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# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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Board Members  
Ian Semple  
Paul Jenkins  
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Iain Macleod  
Bert Cross

Executive Director: Neil Thomas  
Email: neil@bigga.co.uk

Deputy Executive Director: John Pemberton  
Email: john@bigga.co.uk

Communications Manager/Editor: Scott MacCallum  
Email: scott@bigga.co.uk

Sales Manager: Rosie Hancher  
Email: rosie@bigga.co.uk

Education & Training Manager: Ken Richardson  
Email: ken@bigga.co.uk

Membership Services Officer: Rachael Palmer  
Email: rachael\_p@bigga.co.uk

## Contact us

You can contact The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association in any number of ways:

Post: BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark,  
Aline, York, YO61 1UF

Email: reception@bigga.co.uk

Internet: www.bigga.org.uk

Tel: 01347 833800

Fax: 01347 833801



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

### Editorial

Communications Manager/Editor: Scott MacCallum  
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801  
Email: scott@bigga.co.uk

### Advertising

Sales Manager: Rosie Hancher  
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802  
Email: rosie@bigga.co.uk

Advertising Sales Executive: Cheryl Broomhead  
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802  
Email: cheryl@bigga.co.uk / sales@bigga.co.uk

Sales Administrator: Katie Davies  
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802  
Email: katie@bigga.co.uk / sales@bigga.co.uk

### Design

Design and Production Editor: Marie Whyld  
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802  
ISDN: 01347 830020  
Email: marie@bigga.co.uk

### Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings,  
Manor Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH  
Tel: 01778 391000 Fax: 01778 394269

The advertising copy deadline for inclusion in the February 2004 edition of Greenkeeper International is Monday 26 January 2004

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Circulation is by subscription. Subscription rate: UK £42 per year, Europe and Eire £55. The magazine is also distributed to BIGGA members, golf clubs, local authorities, the turf industry, libraries and central government.

ISSN: 0961-6977

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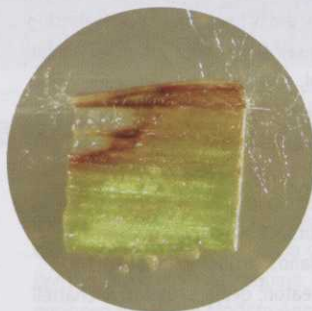
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## WIN

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Welcome

## WHAT IS IT ABOUT GOLF?

As I write the BBC are running a series of programmes in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of their Sports Personality of the Year Award with a view to identifying who is the Best of the Best.

Most sports are represented. Football by Bobby Moore, Paul Gascoigne, Michael Owen and David Beckham. Not, surprisingly, by George Best, who was beaten into second place by Princess Anne one year. Motor Racing has John Surtees, Stirling Moss, Jackie Stewart, Nigel Mansell (twice) and Damon Hill (twice). Athletics has more than any other, including reigning champ Paula Ratcliffe, David Hemery, Seb Coe, Steve Ovett, Liz McColgan, Daley Thompson, Linford Christie, Steve Cram and Jonathan Edwards among others. Cricket has Jim Laker, David Steele and Ian Botham. Boxing is represented by Henry Cooper (twice), Barry McGuigan and Lennox Lewis. Tennis has Ann Jones, Virginia Wade and Greg Rusedski. Even skating has John Curry, Robin Cousins and Torvill and Dean.

The point I'm getting at is that golf is very poorly represented. In 49 years golf has only had two winners, Welshman, Dai Rees in 1957 and Nick Faldo in 1989. Now bearing in mind that golf is a truly global game and is one of Britain's most successful sports, with players consistently in the world's top ten, not to have won more than Henry Cooper, a European but never World Champion, on his own is quite bizarre. Not only that, it's fewer than tennis, in which Britain have more often than not been a laughing stock, and fewer than figure skating. I'll repeat that. Figure Skating! It's shameful.

Tony Jacklin won The Open in '69 and the US Open in '70, and was the best in the world for a short time but in '69 Ann Jones won it and in '70, Henry Cooper. Sandy Lyle won The Open, the first Brit since Jacklin, in '85 and became the first Brit ever to win The Masters in '88, but in those two years it went to Barry McGuigan and Steve Davis.

For one reason or another golf doesn't catch the public's imagination. Class ridden; sexist; harmful to the environment; a prime candidate for the fashion police are all charges laid at the door of the Royal and Ancient game but much of it is down to false public perception and dare I say, lazy journalism.

I was listening to Radio Five Live a couple of weeks ago and the game was again coming in for a hammering. They had a woman from the Campaign to Protect Rural England and gleefully loaded the gun for her. The pro golf side of the argument was heavily weighted against. It's the same with the "Mickey Mouse" educational courses for which golf also takes a pelting.

A positive message must be put about or eventually we'll be forced to form support groups, along the lines of Golfers' Anonymous, to ease our way through life.

"My name is Scott MacCallum and I am a golfer."

Scott MacCallum, Editor

## EX-GREENKEEPERS JOIN HEADLAND

James Watson and Steve Crosdale, both former greenkeepers with a total of 24 years experience in the industry behind them, join Headland Amenity as Regional Technical Managers.

James has responsibility for South East England, including South London, Surrey, Sussex and Kent, while Steve Crosdale takes East Anglia and North London including Essex, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.



▲ James Watson

Andy Russell, Headland's Sales and Marketing Director said that the creation of these two new posts is indicative of the way the company is growing. "We've never had full time regional managers in these areas and we need to give more support to our distributors on the ground. James and Steve will be responsible for sales and technical support to both end user customers and distributors."

Steve, a practising greenkeeper for the last 10 years, has always been interested in the technical

side of the business, as well as the practical.

"This position provides the ideal opportunity to concentrate on this area and help customers achieve the best possible results from a technical perspective," he said.

James, whose father retired as a Course Manager in December, and who practised the profession himself for 14 years before moving into sales a year ago, says that he needed a new challenge but wanted something where he could use his experience built up on golf courses around Europe.

"This way I could take a leap of faith but I didn't have to leap too far," he explains. "I'm familiar with quite a lot of Headland's products, having used them myself in the past, and I like the fact that we are a flexible, forward thinking company that can respond rapidly to customer needs."



▲ Steve Crosdale

## TURNER GROUNDCARE OPENS NEW MIDLANDS DEALERSHIP

Turner Groundscare is to open a new dealership in the Midlands to sell and service John Deere's full line of professional, golf & turf and domestic equipment, including 5010 Series utility tractors.

This follows E T Breakwell's recent announcement that it will be closing down its groundscare dealership in Solihull in the New Year. The new Turner's branch will cover Staffordshire and the West Midlands, including Birmingham, Coventry and Nuneaton; dealers Henton & Chattell and Parks & Grounds Machinery will now take on the whole of Leicestershire and the Rugby area respectively, in addition to their existing sales areas.

This will be Turner Groundscare's fourth John Deere commercial & consumer equipment (C&CE) dealership, joining branches in Bedfordshire,

Buckinghamshire and Cheshire. The first was established 10 years ago in Tarvin, near Chester.

Initially six staff, including Breakwell's salesmen Kevin Wise and Robert Page, will be based at the new branch. This will operate alongside the established Mitchell Diesel Group engines business Central Diesel at Erdington Industrial Park, off the Chester Road in Birmingham.

Temporary sales and service support will also be provided from the Turner Groundscare branches at Tarvin and Bledlow until the new business is completely operational on April 1. Plans for development of the premises include a new showroom for domestic equipment, as well as dedicated parts and service departments and workshop facilities.



Joedy Ibbotson, John Deere Territory Manager (Left) ▲ greets Brian Spruce, of Turner Groundscare

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

## MASTERLY

The third annual EGU Greenkeeping Master Class last month gave the 90 delegates an ideal opportunity to feed their minds as well as see the superb set-up at Woodhall Spa, both on and off the golf courses.

