicals.

The Conference concluded with papers from renowned golf course architect, Jeremy Pern and Terry Buchen MG CGCS, of Harvard University, who looked into the future of Turf Science and Golf Course Management.

The next three days in the Halls and the Lecture Theatre passed in a blur with a particular highlight for many being the keynote speech given by Alvin Law, a Canadian, who has not let the fact that he was born without arms prevent him playing the piano and drums with great aplomb.

Alvin had a full lecture theatre enthralled with the inspirational story of his life and left the stage to a standing ovation, with everyone even more aware than ever that there is no such word as can't.

The traditional end to the week is the banquet and this year the guests were treated to a performance containing some of the best known songs ever written as Bootleg Abba took to the stage and soon had the dance floor full.

The feedback from the Show – see the testimonials – has subsequently been very good and fully justifies the months of hard work the BIGGA staff have put in to ensuring a successful week.



▲ Jerrard Winter took his workshop through important health and safety issues



▲ The temporary lecture theatre proved to be an ideal venue



▲ Dennis and Adrian Mortram were in charge of the Water and the Golf Course workshop



CHARTERHOUSE TURF MACHINERY LTD

"We are particularly delighted with the response we have had this year at BTME. We have had a good cross section of customers on the stand from greenkeepers, of course, but also contractors, councils and some of the smaller sports grounds. We also managed to take some orders. All in all a good show for us."

Nick Darking



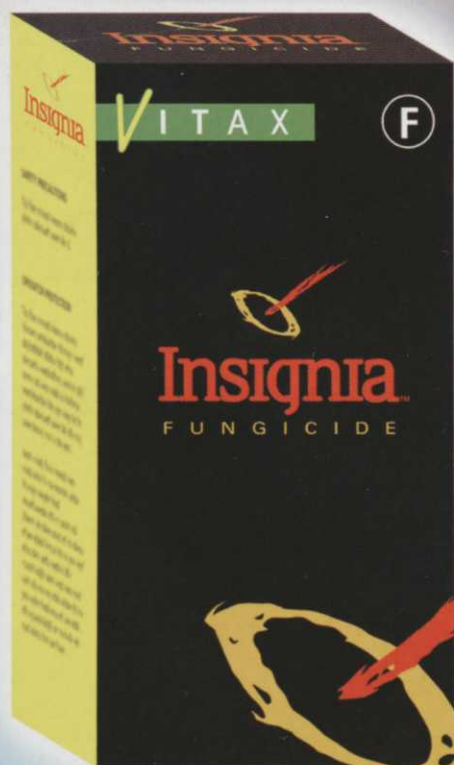
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LOCKER SOLUTIONS LTD

"As first time exhibitors the show was very worthwhile and a number of good leads were obtained. We will certainly be back in 2005."
Carl Foreman

Three More Members of the Master Greenkeeper Club

The group of greenkeepers who have achieved the prestigious Master Greenkeeper Award reached 39 when the latest three to earn the right to put the letters MG after their name were honoured at Harrogate.

Phil Gates, Course Manager at Trentham Golf Club; Norbert Lischka, Course Manager of Hamburg Falkenstein Golf Club, in Germany and Stephen Matuza, Superintendent of the Town of Oyster Bay Golf Club, Long Island, New York State, formed a cosmopolitan group at the presentation of their Master Greenkeeper Blazers and plaques by outgoing BIGGA Chairman, George Brown and BIGGA's first Chairman, Walter Woods BEM on Wednesday, January 21.

Three stages of qualification means candidates have to collect 200 credits for education, training and experience, followed by a detailed assessment of their golf course operation and then a two part written examination.



▲ Norbert Lischka with George Brown and Walter Woods BEM



▲ Stephen Matuza, of Town of Oyster Bay GC with his plaque and jacket



▲ Phil Gates, of Trentham GC, was the only "home grown" Master Greenkeeper this year

Unsung Heroes

Brian Payne, Head Greenkeeper of Burnham Beeches GC, High Wycombe, and Tim Parker, groundsman for the Royal Hospital School, Ipswich, and part time groundsman for Woolpit Cricket Club, Suffolk, have been chosen as Unsung Heroes for 2003.



▲ Brian Payne (left) and Tim Parker (right) celebrate with David and Lynda Green, of Terrain Aeration

Brian Payne, nominated by Burnham Beeches' General Manager Mr T. P. Jackson, was praised by the judges for his tireless hard work over 33 years, always keeping the course in superb condition and instigating many improvements. Although it is widely accepted that Burnham Beeches owes its reputation for excellence during important golfing occasions to Brian's efforts, he has always shunned any form of official recognition.

Mr Jackson, who kept his nomination secret until the judges had made their selection, commented that Brian would be devastated to think praise may be heaped on him.

Tim Parker, who holds a full time job as groundsman during the day, was nominated by the Chairman of his village cricket club, Mr E. Walker, for his unpaid after work activities which have made Woolpit's cricket wicket one of the finest in the county.

Tim Lodge, of the STRI, announced the winners during BTME, on behalf of his fellow judges, Gordon Child of BIGGA, and Derek Walder of the IOG, before the Unsung Heroes were presented with the keys to a house in Neffies, South of France, by Lynda Green, of Terrain Aeration, who has mounted the award. Chris Biddle and John Richards, (the award's sponsors), presented a cheque of £150, to each man, towards travelling expenses. The winners will enjoy a week's holiday this year, in the Neffies house.

TURFCARE GROUP

Turfcare Group came to BTME for the second year. The attendance demonstrated the positive state of our industry and Turfcare received a number of genuine enquiries from potential customers nationwide and overseas. The event also provides a wonderful opportunity to meet up with friends and industry associates. The event was organized and managed as professionally as ever."

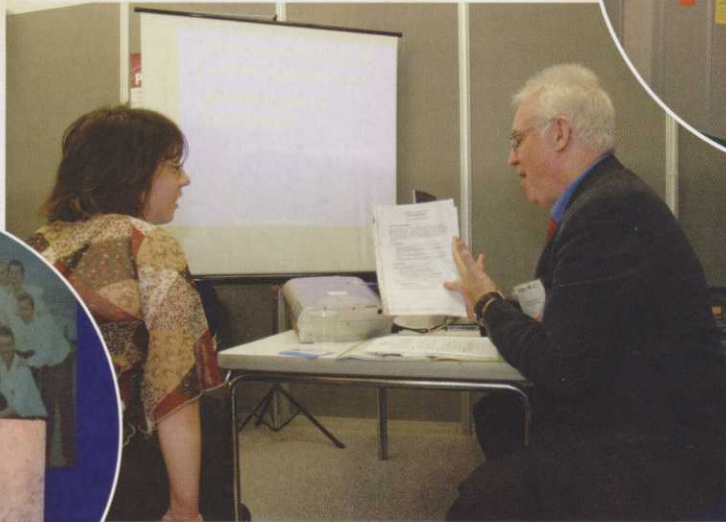
Roger Jones



▲ The Careers' Fair sponsored by Toro proved to be a big hit with visitors



▲ Former Walker Cup Captain, Peter McEvoy, gave an inspiration account of how he turned his men into winners



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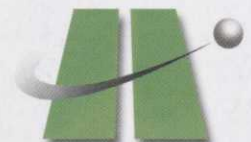
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"This is our second year at ClubHouse and the show has proved as successful as last year. As experts in providing security access systems to golf clubs throughout the UK the show gives us the opportunity to meet golf club secretaries face to face and demonstrate our company products which is not usually possible when visiting the clubs. I shall be booking for 2005!"

John McClellan



▲ Austin Sutton, of Syngenta, and Matt Reed, of Scotts, present Geoff Henderson and Ian Shepherd, of Kenwick Park GC with the BIGGA Golf Environment Trophy, watched by George Brown and Bob Taylor, Senior Ecologist with the STRI



▲ As they stand at the moment clockwise from the top right they are. Prize winners in the BIGGA Environment Competition receive their awards. Thorpeness GC (South East winner); York GC, (North); Minchinhampton GC (Best Newcomer); St Andrews Links (Scotland); Notts GC (Special Project Award and runner-up in the Midlands/SW). Kenwick Park were the overall winner - see education page.

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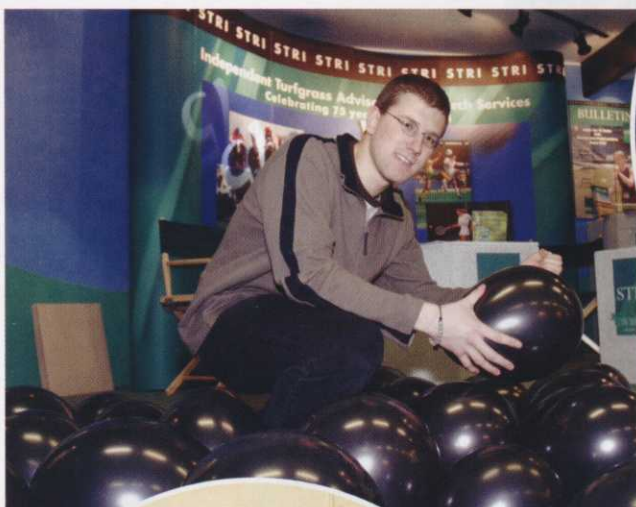
Carl Crome



▲ George Brown with BIGGA Golden and Silver Key supporters after the annual Chairman's Lunch in the Majestic Hotel



▲ BIGGA's Museum is always a big hit, particularly with the older visitors



▲ George Brown welcomes the new Chairman Andy Campbell after the Annual General Meeting



▲ Andy Campbell draws out the winning scorecard in BIGGA's 18-Hole Competition assisted by John Pemberton, Acting Executive Director of BIGGA. The winner was Jean-Paul Bowers, of De Vere Belton Woods

▲ The STRI celebrated the start of their 75th anniversary with a series of events on the Thursday including a balloon burst with the chance of winning one a several prizes



MOX UK

"Sales gone very well. We picked up some good leads and people have been enthusiastic about the new products"
Chris Glover



▲ The Bernhard's Delegation were presented with their tickets to San Diego by Stephen Bernhard at a cocktail party on the Wednesday evening

**BATGOLF.COM**

"BATgolf has had tremendous success with all the visitors from the UK and overseas. We will need to have at least double stand space for next year to accommodate everyone."

Andrew Cornes



▲ Bootleg ABBA were a great way to finish the week at the banquet on the Thursday night

Jimmy Bright had the National Education Conference Dinner in stitches on the Monday evening ▶

**MCCORMICK TRACTORS**

"Excellent event this year. Numerous enquiries from both potential customers and dealers."
Adrian Winnett

David Hart, of John Deere, who, through the John Deere Team Championship, sponsor the National Education Conference welcomed the delegates at the Dinner ▶

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Derek Fogg

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NEW PRODUCTS

JCB TEAM UP WITH COUNTAX

JCB Groundcare teamed up with Countax to show a lawn and garden tractor with unrivalled performance at BTME.

Available through both JCB Groundcare and Countax dealers, the JCB branded D20-50 is built to class leading specifications in terms of power, versatility and efficiency.

Powered by a direct injection V-twin 20hp diesel engine, the tractor is highly economic with increased cutting between fills. Ideally suited for coverage of up to 10 acres, the JCB model has a grass collecting capacity of 380 litres.

In addition to power assisted steering, a series of automated functions make the D20-50 simple and convenient to use. The electronic 'dial-a-height' control adjusts the level of the cutter deck depending on the application.

The interactive blade system utilises three contra-rotating blades for highly efficient cutting while the rear roller control allows the operator to set the perfect height for creating immaculate striped lawns. The high grass mulching deck uses chains fore and aft to cut long grass and scrub.

The tractor has been designed to allow quick change between attachments and is compatible with Countax's range of accessories – including trailers, cutters, scarifiers, shredders and chippers. The Power Take Off feature provides extra power when undertaking these activities.

The final feature prominent on the D20-50 is the inclusion of integral safety measures. The tractor cannot be started unless the handbrake is engaged and the tractor also boasts hydrostatic transmission with differential lock giving control on slopes and maximum traction in difficult conditions.

For further information Tel: 01844 278800.



TORO LAUNCHES

Toro debuted the ProCore 648 green aerator which will be available from May.

The self-powered, pedestrian, vertical corer has a large 48in working width which means 18 greens can be aerated in just over seven hours, enabling greenkeepers to get their greens back in play faster than ever before.

A feature of the ProCore is that its wheels are located in front of the tines, so the machine never runs over the cores.

The ProCore is powered by a 25hp Kohler petrol engine and can be fitted with both solid and hollow tines. Coring can be done at variable spacing between one-and-a-half and three inches, at depths up to four inches.

Unique Toro technology fitted to the aerator includes the TrueCore ground-following system, which automatically maintains tine depth in operation to match ground undulations and give a consistent coring depth.

In addition, Toro's patented three-wheel series/parallel traction drive, combined with high-torque, low-speed wheel motors, prevents slippage for reliable traction and even hole spacing.

Toro has designed the ProCore for easy operation. A single switch on the handle controls the tine head while a handle bail engages forward and reverse – so no shifting is required. A fail-safe system stops the machine and lifts the coring head if the handle bail is released.

Toro also unveiled its new-look Workman 3000 and 4000 heavy-duty utility vehicles, which have been given a stylish new appearance and a host of new



▲ Workman 3000



▲ Pro-Core 648

features for greater driver comfort, easier operation and better control.

Gauges and controls are made easier to reach with a higher dashboard, while the parking brake and dump lever have been repositioned for even easier operation.

For further information Tel: 01508 491400.

NEW FOUR WHEEL DRIVE MOWER

BTME saw the debut of John Deere's new 3245C four wheel drive mower the company's first five deck rotary machine for semi-rough amenity grass.

The 3245C features a John Deere Series 220 liquid cooled and turbocharged diesel engine, with a maximum power rating of 48.5hp.

Combining the ability to follow ground contours closely with optimum cutting performance, at mowing speeds of up to 9mph, the 3245C has five 53cm independent rotary rear discharge decks, made of heavy duty 10 gauge steel. These provide a total cutting width of 228cm, while height of cut is quick and easy to change, without tools, from 25 to 102mm, in 6mm increments.

Individual turn assist brakes work in conjunction with the newly designed hydrostatic foot controls to stop or slow the mower for tight turns and to provide additional traction when working on slopes.

Standard equipment includes a two post roll guard, plus front anti-scalp and rear rollers which produce an attractive striping effect.

A new Command Arm operator console, as featured on the John Deere 2500 greensmower, is designed for maximum driver comfort and convenience.

Further operator benefits include a high capacity 68 litre fuel tank for all day mowing, power steering, adjustable deluxe seat and steering column, and SOW halogen headlights for increased visibility. Options include cruise control and a mulching kit.

For further information Tel: 01949 860491.



REACHING THE PARTS...

Terrain Aeration launched "Airforce G", the company's latest hydraulic Terralift machine, specifically designed for deep, compressed air de-compaction treatment on golf courses.

Sporting a new engine and compressor combination, manufactured by Pneumofore, the Turin based Italian light engineering specialists, Airforce G retains the hydraulically driven JCB hammer and rams used in the Airforce prototype, and remains true to the original Terralift technology.

Terrain's Managing Director, David Green, who has designed and built the new machine, explained that at two feet shorter, and approx 300Kg lighter, Airforce G is more compact and has greater manoeuvrability than its predecessor without losing the one tonne of down force available to deliver the probe one metre down through compacted soil.

"Airforce G has lost 250Kg on the new engine and compressor alone and we've been able to reduce the wheelbase by half a metre, bringing the overall machine weight down to the one tonne target. It's also quieter due to the sound proof casing."

For further information Tel: 01449 673783.

CENTENARY YEAR

BTME marked the start of an exciting year for Barenbrug, as the company underlines its pedigree in specialist grass seed breeding by celebrating its centenary.

The company launched its new 2004 catalogue at Harrogate. The guide to Barenbrug cultivars and mixtures also contains advice and information on all applications, together with recommended sowing rates and depths.

Barenbrug also unveiled a new mixture which it claims is the ultimate low maintenance product. Called BAR 40, it's ideal for golf greens, tees and surrounds, as well as the landscaping market. It contains 75% Barkoel crested

hairgrass and 25% Barcrown slender creeping red fescue, and offers all Barkoel characteristics such as low maintenance, disease resistance, low thatch production and good all-year-round colour.

Heading the list for recovery is Romance perennial ryegrass, a cultivar included in both BAR 7, the UK's leading sports renovation mixture and BAR 8 construction mixture, with a new specification, for 2004. Bred by Barenbrug Research, Romance combines recovery characteristics with wear tolerance. It offers good shoot density while maintaining a consistent mid-green colour in both summer and winter, making it ideal for heavy duty sports turf use and turf production.

For further information Tel: 01359 272000.

NEW CAMPEY HARVESTER

The new trailed Raycam Core Harvester from Campey TurfCare Systems collects cores speedily via its fully floating and adjustable pick-up head, having been gathered by guides extending on either side of the unit. The cores are then swept up by a rotating brush and fed via an integral conveyor into a 580-litre capacity, high-tip, side-discharge hopper, for easy collection and disposal.

Powered by a compact tractor of 24-30hp, the Raycam Core Harvester's steering axle enables the unit to be positioned exactly in relation to the tractor line. The machine is powered by an independent hydraulic system, via a pump mounted on the tractor's rear power take-off.

By using the Raycam Turf Harvester, turf professionals can achieve a clean playing surface quickly and efficiently, with minimal labour. An added advantage is that treated areas can be brought back into play in considerably less time, so that there is less likelihood of losing revenue through having to close part or all of a facility.



A SMALLER VERSION

EarthQuake Turfcare launched a 1m wide version of its Tremor rotary turf decompactor to complement its existing 1.5m and 2.2m Tremor models.