The programme, chaired by Colin Spurr, Chairman of the EGU Golf Services Committee, and organised by Neil Cockbill, started with a paper from Steve Isaac, Secretary of the R&A Golf Course Committee, on the European Perspective on Pesticide Regulations.

Steve was followed by Stella Rixon, of the STRI, who gave an update on the Institutes' research into biologicals.

Management and Communications was next on the agenda with an "interactive" presentation involving the delegates hosted by Kerran Daly, Courses Manager at Gog Magog Golf Club and Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager, at Potters Bar GC.

The evening saw a superb dinner, hosted by the EGU, with the guest speaker, Eddie Seaward, Head

Groundsman of the All England Lawn Tennis Club, who gave a speech which contained real moments of hilarity but didn't disguise the fact that his job is one of the more pressurised and stressful in the fine turf industry.

The second day was kicked off by Andy Newell, Head of Turfgrass Biology at the STRI, who gave two statistically based papers, looking at Grasses for Golf and which variety is best suited to each time of the year.

He was followed by Andy Cole, Senior Agronomist at PSD Agronomy, who gave a very interesting paper on green speed. Andy revealed that in the 1970's the average greenspeed in the USA was between 5' 6" and 7' 6".

Last up was Tim Earley, Managing Director of Waste2 Water Europe Ltd, who highlighted the dangers of falling foul to recently introduced regulations relating to wash off water pollution and demonstrated the benefits of his product on Peter Wisbey's recently installed Woodhall Spa unit.



## SCOTTISH MODERN APPRENTICE AWARDS

Three Greenkeepers from across Scotland were among the six finalists in the recent 'Scottish Land-based Modern Apprentice of the Year Awards 2003'.

Kevin Jackson, a greenkeeper at Troon Municipal Golf Course took second place, receiving a special achievement award in recognition of his commitment and positive attitude to learning.

George Mitchell, of Newmacher Golf Club, and Fraser Cochrane, of St Andrews Bay Golf Club and Resort, also received certificates of achievement at the evening award ceremony hosted by Lantra, the Sector Skills Council for the Environmental and Land-based Sector.

Eligible candidates from across Scotland competed for the award, representing a range of land-based industries including greenkeeping, floristry, agriculture and equine. The award is designed to reward Modern Apprentices in Scotland who have demonstrated a commitment to training, gained knowledge in a specialised land-based subject and supported others as part of their personal development.

Around 800 individuals are currently following a Modern Apprenticeship in the environmental and land-based sector in Scotland. Over 300 have completed since 2000.

## Royal Inverdivot GC...

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



## 75 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG

Next year STRI celebrates 75 years in the turfgrass industry. To mark this milestone the Institute is planning a programme of events which will run throughout 2004, starting with a celebration launch at the BTME and ClubHouse Show in Harrogate in January.



All four issues of the International Turfgrass Bulletin magazine, along with the STRI's website, will carry special features highlighting the key developments and major achievements in the industry from 1929 to present times, alongside the regular editorial.

The October Bulletin will be increased in size to act as a commemorative record for the 75th Anniversary. Over the years STRI's unique position has enabled close ties to be formed with many eminent individuals and organisations throughout the turfgrass world. They will be inviting editorial from some of these key players for inclusion in this issue, to reflect the past and future of the sportsturf and amenity sectors worldwide.

To coincide with the publication of this commemorative edition, the STRI are also holding it's official celebrations in October around our 'Open Day' on Wednesday 6th, followed by a dinner in the evening.

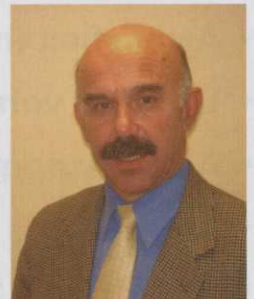
A special logo has been created to mark the event, which will appear on all literature over the next 12 months.

## ACQUISITION FOR AITKENS

Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd has acquired R.E. Rushbrook and Son.

Rushbrooks have been trading in Bramford, Suffolk since 1912. Aitkens Sportsturf Ltd purchased this family business in November.

Colin Rushbrook will continue in his present role, as Technical Sales representative for Aitkens Sportsturf. Aitkens are taking the opportunity to increase their coverage of the UK and to continue Rushbrooks level of service along with increasing the range of quality products available to the customer. Aitkens and their partnership in Avoncrop Amenity Ltd now mean that they have national coverage of the UK mainland.





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

**Chemical Prices**

I wonder if any other Golf courses have had a similar experience to us in respect of chemical prices? We have recently paid £750.00 to treat one hectare of greens for fusarium. When I was farming I would have expected to pay this amount to treat 25 hectares of beans! I understand that the public have access and have to be protected but chemicals on feed crops could be a potential threat. Through your columns I would be interested to learn why there is this difference between us and farmers and don't forget we don't get subsidies. We have to earn our money

Thank you for your help in this matter.

John H. Button

**Appeal for Stories**

I am currently editing a portion of a national golf magazine, and need some help collating information. One section to be featured every month (to take up about half an A4 page in the mag) will be entitled "It shouldn't happen to a Greenkeeper". I know every one of you out there has an amusing story about something that has happened in your working life (have you ever driven a fairway machine into a pond, or played a hysterical but unfair prank on the new apprentice, for example), and I would be very appreciative if you would write and tell me about it.

I will, of course, give credit to the sender when their efforts are printed.

Please send all stories to: Simon Freeman, 25 Mansefield Road, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay, PA42 7AN, or email: [sifreeman007@hotmail.com](mailto:sifreeman007@hotmail.com)

**Double Summer Time**

The Golf Services Committee of the EGU is proposing to launch a campaign for the introduction of Double Summer Time to Britain. Before we do, however, we wish to consult, as there may be implications for greenkeepers that we have not identified. We are obviously aware that this not something that golf alone will achieve, but before wider support is sought it is important that all of golf is in favour.

The proposal is to move the clocks forward two hours in the spring (rather than one) and two hours back again in the autumn. (It is also likely that the clocks will have to go back a few weeks earlier in October in order to avoid unacceptably dark mornings.) The benefits to golf are an extended period of time in the spring and summer months when it will be possible to play a full 18 holes after normal working hours and the corresponding extra revenues from green fees and food and beverage. A number of other sports will also benefit from this and it is perceived that it will generally improve the quality of life for the population during spring and summer.

History\* shows that the previous attempts to move to double summer time have been included in a move away from GMT altogether. The consequences of this are dark mornings in the winter, particularly in the north of England and Scotland.

Hence most of the objections came from sectors of workers who traditionally start work in the early hours - construction, postal, refuse, agriculture and the Scottish population were generally against because of the dark mornings. In favour were a wide range of organisations from the Police and Medical Authorities to the RHS and Sports Councils. There was much debate over the effect on road fatalities, particularly involving children going to and from school, which was inconclusive.

Our proposal for Double Summer Time leaves the winter months as they are and therefore the majority of objections raised last time should not apply.

We hope you will be able to lend your support to this initiative and look forward to receiving your response at the earliest opportunity.

Neil Cockbill, Golf Services Secretary, National Golf Centre, EGU, Woodhall Spa, Lincs

\*British Time (Extra Daylight) Bill (1995/96), Research Paper 96/4, 15 January 1996

**Many Thanks**

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Andy Brown, Peter Mansfield and all of BIGGA staff for the fantastic experience and the warm welcome I had in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year final at Aldwark Manor. To be there with the other seven finalists was an experience itself and we all had a great time with a good atmosphere around us. I hope to see you all soon, and all the best for the future.

I also would like to say thank you to my tutor Graham Wright, from Welsh College of Horticulture, and Steve Jones, my Course Manager, for the support and encouragement that led me to the final.

Again I want to congratulate Keith for the Award, and I hope you will have a blinding experience in America, all the best!

Dylan Hughes, Greenkeeper, Pwllheli Golf Club

**A Bit Out of Order**

Though I have been retired over 12 years I do feel that the Royal Inverdivot Golf Club cartoon in the December magazine was a bit out of order.