Weighing 300kg, the new Tremor 100 requires a compact tractor of 20hp to 30hp, making it ideal for relieving compaction beneath fine or sensitive areas of turf where excessive tractor or machine weight could diminish the beneficial effects of any decompaction treatment.

The new T100 machine follows the same working principles as its larger stablemates. It has 12 rotating wedge-shaped knives which pass through the soil to a maximum depth of 210mm, moving the soil sideways across the full width.

The subsoil cracks and fissures created by this soil movement maintain and promote the passage of essential air, nutrients and water to encourage good drainage and strong, healthy grass growth.

The progressive entry into the turf of the T100's curved knives with their sharp leading edge ensures fast, reliable, economical operation with minimal stress or strain on the tractor or operator. As the knives exit the turf, a full-width, single-piece depth skid prevents the turf from lifting, leaving the surface ready for almost immediate use.

Price of the T100 is £6,400 and demonstrations will be available through EarthQuake Turfcare and its appointed dealers from early spring 2004 onwards. For further information Tel: 01889 271509.



GROWING PORTFOLIO

Headland increased the company's pesticide portfolio with the launch of two new products.

Snare, aimed at the amenity turf market, is a thiophanate – methyl based systemic fungicide, which is active against common diseases such as fusarium patch and red thread as well as dollar spot. It has the added advantage of activity against earthworms and can be used for the suppression of worm casting.

Where necessary, Snare can also be combined with Headland's 'Cyren', insecticide for control of both casting worms and leatherjackets in one application.

Tangent, Headland's new, non-selective, non-residual herbicide is a 450g/litre glyphosate formulation, which carries no hazard classification.

Absorbed by the foliage and translocated throughout the plant and root systems, Tangent is effective on annual and perennial grasses as well as broad-leaved weeds, but inactivated on contact with the soil and rapidly degraded by micro-organisms.

Tangent's high rate of active ingredient means a 20% lower application rate than other glyphosate formulations. Its use is recommended on non-crop areas such as hard surfaces, paved areas, highways and industrial sites, as well as around trees and shrubs in landscaped areas and forestry situations. Tangent is also recommended for aquatic areas.

For further information Tel: 01223 597834.

TAKE-ALL BEWARE!

Scotts announced an additional on-label approval against Take-All disease for their new fungicide Heritage at BTME this week.

Heritage has proved highly popular with turf managers since its launch at BTME 2003, due to the unparalleled control of Fusarium disease that the new active ingredient offers. The additional on-label approval for Heritage against

Take-All will be equally welcome to UK greenkeepers and groundsman as it is the only turf fungicide to carry such approval.

Heritage belongs to a new class of environmentally sound fungicides, which have been developed from naturally occurring chemicals found in saprophytic woodland fungi.

Heritage disrupts the mitochondrial respiration of target fungi and prevents the pathogen from transferring energy, leading to the death of the fungal cells.

Application of Heritage offers a long lasting prevention and early cure of turf disease, and efficacy is further enhanced by the products systemic mobility within the grass plant. It is absorbed through leaf blade, crown, root and stem, and moves throughout the plant, via the xylem vessels, to provide total protection.

Scotts also introduced a new organic turf supplement that enhances sward health and vigour through stimulating soil microbial activity. New Greenmaster Blade is an advanced combination of carbohydrate and seaweed technology.

Greenmaster Blade works indirectly, instead of feeding the turf, the carbohydrate and seaweed spray feeds and stimulates the beneficial micro-organisms in the soil surface.

Modern turf management can result in a near sterile environment in the upper inches of the soil, starving the micro flora and fauna and preventing the natural recycling of organic matter into plant nutrients. This has contributed to the increasing problems turf managers experience with thatch build up and conditions such as black layer.

Greenmaster Blade tackles this issue by providing an energy source to reinvigorate the activity of these organisms. The result is an acceleration of natural composting – breaking down thatch and black layer, improving air and water flow into the soil and continually releasing new plant nutrients to the turf roots.

For further information Tel: 01473 830492.

NEW ZERO TURN ARTICULATED ROTARY

Lastec took the wraps off a new fully articulating three deck zero turn ride-on rotary mower at Harrogate. The new mower has an overall cutting width of 72", and the right and left hand 25" wing decks each have 13" of articulation to achieve the highest quality of cut without 'scalping'. Powered by a 28HP Kubota diesel engine, the new machine incorporates the latest developments in Lastec's patented Articulator technology which, since its introduction in 1990, has been proven on hundreds of championship golf courses around the world.

The new machine is an addition to Lastec's established line-up of Articulator. Four other models from the range – selected to demonstrate the versatility of the Articulator concept for all UK and European golf course requirements – were on display. They were:

Articulator 3696 - 4 deck (96") 36HP zero turn ride-on rotary mower

Articulator 721XR - 7 deck (132") tow behind rotary mower

Articulator 621EF - 3 deck (126") front mounted rotary mower

Articulator 325EF - 3 deck (72") front mounted rotary mower



NEW FROM RANSOMES JACOBSEN

Ransomes Jacobsen launched a new four-wheel drive utility vehicle at the show.

The E-Z-GO ST4x4 turf utility vehicle is powered by an 18hp, 614cc Honda petrol engine, renowned for its quality, reliability and performance, with a top speed of 25 mph. Load carrying capacity is impressive, as at just shy of 500 kg, it can tow up to 540 kg. The rotomoulded crosslink polyethylene cargo bed has a removable tailgate, and can be divided into sections when carrying different materials.

Robustly constructed to meet every eventuality, the galvanised steel frame is hot-wax dipped throughout for added corrosion protection. The front axle is articulated to ensure that the front wheels stay in contact with the ground, especially in steep approach and exit conditions and the McPherson struts allows 11.5cm of travel.

The rugged truck-style front engine cowl can be raised for easy access to the vibration tolerant, maintenance free battery, brake master cylinder and fuse box.

Locking front and rear differentials, dual rate rear leaf springs, hydraulic shock absorbers together with rack and pinion steering provide superb traction and handling. Standard 63.5cm self cleaning tyres provide 24cm ground clearance and 135cm wide wheel base all contribute to the ST4x4's excellent stability and manoeuvrability.

Another debutant on the Ransomes Jacobsen stand was the Iseki TH 4330 Hydro compact tractor. This new machine is powered by an Iseki E3CD, 3 cylinder clean burn diesel engine with a displacement of 1498cc and developing 32 ps at 2600 rpm.

With a 30 litre fuel tank (23 litre main tank and seven litre reserve) and 1,100kg lifting capacity, it's ideal for heavy work over long hours.

Unique to this new machine is the smooth acceleration from the HST pedal. All control levers are side mounted while the contoured nose provides a clear view to the front of the machine. Hydrostatic transmission allows stepless speed selection in both forward and reverse.

A flip-up bonnet allows easy access to all components for daily maintenance, with servicing points kept to a minimum and all within easy reach. Standard features include a mid-mounted pto, folding ROPS, EC approved lighting and number plate light.

The TH 4330 Hydro is the first in a new range of Iseki tractors and will be followed shortly by a manual transmission derivative and two machines with slightly reduced power ratings, the TH 4260 and the TH 4290.

For further information Tel: 01473 270000.



▲ E-Z-GO ST 4x4 utility vehicle

▼ Iseki TH 4330 Hydro compact tractor



LAG MOWER

Designed primarily for golf and amenity turf applications, the four wheel drive 1905 lag mower features a new Yanmar 43hp four-cylinder diesel engine and hydrostatic transmission. Initial production models will be fitted as standard with John Deere's established ESP (extra strength & precision) cutting reels, which are particularly popular with golf course users.

This new mower will also be available with a luxury Mauser cab, with integrated air conditioning and new armrest controls. It has a total cutting width of 3.45m, and can travel at speeds of up to 15.5mph on the road, or 8mph when mowing.

Tel: 01949 860491.

NEW LAUNCH FROM HAYTER

Hayter chose BTME for the launch of their new small triple, the MT313. Designed to cope with a variety of applications and conditions, the 20hp, 3 wheel drive MT313 is ideally suited maintaining fine turf on golf courses and sportsfields as well as cutting in demanding municipal applications.

Excellent traction is achieved with a unique transmission system which ensures drive to a minimum of two wheels at all times. The three US interchangeable cutting units are also powered hydraulically through direct drive motors. The standard machine is supplied with single lift control for raising and lowering all units simultaneously. Individual lift for each unit is available as an option.

Designed for a variety of applications there are a number of options available including a flashing beacon, working lights, grass catchers and arm rests. The seating position gives the operator maximum comfort and excellent visibility to both the cutting units and drive wheels. The operating platform can be raised for routine maintenance and the centre unit, always the most difficult to maintain and adjust, swings out from under the chassis for easy access. These features are unique to a machine of this type.

For further information Tel: 01279 723444.



Amenity Update

TIME TO APPLY TIME TO APPLY

Simply purchase any of the Amtec Fertilizer Spreaders featured and receive a Casio **G-SHOCK** watch



Offer ends 30th March 2004

New organic fertilizer from



Sustane 8-2-4 is the new 100% natural organic fertilizer with the highest nitrogen of all the natural organic range.

Sustane all natural 8-2-4 is supplied in 22.7kg bags and is applied at a rate of 20-45g per square metre.

All organic fertilizers are not alike

In fact all organic fertilizers are not always all organic

In recent years natural fertilizers have become more sophisticated in their capacity to deliver benefits to soils and turf that straight synthetic or conventional fertilizers cannot. Application of certain organic fertilizers affords a more gentle feeding mechanism to the plant, more resistance to plant fungal diseases, an increase in soil cation exchange capacity and water holding capacity and a potentially reduced negative impact on the surrounding environment. Recently, the popularity of organic and natural fertilizer use has increased so significantly that the cultural (or economic) phenomena have led to a plethora of types and brands to select from. Are the many different so-called organic fertilizers all really the same thing and indistinguishable from each other? No. They are most definitely not.

In the USA, for a fertilizer to be labelled as "all natural" 100% of the N-P-K parent material and 100% of the product mass must be derived solely from plant, animal or naturally occurring - and unadulterated mineral materials. The truth is therefore that very few "organic" products are organic. By comparison, in order for a fertilizer to be labelled as "natural base", then greater than 50% of the N-P-K parent material and greater than 50% of the mass must be derived solely from plant, animal or naturally occurring - and

unadulterated mineral materials. Even with this more relaxed definition, very few "natural" fertilizers are truly natural based. Consequently, if you are presented with a label or product that claims to be an organic fertilizer, first check out the nutrient concentration. If the combined value for the total N-P-K much exceeds 15% or 16%, it is highly unlikely that you are looking at an all-natural material. Concentrations much higher in combination N-P-K natural products just do not exist (mined naturally occurring Sulphate of Potash, 0-0-50 being an exception). If your nose can detect ammonia in the product, the material is still in a volatile state and much of what you apply will be lost to the atmosphere. Is the product dusty? Fine particulate has the tendency to blow away and miss the target. It also lends itself to generating complaints from neighbours who are always wondering what kind of concoction you are applying.

To save time in identifying 'real' organic product just look for the name Sustane - the product will be exactly what is says on the bag, IN BIG LETTERS!



New 2004 prices for the Sustane Range of Organic Fertilizers

	2003 Price	2004 Price
Sustane 10-2-10 Fine with Nutralene	£31.35	Now £25.25
Sustane 10-1-4	£27.50	Now £21.25
Sustane 18-1-18 Medium	£28.00	Now £22.50
Sustane 16-2-6 Medium with Nutralene	£32.10	Now £24.50
Sustane 4-6-4 Medium (OMRI)	£20.85	Now £17.95
Sustane 5-2-4 Fine (OMRI)	£22.20	Now £18.75
Sustane 5-2-10 Fine	£25.20	Now £20.75
Bio Grounds Keeper (BGK) Fine	£34.50	Now £23.75
Price per 22.7kg bag.		

* ADVERTISING FEATURE *

Sandtrapper bucking bunker break-ups

Hi-Tech materials are finding their way onto the golf course, MARK WHEELBARROW discusses their relevance to bunkers.

'It's a competitive world out there', 'We must make playing our golf course a memorable experience.' This probably sounds all too familiar to most greenkeepers and it's probably not news to him that things could sometimes look better on his course. Traditionally greens have been the major focus when considering the standard and appearance of the course and the focus of attention directed accordingly.

Other things have been overlooked or at best been of a lower priority - one of these being the upgrade of shoddy and



ragged bunkers. A new product from Amenity Technology is set to change all that - 'Sandtrapper' will revolutionise bunker renovation and construction across Europe. Problems often associated with bunker construction and maintenance are sand contamination, washouts and sand migration from steep faces. Many geotextile products currently on the market aren't really up to the job and often cause more problems than they solve. Even the old traditional method of upturned turfs can cause problems with weeds, sand contamination and drainage. Keeping sand on steep bunker faces can prove particularly problematic and consume valuable time constantly having to push sand back up the face.

Sandtrapper is a new geotextile designed especially for bunker construction. Its unique advanced polymer weave traps the sand within the matrix of the fabric giving superior sand retention, virtually sticking the sand to the bunker face. Once installed, Sandtrapper forms a barrier between the sand and sub-surface stabilising the bunker sand giving improved water flow and eliminating washouts and contamination.

Sandtrapper One is designed to line the base of the bunker and Sandtrapper Two with it's coarser polymer material it will hold the sand in place on steep bunker faces and reducing the risk of washouts.



Hydroseed when YOU want!

'Hydroseeding', the much heralded and greatly anticipated seeding solution comes to the UK. Hydroseeding has become second nature across the United States in most market sectors, unfortunately the equipment is largely designed for the massive scale projects such as motorway verge sowing and prairie agriculture thus making it unviable for smaller operations such as golf courses and amenity contractors. HYDROMULCH LTD is a new company. What HydroMulch does is bring a smaller, more economical machines to the market that every golf course can afford and every contractor should afford.

The HydroMulch Series 200S and the larger Series 400T make hydroseeding of:

- Tees
- Bunker Faces
- Goal Mouths
- Pathways
- Heavy Wear Areas
- Renovation
- Drainage Lines

economical and at price you can afford, with a range of products to help you achieve the perfect result.



HydroMulch Ltd
Tel: 0118 931 1111

NEW



New to our range of litter bins for 2004 is the **Green Mounted Litter Bin with Lid** £42.50

Mounting bracket for litter bin £34.95



The Rustic Wedge Tee Marker is made from recycled plastic and has approximate dimensions of 100mm diameter x 105mm tall and comes with a 40mm spike. These can also have your club logo or sponsors details added or plain in blue, red, white and yellow.

Tee Marker Plain £7.25
with Logo £9.25

The Measured Multipin will help you when it comes to your nearest the pin competitions. No more need to use tape measures the distance is on the pin.

2 mtr Measured Multipin £33.50
Available with UK or USA ferrule



First Impressions Count

BETH McGUIRE takes a look at golf course furniture.

It doesn't take a genius to work out that first impressions do, indeed, count. That is true in all walks of life, whether it be shiny shoes or a golf course. It's such a shame to spend a few million building a golf course only to spoil it with a bad paint job. And that in essence is what golf course furniture is - a paint job. If your golf course is a classic MacKenzie design from the last century or a 1990's pay and play, there is at least one inalienable truth; you are in competition with other golf facilities and any advantage you can take will be important. A ball-washer will not improve the strategy of the golf course or the standard of maintenance but it will improve the overall experience that golfers (your customers) will enjoy. If the litterbins are handily placed and numerous then the litter will not become a 'moveable obstruction' in the rough. There is a new breed of golfer out there; this 'smart golfer' has a greater choice of courses than ever before. He is looking for quality, value for money and an all-round experience that will guarantee a return visit. Certainly doing all the standard things (maintenance of the course and courtesy of the staff) will be the major effort. The smaller things though will be, perhaps, even more remembered - maybe even subliminally - customised flags give the impression of pride in the course, a feeling of being part of something very special. Tee markers of quality and visible distance markers make a golfer feel that they are the important person in the set-up, that they are valued. Finally, consider what every golfer will, eventually, make contact with - the hole cup. An undying memory for anyone that has played an awful golf course is the hole cup coming out of the hole with the flag - this will not bring people back to your course, a bright white, snug fitting and unworn hole cup will go unnoticed - and that is exactly what it is supposed to do.

SPECIAL OFFER

Simply buy any 18 flagpins
18 flags & 18 holecups...



from the
new 2004
Amenity Technology
catalogue...

and receive
**60 Silver Streak
rakes free of charge
(worth £477.00)**



Offer ends 30th March 2004

Top agent on 'wasting water' case

The unprecedented heatwave of 2003 brought the problem of hydrophobic soils to the fore once again. STUART ASHWORTH reports on the history and the future of that most invaluable turfcare tool, wetting agents.



The summer of 2003 was a prudent reminder of the problems associated with long periods of hot dry weather. Dry patch and heat-stressed turf were a problem for a number of turf managers throughout the UK. This problem is magnified where there is a significant amount of thatch and the soil has become hydrophobic (water repellent). Wetting agents work by lowering the adhesive and cohesive forces of water, a property known as 'surface tension'. Lowering the surface tension of water allows it to penetrate into hydrophobic areas where normally it would be repelled.

There are two main groups of surfactants used in the turf industry and these can loosely be termed preventative and curative. Preventative surfactants are applied to the soil before the onset of dry patch and have a long term residual action. Monsoon wetting agent contains a plant based surfactant which gives up to six weeks control when applied at 20lts per hectare and up to 12 weeks control when applied at 40lts per hectare. Where applications of liquids may be a problem, Monsoon is also available in granular form and is easily spread through a conventional spreader. Monsoon Granular uses a unique paper carrier which is also biodegradable. The paper carrier absorbs the Monsoon wetting

agent giving low scorch application as well as longer residual activity. Monsoon Granular should be applied at 10g per m² for up to 6 weeks control.