The early 70's came to mind. When I was at Bromborough GC, the steward, putting me up, said, "Jim, when you go on holiday, or even if you feel ill, you organise everything and complete it, ie fertilising, spraying, machines and even give the answers when the Chairman of Green tries to take over. Leaving the job is chaos."

James Rimmer, Retired Member, Wallasey



&

ClubHouse

# CONTINUE TO LEARN

19-22 JANUARY 2004

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Ken Richardson looks forward to the New Year of Education and Training that starts with Continue to Learn at Harrogate later this month.

## Continue to Learn

Continue to Learn at Harrogate this month when the National Education Conference and Workshop Programme, presented in association with the GTC, take place prior to the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibitions.

There are still places left on the National Education Conference, which is supported by the John Deere Team Championship, that takes place on 19 and 20 January in Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre, when a range of speakers from the United Kingdom and the United States look at how the game of golf and the business of golf are inseparable. Moreover, they will show how both have an impact on golf course management.

Three one-day Workshops also supported by the John Deere Team Championship will take place in the Moat House Hotel on Monday 19 January. They are:

### 1. Water On the Golf Course presented by Dennis Mortram.

This Workshop explores water resources, evaluating the need for water and justifying its future need.

A must for all those wanting to see how they can minimise the effects of dry weather in a time of scarcer water resources.

### 2. Real Influencing Skills presented by David Bancroft-Turner

Anyone attending David Bancroft Turner's talk at the 2003 Conference will know that he has some innovative ways of presenting his slant on people management.

Find out how a knowledge of organisational politics can help you to create effective working relationships.

### 3. Health and Safety presented by Jerrard Winter

What can you do to make your golf club safer? Where do you start? What must I do?

Find out the answers to these and many more questions by attending this Workshop.

## BTME & ClubHouse Seminars

Please remember that the BTME & ClubHouse Seminars begin at 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday 20 January 2004 also in Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre. The first afternoon of Seminars looks at Golf Club Design, Development and Redevelopment. Aimed at golf club managers, this Seminar will cover the Financial Potential of Golf Facilities, Clubhouse Food and Beverage Operations, Refurbishing Locker and Changing Rooms, Constructing a New Clubhouse and Where to Start with a New Project. Completely free to all delegates, please check in at the Seminar Registration Desk on Stand Q8.

Wednesday morning of BTME & ClubHouse always begins with the Presentation of BIGGA Awards. This year is no different and the presentation of the prizes for the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition will take place at 10.30 a.m. in Hall D. This will be followed by the Presentation of three new Master Greenkeeper Jackets.

BTME & Clubhouse Keynote Speakers have always proved to be popular, inspiring the audience with their comments on motivation, team building and endurance. This year's speaker, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, should prove to be equally inspiring. Alvin Law calls his talk 'No such word as Can't' and when you see and hear this highly inspirational speaker, it should encourage you to be more positive in your life. Entry is free to all delegates.

Seminars continue on Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 January when a variety of speakers will be giving short snappy talks on a variety of subjects.

Watch out for an extra talk at 4.15 p.m. on Wednesday 21 January when you can find out about the workings of the Futures sub-Committee. This talk will be presented in Hall D immediately prior to the BIGGA AGM.

Thursday 22 January begins with yet another opportunity for delegates to discover what might be going wrong on their course when 'The Turf Doctor' holds his surgery at 9.30 a.m. in Hall D. More Seminars follow throughout the day with the final talk taking place at 12.45.

Please remember, that although it is best to pre-book Seminars to reserve your place, you can always book on the day, assuming that Seminars are not full.

## Careers' Fair

BIGGA will be running a careers fair in Hall Q during BTME & ClubHouse. The Fair, which is sponsored by TORO, includes the Careers Clinic where you can get advice on writing your CV and letters of application plus learn how to really read job applications.

The Fair also includes information on careers including, Greenkeeping and Golf Course Management, Golf Club Management, Agronomy and Further and Higher Education. There will also be a job shop where you may find that next job.

## OnCourse

Many enlightened Golf Course Managers are seeing the benefits of using OnCourse, the Golf Course Management software package supplied by BIGGA. Why not see what it can do for you and your club by asking to see a demonstration during BTME & ClubHouse. If you decide to buy the package there and then, you can save £200 off the normal selling price of £800.

## Regional Training Courses

Members of BIGGA should have received their copy of the Spring Regional Training Programme in the December Edition of this magazine. Anyone wanting further copies should contact Sami at BIGGA House or on Stand Q8 at BTME & ClubHouse.

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Rachael and Gemma would like to welcome 53 new members to the Association and talk about the launch of the Privilege Platinum Card at BTME and ClubHouse.

Once again Gemma and I will be on the BIGGA stand at BTME and ClubHouse to answer all your queries regarding your membership. This year we are launching the Privilege Platinum Card as detailed in last month's magazine. The card allows you to get discounts in lots of your local shops and also National chains. Just ring the shopping helpline or log on to the website to find out where you can use your card. We will be issuing Privilege cards on the BIGGA stand (Q128) so if you have not received yours already then make sure you pay us a visit. We have negotiated lots of discounts in Harrogate especially for BTME and ClubHouse which should save you the money you pay for your subscription in this week alone.

**Offers available on Production of your Privilege Platinum Card during BTME and ClubHouse**

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Bed Restaurant	10% off Food
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Damn Yankee	Buy one meal get one free between 12pm and 2pm
HG1 Bar and Brasserie	10% off Food and Wine
Jinnah Restaurant	10% off Food
Salsa Posada	Free Shot of Tequila with Meal
Biscaya Bay	Free Glass of Wine with Meal
Casa Romana	Free Bottle of House Wine on bookings of 6 or more
Loch Fyne	Free glass of Wine plus special price 2 course meal £9.95 between 12pm and 7pm
Horoscope	Discounts on group bookings



**Don't forget to collect your card from the BIGGA stand Q128**

**BIGGA welcomes...**

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Kevin Burns, West  
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Jamie Lamb, East  
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Christopher Mailley, North  
Mark Main, North  
William Matheson, North  
Jonathan Pendry, Central  
James Shepherd, North

**NORTHERN REGION**

Carl Caffrey, North West  
Richard Gill, North West  
Owen Jones, North Wales  
Warwick Manning, Sheffield  
Andrew Nixon, North West  
Richard Turner, North West  
Robert Turner, Sheffield  
Dean Wood, North West

**MIDLAND REGION**

Haydn Drinkwater, Mid Anglia  
Michael Gould, Mid Anglia  
Clive Jones, Midland  
Nicholas Thorley, Midland  
Richard Wakefield, Midland

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Austin James, Essex

**SOUTH WEST/SOUTH WALES**

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Malcolm Howell, South Coast  
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Randy Scott, Canada

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David Byrne, Ireland  
Mark Donkin, Essex  
Robert Finnegan, Central  
Scotland  
Gudgeir Jonsson, Austria  
Martyn Snell, East of England

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Gordon Nimmo, Central  
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Peter Bridgewater, Midland  
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Mick Hall, Northern  
Adrian Handbury, Midland  
Paul Harborne, Midland  
Jonathan Hill, Kent  
Iain Marsden, London

**JANUARY'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 John Wheeler from Mottram Hall Hotel 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](http://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 January's winner, Leslie Howkins from Cleethorpes Golf Club whose message was posted on the 2nd December under the 'Talking Shop' section.



**ACTIVITY DAY WINNER**

For the past year we have been holding an Activity Day prize draw for those of you who returned your renewal form before your membership expired.

Our final winner is Andrew Marsh from Dudsbury Golf Club who has a choice of at least 20 activities to choose from. Congratulations Andrew.



# The Total Exhibition Experience

With BTME & ClubHouse on the Horizon it's worth taking a look at how to get the most out of this buying and selling opportunity. Pauline Thompson takes a look from both perspectives, the exhibitors who are selling and the visitors who are buying.

## THE EXHIBITOR

Exhibitions should, if done well, include many different aspects of sales and marketing. It's a culmination of PR, advertising, promotion, presentation, selling, and interpersonal communication skills. It can be difficult to put all of these aspects of exhibiting together and make them work. However, having a clear objective about what you are trying to achieve, and knowing what your customers want from you when they visit your stand is a good place to start.

An exhibitor needs to make sure he or she gets a return on the investment. Along with the cost of the stand rental there are stand design costs, construction, show services and transportation. As well as the obvious exhibiting costs, an astute exhibitor will also have the added cost of pre-show and on-site advertising, telemarketing, direct mailings, training and of course post-show follow-up.

Exhibitors work very hard and spend a lot of time, effort and money in choosing, buying and planning their stand space in order to attract prospective and current customers. The main reasons for deciding to exhibit are to take orders; launch new products; to convert prospective customers into new accounts; to wave the flag and say "here we are"; to check out the competition and to entertain important clients.

It is important to remember that customers buy from people, not stands. It doesn't matter how good the stand design, if the interaction between people is less than professional or the post-show follow-up is inefficient, it may just be a missed opportunity, or it could harm a reputation and credibility.

## THE VISITOR

In the same way that an exhibitor needs to be clear about his objectives, the visitor must be clear in his own mind about what he is trying to achieve in order to get the most value from his time at the exhibition. BTME & ClubHouse lasts for three days and comes round once a year. Having recognised the perfect opportunity to compare a wide range of existing and potential suppliers the visitor must maximise his time in order to gain the benefits on offer.

There is a lot to do whether it's finding alternative or additional suppliers, selecting products, placing orders, or investigating a new opportunity. All this plus networking and gathering market intelligence will keep the visitor very busy. Planning is the key to a successful visit, otherwise the people may not be available and time could run out. If more than one project is to be achieved it can be beneficial to concentrate on one project at a time and spread appointments over two or three days.

It is vital to make the best use of time and take into account travelling time, registration, obtaining a catalogue and finding a way through the halls, half a day can disappear before any business has been done. Serious discussions at the end of the day may be difficult as, not surprisingly, both exhibitor and visitor have had a long day. However, while the exhibition is open, there will always be a sales person available.

Visitors can easily become overloaded with catalogues, price lists and brochures. Make use of the carrier bags given out at the show, and, by travelling light, the visitor can collect business cards, and make notes to accompany them. The amount of information gathered during the course of a full day can be astronomical. It is always a good idea to summarise the key points at the end of each day in order to reap the benefits of the exhibition.

Sales people have an enthusiasm for their products and services that enables them to talk at great lengths about why the customer should do business with their company. A useful skill is being able to close a conversation when it has become unproductive without being rude, or causing offence.

Networking opportunities which take place in the hotels and bars between show days can be invaluable. Many stories filter back about how a good time was had by all. However, a fine balance must be achieved in order for the following day not to become a total write-off.

BTME & ClubHouse is a major event at the start of every season, with careful planning, exhibitors and visitors will be enabled to measure how successful their attendance has been.

**Pauline Thompson is the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibition organiser and can be contacted at BIGGA HOUSE Tel: 01347 833800**



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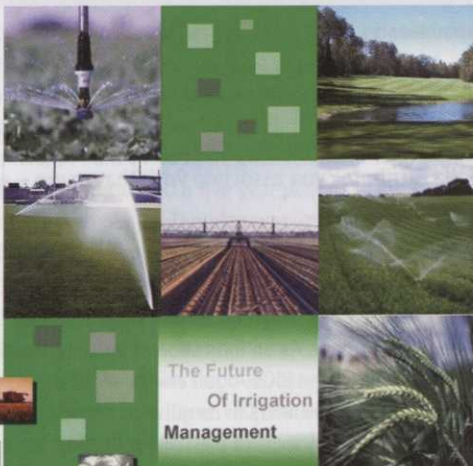
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# Course Feature

## In Safe Hands

Scott MacCallum travelled to Suffolk to visit Purdis Heath, a club which does more than most to look after the land in its care.



▲ The bunkers are a fine example of the combined work of the greenkeeping and conservation teams

Ipswich Golf Club, also known as Purdis Heath, is one of those excellent golf clubs which, once seen, you think, "If I lived around here, I'd love to be a member of that place". A James Braid designed heathland course with all the attributes you associate with that genre – attractive, natural surroundings, a well appointed clubhouse and everything run with friendly efficiency.

But the thing about Purdis which marks it out from every other golf club in the country, and demonstrates an approach to the custodianship of the land in their care which is exceptional, is the fact that Neil Sherman and Mike Dickens, two of Course Manager Norman Fenwick's highly motivated team of eight, are qualified conservation officers. There are some who feel that this is an extravagance and sheer indulgence on the part of the golf club, but Norman Fenwick uses the resources which Neil and Mike bring to great effect. After all, many clubs employ mechanics for their specialist knowledge!

Purdis Heath carries out a total area programme which embraces all aspects of the club's land. Norman, who has been at the club for just over four years, feels that programmes for turf quality and conservation overlap so much that there is not a dividing line between them.

As part of the successful team, General Manager, Neill Ellice and Chairman of Green, Brian Laws, both have significant input into the club's land management policy. As an indication of success, Purdis Heath is the only club to have won the BIGGA golf environment award twice – becoming the first ever winners in its guise as the Amazone Golf Environment Award in 1995, and then again in 2002.

The benefits are there to be seen with a huge variety of flora and fauna, including rare butterflies, birds, lizards, deer, foxes and a white squirrel who has made one area of the course home. The impetus for a more environmentally aware golf club came in the 1980's with a group of Committee members who fostered a real interest in the subject. One of them, Ron Squirrel, a Past Captain and President of the club, has a nature trail named after him.



▲ Back row: Brian Laws (Chairman Green), Graham Brumpton, David Barton (Deputy Course Manager), Neil Worger, Neill Ellice (General Manager). Front row: Neil Sherman, Scott Thompson, Norman Fenwick (Course Manager), Adrian Goode, Mike Dickens

At that time, Neil Sherman became the first Conservation Officer, arriving initially as part of his Otley College work placement, and working one-day a week, then two. He became full time when Norman arrived as Course Manager and then, three years ago, Mike Dickens, who was a mature student also at Otley College, joined the staff, bringing the complement up to eight.

"Bringing in Mike as a second Conservation Officer was a bigger step than taking on Neil full time, but the work that we have done has proved the benefits of doing it," said Norman, who introduces a northerner's common sense approach to all that he does.

The key question, though, must be, "What does a Conservation Officer bring to the table that a greenkeeper with an interest in the environment doesn't?" It is one which Norman is well qualified to answer.

"The biggest benefit you get is the specialist knowledge. As greenkeepers, we would know what to do when it comes to woodland management, but Neil and Mike have the knowledge to do that and how to take it forward to the next stage. It is not just woodland management but looking after the whole site so that it enhances the golf course," said Norman.

The point is reinforced by Neil Sherman.

"You need to have the vision of what you want in an area and decide what will work and look appropriate. You have to plan ahead and, with heathland, that means looking at the soil and checking if it will be adequate for Heather or Gorse to grow," he said.

On Norman's arrival at Purdis Heath, he and Neil, with support from Neill Ellice and Brian Laws, produced a five year plan to cover all aspects of maintenance from greens to ponds. The plan was important as a means of identifying the full diversity of habitat within the boundaries of Purdis, which supports acid grassland, heath, dry woodland, wet woodland, fens, woodland trails, rides (vistas) reed beds and ponds. This plan is updated on an annual basis.

Another project undertaken on the site is an extensive nest box programme for both birds and bats. Over 120 bird boxes have been erected around the course with most occupied every year. The bat population around the club's lakes is very good, with the County's largest known colony of Noctule bats (Britain's biggest species) located at Purdis Heath.

One of the main thrusts when Norman arrived was to improve airflow and reduce shade problems by canopy raising and scrub clearance.

"This has had a massive impact on all playing surfaces."