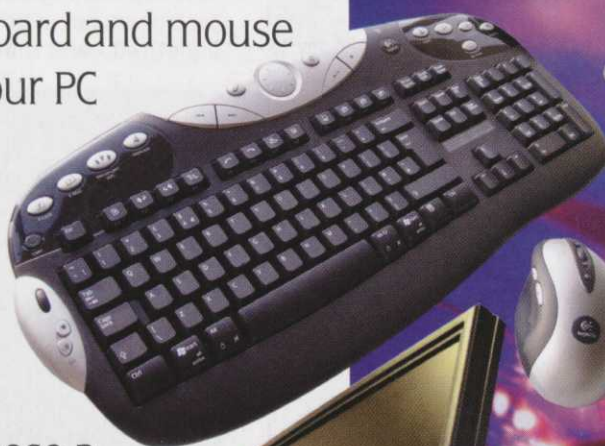
Curative wetting agents are a different type of chemistry altogether and are generally non-residual. Once soil and organic matter has become hydrophobic it can be very difficult to re-wet. Curative surfactants are extremely effective at reducing surface tension of the water they are mixed with but have very little long-term effect.

Drencher GXL is a new generation silicone based surfactant which gives rapid penetration of hydrophobic areas. Drencher GXL can be applied at 1ltr per hectare on fairways, surrounds and outfields. If used on greens it can be applied directly with a Pro-Ap gun.

Once applied, Drencher GXL should be followed by an application of Monsoon to help prevent reoccurrence.

You have a hands free phone, now receive a cordless keyboard and mouse for your PC

Purchase 2 x 10lts of Monsoon Liquid to receive a Logitech Cordless Keyboard, Mouse and Recharger Mouse Holder Free of Charge



or choose a 17" Flat Screen Monitor when you purchase the new Drencher GXL Super Surfactant & Soil Penetrant.



Simply purchase 10 x 1lt of the New Drencher GXL to receive a 17" Flat Screen Monitor

Offer ends 30th March 04



NEW IMPROVED

Drencher Drop & Go Gun, ideal for applying the Drencher Drop & Go Pellets to localised dry spot, hydrophobic and hard to reach areas.



For further information on any products please contact Amenity Technology Ltd.

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* ADVERTISING FEATURE *

Fusarium patch, Microdochium patch or Pink snow mould?

TORO Count on it.

Dr Kate Entwistle looks at a problem which has been afflicting a number of golf courses in recent months

Fusarium patch still remains the most common and widespread fungal disease problem of cool-season amenity turf grasses.

The past few months have seen severe and prolonged outbreaks of this disease developing extensively, even on swards that have received several prior fungicide applications.

WHY SHOULD THIS DISEASE BE SO PERSISTENT?

To try and understand the reasons for the development of fusarium patch, and its apparent disregard for our management efforts aimed at preventing it, we need to look more closely at the fungus that causes the disease.

WHAT IS ITS CORRECT NAME?

The fungus *Microdochium nivale* causes fusarium patch disease. This same fungus used to be called *Fusarium nivale* and it is this 'old' Latin name that gives the disease its generally accepted common name of fusarium patch.

There are many different species of fungi within the genus (or group) *Fusarium* and several of them are able to cause disease on turf grasses.

Fusarium nivale was, however, found to differ sufficiently from all other *Fusarium* species that it was eventually renamed *Microdochium nivale*.

Some people now refer to the disease as *Microdochium* patch but, in general, the old name for the diseases has been retained.

Microdochium nivale is a cold-loving fungus that is able to grow between 1°C and 10°C. It is possible for the fungus to grow at temperatures above this range but as the temperature increases, its rate of growth will decline.

Some strains of this fungus have been found to grow at temperatures below freezing and it is therefore clearly well adapted at causing damage under cold, wet conditions.

The fungus needs the presence of a water film in which to grow and infection of the turf grass plant takes place only after a prolonged period of leaf wetness.

Cool, wet weather will promote the onset and development of this disease but it has been found that periods of frost interspersed with cold, wet weather, offer the ideal conditions for fusarium patch disease to flourish.

All turf grasses are susceptible to infection but annual meadow grass is known to be the most susceptible of all cool-season grasses.

*Continue
to learn*

Pink snow mould, as the name suggests, is the name given to the symptoms of disease caused by this same fungus, *Microdochium nivale*, as revealed following snow melt.

Over recent months, I have seen many cases of fusarium patch disease in which the fungal mycelium has developed on the surface of the affected turf, generally around the perimeter of the affected patches (Figure 1), encouraging many turf managers to assume that they have pink snow mould developing without snow cover.

The fungal mycelium is extremely pale pink in colour but when it masses together on the surface of the sward, it can appear distinctly pink in colour (Figure 2).

High relative humidity will encourage the growth of the fungus on the surface of the sward but strictly speaking, the disease is still fusarium patch and not pink snow mould.



Photo: Peter Jones Associates Limited

▲ Figure 1: Recently seen symptoms of fusarium patch



▲ Figure 2: Pink mycelium of *Microdochium nivale*

At the end of the day, the common name that we give to the symptoms of disease is far less important than the correct identification of the fungus that causes it.

Microdochium nivale is a fungus that lives predominantly as a saprophyte, living off the decaying organic matter at the base of the sward and in the root zone.

It is not a very specialised fungal pathogen and despite the potential extent and severity of disease outbreaks, the fungus needs to be given the opportunity to infect the turf rather than being able to forcibly enter a healthy plant.

By understanding the conditions that favour infection and disease development, we can adjust our management of the sward such that these conditions are minimised.

The most effective way to manage fusarium patch is to try and limit the onset of the disease. What is imperative is that the disease is spotted in the early stages and not when you see the textbook symptoms appearing on the sward.

If the disease has advanced to this stage, it will be much more difficult to manage and disfiguring scars become more likely.

In the early stages of infection, the plants may become very slightly paler in colour but the first sign you are likely to see are small (2cm diameter) patches of dark brown leaves that will also be noticeably water-soaked (appear wet and somewhat translucent) (Figure 3).

If the disease is not controlled at this stage, the infection can rapidly intensify and the crowns can become infected. Once this has occurred, the turf will take much longer to recover since new plants will need to grow in or establish from seed, to replace those that have been killed.

Therefore, it may not be until the spring that swards show significant recovery from severe winter infections.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES THAT SHOULD BE EMPLOYED

The maintenance that is required to limit disease on individual courses will vary considerably depending on factors such as the specific root zone conditions, local environmental conditions, the sward composition and nutrient input, to name but a few.

Since the fungus grows most actively in cool, wet conditions and is more aggressive on weakened swards, maintenance practices should be aimed at reducing surface moisture and encouraging a strong, less susceptible sward, especially going in to the winter months.

Any moisture on the sward will encourage the growth of this fungus and so removing dew whenever it forms will be of benefit in reducing the onset of infection.

It is possible to move fungal spores across a sward by the practices involved in removing dew but it is not the presence of the fungus that is the limiting factor in disease development but the presence of conditions in which the fungus can grow. Therefore, moving the fungus about will not in itself encourage greater disease development. Keeping the dew on the sward certainly will.

It is also important to check the root zone for any problem with surface drainage. Many of the turf samples that I have received over the past year have shown root zone problems that have resulted in the base of the sward and the thatch remaining wet.

These include thatch build-up and layering of the surface profile or deeper root zone problems that prevent effective movement of water away from the base of the sward. Not only careful maintenance of the root zone but also increased surface air movement will reduce the period of leaf wetness and therefore reduce disease development.

Weakened turf and especially plants that have received excess nitrogen, are much more susceptible to attack by *Microdochium nivale*.

This is due to the fact that their cell walls are much thinner and are much more easily penetrated or damaged and therefore allow more rapid disease progression. Careful monitoring of nutrient input is one of the key factors in promoting a strong and healthy sward that will be less susceptible to infection.

Again, the amount and type of nutrient that needs to be applied will differ from course to course but it is worth keeping in mind that adequate potassium availability has also been shown to help reduce disease severity.

Keeping pH levels constant and at a suitable level for the sward composition, can also reduce the likelihood of this disease. When included in a fertiliser programme, acidifying fertilisers can be used to maintain or adjust the root zone pH.

WHY FUNGICIDES APPARENTLY DON'T WORK

If an approved amenity fungicide is applied as per the label instructions and at the correct time with regard to disease development, the fungicide should provide the extent and duration of protection or control expected.

Over the recent few months, I have received numerous telephone calls asking why fusarium patch disease is still active on the course even after several fungicide applications have been made.

There are many reasons why efficacy may appear to be lower than expected. Timing of the fungicide application is crucial. If a product is applied too far in advance of the environmental conditions that would encourage the disease to become active, as much of the product may have been lost and the relative amount available to control the eventual disease outbreak, is actually much lower than that needed.

In addition, applications of systemic products that may have shown lower than expected results, have invariably been found to have been applied at low water volumes.

If systemic products are to be taken up via the roots, the product needs to get to the roots and so, although reducing the water volume in the tank may mean a reduction in the time required to treat the course, it may also mean efficacy is being compromised.

Tank mixing of products to reduce overall application times can also affect efficacy and should only be considered if label recommendations allow it.

If systemic products are being considered for application, the growth rate of the plant must be borne in mind. If there is little growth in the sward there will be little movement of the product around the plant and therefore efficacy may again be reduced.

Quite often, however, a fungicide application may have appeared to be less effective than anticipated because, after several weeks following the treatment, the disease is still visible.

Fusarium patch scars can take a long time to grow out, especially if they have developed to the stage shown in Figure 1. Since there is little growth of the plants during the winter, recovery will naturally be slow.

If the scars are still apparent but the patches are not getting larger and no further patches are developing, the fungicide has worked as well as any product can under winter conditions.

The fungicide will have stopped the present infection and also offered some protection to the rest of the sward to prevent new outbreaks from developing.

There are no reports in the UK that fungicide resistance has developed to this disease although, in theory, it is possible to find resistant strains of the fungi if fungicides are used inappropriately.

Over use of certain groups of fungicides could lead to short term resistance developing in the fungal population.

By stopping applications of these active ingredients, the fungal population would eventually return to being susceptible and these actives could again be used effectively.

Other fungicide groups could, however, lead to a lasting resistance not only to the specific product applied, but also to all fungicides with active ingredients in the same chemical group.

Should this occur, these fungicides could never be used effectively in that location again. Fungicides must be used carefully and wisely and as stated on the label, if resistance is to be avoided and efficacy is to be maximised.

ENCOURAGE A HEALTHY ROOT ZONE

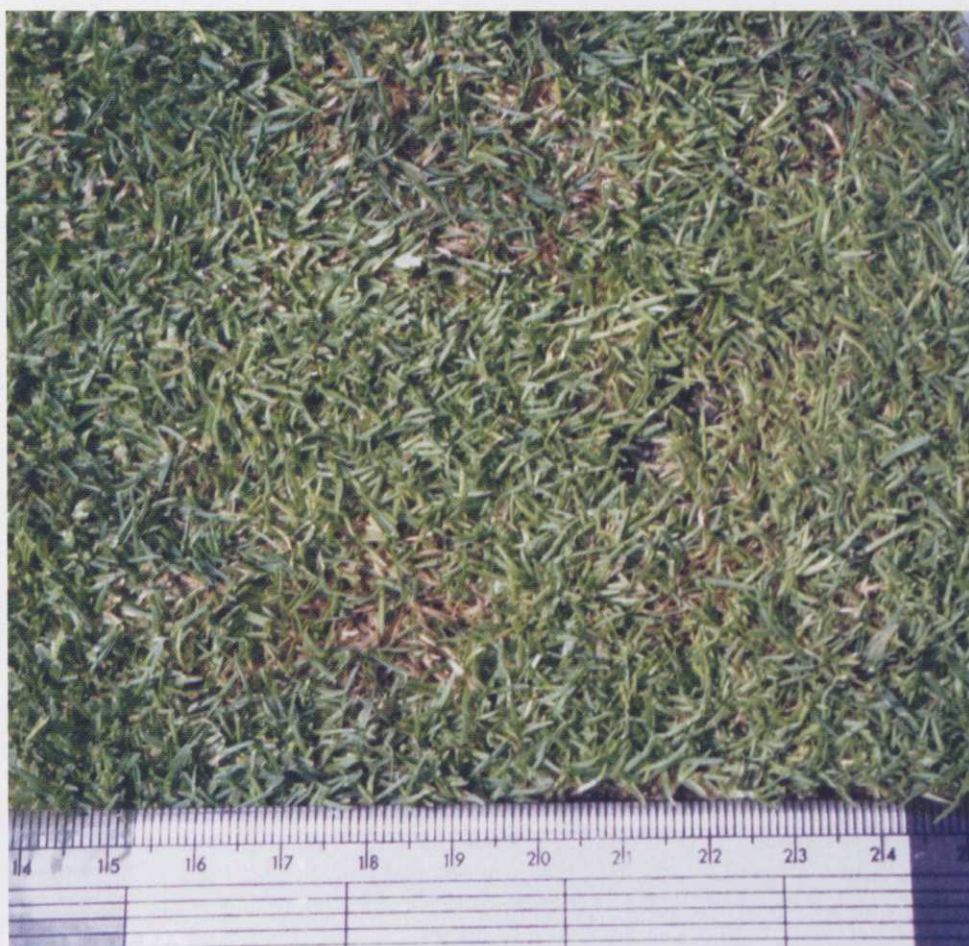
Microdochium nivale is, as I mentioned earlier, primarily a saprophytic fungus. It lives in the root zone and in plant debris until the conditions allow it to cause disease.

If we can encourage and increase the microbial diversity in the root zone and thatch, the relative amount of organic matter on which this fungus can grow as a saprophyte, will be reduced.

Natural competition between this fungus and other micro-organisms can play a huge role in controlling the severity and incidence of fusarium patch.

To achieve this requires careful day to day management and hopefully the rewards for hard work on aeration, balanced nutrient input, scarification, improvement of surface drainage and so on will be seen through the winter with much reduced levels of fusarium patch disease.

Dr Kate Entwistle, The Turf Disease Centre, Waverley Cottage,
Sherfield Road, Bramley, Hampshire RG26 5AG. UK
Tel: 01256 880246



◀ Figure 3: Early symptoms of fusarium patch disease

On yer Bike!

Roland Taylor looks at the range of utility vehicles which you ride on rather than in

On average courses the amount of time travelling from A to B, over a 12-month period, can be considerable. When looking at ways of making an operation more cost-effective, any machine that can reduce this unproductive time is worth consideration. ATVs fall into this category. Their benefit lies in the fact that they can virtually transverse any terrain. This makes it possible to reduce the distance between sites thus increasing the time spent on the job.

A wide range of attachments is available and these increase the machine's versatility. One example is a sprayer attachment. An ATV fitted with this particular unit is fast and lightweight; therefore it can be of considerable benefit to any course.

Unfortunately, these little workhorses often get a bad press and are considered by many to be more for leisure than as a worthwhile addition to a fleet. Amenity contractors and those who operate them on golf courses and farms tell a different story.



▲ Kawasaki KVF700

KAWASAKI

The line up for 2004 includes five models with horsepower from 16hp to 47hp. Top of the range is the KVF 7000-A, which has a liquid cooled 4-stroke engine. The transmission is through the Kawasaki's own automatic power drive system, which they claim enables the operator to choose easily between high and low, or reverse gears. Two or four-wheel drive includes a variable front differential lock, which is selected through an electrical system. The braking system incorporates, engine brake control with speed sensor, twin front discs and rear enclosed multi-plate units.

Loading capacity is rated at 40kg for the front rack and 80kg on the rear one, plus the KVF700 has a towing capacity of 567kg.