An example of this was the work which was done on the beautiful par

3 15th in removing the rhododendrons which had encroached to within three feet of the putting surface. Removing them vastly improved the quality of the green which had previously been extremely damp. It has also exposed James Braid's original landscaped contours around this green and restored its original character.

Having spent 10 years at the club, Neil Sherman has seen some of the projects come to maturity and around the course there can now be seen stands of Heather and Gorse at differing heights and stages of growth.

"I know in my mind that it takes time but always with these projects you want them to happen quicker. It's a case of having the vision in my head as to what will happen, and then waiting."

The work has been aided by success in the Environment Competitions with two polytunnels purchased after the first win which are used to grow Gorse and Broom in one and Heather stocks in the other.

"We use our home grown Heather stocks in small areas, like mounds in the centre of bunkers, otherwise we'd use our plants up too quickly on large areas. On those bigger sites we use the natural seed bank and also brushing material – the clippings from heather which we've already got around the course. We mow areas of heather as part of our annual maintenance and the material collected is then reused on the golf course so there is no wastage at all," explained Neil Sherman.

They also employ trial plots out on the course to identify which techniques are best for each area.

"We have tried using grasses, plain brushings and sieved material to get purer seed to use. The technique that might work best is dependent upon the soil in a particular area and the climate as well, which means we don't always get much re-growth of heather straight away. You know the seed is in there and it will come when conditions are right," said Neil.

Purdis Heath is more than just a heathland golf course with areas of woodland and wetland as well, but each area is treated with the same amount of care by the team. The club owns a 250 acre site and, away from the playing surfaces, they use the additional land constructively.

"We've created a new path through the woodlands and around our lakes and wetlands and worked on a new section of woodland to create features for people to look at as they walk. Among these is an area of hazel coppice which is part of the historic management of the site. Traditionally, the hazel was used to create hurdles for purposes of screening around the old duck decoy pond in the centre of the woods," explained Neil.

Neill Ellice is a man who gives 100% support to the work of Norman, Neil Sherman and the team.



▲ The new nature trail gives ramblers a very pleasant new route

"The members are starting to see the benefits and have done so over the last year. These projects are not short term and the danger is that most golfers want a quick fix and instant results, and certainly it took some brave Committee decisions to go down the route we chose," said Neill.

"The important thing was that Norman was able to put his vision across to the Club Committee. Having been on The Committee myself eight years before becoming General Manager, I can remember years of arguments about an odd tree here and a bough there. Norman convinced the Committee that the long term vision was certainly worth trying to attain, and he was able to explain quite lucidly how to go about that."



▲ One of two polytunnels paid for out of the winnings of the first Environment competition

But as everyone knows, convincing the Committee doesn't mean the job is done.

"Once the Committee was on board, half the battle was won, the second half was taking the membership forward and this is where the education process has had to come in," added Neill.

With that in mind, the club has produced a range of different methods of getting information to the membership.

"We have course walks with Neil and Norman, open events at which members can, for example, come down and see the equipment they've seen out on the course, how it works and what it is used for. We keep them up-dated with a quarterly Newsletter which includes a question and answer session between Brian Laws, and Norman, in which they explain some of the complicated techniques which are used out on the course," said Neill.

Brian also reinforced the point.

"Getting the message across is still a bit of a slog and it is often only read by the people who know anyway, but we're no longer getting the comment 'What's it got to do with golf?' that we got on the early days," said Brian, who has been Chairman of Green for three years.

Norman also has strong views about the matter of getting the message across. "We're not confrontational when it comes to communication. We just talk about the issues, but one of the problems is that people get emotional about it instead of just looking at the facts. My biggest benefit is that I've actually done it, so I can say, if you do it this way, that will happen in two or three years time or, if you do it another way, this will happen. My main objective when I first moved here was to ensure that everything we did was sustainable," said Norman, who is delighted that he enjoys an excellent relationship with Neill and Brian.



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▲ This vista, overlooking the lake, has been opened up by the team

"The General Manager is pivotal because he has to field the awkward questions from members. If he doesn't like fielding such questions, perhaps because the answer isn't what the questioner want to hear, it can become difficult. Neill can answer those questions but another Secretary/General Manager might not be quite so strong and pressure can then be exerted on the Course Manager. That is when things can start to crumble a bit."

Norman has nothing but praise for the work of his team and feels that they are in a win win situation, as are the club members. "In the event that any of the conservation work did not produce 100% of the desired results, then the worst case scenario would be production of increased areas of acid grassland, while the shade, airflow and root invasion problems would also be improved," said Norman, with Neill and Brian nodding in agreement.

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▲ The Squirrel Trail named after Past Captain and President Ron Squirrel

# AN IRISHMAN ABROAD

It was February 2002, and I was studying at Elmwood College, when Mike Clark and Ian Butcher asked if I wanted to go to America to work on a golf course and gain more experience. Of course I was interested, and was put in touch with agronomist Bruce Jamieson, who explained to me about a practical and academic programme offered at the University of Minnesota. It was called the Minnesota Agricultural Student Training (MAST) programme.



▲ Work goes on at Hazeltine

The MAST programme was initially set up over 50 years ago to allow Swedish agricultural students to go to the USA and expand their knowledge in agricultural practices.

In 2001, the Toro Company, based in Minneapolis, through Helmut Ullrich and Barry Beckett, started an agronomy side of the programme, initially sponsoring two German students to work on a golf course and study at the University of Minnesota. The five students on my 2003 course were from England, Ireland, Germany and South Africa.

Bruce Jamieson helped facilitate my application and all arrangements and, fortunately, The Toro Company and the University of Minnesota accepted me as a participant in the MAST programme. So I applied for and got a J-1 work visa, which was processed within two weeks in Dublin.

So it was that I flew from Gatwick to Minneapolis on April 14, to embark upon such an exciting, if somewhat daunting, opportunity. Helmut and Barry met me in the USA, and accompanied me to the university campus for the MAST orientation session, which provided me with all the information I needed to live and work in the USA.

They told me I was to be placed at Midland Hills Country Club, located in St. Paul, the sister city to Minneapolis, and otherwise known in the USA as the Twin Cities area. Later, I met Course Superintendent Scott Austin, who introduced me to the other course staff and gave me a tour of the course and facilities. Scott had also made accommodation arrangements for me that were less than a mile from the course.

He asked what aspects of practical experience I felt I needed to improve upon, to maintain and run a successful golf course operation. He wanted to take time to make sure I would gain all the experience I could, and placed me

on every major project that occurred on the course. He also charged me with the responsibility of leading crew projects. After a couple of weeks in the USA I figured that owning a car was a must! I found a nice vehicle and settled in very well at Midland Hills, developing many friendships with the staff and members.

During the practical training period the university requires students to keep track of all aspects of their training and gives participants full monthly reports to keep both the University and students up to date. This is while also giving an opportunity to iron-out any problems that may occur during the training period. There is also lots of information to prepare students for the next academic programme, giving time to select classes for the spring term. There was a wide range of classes to choose from. I chose 'Turf grass Diseases', 'Economics' and 'Meteorology'.

Luckily for me, my time in the Twin Cities coincided with two major events held at nearby courses. The first was the PGA Championship at Hazeltine National, the other the Solheim Cup, at Interlachen Country Club. Both clubs have a lot of history when it comes to hosting high profile tournaments!

I attended both events. They taught me a lot about tournament preparation and the conditions needed for world-class events. Hazeltine National was hit with about six inches of rain on the Friday night of the tournament, which saw every bunker and low spot completely full of water. But I never saw water disappear so fast in the morning! I think every bunker pump in the Twin Cities was at Hazeltine that morning, along with the local fire department trucks that also helped with the pumping frenzy.

Amazingly, all was OK when the first paring stepped on to the tee on Saturday morning!

Following Christmas back in Ireland, I returned to the University of Minnesota. The classes were very interesting and the professors covered the subjects in great detail. The Turf Grass Diseases class was extremely interesting and included a lot of reading and taking part in practical laboratory assignments.