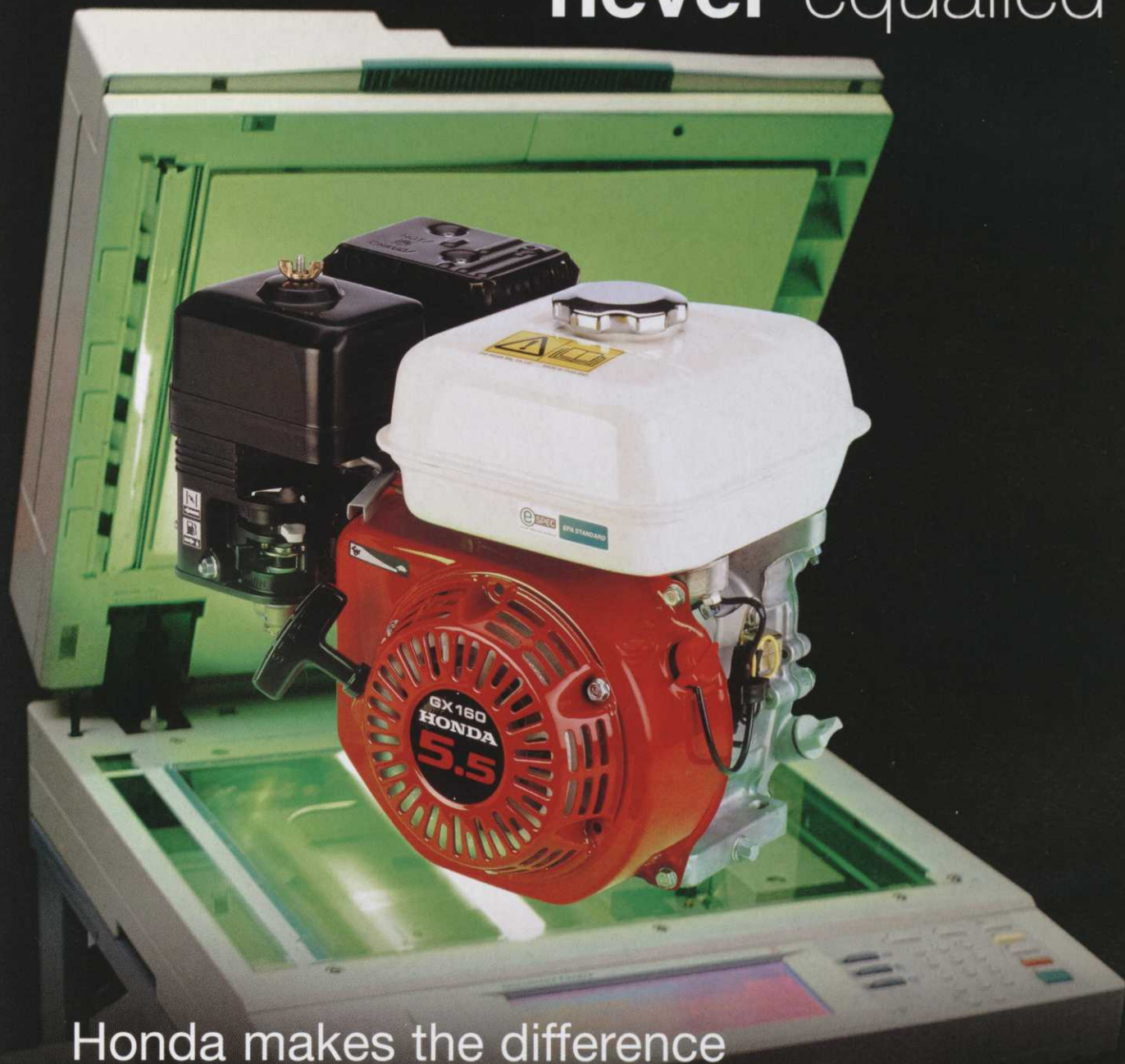
At the other end of the Kawasaki range is the 19.2hp KLF 300B-A. This machine is said to be highly manoeuvrable with the tightest turning circle in its class. One of the reasons for this, is a dual-mode lockable rear differential. It is also claimed that because of the machine's light steering, low speed turns can be executed on soft surfaces with minimal damage to turf. A lever under the seat operates the differential. The transmission is semi-automatic with five speeds plus reverse. When it comes to towing, this ATV has a capacity of up to 317kg and is capable of carrying a total of 95kg on front and rear racks.

YAMAHA

The big ATV from Yamaha is the Grizzly 600FWA with a 660cc five-valve engine. This machine has automatic transmission and a button on the handlebars engages either 2WD or 4WD. An on-command differential lock provides extra traction when needed. The unit has an independent suspension system and hydraulic disc brakes are fitted to both front and rear wheels. The Grizzly has a ground clearance of 275mm and the capacity to carry up to 130kg and tow 550kg.

A newcomer to the range is the Kodiak 450F WAN, which will pull loads of up to 500kg. Its transmission and braking system is similar to the Grizzly's. Other features include an LCD instrument panel and a 12-volt-power outlet.

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HONDA

During the summer of 2003 Honda announced the arrival of two new quads, the TRX400AT and the TRX650.

The TRX 400 is a mid size multi-purpose machine with a longitudinally rubber mounted 397cc air-cooled engine. This has a dry sump and heated carburettor for easy starting and running even in very cold conditions.

The automatic transmission gives continuously variable speeds through electronic controls. There are direct front and rear drive shafts with a torque sensing limited slip differential fitted at the front. An electronic thumb switch selects either 2 or 4-wheeled drives. Utility racks and towing point are fitted as standard.

Announced as the biggest Honda machine to date, the TRX650 has automotive style transmission plus a hydraulic torque converter, which incorporates three independent clutches. Through the column style gear lever, drive, neutral or reverse are selected and a button operated Electric Shift Programme (ESP) lets you choose transmission ratios. The Traxlok System enables the operator to select either 2 or 4-wheel drive. A torque sensing front differential is said to lighten steering thus making the machine easy to handle.

As can be seen from the specifications of all the machines mention, there are a lot of basic similarities between makes with each manufacturer adding their own extras. There is one common aspect that encompasses all makes and models of ATVs - safety

The publicity surrounding a recent pop stars accident involving an ATV once again highlights the importance of using any machinery correctly and safely. Every mechanical device ever invented can cause an accident if it is used incorrectly or unnecessary risks are taken. ATV's are no more dangerous than any other form of transport, but unfortunately when celebrities get injured the media tends to overplay the situation.

There are guidelines laid down by the Health & Safety Executive and operators need to study these closely and ensure they are implemented.

HSE research has shown that there are a number of reasons why accidents occur some of these include:

- Insufficient training and experience in operating a machine.
- Travelling at excessive speed, especially on uneven terrain.
- Carrying passengers or unbalanced loads.
- Pushing the ATV beyond its limits on a bank, ditch sides, fallen timber or excessively uneven ground.
- Attempting to drive up or down too steeper slopes.
- Towing overloaded trailers.
- Using trailers, which have no braking system.

When you analysis all these points a key factor is using commonsense, this means adjusting to the prevailing conditions and the type of work being carried out.

It is important to note that it is a legal requirement of employers to provide sufficient training under both the Health & Safety at Work Act of 1974 and the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulation 1998 (PUWER).

Under PUWER only employees who have received training should ride ATVs. This provision also applies to any towed attachments or equipment fitted to the machines.

The advice on HSE Agriculture Information Sheet No 33 states that head protection is vital. Over 50% of fatalities involving ATVs in the last five years have been due to head injuries. Readers are also encouraged to read the HSE information sheet on ATV towing ratios.

If you are thinking of purchasing or already have an ATV the HSE website is worth visiting. This can be found at www.HSE.gov.uk. On the left hand side of the entry page is a search facility, type in ATVs and press go. A list of recognised training courses that cover safety and maintenance can also be found on this site and it is strongly recommended that users take one of these.

The ATV can be an important vehicle in a machinery fleet, especially for those courses that cover a large acreage that has steep and uneven terrain; large areas of dunes; heath; moors or woodland. It will certainly earn its keep in transporting personnel and materials quickly and efficiently around these types of courses and if used correctly it is no more dangerous than

other equipment in the machinery shed.

One of the failings of many of us is that we do not thoroughly read the instruction manuals, especially the sections dealing with correct usage procedures? As a New Year's resolution for 2004, albeit a bit late, let's study our equipment's instruction manuals carefully, who knows, we might get more out of our machines and make them safer to use.

SUZUKI

A 493cc liquid cooled engine powers the Suzuki Quad runner LT-A500F. The transmission is automatic with selectable two and four-wheel drives. A manual version of this particular ATV is also available.

The rear suspension is made up of a 4-linked rigid axle with coil springs. It is oil damped and preloaded with 5-way adjustment. Towing capacity is 410kg

The Suzuki Eigers come with a choice of either the company's own Quadmatic fully automatic, variable transmission, which includes an engine brake, or a five-speed manual box. Both versions include 2 or 4-wheel drive and high/low gear ranges.

Power comes from a 376 cc four-stroke engine that has an overhead cam and four valves. These feature are said to provide good low end and mid range torque. Suzuki's cooling system passes a high volume of oil through the cylinder head from a cooling reservoir. This has a thermostatically controlled electric fan to keep the liquid at the correct temperature. The unit is capable of pulling loads up to 450kg.

MASSEY FERGUSON (AGCO) LTD

The MF500/4A TBX is the big machine from Massey Ferguson. Power is supplied by a 493cc liquid cooled Suzuki engine, which develops plenty of torque at low revs. This is said to make it ideal when towing and for maintaining a constant speed for spraying.

The machine has a large rustproof box over the rear axles, which will carry up to 134kg. This box can be tipped via a lever, which is sited at the side of the operator's seat.

A main feature of the machine's carrying abilities is a Multi Rack Platform. The concept of the system is open channel racks both rear and front into which slide in accessories can be easily fitted. This enables the TBX to be tailored to ones specific transporting requirements. Massey



▲ Massey Ferguson (AGCO)

Ferguson claims that their ATVs are the first of their kind to be fitted with this type of system. In addition to on board loading the TBX is capable of towing loads of up to 477 kg.

The MF AgTV range consists of six models from 280cc to 493cc. All models have two or four wheel drive with the exception of the smallest the 300/4, which only has four-wheel drive and fifteen manual forward and three reverse gears. The other models are available as either manual or automatic transmission versions.

All machines have good ground clearance and all-round suspension with a traverse of sixteen inches to provide as smooth a ride as possible over rough terrain.

The MRP system will fit all systems so clubs looking for a medium size ATV can match the carrying facilities to their requirements.



▲ Suzuki Eiger with Rotary mower



A Fine US Showing by Whickham



Whickham Golf Club put up a fine showing as the second British team to play in the John Deere World Golf Championship, in Arizona.

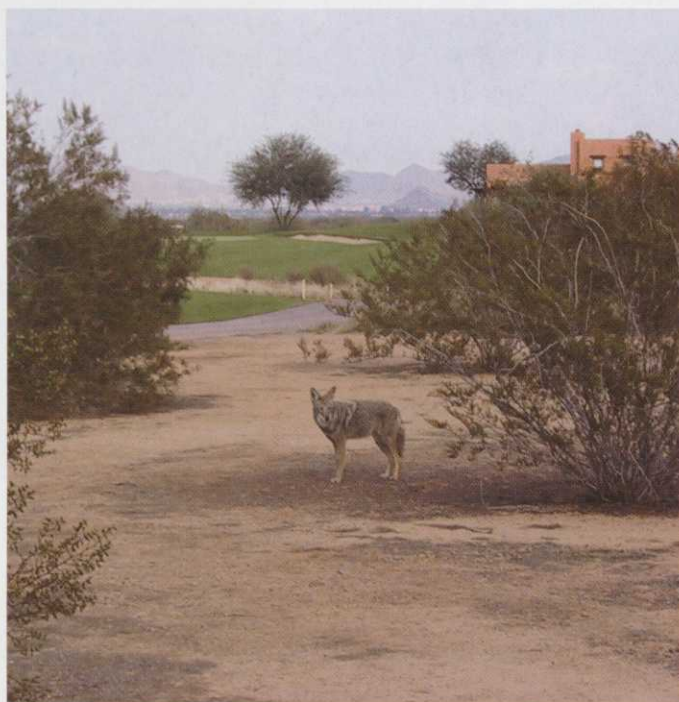
The team comprising Head Greenkeeper, Tony McLure; Club Professional, Andy Hall; Club Vice Captain, Bill Hopper; Competitions Secretary, Gary MacDonald and Roger Stewart of John Deere shot a respectable two round total of 115 leaving them halfway up the leader board in conditions most of the team hadn't faced before.

BIGGA National Chairman, George Brown, travelled to the Grayhawk Golf Club to support the team and also accept a cheque on behalf of the Association.

John Deere is committed to supporting professional greenkeeping associations worldwide and since the Team Championship started in 1987 the company has donated \$270,000 to such associations.

"John Deere agreed to donate £25 for each UK team participating in local qualifying tournaments and while I was in Arizona I was presented with a cheque for nearly £10,000 as John Deere's contribution to BIGGA's on-going professional development programme.

"This money was used to support Bigga's Education Conference at Harrogate which allowed the maximum number of people to benefit from John Deere's generosity." Whickham Golf Club won the right to go to Arizona with a win in their dealer's local event and then with another superb performance at the National Final held at De Vere The Belfry last July.



Our John Deere Team Championship representatives Whickham GC, many not have collected any silverware but they certainly did us proud.



"We had a fabulous time and it was a fantastic experience. From the moment we got off the plane people couldn't have been friendlier or done any more for us," said Tony, a +1 golfer.

"The standard of the golf course we played was out of this world and totally beyond anything I've ever played before and I've been lucky enough to play some of the finest courses in Europe," he explained.

And it wasn't just the competition courses that impressed Tony.

"We owe a great deal to George Brown who organised another couple of games for us during the trip and these courses were great as well. George is a wonderful guy and he wouldn't even let us buy him a drink!"

"I've still got the \$5 bill I won off him in what he said was the worst game of golf he'd ever played. He's signed it and I'm going to frame it," said Tony, adding that they played golf every day, six rounds on four different courses.

"Thanks to John Deere for making it possible and to George Brown for being such a great guy... and for that \$5 bill."

The winners of the event were Oak Terrace GC for Illinois with a score of 105 but John Deere ensure that the event is not just about golf.

It is designed as an event to bring the major decision-makers from a golf club together on common ground to enable them to get to know each other better and each team comprised a member of the greenkeeping staff, a member of the pro staff, the Secretary and Captain or Chairman of Green.



Are You Ready?

Graeme Francis poses the question to Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers around the country.

The irrigation season is just a few weeks away and once again its time to ensure you and your system are prepared.

The period between February and October last year was the driest on record and this has resulted in renewed interest in new and upgrading irrigation systems on our golf courses. Whilst the general level of irrigation provision on UK golf courses has improved significantly, there is a need to optimise the use of these better systems.



Much has been said about The Water Bill. It gained Royal Assent on November last year and is continuing on its way to the Statute Book in England and Wales.

It is not the intention of this article to cover the Bill, but it is possible it will have an affect, not just on clubs with boreholes or water course Abstraction Licences, but also on those using public mains supplies. What is particularly relevant to every Course Manager, whether it is for budgetary, agronomic or water availability reasons, is that irrigation water is used correctly.

An increasing number of greenkeepers are taking courses on irrigation theory and practice and they will undoubtedly be able to use this knowledge for the benefit for their courses. All too often, however, irrigation is still given a low priority. Clearly the operational parameters for irrigation are wider than those for other maintenance operations such as chemical application, but over watering in particular, as we all know, can cause major long-term turf management problems. In addition to the pure turf grass issue, it is not beyond the realms of possibility that significant reductions in water use can be achieved when a Course Manager can use a sound knowledge of irrigation principles and combine it with a reliable, accurate system that will allow that knowledge to be out into practice.

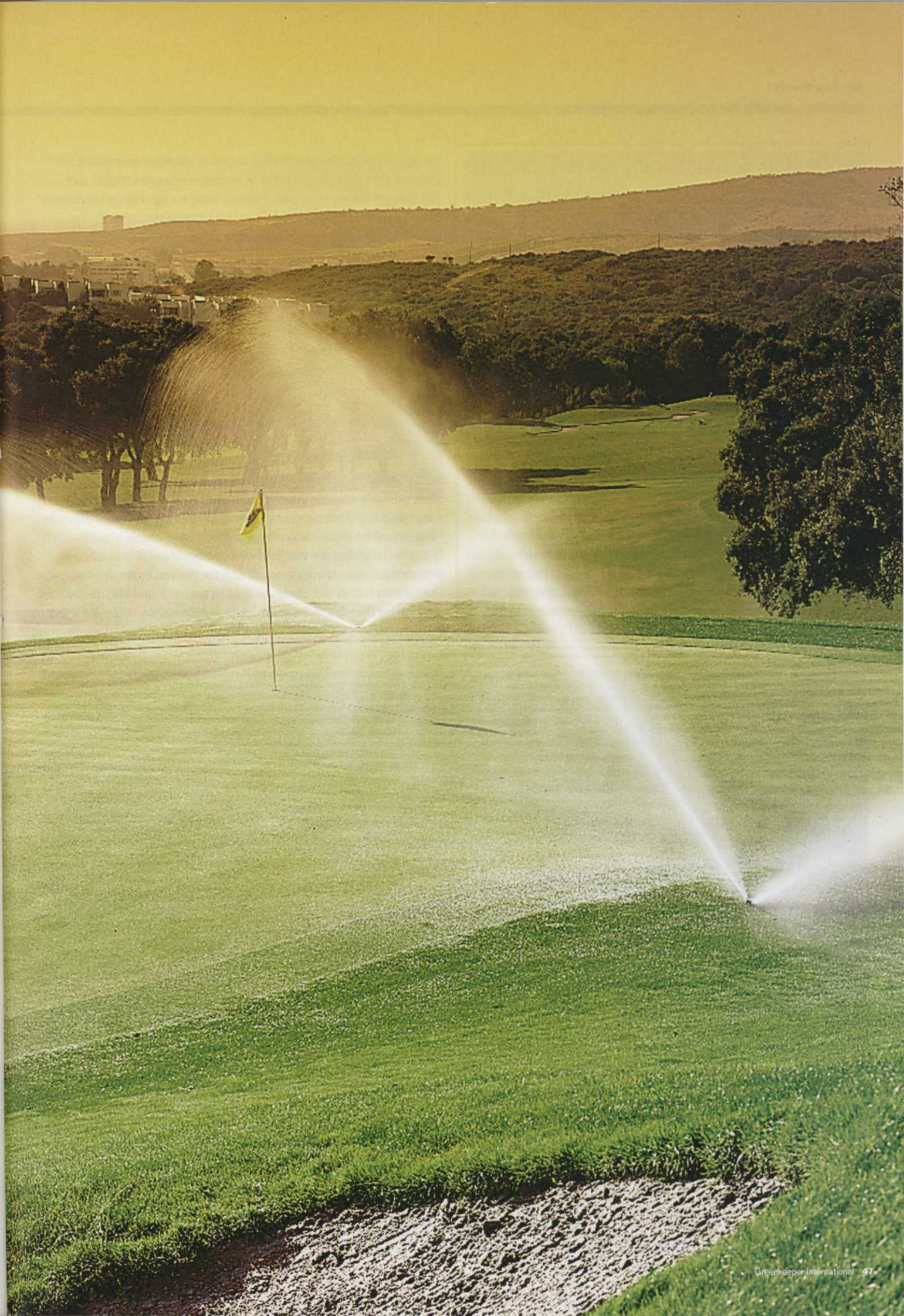
It is widely accepted that the primary purpose of an irrigation system is simply to replace the water that is naturally lost from the plant. If you take evapotranspiration (ET) as a key water-scheduling factor, how do you measure it? and once you have, how can you relate that to the amount of water you apply through the irrigation system? Simply using a weather station that will give a base rate of ET for your course can solve the first part of the puzzle. As a golf course almost always has a variety of microclimates, adjustment using the ET base rate is necessary to fine-tune the irrigation scheduling. Replacement of ET can then, by calculating sprinkler application rates, be programmed into the irrigation schedules. Crucial factors, including aspects such as soil infiltration rates, should then have to be taken into consideration. If you are still using a "box-on-the-wall" controller, manual calculation of the system application rates is the only way to relate ET and the whole plant/soil/water relationship to system performance. This requires accurate information on sprinkler spacing, flows and distance of throw and, sadly despite the efforts of the many good contracting companies, there are still systems being installed, where these

essential performance figures are not even provided by contractors at the quotation stage let alone once the system is operational.