The University has a large agricultural and horticultural department with many valuable reference materials. All participants may work a maximum of 20 hours a week to earn spending money, and I continued to work at Midland Hills through the winter. This in itself was a unique experience – as it rarely rises above minus 15 degrees C in the winter!

On one day in particular, I think the thermometer in my car read minus 27 degrees C as I drove to work! A unique experience, but well worth it.

There is so much to do in the Twin Cities during winter. It gets really cold but people just get on with it. You can walk around downtown Minneapolis and actually never have to go outside, as there are structures called skyways that weave overhead through all of the buildings. It really is amazing architecture. In fact, Minneapolis has the world's largest network of overhead skyways.

The academic programme lasted five months and finished with final exams in mid-May. At that time, I bade farewell to Minneapolis/St. Paul and set off for the world-famous Baltusrol Golf Club in the state of New Jersey.

Morgan O'Sullivan reports on his American adventure which saw him working at some of America's best known golf courses

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▲ A spectacular view of Hazeltine



▲ A finely built stone bridge

Baltusrol impressed me immediately. I had read a lot about it in various magazines and it wasn't a let-down. Being mid-May, the season was just getting into full swing.

The operation at Baltusrol is like nothing I have ever seen. It consists of two championship courses, the Upper Course – which has held the US Amateur and US Women's Open – and the Lower Course, which has staged numerous US Opens and US Amateur Championships.

On my first day the superintendent of the Upper Course, Scott Bosetti, gave me a course tour and I was amazed at its condition. I clearly remember the words he used to describe the conditioning at Baltusrol. "This is a US Open course and that's what the members want everyday – not just for a week in June," he said.

And it's true; we daily continued to set up the courses to US Open standards. Director of Grounds Mark Kuhns CGCS, who was also a director of the GCSAA, knows a thing or two about championship conditions, after previously working at Oakmont, the recent venue of the US Amateur Tournament.

Luckily for me, I came to Baltusrol at a very good time. They have just completed a maintenance facility that is second to none. Also, they now have on-site housing for two Assistant Superintendents and up to 12 interns. There are presently six interns but Mark Kuhns wishes to have 12 by the time the 2005 PGA Championship is held at Baltusrol.

Baltusrol runs a really good internship programme for students from all over: from Penn State, Rutgers University, the University of Guelph (Canada), and the MAST programme from the University of Minnesota. All interns are treated as team leaders and are given the opportunity to strengthen their weak points and make their strong points even stronger.

All the superintendents were always willing to help us learn on the course. We frequently had question-and-answer sessions with the superintendents, which proved to be extremely beneficial. We were responsible for many of the projects on the course, which tested our skills, knowledge and leadership.

Baltusrol has already begun preparing for the 2005 PGA Championship, with the semi-rough adjacent to the fairways already stripped and re-turfed to

ensure uniformity for the tournament. Greens are being expanded for new pin placements, and some bunkers are being re-shaped to make them more challenging for the tour professionals in 2005.

I finished the MAST programme on October 14, and left Baltusrol to return to Minneapolis and my flight home.

All in all, I can say that the MAST programme, in association with The Toro Company, has been a really good learning experience and exposed me to so many different situations, both workwise and socially; while also working in America. I know that the host superintendent's also learn from students like me as they like to hear about our experiences growing up in our home countries, as well as learning to use some of our language expressions that they don't hear in the USA!

During my time in America I developed many friendships that will continue into the future and provide me with a network of relationships I can call upon when I need help or opinions in dealing with challenges at work.

Currently I am working at The Grove Golf Course, in Hertfordshire, under the guidance of Phil Chiverton. So I am at a top-notch facility and looking forward to continuing my education on the job as this new course becomes established.

I would thoroughly recommend to all young, aspiring greenkeepers to consider taking any similar opportunity to work in the USA, or anywhere else in the world for that matter. The experience of living and working in a different culture provides you with alternative ways of looking at things, both in and out of work settings, and certainly expands the mind when meeting new friends from other countries.

The whole experience will hopefully stand me in good stead as I move onto new opportunities within the golf industry, as I have learnt a lot that I may not otherwise have done if I had just stayed in Ireland.

Finally, I would like to thank Helmut Ullrich and Barry Beckett, from The Toro Company, as well as Toro's distributor Lely UK, and Bruce Jamieson – in fact everyone who was involved with making this learning experience possible for me.

Many thanks.

# California Dreaming for the BIGGA Delegation

Ten BIGGA members will head for San Diego next month as part of the fourth delegation, in association with Bernhard and Company.

In previous years the party has travelled to Vancouver and the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association Conference and Show and since then to Orlando and Atlanta, for the GCSAA Conference and Show.

So far 30 BIGGA members have benefited from the opportunity to attend the Conferences and Shows and meet greenkeepers from around the world. The 10 greenkeepers who will visit San Diego have a similar opportunity.

The group comprises those who took the trouble to fill in the entry form which appeared with the September issue of the magazine and then progressed through the two stage process - the initial written element in which questions were asked about themselves, BIGGA and what they felt they would achieve from being a part of the delegation. Those who were selected from this stage were then interviewed at either BIGGA HOUSE or a Heathrow hotel.

The interview panel for both comprised BIGGA Past Chairman, Richard Barker; David Haskell-Craig MG, Course Manager at Maidenhead Golf Club, and Sam McLean, Sales and Marketing Director of Bernhard & Co.

Much store is made of the information gleaned by the Delegation being spread and widely as possible and the 10 will be expected to give talks at Club, Section and possibly Region level when they return.

Bernhard & Co are to be congratulated for their commitment to the delegation, without which this valuable opportunity for BIGGA members would not exist.

#### Stephen Bernhard comments...

We are delighted to be taking our fourth Bernhard-sponsored delegation overseas to attend the GCSAA Conference and Show in San Diego, California, next month.

The growing number who apply hoping to be selected for these trips, not to mention the quality of entrant, reflects well on how the opportunity to take part in the delegation is viewed by the BIGGA membership. I am sure that the 10 greenkeepers selected will each take as much from the trip as is possible.

The information exchange which will inevitably take place between the delegates and the Superintendents they meet during the trip, together with an exposure to a different way of life, will be extremely useful to everyone, in the weeks, months and years following their return.

We are extremely fortunate to have a wonderful relationship with the GCSAA and their members and staff are generous in their support of the BIGGA delegation. This, again, adds to the experience and we thank everyone involved for their hospitality.

The 10, who for the second time include an overseas member - on this occasion from Switzerland - will be encouraged to spread the word when they return and give talks to their own golf clubs, BIGGA Section and Region. That way what is learned during the trip can be spread more widely. Each delegate will have extensive homework to do before leaving for California but it will be rewarding and fulfilling as he develops long term relationships with his fellow delegates and other and like-minded colleagues in the States.

I am proud to be part of the enthusiastic team at Bernhard and Company who sponsor the group to San Diego and I hope everyone enjoys a fun filled and informative trip.

#### DELEGATION MEMBERS



Name: Peter Cross  
Designation: Deputy Head Greenkeeper  
Club: Woolton GC  
Age: 29

Peter is looking forward to the opportunity to mix with greenkeepers from different backgrounds and share and discuss education and greenkeeping practices. He is hoping, then, to pass on his knowledge to his work colleagues and the wider BIGGA membership.



Name: Leslie Howkins  
Designation: Head Greenkeeper  
Club: Cleethorpes GC  
Age: 30

Leslie feels the benefits he will derive from the trip are almost impossible to calculate but is sure they will last for many years to come. He is particularly looking forward to meeting people from the USA and Canada and learning about course management in different parts of the world.

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BERNHARD



Name: Sid Arrowsmith MG  
Designation: Course Manager  
Club: Frilford Heath GC  
Age: 50

Sid is keen to speak with Superintendents and exchange views on course management with them. He has never attended the GCSAA Conference and Show and he feels it will give him a good insight into how the industry in America is run compared with the UK.