There is no doubt that the PC based technology is the future of golf course irrigation control. Systems in which sprinkler application rates are calculated automatically using site data eliminate the need for manual calculation. The biggest benefit is, however, that sprinkler operating times can be based upon application rates shown in millimetres per hour. This allows a direct correlation between water losses through ET, infiltration rates and grass types and irrigation application rates. In conjunction with an ET rate calculating weather station and using the WindowsÆ PC operating environment, ET rates can be used to set and adjust sprinkler run times quickly and precisely. This combination of PC based controller and weather station is increasingly becoming the standard arrangement for many course managers. The most advanced PC based control systems take this a stage further, however, and can be linked directly with a compatible ET rate calculating weather station. The ET value is then taken by the irrigation controller software and automatically adjusts irrigation operating times on a regular basis. Fine tuning is achieved by inputting site factors codes that coverage grass type, soils, slopes and other relevant topographical and operational influences.

This last example clearly represents the pinnacle of irrigation scheduling; such systems are relatively unusual in the UK. For most courses the useful and practical manual system works very satisfactorily. Today, perhaps no more than 10% of Course Managers have the benefit of PC based irrigation control. The majority rely on "box-on-the-wall" controllers. This raises the question of how many greenkeepers have been provided with the necessary level of training to get the best from the less advanced technology available to them. Certainly, the number of greenkeepers taking the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association's (BTLIA) Diploma has increased over recent years and this is greatly encouraging. The course covers the plant/soil/water relationship and irrigation design and operational practises, but more greenkeepers should have the opportunity to take the course.

The BTLIA, as a non-profit making trade organisation is committed to improving the standards of system provision and has focussed on irrigation education for many years as one way to meet this objective. Training of irrigation industry personnel and system operators has been the primary





▲ PC-based irrigation control systems like this Toro Gemini-Trident unit offer major operational benefits to Course Managers and greenkeepers

aim of the course. Now, however, a further reason is to ensure when a club is considering a new system the decision makers, Committee Members, Club Directors and Manager's, as well as Course Managers have an adequate understanding of what they are buying. The decision makers should understand the long-term benefits of such design aspects as correct sprinkler selection and positioning. A knowledge of other factors such as

the advantages of having individual control of sprinklers on greens is essential if the right choices are to be made. An example is that of tees irrigation. At one time tees were irrigated using a single row of sprinklers down the centre of the tee. These were set to rotate through 360° and in order to cover the tee surface adequately they would overthrow the tee by as much as 40%.

Today, hopefully all tees are irrigated using sprinklers located along the edges and set to rotate through 180° across the tee surface. This often requires a row of sprinklers down each side and represents a slightly higher initial capital expense.

In many cases, however, the reduction in water use over the single centre row to apply the same amount of water to the actual tee surface can be as high as 70%. It won't take long to offset the initial cost by reducing water cost. This simple demonstration of how knowledge of irrigation principles can help in making the right choice of system is just one instance of how training can be beneficial.

Even today, over 30 years after automatic irrigation became recognised in UK golf course management, too many purchasing decisions are being made with only one criteria being considered, price. If whilst choosing a system, a club undertakes a comprehensive technical and commercial evaluation of the three or four design proposals they receive and they can be satisfied that the one with the lowest price meets all of their requirements, then no one can argue with the decision to go with that bid. The question is does that always occur? The answer is probably no and the result is that choosing an irrigation selection becomes a gamble. A number



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of clubs decide to employ an irrigation consultant to eliminate the risk, but many more seek out contractors and request design and build proposals. In doing so they must take a planned, informed approach. Insisting on comprehensive system performance information is an important area, as this will allow a more technical comparison to be made and will also provide the essential data mentioned earlier that will allow good irrigation practice.

And so we return to where we started, training in system design and operational principles is essential for every Course

Manager. Many have recognised this and have taken the BTLIA Diploma course or an irrigation module within a wider greenkeeper training programme. Those that haven't are reducing their opportunity to first get a good system and secondly to use it to the best. Who's to say that the summer of 2004 won't be another long dry one?

Are you prepared?



Graeme Francis joins leading irrigation contracting company

Graeme Francis has joined Par 4 Irrigation Limited as Managing Director. He has been involved in the UK irrigation industry for nearly 20 years, working at both contractor and distribution level. Graeme has been a member of the Executive Committee of the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association for the past seven years during which time he was Chairman from mid 1999 until 2002.

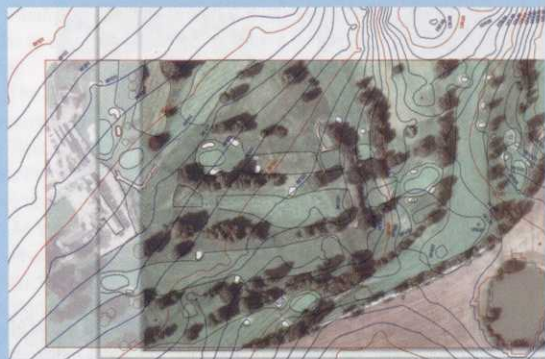
Par 4 Irrigation is one of the leading irrigation contracting companies in the UK. Graeme will be formulate and implement the company's strategic plan to further develop its strong market presence and to increase the product and services portfolio into associated areas such as lake management and washdown water recycling systems. The company was founded in 1981 and has installed over 500 systems since that time. Customer service and support are considered highly important by Par 4 and the company currently has over 300 formal Service Agreements throughout the UK.

"I am particularly pleased to have the opportunity to take the extremely good reputation and the very high levels of experience and technical expertise that Par 4 has gained over many years and use it as the foundation for further development. We will continue to strive for ever higher standards of irrigation system design, installation and maintenance and will also bring the same qualities to other areas of our business," said Graeme.

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Tonick Watering

Peter Jones, made the most of his Ransomes Jacobsen scholarship and many nights of hard study was rewarded with a Master of Science Degree in Sports Surface Technology.

Keeping up with the Joneses

It seems a long time ago now, since summer 2001 when I read details about the Master of Science degree in Sports Surface Technology that Cranfield University were going to run, and I can clearly remember making the decision that I would like to embark on the MSc course as my next challenge in both personal and professional development.

I discussed the course in more detail with Alex Vickers on the Cranfield University stand at the Saltex show, and made my application which was accepted on the merits on my experience, qualifications and references from David Golding, GTC, and Ken Richardson, BIGGA.



Although the MSc can be taken as an intensive one year, full-time course, I decided to spread it over two years on a part time basis so that I could integrate it with my ongoing work commitments and family life, which includes two active nine year old sons.

In hindsight, spreading the course over three or more years on a part-time basis would have been an easier option in terms of time allocation, but none-the-less, I managed to complete it in two years and now have the benefit that it is finished and behind me.

Financial assistance with the cost of the course fees was offered in the first year with a half scholarship from the University itself, and in the second year I was successful with a grant from BIGGA through the Ransomes Jacobsen scholarship fund, for which I was most grateful.

I was particularly impressed by the course aims and objectives, and how the content of the MSc. course would relate to my work in the golf course industry. So right from the start I was self-motivated and determined to complete it successfully.

There are 11 modules to complete that run between October and May, and I attended alternate modules to complete six during the first year, and five during the second year. The other key requirements are two integrated end of year exams; a Thesis; and an oral examination, which takes the duration of the course through to a September finishing date.

COURSE CONTENT

SST Integrating Exam Paper 1

SST Integrating Exam Paper 2

RESEARCH PROJECT THESIS AND ORAL EXAMINATION MODULES:

- Soil Science
- Soil/Plant/Water Relationships
- Turfgrass Science and Technology
- Fundamental Plant Physiology & Biochemistry
- Drainage for Sports Surfaces
- Irrigation Management and Optimisation
- Mechanisation for Sports Surfaces
- Project Planning and Operations
- Sports Surface Playability
- Human Resource Management
- Management of Sports Facilities
- Sports Surface Construction (case study/ project based)

The delivery of the course combines a rigorous academic, technical and practical training that also incorporates an advanced level of business management skills.

Each module typically required block attendance at Silsoe campus attending lectures, carrying out research, literature reviews, and conducting practical work in the science laboratories. The modules themselves were marked by a combination of project assessments and exams.

In addition to the work on campus, there were organised visits to a range of sporting venues such as Wimbledon Tennis Club, Ipswich Town FC, STRI, Leeds FC trainings ground, Woburn G & CC, and Lords Cricket Ground (during reconstruction of the outfield). The field trips focussed on matters that related specifically to each module, with projects being set that required investigation and/or information to be gathered on each site.

THE THESIS

The MSc Thesis carries 40% of the overall course marks, and the research project I proposed was entitled:

AN INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE INCORPORATION OF ZEOLITE INTO SAND BASED ROOTZONE CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS BENEFITS GRASS QUALITY, GROWTH AND NUTRIENT RETENTION WITHOUT ADVERSELY AFFECTING DRAINAGE

As the mere length of the title might suggest, there was a lot of sampling and research to conduct, and the completed Thesis ran to two volumes, including 31 appendices detailing testing methods; analysis results; data sheets; and records of weather, irrigation & fertiliser applications.

The research project looked at whether the Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) of USGA and sand-only rootzones could be significantly increased using an inorganic amendment, and whether turf quality and nutrient retention could be improved as a result of this, without impairing the drainage performance of the rootzone.

The amendment selected for use in the project was clinoptilolite zeolite with a hardness of moH 7, (comparable with quartz sand), and a particle size of more than 70% less than 100 microns diameter.

Zeolite is an inorganic material with a skeletal structure and the ability to absorb large quantities of ions and freely exchange them in solution.

One of the natural minerals in zeolite is clinoptilolite which is a crystalline aluminosilicate structure, and one gram of clinoptilolite provides up to several hundred square metres of internal surface area which can absorb an enormous quantity of cations including ammonium.



▲ Figure 1: Raw clinoptilolite zeolite (0.25 – 1.00mm in size)

The Cation exchange capacity of clinoptilolite is approximately 120 meq/100g, compared to sand which is typically 1-3 meq/100g. and therefore has a much, much better ability to retain nutrient ions for plant uptake, as opposed to being leached away.

K 4 meq/100g	Mg 18 meq/100g	Ca 85 meq/100g	Na 12 meq/100g
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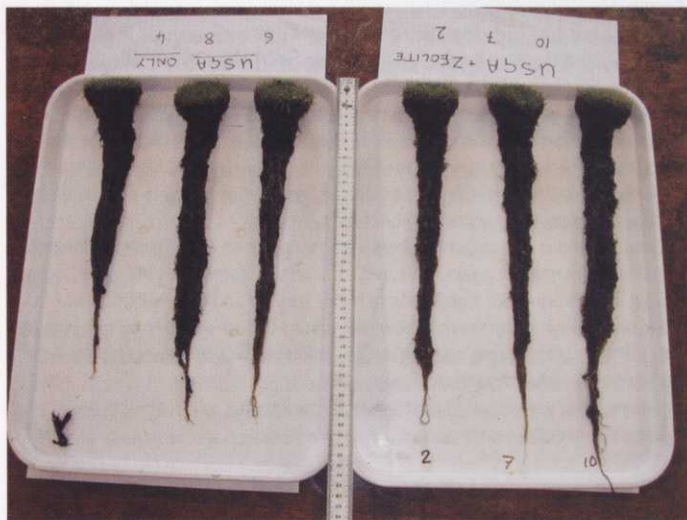
▲ Table 1: Cations held within the raw material to make up the CEC:

The clinoptilolite zeolite was mixed at 10% by volume with each of the two chosen rootzones, and 12 replicated randomised plots were set out so that there were:-

3no. plots constructed with sand only rootzone;
3no. plots constructed with a sand only plus 10% zeolite mixture;

3no. plots constructed with USGA only rootzone;
3no. plots constructed with a USGA plus 10% zeolite mixture.

The bulk of the research data was derived from sampling the rootzone material, grass clippings, and leachate collected from the 12 lysimeter plots which were constructed on site for the project. (A lysimeter is a tank system which enables the drainage water to be collected from each individual plot).



▲ Figure 2: Root length – USGA (left), and USGA + Zeolite

ANALYSIS

The chosen methods to assess turf quality were: the measurement of colour (using a Minolta colorimeter); root length, root dry weight, and weekly measurements of grass clipping yield.

Analyses used to measure leachate was the measurement of NO₃-N, NO₄-N, P and K concentrations in the drainage leachate, using highly sophisticated electronic laboratory equipment.

Other analyses to compare treatment effects between the four rootzone mixtures included:

- Particle size distribution;
- Dry bulk density;
- Hydraulic conductivity;
- Available soil nutrient (P, K, Mg, S, Fe);
- Leaf tissue analysis (N, P, K, Mg, S, Ca, Mn);
- Soil pH;
- Organic matter content; and
- Cation exchange capacity.

Eight hypotheses were proposed for investigation in all, and the data collected from each of the testing methods was analysed using the multi sample analysis technique 'Two-way Factorial Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) with Replication' in Genstat (2001) software.

Finally, the 'Least significant difference' (LSD) statistical test was carried out, in order to determine whether treatment means were significantly different to each other.

The results chapter ran to 27 pages, and it would be difficult to provide a meaningful summary or conclusion within this short article.

Typically though, there were several measured improvements in the treatment plots that included the zeolite amendment, but almost all of these improvements were technically shown to be 'insignificant' when analysed statistically.

An example of this is shown below in relation to the hydraulic conductivity data:

Inspection of Figure 2, shows that the significant difference in mean hydraulic conductivity (Ksat) was between the two sand and the two USGA treatments, i.e. the significant difference in Ksat is a function of rootzone not zeolite amendment.

Figure 2. Histogram to show final field saturated hydraulic conductivity (m/day) for the four treatments. Error bars show the LSD at the 95% CI = 5.342 m/day.

Note: Treatments - left to right: Sand only S/O, Sand + Zeolite S/Z, USGA only U/O, and USGA + Zeolite U/Z.

These particular results therefore indicated that concerns over the possible loss of drainage performance due to Zeolite amendment were not founded at the 10% rate. (In fact the addition of the amendment was seen to improve the drainage performance).

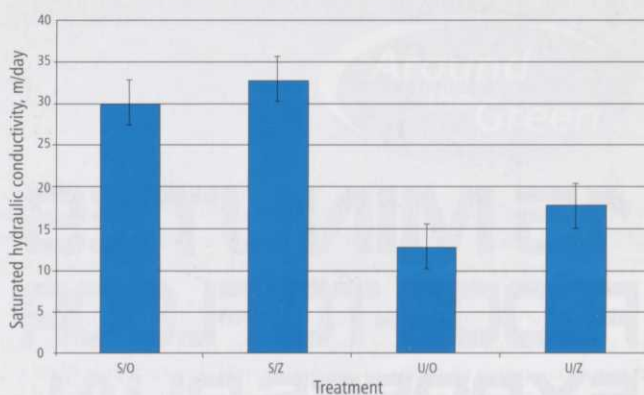


Figure 2: Histogram

For those who may be interested in more detail about the Thesis investigation, I have included the following abstract, and the complete Thesis is available for reference at the Cranfield University at Silsoe library. It is also my understanding that a paper will be forthcoming from the University in due course.

ABSTRACT

The requirements of a modern golf green include good drainage and a resistance to compaction which has led to sand based constructions with sand being the major component within the rootzone construction mixture, however, the cation exchange capacity (CEC) of such rootzones is typically very low and nutrient retention is poor which could have a significant effect on the quality of the turf.

The addition of amendments into the rootzone mixture to increase the CEC may have the effect of reducing hydraulic conductivity which may compromise the drainage performance of the rootzone and be undesirable in design terms.

The research project aimed to investigate whether the incorporation of an inorganic amendment with high CEC would: i) significantly increase the CEC of the rootzone without significantly reducing the hydraulic conductivity, ii) show significant improvement in turf quality when compared to no added amendment, and iii) show measurable benefits of nutrient retention within the rootzone and a reduction in nutrient leachate within the drainage water.

An 'in-the-field' lysimeter experiment was conducted using grass plots sown with a traditional U.K. 80:20 ratio Festuca / Agrostis grass seed mixture, which was grown in sand only, and USGA mixture rootzones. Rootzones were amended with inorganic clinoptilolite zeolite at 10% by volume.

Soil analyses were conducted at the start and the end of the experiment, and measurements of grass quality were monitored over a 13 week period.

Data was gathered on: hydraulic conductivity, soil nutrient analysis, leaf tissue nutrient, root length and root weight, leaf colour, and nutrient leachate. Results were statistically analysed using analysis of variance (ANOVA).

The results showed that CEC was not significantly increased as a function of adding the amendment, but there was a significant increase between the sand without amendment and the USGA with amendment.

Hydraulic conductivity and dry bulk density was not significantly changed, but Ksat did increase and the dry bulk density decreased, when amendment was added.

There was no significant improvement in turf quality based on the methods of assessment used, which raised a number of queries in relation to more complex factors and variables that effect turf growth, and the limited duration of the research.

Other significant results included evidence of much higher levels of Iron (Fe) within the leaf tissue of the non amended sand only treatment, and a reduction in Potassium (K) leachate within the drainage of the amended treatments.

WHAT DID I GAIN FROM THE MSC LEARNING EXPERIENCE?

I had a great sense of personal achievement when I was finally telephoned by Alex Vickers and told about my degree award, and after two years hard slog, I can now look forward to a year with a lot less time spent with my head buried in books, and a lot more time back out on golf courses doing my advisory work.

Coming from a practical background, I feel that I will have the ability to apply a lot of what I learnt to practical situations in the field, which I think will therefore be of benefit to the greenkeepers, turf managers and clients that I work with.

I am very grateful to BIGGA and Ransomes Jacobsen for their help through the scholarship fund, and especially grateful to my family for their patience and support over the past two years.

Looking back on the whole learning experience, it was certainly a challenge, but one made all the more rewarding by the people I met and got to know. I liked the time flexibility of modular system and the variety of subject areas covered within the course. My top tip for anyone contemplating the MSc course would be to choose a less complicated Thesis project than I did - but as we know hindsight is a wonderful thing!

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SCOTTISH REGION

Ayrshire

Check it out now Funk-Soul-Brothers! If any of y'all are interested in playing football against the West Section give me a ring on 01292 478606. We are aiming to get the match played this month or next.

Hope those recently returned from Harrogate all had a great time and any sore heads are recovered. I mean what with all that increased brain activity from the various educational opportunities on offer!

Our own Iain Barr succeeds Archie Dunn as Scottish Chairman, so on behalf of the section, all the best Iain and enjoy your term.

Congratulations also to George Brown who steps down as National Chairman and resumes normal life again. I'm sure all the section appreciates the work George has put in to improve our standing both in this country and throughout the world. I've heard through the grapevine, however, that as George resumes his golf matches with plans to up the stakes, so to speak, his wife Brenda would prefer he leave the prize as before, whatever the cost!

Remember any news just keep to yourself, coz I'm on a roll. Yeah Baby!
Dennis Tweedle

Northern

Just the one new member to report this month, and that is, Dennis Lake, who is an assistant greenkeeper at Cullen GC, in Moray.

Hopefully everyone has got over the New Year celebrations without too much trouble and is looking forward to the new season, which is not that far away.

Harrogate will have come and gone by the time you will receive this report. No doubt there will be plenty to report on in next month's report.

The Scottish Conference is taking place at Dunfermline College on March 2. There are many speakers organised for the day and I am sure it will be worth the effort, to make the trip down.

Another former greenkeeper still on the go is Malcolm Macdonald, formerly of Kingussie GC, for many years. He is 80 now and still going strong.

Not much else to report this month, but if anyone wants anything mentioned in the report then phone me on 01997 420155.

Iain Gunn

East

Welcome to the first column of the year and a happy new year to you all. The Section held its AGM at the beginning of November at Winterfield GC and we had more than 20 members in attendance, which wasn't bad at all.

This year we changed the format and had the AGM first, then a light lunch, then a game of golf over 10 holes in the four-ball better-ball format. This was a success and we will continue that next year.

The AGM was very quiet with the only changes being to the committee structure with Andy Forrest, Peter Ormiston, Robert Hogarth, and Stuart Crawford all standing down. Since then Craig Pennycuik has also stood down, so I would like to thank them for all the time and effort they have put in over the years and hopefully can welcome them back some time in the future. Thanks lads.

The committee has agreed to have a slimmed down group for the future. The committee is now: Chairman, Chris Yeaman; Vice Chairman, Graham Wood; Sec/Treasurer, Steve Dixon; Past Chairman, Tom Murray; and Messrs Greenwood, Neilson, Watson, and the new member voted on at the AGM, Frank Forrest of Swanston GC.

Welcome to the committee, Frank, and we hope you enjoy your time with us.

That's all the news from the AGM except a big thanks to Winterfield GC for the use of their facilities and courtesy of the course; the clubhouse staff for looking after us and Craig Pennycuik and his team for the condition of the course and for having excellent weather laid on for us. Thanks also to Regional Administrator, Peter Boyd, for coming along on the day and keeping us up to date with things that are happening in the Association.

The annual dinner dance took place in Aberlady, at the Kilspindie House Hotel, on December 6 and what a great night it was. All those who attended enjoyed themselves, which is what it's all about. The meal was excellent, the disco good, the refreshments even better and the company superb, so roll on next year – we hope to see you there.

People on the move this month are Colin Noble who has left Cardrona Hotel Golf



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
 Tel: 01476 550115



and Country Club to take up the position of Head Greenkeeper at Peebles Golf Club and Billy Hudson who has left Newbattle GC to take up the position of Head Greenkeeper at Whitehill House GC. Congratulations to you both and all the best for the future.

By the time you read this Harrogate BTME 2004 will have passed so I will have a report next month from the conference and the show.

Well that's it for this month and I hope your winter programmes are proceeding and the weather is good to all of us as we head towards another busy season.

I will have in Section news next month dates of outings etc., etc. Please can somebody send me something of interest to put in this column, as you must get bored with what I write. Let me know if you have some old pictures of interest so we can get more things in each month.

I'm sitting here waiting. Here's all the information you need to send news to me: Westwyn, West Linton Golf Club, West Linton, Borders, EH46 7HN, or phone 01968 661313 (home), 01968 661721 (office), 07719 580 449 (mobile) or e-mail CHRISJY26@AOL.COM. Come on who's going to be first?

Chris Yeaman

Central

Due to lack of time there is not a great deal of news for you this month.

With regards to previous reports on this year's spring golf tournament, which we had planned for Elie, due to circumstances out of our control, we are in the process of making alternative arrangements and hopefully Crail Golfing Society will be the venue instead of Elie. I will keep you posted.

A new member joining us this month is James McAdam, from Glenbervie Golf Club, and also from Glenbervie, rejoining the Section is Michael Hanlon. We extend a warm welcome to them both from everyone in the Section.

As I said in the first paragraph, time is short this month so I will give all of you who have still failed to purchase or return your Club 2000 tickets another month's grace to do so.

Well, that's it for this month. I'm off to the green staff Christmas night out in New York!

John Crawford



North Wales

Well another BTME Show is done and dusted and so the season begins. It was great to see so many of you make the annual pilgrimage to the now capital of the greenkeeping world – the coach was full (on the way up) but not on the way back, I wonder why?

Perhaps you enjoyed a late night in one the local hostellers? Our thanks once again to Danny Tomkins and Amenity Technology for their sponsorship and the gratuitous food and beverages up at the Old Swan Hotel, from one and all.

Those of you making the trip across the pond to the GCSAA show in San Diego may well be on your way as this magazine arrives through your door. Bernhard's are once again taking a 10-strong delegation to meet up with US superintendents to gain knowledge and see how the same jobs are done over there – if you are thinking of a trip to the show next year it is back in the Orange County Convention Centre, off International Drive in Orlando, Florida. Get your names posted to Bernhard's for consideration. This really is a fantastic trip and it is educational as well!

Our North Wales Golf Days for this year have been penciled in place, 'four' in all. The first is the spring tournament at Porthmadog GC on May 20 followed by the N. Wales versus N. West match at Vale Royal Abbey GC on June 9 for a 1.30pm start (please get your names down as we require a full and unbeatable team). The autumn tournament is at Bromborough GC on October 1 and the Christmas one is back at Prestatyn GC on December 1.

There will also be a Golf Management Trophy hosted by BIGGA on August 23. This will be in team format and consist of the Greenkeeper or Course Manager with the Secretary and Professional and one other committee member from their respective clubs (more details to follow).

We look forward to seeing as many of you attending as possible. These are fun days out and whether you can play golf or not it is a good day out and a chance to meet up with your counterparts.

The Spring Seminar will take place this month at Carden Park GC. Now in its

second year it has a host of speakers with a wealth of knowledge and if you can make the time it is well worth a visit, the date is February 24. Start time is 9.30am to finish at around 3.45pm. The cost for members is £20 each, non-members £25 each, including food.

The guest speakers are Peter Wisbey, from Woodhall Spa; Tony Smith, from Teeside GC; Bruce Jamieson, an independent agronomist for tournament play. Steve Cox, Head of Tournaments from the PGA, will be talking on setting a course up for a major event and tournament rules. Your key host will be Duncan McGilvary. We have only enough space for 100 people so get in touch as soon as possible so as not to miss out! See you next month.

Any news or views give me a call.

Home 01925 263394. Mobile 07778 162162. e-mail acornrgolf@supanet.com

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn

Northern

Hi guys, hope you've all recovered from the show at Harrogate and you've not gone and blown your budgets on too many fancy new machines and other tempting things on offer?

The Christmas golf event was a great day and thanks must be passed on to everyone at Elland Golf club for their hospitality. A total of 40 played on a dry and bright day with many compliments on the condition of the course being passed on to Richard and his staff.

A shotgun four-man team event was the order of the day with some confusion over the scoring being encountered by most of the teams. We will be looking into a different format for the next one. After everyone had handed in their cards it was decided to draw the cards to win the prizes.

Amenity Technology sponsored the presentation table with everybody taking a prize home. A traditional Christmas dinner was then enjoyed. A coach taxied some of the golfers on the day, letting them have a few beers – no doubt there were some sore heads the next morning.

Two pieces of sad news to bring you: Les Kirkbright sadly passed away in December and Brian Hudson on New Years Day. Both will be missed at all our golf and Section events. Our sincere condolences to both families.

On a brighter note, news has just reached me that our President, Den Cockburn, has just been accepted for Life membership in recognition of his hard work and dedication to the Association. Congratulations, Den, from everyone at the Northern Section.

I am hoping, as I said last month, that a fixture list of events will be with you shortly, but as I am writing this I am still one venue short for our golf events for this year.

Welcome to Paul Emmanuel who has joined our Association this month.

That's about all for now.

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Dthackray@aol.com

Dave Thackray

North East

Latest news from Longhirst Hall GC, is that they are currently planting 500 trees, at the moment using the tree spade with the hope of planting a further 500 before the spring – these are mainly on the new 18 holes.

Turfing is going strong, with all remaining drains getting sorted before they open the new course.

Hopefully the punters will see the efforts that have been put in when the season starts. It's made a big difference to the look and feel of the new holes and they are looking forward to shaping it up again around the new plantations.

Jimmy Richardson

Cleveland

Well, by the time that Section members read this month's offering, BTME will have come and gone. I hope all the hard work that the Association puts into its organisation has reaped the usual dividends. I hope Tony Smith's talk on 'Stress in the Workplace' went well.

The recent mild, wet weather has seen an increase in fungal attacks and it has also made it difficult for courses carrying out major constructions.

The Bedale Golf Club greens' team has thrown a challenge down. They wonder if any clubs in the area fancy a game of indoor five-a-side football. They are prepared to travel. If anyone is interested in playing please contact Pembo on 07989 508878. If you lot get some games under your belts it should help in honing your skills ready

for the Rigby Taylor Indoor Football tournament coming up this spring.

Tony Mears has forwarded details of an extensive course extension and drainage scheme recently carried out by Dinsdale Spa. Four acres of farmland was purchased and has been used to extend the course by 400 yards. Cliff Addison Drainage installed over 3,500 meters of drainage.

Stage one comprised of the construction of a new pond, a new tee and new green. The green will be needed in the spring. Trees, gorse and broom will also be planted to enhance the area. Most of the work has been done 'in-house' so congratulations to Tony and his fine team.

Stage two will commence next autumn with another green and tee planned for construction on the existing course. On completion of the whole project the course will benefit from a new par-4 hole and an extended par-4. Let's hope for good weather for us all.

Any news to myself on 07831 214879.

Cheers

Terry 'El Prez' Charlton

North West

I will once again be struggling for news as nobody has submitted any, but I would like to congratulate Peter Cross and Warren Bevan on being selected for the Bernhard trip to the GCSAA in San Diego, California in February. I am sure this will be the trip of a lifetime being able to meet greenkeepers from overseas, and to see how things are done over the pond. Good luck to both of you.

I am presently working on getting venues for this year's golf tournaments etc. and as soon as this is completed I will get the fixture lists completed and sent out to you all.

The Regional final I organised for the last four years has now been cancelled, but the Regional Administrator, Peter Larter, will be organising a tournament involving teams from golf clubs, consisting of Secretary, Captain, Greenkeeper and a golf club member. Scotts will sponsor this, and further information will follow shortly.

Don't forget to read the education pages in the magazine, as there are plenty of educational presentations available in all areas.

That's it for now but you can contact me on 0151 724 5412 or 07761 583387. Good luck in 2004.

Bert Cross

MIDLAND REGION

Midland

With it being the romantic month of St.Valentine, I was rather hoping to report on the antics of our Chairman Mr Stant. However, he has for sometime now been in a wholesome and rewarding relationship. Therefore attention must be cast elsewhere. Since my good friend John James Joseph Wilkes (Deputy at Harborne) entered a chatroom on the internet he has, for some reason, been traversing the length and breadth of Britain. John, on the 14th, take the day off, the post person will need a hand! Wherefore art thou Romeo?

The Christmas tournament was held at Enville Golf Club on December 9. Our thanks to Graham Patrick and his fine team for preparing the course to such a high standard at perhaps the most difficult time of the year. What fantastic greens. The results of the day were; 1. E. Stant and J. Palmer; 2. A. Walker and P. Woodham; 3. D. Fellows and W. Ganning; 4. S. Mucklow and R.Thomas.

Our thanks to M. Chamberlain of Tacit for sponsoring the main prize table, and to M. Raynor of Scotts for the wine on the table.

Our greatest thanks to Enville Golf Club for affording us such a wonderful day, and allowing us to hold our AGM there.

Your committee has remained the same as last year. President, P. Richmond; Chairman, E. Stant; Deputy Chairman, R. Thomas; Treasurer, G. Cunningham; Secretary, S. McDade; Committee: N. Couchman, D. Gibbons and, after plenty of arm twisting, A. Smith.

For some 26 years Dave Morgan (retired, Rigby Taylor) has served the Section alongside B. Pilsbury as an auditor. The committee and members thank you for your kind service and time over the years, Dave. We all wish you a well-deserved, long and happy retirement. Tony Cheese has kindly taken over from him. "Come back Dave!"

Due to a double booking the Spring Tournament is now to be held at Trentham Park GC on April 21, and not at Olton GC as reported in January's Around the Green.

The Treasurer has asked that could those wishing to attend, please send entries as soon as possible to make number planning and finance a lot easier. Thank you.

Over the last 12 months it has been lovely to see many new faces at our events, I hope this encouraging trend will continue this year.

For those who have yet to take part in our events, may I point out that not only do you get to enjoy some superb venues at great value but they are also an excellent opportunity to promote yourself, the Section, and are, by their nature, educational. Please join us; you will be made very welcome. We all look forward to seeing you.

Finally, don't forget the 'Effective Communication' course to be held at Shirley Golf Club on March 16 and 17. Should you require a booking form please contact me on 07816-410-552 or ring BIGGA HQ.

Looking forward with anticipation to receiving a Valentine's card, but hopefully not from my mates, again! Dream on Schwilbilly!

Sean McDade

BB&O

As always we hit that time of the year when the spirit of Harrogate remains a distant memory as we all get ready to tackle the year ahead.

The new Rules of Golf introduced this year are the biggest revision for 20 years, with each of the 34 rules governing play being amended by the R&A, within which there are many areas of interest to both playing and non-playing greenkeepers.

These changes came into force on January 1 and commenting on these changes R&A Rules Secretary, David Rickman, said, "In an essentially self-regulating sport, players need the rules readily available and as simple to understand as we can make them."

One key area is how the game is played with particular interest paid to the upkeep of golfing etiquette in the modern game. Indeed the section on etiquette has been totally rewritten and now spells out in great detail the manner in which the game should be played and the responsibility of each and every player to repair divots, pitch marks and spike marks on the greens.

It also makes it clear that before leaving a bunker, players should carefully fill up and smooth over all holes and footprints made by them and nearby, made by others.

Disregarding of etiquette to the detriment of others can be regarded as a serious breach of the rules of golf and may lead to rule 33-7 being invoked.

Rule 33-7 states: if a committee considers that a player is guilty of a serious breach of etiquette, it may impose a penalty of disqualification under this rule.

While it is the duty of every professional minded greenkeeper to keep abreast of new developments within the industry it is not often we are gifted with a new rule that allows its interpretation to so handsomely sit in the greenkeepers right hand.

As with many golfing rules if the players are oblivious to its existence they will certainly not abide by them.

It is therefore up to the greenkeeper to inform the playing members of his club of these new changes, and to seek back up from his committee, that course etiquette is being followed or the previously mentioned sanctions may apply.

While many members may be happy to putt on a bumpy surface and, when missing the putt, curse the greenkeeper for the poor state of his greens, not too many would be keen to be disqualified from an event for not repairing the pitch mark they had just made.

Perhaps we will see lots of shiny new pitch repair forks being slipped in and out of our members' pockets this year?

And stranger still, perhaps one or two will actually know how to use them!