Name: Philip Cooper  
Designation: Head Groundsman/Greenkeeper  
Club: Milton Abbey School  
Age: 38

Philip feels that it must be everyone's dream to be selected for the trip and he is getting a tremendous buzz from the thought of meeting some of the top greenkeepers and seeing some of the world's top courses. It all adds up to giving him a in-depth insight into the whole greenkeeping industry.



Name: Brian Boyle  
Designation: Deputy Head Greenkeeper  
Club: County Sligo GC  
Age: 26

Brian is looking to the trip to broaden his horizons on all greenkeeping issues. Having been out of college for five years he feels the next five years are critical in forming sound principals in greenkeeping and management. He is keen to discuss these matters with American counterparts.



Name: Will Bowden  
Designation: Deputy Course Manager  
Club: The Hertfordshire GC  
Age: 26

Will is determined to make the very most from the trip and gain as much information and knowledge as possible. He is relishing the opportunity to meet both British and American greenkeepers. A keen part-time journalist, photographer and artist Will will be the delegation's magazine correspondent.



Name: Warren Bevan  
Designation: Course Manager  
Club: Stockport GC  
Age: 29

Warren is constantly looking at new innovative ideas to help his greenkeeping team prepare their course and he is sure that the GCSAA Seminars will help him to pick up new ideas. He is also looking forward to spending time with like-minded greenkeepers.



Name: Paul Jenkins  
Designation: Course Manager  
Club: Westridge Golf Centre, Isle of Wight  
Age: 44

Paul hopes to return with as many ideas and procedures as possible then incorporate them into his own regimes. As a BIGGA Board of Management member he is also hoping to return with useful information which might assist the running of BIGGA.



Name: Steven Tierney  
Designation: Superintendent  
Club: Golfpark Nuolen AG  
Age: 37

Despite living and working in Switzerland since 1986 Steven has not missed a single BTME and is well aware of the benefits of networking with other greenkeepers. He is hoping to track down some American Superintendents who work in mountainous regions to discuss common issues.



Name: Terry Farkins  
Designation: Course Manager  
Club: Dartmouth G&CC  
Age: 39

Terry is looking at gaining a much deeper technical knowledge, being able to discuss theories used in America and learning more about season grasses and their problems. He is sure the opportunity to increase his own confidence and make him a better Course Manager.



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# A Purposeful Approach

Roland Taylor investigates what is available to the Course Manager who is looking at a Utility Vehicle you sit in\*.

"Useful with some purpose", defines the word utility and vehicles under this category are somewhere between ATV and tractors. Their role as far as golf courses are concerned seems to fall in the area of transporting people, top dressings, fertiliser and mowers around a course. As such they could be a very useful addition to any fleet.

There are several advantages in this type of vehicle compared to a tractor and trailer. They are highly manoeuvrable and have similar characteristics to the ATVs, in that they will travel over terrain where other units will not. In addition, their ground weight is light enough not to damage the turf, even in the wettest of conditions.

Petrol, diesel, LPG and electric models are available with a wide variety of configurations and specifications.

Here in the UK there are a number of suppliers who offer a utility vehicle in their range.

## BSG TRACTORS & MACHINERY

From this Essex based company come the Carons. The Runner series has a load capacity of one tonne and four-wheel drive. Their 26hp version has a basic driver platform and cargo carrier, whilst its larger 35hp cousin comes with three-way tipping body.

For those looking for a larger unit there is the 700 series, with a choice of 30hp, 35hp or 50hp diesel-powered models. These have 16-forward and 8-reverse syncro speeds, plus power steering and a 540/1000rpm PTO. Three-point-linkage comes as an optional extra.

Hull Golf Club purchased a 40hp Caron 747 in 2000. This parkland course underwent an Eco study and following the report, one of the recommendations is now well under way. This is a long-term programme to replant the course with native trees. The soil is a clay base and although the Caron is a relatively large vehicle, Head Greenkeeper, Stephen Thackeray, says he has had no problems with the unit damaging the turf or getting stuck.

The cargo bed often carries three tonne loads and its three-way tipping facility makes it ideal for filling bunkers. In addition to transporting equipment and materials the Caron is also used to operate a Sisis Veemo.

Hull GC also has two Gators, which they largely use for the lighter carrying work. Stephen says all his utilities have proved to be a highly cost effective method of quickly and easily transporting staff between sites. There has been a considerable reduction in non-productive travelling time and labour costs.

## JOHN DEERE

John Deere's GATOR stands for General All purpose Turf Off Road vehicles, which are designed to have a low centre of gravity, stability and safety. Low ground pressure is also a priority; they say that their 6x4 model, when fully loaded, delivers just 7psi.

There is a 4x2 10hp or an 18hp 6x4 petrol engine model and a larger unit is also available with a diesel engine. All have large capacity tipping cargo boxes and differential lock, plus variable speeds up to 15mph. A turf version, which was introduced for golf courses, has a top speed of 18mph.

The Royal West Norfolk Golf Course uses two Gators. This links course, which was opened on 1 January 1892, is built with the sea on one side and a marsh on the other. At certain times of the day the clubhouse and course are cut off from the mainland by the tide, making access virtually impossible. There is no landmass between this area of England and the northern ice flows so it is often bitterly cold and bleak in winter.

Gavin Playford became Head Greenkeeper in 1993 and has a staff of six including one member who is responsible for all the machinery maintenance. He purchased his first Gator, a diesel, in 1999 and was so impressed with this unit that he bought an electric version two years ago. This was followed a year later with a 6x4 diesel and another is scheduled for delivery in 2004.

Why an electric? Gavin said it fitted our requirements exactly; we were looking for a quiet utility that could be used to transport staff, tools and materials around the course with minimal disturbance to the player. Following the purchase of the larger 6x4 the E-Gator is now used for light transporting work.

Trailers are fitted to both machines and as the mowing regime, from October to March, entails using pedestrian mowers on both tees and greens, the utilities are kept busy. Gavin has found that the units easily cope with the steep dunes without damaging the turf. The course is on pure sand with fescues and bents the dominant grass species.

The Gator that is on order is being modified to take a three gang ball collector for the practice area.

Gavin likes his Gators, but has one plea. "A factory fitted cab would be nice." Standing in the cold wind that was blowing across the course one could well understand this request.



▲ At the Royal West Norfolk GC Head Greenkeeper, Gavin Playford, John Deere Gators are ideal for transporting staff and materials plus mowers around this links course.



▲ Jim Reid at Hunstaston Golf Club likes his Ransomes Jacobsen E-Z-GO because it is fast, light and highly manoeuvrable

#### RANSOMES JACOBSEN

For 2004 Ransomes Jacobsen are launching their E-Z-Go ST, 4x4 turf utility vehicle. This latest introduction has a load carrying capacity of about 500kg and a top speed of 25mph.

The possibility of corrosion has been taken into account by using a wax dipped, galvanised steel frame, onto which is mounted a polythethylene cargo bed.

A combination of articulating front axle, McPherson struts and self adjusting hydraulic brakes are said to add up to a vehicle that can be used safely over a relatively steep terrain.

Under the covers is an 18hp Honda engine, which is easily accessible. Other features include front and rear differential locks, rear leaf springs and hydraulic shock absorbers and the unit has a ground clearance of 24cm.

There is bench style seating for two people and the console has a host of instrumentation that tell you what is doing this and that, plus somewhere to park your drinks and mobile telephone.

Hunstaston Golf Club overlooks The Wash and is very much open to the elements. In fact the wind, together with the rough, can make many of the holes very challenging. Hunstaston's choice of utility vehicle is a petrol engine Ransomes Jacobsen E-Z-GO.

A nine-hole course was built in 1891 and five years later the second nine was added for the princely total sum of £25.

The Club has a reputation for some of the fastest greens in the country thanks to the Course Manager, Jim Reid, whose magic formula for consistently obtaining readings of 11"+ (using a Stimpmeter) includes a weekly light dust of sand on each green.

A golfing record was also achieved on this course. During the Eastern

Counties Foursome in 1974 Robert John Taylor from Leicestershire achieved a hole-in-one, three consecutive days on the 189-yard, 16th green. The first time was using a one iron and the other two were with a six iron, downwind.