On that note before I bid you farewell with an early reminder of our forthcoming Spring Tournament to be held at Badgemore Park GC on April 22. Contact Secretary John Scoones 07880 550380.

Mark Day

mark@tacitgolf.com

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

South Wales

Croeso pawb/ Hello everyone hope you all had a lovely Christmas and looking forward to a new year.

Firstly, on behalf of all the South Wales Section, I would like to congratulate and thank Peter Lacey for his undoubted commitment and efforts over the last 10 years



Derek Farrington
SOUTH EAST, SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES
 Tel: 01903 260956



as Section Secretary.

A second generation greenkeeper Peter has represented the South with professionalism and help raise the profile of greenkeepers, Peter was presented with a token of thanks at the Christmas event well done mate!

Golf results: Christmas competition held at the glorious Pyle and Kenfig Hill golf club in December. 1. P&K Captain: Viv Morgan; 2. Alan Abel, Complete Weed Control; 3. Winner of the Vitax Shield: Paul Wilkie, P&K; 4. Emyr Nickels, Inco GC; 5. David Gladwin, Carmarthen GC. Nearest the Pins: Alan Abel, Peter Hampton, Tony Horne, Clive Moran. Longest Drive: Mark Wilshire. Longest Walk: Paul Smith, P&K.

A total of 40 played golf and 50 attended evening meal.

Presentation of letter opener and Quach to Secretary, Peter Lacey, in recognition of 10 years of service as Section Secretary - many thanks.

Thanks to P&K Golf Club for their hospitality, etc. Vitax and Joe Crawley who couldn't be with us but is making a good recovery and will be with us at the BTME in Harrogate. To Celtic Mowers, and Ceri Richards, for organising the half way house, refreshments and for organising the superb prize table. All trade who supported the day and guests from the Club, IOG, WGU.

Education: Please find below the 'Winter Evening Lecture' series for 2004. These evenings will be held at Pencoed College (except for the millennium stadium visit), near Bridgend, in the lounge bar and will commence at 7.00pm. This series has once again been sponsored by Avoncrop Amenity Products to whom we are indebted for their continued support and sponsorship of education in the South Wales Section.

Wednesday January 14: Millennium Stadium Visit. Meet at Gate 4 at 7pm.

Come and join us for a tour of the stadium by IOG Chairman, Tony Horne, while the new pitch is being installed for this year's Six Nations Championship.

A Buffet Super will be provided, courtesy of Inturf.

Wednesday February 11: Mr Peter Roberts, of Hydroscape.

An update on irrigation, legislation and responsible water management and usage.

Wednesday March 10: Annual quiz and social evening.

Wednesday April 14: Huw Morgan MG. Course Manager of the Wilderness Golf Club. 'The Route to Master Greenkeeper' and 'Back as an Open Qualifier'

Thursday April 15: Annual spring seminar at the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club.

9.30am - 4pm. Details to follow.

Our sincere thanks to all who give freely of their time and efforts to ensure this education series continues. To all speakers and participating companies, to Pencoed College, the IOG, Peter Gillard, Ray Burrows and Avoncrop who continue to support and sponsor this series of educational events.

Those attending any/each of the above educational evenings can claim a single CPD credit.

Any information on the Greenkeeping front then get in touch at kerryjokojones@yahoo.co.uk

Cofion Cynnes a blewdyn newydd dda.

Best wishes and a happy new year.

Kerry Jones

South Coast

Christmas has come and gone and we are now well into the new year. The Section has been quiet over the last month with little to report on. The new year seems to have had a bad start for three of the clubs within our Section as there has been a spate of vandalism. Trevor Blythe, at Hockley, had a bad vandalism attack where two morons in 4x4s decided to 'off road' across his course causing £16,000 worth of damage.

Queens Park Golf Club has also been a victim of the 'off road' brigade but with motorbikes. Parkstone has seen one of their greens doused with a can of petrol and set light. If our jobs aren't difficult enough, we have to repair the damage made by mindless idiots!

On a lighter note we must congratulate Joe Cooper on his selection on to the BIGGA delegation to the GCSAA show in San Diego. Having been fortunate myself last year I can honestly say you will have a great, but hectic, week, Joe, so enjoy yourself.

If you have not returned your completed registration forms for the Section seminar then please get them back to me as soon as possible. I look forward to seeing many of you there on the day. I am just preparing to travel to BTME which I will report on in full next month

Until next month

Alex McCombie

South West

Happy New Year to you all. Not much to report on since the last time. However, there is one piece of news that may interest you, I am leaving Bath Golf Club at the end of March and becoming self employed and, guess what, specialising in fine turf maintenance, landscaping and conservation.

I will still be your education officer and an associated member of BIGGA, so I will still be responsible for all your training needs. I will also be an NVQ assessor, so please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any assessing on your golf course.

The course walk on your golf days will continue and hopefully enhanced with follow up talks afterwards (watch this space).

By the time you read this another successful BTME will have taken place and thanks to our continued patronage support we will hopefully be offering another expenses paid trip to next year's event at Harrogate.

Sam Kennedy, from Bowood Golf Club, has been our first successful candidate and attended BTME from the Sunday through to the Thursday. If anyone is in doubt about the patronage scheme, the money is being ploughed back into education and we hope in the near future to be funding our own education days and seminars.

If you have any ideas how the money should be spent then please contact a committee member with your ideas. See you at West Wiltshire Golf Club on February 25 for our first tournament of the year.

Contact me on 01225 333928. Mobile: 078123 80936.

Guy Woods

Devon and Cornwall

Our Christmas meeting was held at Okehampton Golf Club on Tuesday December 9. The format for the day was Greensomes Stableford with 60 members competing for the P.J. Flegg Trophy. The Head Greenkeeper, Richard Wisdom, escorted the remaining 21 members on the customary course walk.

After an excellent Christmas lunch, comedian, Jimmy Quinn, had everybody in stitches for over an hour! After this, Paul Watson, of P.J. Flegg, presented the prizes for the day.

The winners of the P.J. Flegg Trophy were father and son combination, Paul Bullen, formerly of Newquay (now retired), and Jonathan Bullen, of Staddon Heights. I would like to thank, on behalf of the Section, the catering staff for a superb lunch. Also, thanks go to Richard Wisdom and his team, for presenting the course in excellent condition and to Okehampton Golf Club for the use of their excellent facilities once again.

I would also like to thank comedian Jimmy Quinn for making our day even more enjoyable and, last but not least, thanks to our sponsor, Patrick of P.J. Flegg Ltd. Patrick has sponsored our Christmas event for the last 20 years and the section would like to express their gratitude for his continued support.

Dates for your Diary:

Our next meeting will be held at West Cornwall Golf Club on Wednesday February 18.

The Section will be holding a machinery maintenance workshop at Seale Hayne College on Monday, March 1, and details will be sent out to all members in due course.

If you have any information for this column, please contact me on 01822 617671.

Steve Evans



Kent

As we start a new year what sort of weather can we look forward too, will it be a cold start with a long warm summer like last year or can we hope for some rain?

On to the Turkey Trot which was held at Birchwood Golf Club on December 10. Rob Holland, Course Manager, and his team produced a course in excellent condition. Even with rain prior to the day the course had great putting surfaces, which I am afraid, as my playing partners can confirm, were too good for me. I only had the odd 1,2,3 etc. three putts. We were even lucky enough to have the sun, which made for a good all round golf day, from speaking to fellow competitors it was a thoroughly good event.

I would like to thank Rob and his staff for preparing the course to a high standard, to the catering department for the evening meal and to the management of the club for allowing us to hold the event at Birchwood Park GC.

The results. 1. Neil Pullen, 42 pts; 2. Rob Holland, 39 pts; 3. John Fullagar, 37 pts.

Longest drive went to Duncan Kelso and nearest the pin was Michael Wigston.

We would like to thank Ransomes Jacobsen for the coffee and food on arrival and Tacit for sponsoring nearest the pin and the longest drive.

Other sponsors included Avon Crop, Driving Force Leisure, John Shaw Machinery and Parkers. Thank you to all of the companies for their support at this event and over the previous year.

The results from the Kent Section AGM will be in next month's issue.

That just leaves me to say have a good month.

Phil Belton

East Anglia

What! Another year gone... must have blinked. Anyway, Happy New Year and all that. Hope you had a good Crimble. Another Turkey Trot came and went and it was a marvelous day as ever. No rain, slight frost, handsome. Course was in good nick, Ian and the crew.

There were 80 half asleep souls in the clubhouse at 8 o'clock in the morning. Considering the distances some travelled, the North Norfolk Nomads in particular, that is something else.

It shows how we all enjoy this event at Thorpeness every year. It really does go like clockwork, due largely to our watch-making secretary/motivator, Ian Willett. Where would we be without him?

By 10 o'clock most of us were awake and by then we'd played at least six holes and were getting into the swing, so to speak. By 2.30pm we were all having a slap up meal in a nice country club overlooking the sea. The food was lovely then came the prizes presented by Mick Crabtree, Thorpeness Vice Captain (I've always wanted to be one of them!).

It was a Texas Scramble and the first team was called 'We're Alright'. They were Alan and James Sharp, Bob Barnes and James Burton and they scored 54.9. The second team was not called anything but there were two Nomads in there. They were Roger and Stuart Plummer, David (Jim) Hawkins and Richard Whiting with 55-6. The third team also had no title but 'Desperados' springs to mind! They were Stephen Curtis, Paul Gould, Stuart Edge and Gavin Playford with 56-6.

The main sponsors were CMW but there were others (take a deep breath).

Nearest the pin on the 2nd, 7th, 10th and 16th was sponsored by Aitkens, Seoul Nassau (DFL), Collier Turfcare, John Deere, Tomlinson Groundcare - Ben Burgess respectively. And won by Martin Mison, Alan Sharp, Stuart Plummer and Mark Clements. Nearest the pin in two on the 6th was sponsored by Toro and won by Peter Howard. Take another breath there's more.

Longest drive: on the 1st for 16-28 handicaps was sponsored by Prime Irrigation and won by Ian Willett, on the 4th it was sponsored by Autoflow and won by Andy Curson. 0-15 handicap on the 18th for everyone was sponsored by Consultant Clarkson and won by Neil Meadows.

Other Sponsors were: Ransomes Jacobsen, SISIS, Atterton & Bernhard, Bartram Mowers, K.B. Leach, Sheriffs, Scotts, Rigby Taylor, Headland Amenity Products and Tacit who sponsored the baguettes.

We had a brief speech from Edward about the Clarkson Cup which is a new knockout competition played through the summer. I'm sure it will become more popular as time goes by. This year there were six teams and the Royal Plummers won it from the Royal Corner.

We also had a speech from our proud President, Colin Rushbrook. He is keeping a tradition going started by Ernie, to present a bottle of port to a greenkeeper for his contribution to greenkeeping. This year I was the proud recipient (when I find out what I've done I'll let you know).

Seriously though, I was really pleased. The funny thing was I was taking down what Colin was saying and I suddenly thought, "I know that bloke" well there aren't too many cockneys up here.

Then came the AGM. Bit longer this one, after some discussion it was decided to reduce the committee to nine.

Well that's nearly it except to say all our venues are booked for this year and half of next year. Ian and the team are doing a great job, long may they continue. Just one more thing I missed out, one of our sponsors in the last report but I can't remember who it was. I think it was an Olympic team, yes Seoul Nassau or DFL for short. Sorry about that. In case I forgot Tacit sponsored the baguettes (bacon rolls)

I'll get it right one day.

Mick Lathrope

Surrey

Hello February, goodbye January and BTME at Harrogate. Goodbye workshops, seminars and the opportunity to meet old friends in that old fashioned wine bar the Peppermint Hippo. I shall be reporting on any humorous incidents from Harrogate in next month's edition.

A Surrey away team went down into deepest Sussex to play in their Turkey Trot at the East Sussex National Golf Club on December 12 and I am pleased to report that our team, Tony Bremer, Anthony Freeman, Mark Harvey and yours truly, played with such skill and determination that we managed to win the event despite the cruel weather and the harrowing journey down in Barry Robertson's car.

Congratulations to Murray Long and his recent addition to his family. This is stop-press news, no names and weight etc. yet, but these details will appear next month. Congratulations also to Colin Gibson, the new course manager at Purley Downs Golf Club. Welcome to Surrey and we look forward to meeting you at this year's events.

A short report I'm afraid but this month is quiet and it's the best I can do. Let me know your news and maybe you will star in a future edition.

Brian Willmott

Essex

Firstly a belated Happy New Year to you all. Let's hope this year the weather is a bit kinder to us all. My name is Geoff Smith, I'm Deputy Course Manager at Abridge Golf & Country Club, I won Golfer of the Year last year and I am your new scribe for my sins. I will try to put something in every month, but please, ladies and gentlemen, contact me with anything of interest or juicy gossip so I have lots to write about. You can contact me on 07763 778269.

Our last golfing event was at Forrester Park in November where I won Golfer of the Year. The weather was very kind to us all and Roland and greenkeeping team presented a fine course to us. Thank you to his staff and Forrester Park Golf Club for a very warm welcome and an excellent meal. I would also like to thank our sponsor, Ernest Doe, for the days. Thank you also to Headland, Seoul Nassau, Banks Amenity, Rigby Taylor, Tuckwells and Tacit for their expensive raffle prizes. Thank you to Don Clark, Course Manager of Orsett Golf Club for his not-so-expensive raffle prize.

Texas Scramble was the format for the day which I think every which I think everybody thought was a good idea and made a change. The winning team was Richard Hare, Arnold Phipps-Jones and second was Mick and Jim Dilliway and the youthful Dennis Smith and finally, and definitely least, was the very quiet and reserved team of Richard Lewis, Simon Banks and Mick Fance.

After an excellent meal, excellent drinks, excellent service from Forrester Park staff, excellent prizes, an excellent raffle and Arnold Phipps-Jones's speech we held our AGM. Officers elected for the coming year were as follows Chairman. Arnold Phipps-Jones; Secretary, Martin Forrester; Treasurer, Dominic Rodgers, and Competitions' Secretary, David Beale. Golfer of the Year was then presented, which I won. I thought all the venues in 2003 were excellent and thank you to everyone involved at the courses and to David Beale for organising them.

Richard Hare and Dominic Rodgers represented the Essex Section at last year's National Tournament. Dominic had a bad start to his round, good middle section and recovered well, Richard spent the night before with Dominic and just did not recover.

Dave informs me that next year's events are as follows - April 27, Channels Golf Club; June 23, Ballards Gore Golf Club; August 5, Saffron Walden Golf Club; October 6, The Burstead Golf Club and finally, November 30, Orsett Golf Club.

I hope to attend all of these and hope to win Golfer of the Year, which I won last year. It was good to see so many new faces at our golf days last year. What did disappoint me though was that green staff who played in their own golf days did not attend other golf days, let's try and put that right this year.

On the subject of David Beale, congratulations to him and his partner on the birth of their daughter Poppy. Don't worry Dave, if you think it's hard now wait 'til she gets older and starts bringing boyfriends home who are greenkeepers.

Hope you guys and girls have all had a good time at Harrogate I look forward to hearing and then informing you all of some good stories, top money will be paid.

Not quite last but nearly congratulations on behalf of the whole of the Essex Section to Andy Sheehan who takes up his post this month at the illustrious K Club. Good luck, Andy and keep in touch. We look forward to Dave arranging the away day at the K Club next year.

Finally I would like to just inform you that I won golfer of the year last year. Hope to hear from some of you soon.

Geoff "Golfer of the Year" Smith

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The solution to the January Turftime Teaser was 'Duncan Ross'. The lucky winner of the Digital Sony Hand-Held Voice Memo is Mr Melvyn Chapman from Durham City Golf Club - WELL DONE!

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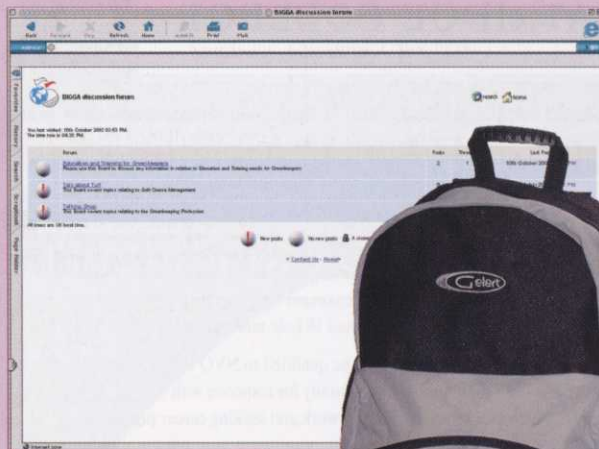
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Recruitment

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is one of the leading golf course operators in Germany with 6 prestigious and very busy golf courses (Hamburg, Frankfurt, Stuttgart) at the present time.

We are expanding our business (eg. projects in Berlin) and therefore

HEAD GREENKEEPERS

(Minimum Level 3 and some years of experience)

and

ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPERS

(Minimum Level 2)

are required for the 2004 season.

They should be of a friendly personality, hard working and good communicators.
Basic knowledge of German is essential.

Please apply in writing with full hand written C.V. and photo to:

CLUBHAUS AG, Schloss Luedersburg, D-21379 Luedersburg, Germany
e-mail: application@clubhaus.de Internet: www.clubhaus.de



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Knowledge of irrigation systems preferable but not essential as full training will be given.

We offer an attractive remuneration package and a company vehicle.

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Peter Madden - Sales Director, Evenproducts Limited,
Evesham, Worcs. WR11 4TU
or e-mail to peter@evenproducts.com



GREENKEEPER

We have recently taken over the management of an 18 hole public golf course in Perth and we require a greenkeeper to take charge to maintain and develop the course.

Applicants should have the following qualifications:

- Min 10 years sports turf management experience
- Min 3 years supervisory experience
- Spraying certificates
- Qualified to HNC level in greenkeeping/sports turf management
- Practical knowledge of modern turf machinery and basic maintenance skills
- Ability to lead, develop and motivate staff

Please send your C.V. to:

The Contracts Director, McNab Sport,
The Muirs, Kinross KY13 8AU

Head Greenkeeper

Salary up to £18,000

This specialist landbased college is looking to recruit an enthusiastic, motivated and experienced person to the position of Head Greenkeeper.

The person appointed will be responsible for developing and maintaining a 9 hole pay as you play golf course in addition to providing some instruction to students up to SVQ level three.

Applicants must be qualified to SVQ level three/HNC Greenkeeping or equivalent, hold PA1, 2A and 6A spraying certificates, have extensive practical experience in the maintenance and presentation of a golf course and be interested in training young people.

**For an application pack contact the Personnel Manager, Oatridge College, Ecclesmachan, Broxburn, West Lothian, EH52 6NH.
Tel (01506) 854387**

OATRIDGE COLLEGE



**Scotland's
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Landbased
college**

BEACONSFIELD GOLF CLUB

Requires an

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

We are looking for an enthusiastic, hard working greenkeeper to join our team.

Qualified to NVQ 2 with spraying and Chainsaw Certificates if possible.
Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.
Single accommodation is available.

Closing date for applications is the 24th February 2004.

Applications and C.V. in writing to:

Mr. K R Wilcox, Secretary, Beaconsfield Golf Club, Farm Lane,
Seer Green, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, HP9 2UR

CHILTERN FOREST GOLF CLUB

Requires a

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

A Deputy Head Greenkeeper is required at this progressive established 18 hole members club.

The successful candidate will preferably be qualified to NVQ Level 3 with PA1, 2 and 6 spraying certificates. This is an ideal opportunity for someone with 5 years experience who is enthusiastic, committed to hard work and seeking career progression.

Salary is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

Please apply in writing enclosing a full CV to:

The Secretary, Chiltern Forest Golf Club,
Aston Hill, Halton, Nr Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5NQ

BLACKMOOR GOLF CLUB

A vacancy exists for an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

home of the Selborne Salver and Open Regional Qualifying course.

The successful applicant will possess NVQ2 in Fine Turf, PA1, 2 and 6 spraying certificates and a minimum of 3 years experience in Greenkeeping. Candidates will be highly motivated and able to work as part of a team.

Salary is negotiable.

Written applications, including full CV, should be sent to:
Mr S. Robinson, Head Greenkeeper, Blackmoor Golf Club,
Firgrove Road, Whitehill, Bordon, Hampshire GU35 9EH.

Alternatively email information to: secretary@blackmoorgolfclub.co.uk

EAGLESCLIFFE GOLF CLUB LTD

(established 1914)

One of Durham's premier golf clubs, host to the County Championship in 2004 is looking for an

EXPERIENCED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

You should be qualified to a minimum of NVQ 2 in Sports Turf Management.

Spraying certificates would be a distinct advantage.

This is an excellent opportunity for a committed and enthusiastic individual to join our team.

We are a forward thinking golf club and the successful applicant will be encouraged to undertake further training to progress in the industry.

Salary will be dependent on qualifications and experience.

Applications should be made in writing with a CV, giving details of current/last salary to:

Geoff Ward, Course Manager, Eaglescliffe Golf Club,
Yarm Road, Eaglescliffe, Stockton-on-Tees TS16 0DQ



Sandiway Golf Club

A Private Members Club in the heart of Cheshire

Require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

To lead a team dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the upkeep and development of this fine inland course.

Position for those with:

- A minimum of 10 years experience in Greenkeeping.
- Show knowledge of Machinery/Irrigation Maintenance.
- Be enthusiastic, highly motivated and committed.
- Show Man Management skills.
- Salary negotiable.

Closing date for applications 27th February 2004.

No accommodation.

Apply in writing with CV to:

The Secretary, Sandiway Golf Club, Chester Road,
Sandiway, Cheshire, CW8 2DJ

ST ANNES OLD LINKS GOLF CLUB Ltd

Applications are invited for the position of

COURSE MANAGER

SALARY BY NEGOTIATION

Established in 1901 St Annes Old Links Golf Club is situated on the Fylde Coast of Lancashire and is close by its illustrious neighbour, Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club. One of the few true links courses on England's "golf coast" it has been the venue of many past Championships including the Open Championship Qualifiers, the PGA Assistant's Championship, the Weetabix Ladies British Open Qualifying Rounds, and this coming September will host the European Tour Pre-Qualifying Rounds for the first time.

The successful applicant should be hard working, self-motivated, have excellent supervisory skills to lead the existing team of 5 greenkeepers, and be able to forge successful working relationships with the Secretary/Manager, the Professional, and the members of the Club Management Committee.

In addition the individual should ideally possess:-

- NVQ Qualification to Level 4, or equivalent
- Experience at Manager or Deputy level of a true Links course
- Minimum of 7 years experience with at least 2 years in a senior position
- A proven ability to prepare and work within approved annual budgets.

No accommodation is available but the successful applicant will benefit from relocation assistance as part of the contract negotiations.

Please apply in writing no later than 29th February 2004 including a full CV and stating present salary and salary expectations to.

The Secretary/Manager, St Annes Old Links Golf Club,
Highbury Road East, St Annes on Sea, Lancashire, FY8 2LD

Area Sales Manager

South East England

The Scotts Company is the world's leader in lawn and garden consumer products, with a full range of products for the professional turf, amenity and horticulture markets. We are currently seeking an Area Sales Manager to take responsibility for the Professional Turf and Amenity business in South East England, to maximise the sales effort for acceptance and growth of Scotts' products.

The responsibilities of this role include managing all accounts and prospects in the area in order to achieve increased market share, strengthening relationships and the understanding of customers' requirements in order to achieve or improve upon agreed Company sales and profit targets. The successful candidate will have the ability to develop sales promotions and present to groups of end users and distributors, as well as representing the Company at trade shows, seminars etc. in order to strengthen the Company's offering.

Proven success in a sales role is essential, along with the self-motivation and initiative needed to achieve individual and Company goals. The ideal candidate will also have industry related sales experience and a recognised qualification eg. BASIS, or other evidence of technical understanding of the nature of the product range.

The position offers an attractive basic salary and incentive scheme package, along with a company car, an occupational pension scheme, subsidised medical insurance and 26 days' paid leave.

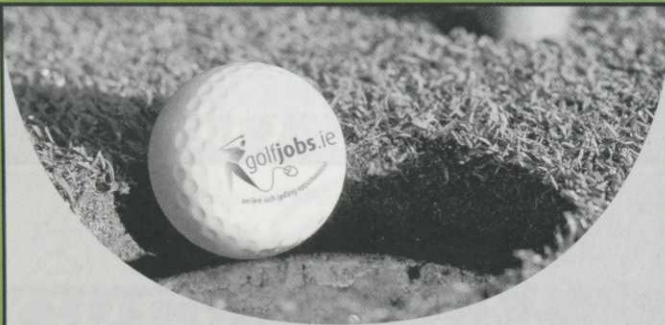
To apply for this position, please send your CV and covering letter to Carol Terry, Human Resources Manager, The Scotts Company (UK) Limited, Salisbury House, Weyside Park, Catteshall Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1XE or e-mail carol.terry@scotts.com

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HICKLETON GOLF CLUB

(Founded 1909)

Requires a

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Located just off the A635 between Doncaster and Barnsley Hickleton Golf Club is an 18 hole undulating parkland course designed by Neil Coles and Brian Hugget with a growing reputation as one of the best courses in the South Yorkshire region. It is a private members club, which is renowned for its friendly atmosphere that can be enjoyed in the fantastic new clubhouse.

This is a great opportunity for a committed enthusiastic and motivated green keeper to join our existing team as we strive to continually improve the Golf Course and further enhance its reputation.

All applicants must be qualified to NVQ3 with Pa1, 2 and 6 spraying certificates and experience in maintaining golf course machinery and irrigation systems would be an advantage. The successful applicant must have knowledge of Health and Safety Legislation and be able to motivate other members of the team. Further training will be provided and encouraged.

Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.
Job Descriptions and Personnel Specifications are available by contacting the Golf Club Manager.

Written applications with full CV by 12th March 2004 to:

John Little Golf Club Manager, Hickleton Golf Club,
Lidgett Lane, Hickleton, Doncaster DN5 7BE. Tel 01709 896081.

LEICO GOLF SRL

**Vorbiti Româneste or indeed,
are you looking for a new challenge?**

LEICo Golf is planning to build and operate the first 18 hole golf course in Romania close to the capital, Bucharest.

LEICo Golf has an opening for a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

for this facility and we wish the chosen candidate to be present during the construction phase which is planned to commence in 2nd quarter 2004.

The responsibilities will include supervision of some of the construction activities, overseeing the grow-in period and recruitment and training of local staff, as well as on-going management of the golf course, practice facilities and turf nursery.

The climate in Bucharest is continental with hot summers (mean max.30 deg. C) and snow covered winters (mean min. -7 deg. C), with average rainfall of 50mm.

Golf has not yet become a widely developed sport in the country and so this venture is very much in the pioneering spirit. If you have experience managing this type of golf course, are qualified and wish to be considered for this position, please send your curriculum vitae together with details of your present remuneration package to patrick.fossett@leico.lu

We are looking to recruit a motivated and flexible individual into the following full-time position:



Lingfield Park incorporates the seven-day operation of Golf Course, Racecourse, and Leisure Club set in 570 acres of beautiful Surrey countryside.

GREENKEEPER

As part of the team at Lingfield Park Golf Club you will be responsible for contributing to the maintenance of this beautiful parkland course and surrounding grounds. Minimum NVQ level 2, plus spraying qualifications PA1, 2a & 6 essential, preferably with a Golf Course background, you will be a committed team player with a focus on service to our members through high quality presentation, and an understanding of health and safety.

Excellent promotion & training and opportunities exist for the right candidate.

Lingfield Park is an equal opportunities employer

Please apply before 27th February to:

Anne Harwood, Human Resources Manager,
Lingfield Park, Racecourse Road, Surrey RH7 6PQ
Telephone: 01342 833052/07968 480459
aharwood@lingfieldpark.co.uk

Recruitment

NORTH OXFORD GOLF CLUB

Require a

QUALIFIED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Minimum 2 years Greenkeeping Experience.

Applicants should be qualified to NVQ Level 2

Ongoing training will be provided. - Salary negotiable.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary, North Oxford Golf Club,
Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 8EZ

THORPENESS HOTEL & GOLF CLUB

Require a

DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

We are looking for an enthusiastic greenkeeper with a passion for course presentation. Thorpeness is a James Braid heathland course built in 1922.

Must be able to deputise for the Course Manager in all aspects of the job, and help take Thorpeness to the next level.

Closing date for applications is 28th February 2004.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

Ian Willett, Course Manager, Thorpeness Hotel & Golf Club,
Lakeside Avenue, Thorpeness, Suffolk, IP16 4NH
or e-mail charlie@thorpeness.co.uk

ROEHAMPTON CLUB

Require an

ASSISTANT 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 complex, gymnasium, 5 squash courts and extensive gardens.

We are looking for an assistant greenkeeper to work within a team of 6+ mechanic and Head Greenkeeper. Ideally the successful candidate will be a golfer and qualified to NVQ 2 and have golf course experience, spraying certificates advantageous.

Single accommodation may be available.

Please apply with CV by 5th March to:

Anthony Freeman, Course & Grounds Manager, Roehampton Club,
Roehampton Lane, Roehampton, London SW15 5LR

TRAFFORD COMMUNITY LEISURE TRUST ALTRINCHAM GOLF CLUB

HEAD GREENKEEPER

18 hole Municipal golf course.

The suitable applicant will be qualified and experienced with the following:-

- NVQ level 2/3
- Minimum of 3 years greenkeeper experience
- A good working knowledge of health and safety.
- Enthusiastic and committed.

Will report to the Course Manager.

Please send CV to:

Scott Partington, Altrincham Golf Club, Stockport Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 7LP
or email scott.partington@tclt.co.uk

For further information contact Scott Partington on 0161 9280761

ROWLANDS CASTLE GOLF CLUB

Requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants must be qualified to NVQ Level 2.

Accommodation not provided.

Applications/CV's to:

The Secretary/Manager, Rowlands Castle Golf Club, 31 Links Lane,
Rowlands Castle, Hants PO9 6AE

UPMINSTER GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for a

QUALIFIED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Upminster Golf Club has an immediate vacancy for a qualified assistant greenkeeper to join the existing team at this well renowned Club situated on the outskirts of Essex.

Applicants should preferably be qualified to NVQ Level 2. Ongoing training will be provided. Excellent opportunity for a determined, career-minded person. Mechanical knowledge an advantage. Salary according to experience.

Closing date for applications 29th February 2004.

Applications in writing with full CV:

Geoff Scott Secretary/Manager, Upminster Golf Club Ltd,
114 Hall Lane, Upminster, Essex, RM14 1AU



SUNNINGDALE GOLF CLUB

GREENKEEPER

In 2004 the Club will be staging the Weetabix Women's Open Championship and the European Qualifying event for the Open Championship.

We are looking for an experienced greenkeeper to join the existing team.

The successful applicant should be qualified to NVQ Level 2.

The position offers an excellent opportunity for a career minded person with first class conditions and a competitive salary.

Single accommodation available.

Applications in writing with full CV including current salary to: Mr J A S Zuill, Secretary,
Sunningdale Golf Club, Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire, SL5 9RR



WELWYN GARDEN CITY GOLF CLUB

Invite applications for the position of

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We are seeking an experienced, enthusiastic, reliable, self motivated individual to join our successful team.

Applicants must be qualified to NVQ 2 with a minimum of 2-3 years work experience

An interest in golf would be an advantage.

Good rates of pay.

Applications with C.V. to:

Brett Cox, Course Manager, W.G.C. Golf Club,
Mannicotts, High Oaks Road, W.G.C. AL8 7BP

Feature listing from February 2002

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

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

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

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

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

July 2002; Open preview; Turf; Steve Isacss;
Emissions; Grinding; Rotary Mowers;
BTME preview; Sandy McDivot

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

January 2004; Ipswich GC Profile;
Grass Seed; Environment Competition Awards;
Utility Vehicles



A Whole New Challenge

When George Brown gave me one of the biggest frights of my life and asked me to be his Vice Chairman back in September 2002 he failed to tell me that one of my duties, on succeeding him as Chairman, would be to write a monthly column for this magazine.

Amazingly I always thought that Scott did the clever bit and the Chairman simply approved his journalistic brilliance – not so! You will then (I hope) bear with me while I find my feet with this new challenge.

For those of you who visited BTME & ClubHouse I hope you enjoyed the experience, and some of the new additions to the conference and exhibition. The whole team from HQ worked tirelessly to ensure a hugely successful event.

With Harrogate now just a week behind us, the first snow is falling at Carden as I write this column although, by the time you read it, I will be in the middle of a visit to the GCSAA Conference & Show in San Diego. Over the last few years BIGGA, and in particular many past Chairmen, have formed close friendships with both GCSAA and its members and I look forward to once again promoting BIGGA and progressing the close working relationship that we enjoy.

Each Association has much to offer the other, and in a world where isolation from others quickly leads to extinction, it is more important than ever to find common ground with allied associations, in order to promote the image and standing of all Greenkeepers.

Of course it won't be all work. However, whether I can keep up with the pace set by George remains to be seen. It would be remiss of me not to thank George and Brenda, on behalf of the members, for their fantastic contribution to the Association, and for the dignified way in which George has led the Association, through a difficult period.

As you will all be aware, our Executive Director, Neil Thomas, is suffering with a serious illness and our thoughts are with him, his wife, Elaine, and their family. During BTME, Elaine was able to join us for some of the social functions, and it was a great pleasure to be in the company of such a courageous lady.

In Neil's absence the Association has been managed in an admirable manner by John Pemberton assisted by an able and committed team. Together with a forward thinking Board of Management and a solid foundation laid by Neil and past Board members, there is every reason to look forward to a bright future.



The key ingredient however to that future is you, the member. Without your commitment to the cause, your support and your views – both positive and negative – aired honestly, the aims of the Association cannot be achieved. This is, and always will be, an all inclusive body of professionals, and your input will strengthen it beyond that which any Chairman can. We owe it the past efforts of others and to the future Greenkeepers to ensure its continued progress.

During the coming year I believe you will see much of the work carried out by the Board and the Futures Subcommittee come to fruition. These initiatives should bring about positive movement in the understanding of our role in modern Golf Club management by others, as well as a clearer career structure and training provision for those in the early stages of their careers.

As with most aspects of life in the 21st century there are many challenges ahead, some good, some bad.

My personal view on life has always been to meet them head on and, wherever possible, to gain something positive, even from the bad times.

I also believe that if we share the responsibility with others, and support one another, then our chances of individual and collective success, are heightened. During the year I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible and hope that you feel able to speak freely about Association matters. We may not always be able to action your view but rest assured it will always be listened to.

In closing, may I wish you all every success for the coming season – I am extremely grateful for, and proud of, the opportunity to represent you and will do so to the best of my ability.

Andy Campbell
Chairman



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A big hello from some of the great looking staff who attended this years BTME show in Harrogate

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Krysta Diaz, The BAT Cave, Unit 22 Cosgrove Way, Luton. LU1 1XL



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That's why Chipco Green is still the most established and widely used fungicide in the UK.

And even though it's not called Rovral any more, it's still the No. 1 in disease control.



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