Hunstaston's E-Z-GO is used for a variety of jobs around the course, including transporting staff mowers and materials between greens and ball picking up on the practice area.

Jim Reid said. "It is fast light and highly manoeuvrable. Some parts of the course flood during the year and the E-Z-Go travels over these areas without getting stuck or damage the turf. We have found there is very little maintenance to worry about and although we would prefer a diesel version this unit represents good value for money.

#### TORO

During 2003 the Workman 3300 and 4300 were introduced with a number of upgrades.

A more powerful and reliable Briggs & Stratton Vanguard, 26.5hp diesel engine, that complies with the 2003 EPA/CARB Regulations on emission and noise levels, has been fitted. This unit replaces the previous Mitsubishi 23hp engine.

For increased comfort and safety, bucket style seats have been introduced in addition to front mounted progressive suspension springs, to give a smoother ride and to absorb heavy loads.

Other improvements include easier access for maintenance and cleaning, plus a newly designed rear stub axles and high traction tyres.

A high flow heavy-duty hydraulic kit is now available and this comes with oil cooler fan, 15-litre reservoir, 30.2litre pump and quick release

couplings to the rear of the unit. Toro say that all the present attachments can be fitted to these new units.

For anyone looking for a smaller vehicle, there is the Workman1100. The unit has the company's 'twister' Active In Frame suspension that is said to provide better traction, plenty of manoeuvrability and comfort in addition to improved operator control.

The unit has independent front suspension, which is claimed to give an almost zero turning radius and 70-degree steering, when working in confined areas.

The unit has a carrying capacity of 454kg with tipping facility and optional electric tipping kit. Other features include, pedal operated start accelerator and a stop brake.

Girton Golf Club is situated on the outskirts of Cambridge and they have a Toro Workman300D. Ian Hankin has been greenkeeping at this parkland course for 23 years.

The site is on a clay base soil, so good drainage is a top priority and to this end a full programme of slitting and vertidrainage is carried out during the year.

Their Workman, in addition to transporting is used for spraying, top dressing and spiking. Ian says he likes the unit's good ground clearance and how it closely follows the ground contour.

They have also found the ground weight has not damaged the turf, even when the cargo box is fully loaded.

When looking for a utility, a good payload was near the top of the list of requirements and the Workman has proved to come up to their expectation. One minus point is the length of the vehicle, when fitted with a rear attachment. At Girton this is not a major problem, but it could be if there were confined areas to work in.

## KAWASAKI

The new 3010 diesel Mule was launched at the back end of 2003. This latest utility is said to be the best yet produced by Kawasaki.

So, what have they done to substantiate this claim? A 23hp liquid cooled three-cylinder diesel has been used to provide a low rpm torque and the transmission system has high capacity and includes an automatic torque converter. In addition there is selectable two or four-wheel drive. Load carrying capacity is rated at a total of 740kg and this includes the cargo bed that is capable of handling 499kg.

The dual mode differential to the rear axles is claimed to give a minimum turning radius of 3.4 metres. The bodywork is of a pick up truck styling and the bench type seat is capable of carrying two or possibly three people at a push.

From the courses that were contacted it is clear that utilities have a place in the fleet, largely for transporting operations. They do save time and money when it comes to moving bodies, material and equipment around a course, especially where there is some difficult terrain to transverse. Utilities appear to be an addition rather than a replacement for the compact or medium size tractors, even where they are used to operate equipment such as top dressers and sprayers. Certainly, all those we spoke to were very happy with their utilities and find them a very useful addition to their fleets.

**\*Next month it will be vehicles you sit on.**



▲ Girton Golf Club's Greenkeeper, Ian Hankin uses his Toro Workman 300D for a variety of work on the course

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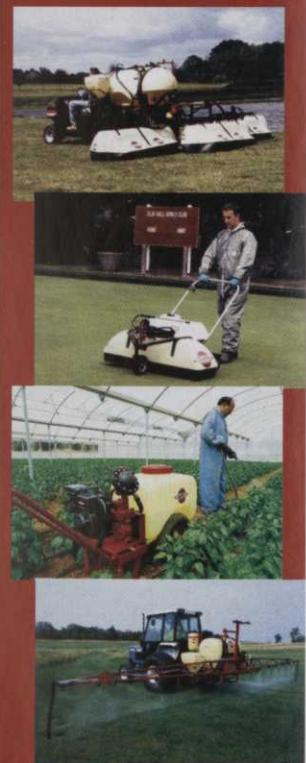
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# Greenkeeping in Denmark 2



Ian Tomlinson, Course Manager at Rungsted Golf Club, gives an update on the work he has carried out in the last two years.

Since writing about my experiences in Denmark in January 2002 many colleagues have since asked about the greens and how my war against *Poa Annua* is going. Then I read the August edition of *Greenkeeper International*, and the article on Disease Management difficulties in Sweden and the Netherlands, and feel that the following article will reassure my Scandinavian colleagues that there is a possibility to manage greens without chemicals although disease will always be a problem in the early stages on poa greens.

There are many sceptical people out there who say you cannot eradicate poa annua from your greens so I wish to contradict that statement and offer hope to all those greenkeepers young and old who still believe that you can grow fescue and bent turf on a green today at the expense of poa.

It is just over three years since I started the work on Rungsted's greens (which were 100% poa when I started). At that time we had 1cm of root and 5cm of thatch. The greens are 66 years old and made up mainly of clay soil but some are made entirely of peat. Today there is a complete ban on fungicides for golf courses in Denmark and a Nitrogen tax levied by the government for every kilo used.

The sward composition today on the greens is starting to take on another look. On some greens when you look at them in the morning dew you can see pale green patches half a metre in diameter. These are patches of pure fescue that have established mainly in the last year. The rest of the sward is a mix of poa and bent. I would estimate that we have 40% fescue/bent on some of the drier greens now established and on the wetter greens 20 to 30% of mainly bent grass.

This is a huge transformation from the wet boggy poa greens I inherited back in 2000. The 5cm of thatch is history as we have hollow tined with 16cm tines 12 times throughout the playing season and applied 900 tonnes of top dressing. What was once thatch has now been replaced by a layer of top dressing 7cm deep. You could say that we are actually building a new green on top of the old soil one. We now have firm dry surfaces on most of the greens but have four greens that need some extra work on them to help dry them out. Recently we had 33mm of rain a few hours before a competition. Members turned up expecting to find the course unplayable but the only areas not waterlogged were the greens that we managed to cut with a triplex. We may still have slow internal drainage but now the surface water can get away from the surface thanks to the top dressing in the top of the green profile.

The first phase of our programme is now complete but the next is the hardest part - the establishment of the new seed. The success of this procedure is dependent on the fescue and bent being able to grow in dry conditions. When I started overseeding the greens three seasons ago the new seed was not surviving because of the wet surface due to the thatch holding the water. As the greens became drier I was getting more seed to establish but was still losing a fair percentage. I then read Henry Blechelet's, of the STRI, article (March 2003) on overseeding greens and contacted him to discuss my situation. Henry was marvellous and came back with some sound advice that I have followed with great success. The main advice was not to disturb the new seed once it had germinated. I asked what he meant by disturb? Did it mean do not aerate? What he meant was mechanical removal of the leaf blade and aggravating and bruising the plant. So no verti-cutting or top dressing for six weeks following germination. In my situation, however, I had to top dress after overseeding but if you must during this establishment period, be sensible about it. We pull a drag mat with the bunker machine very slowly, just once across the green surface then off and let the grass grow through the top dressing. This way we eliminate the bruising and aggravation that a mat can cause to the new seedling.

Now we all know what a difficult start to the season we had last year. We also had a severe winter -18 degrees interspersed with mild periods and some snow cover that resulted in on some greens 50% of the poa being hit by fusarium brought on by the huge swings in temperature. As we have no fungicide we took a different view on this damage to the greens than you might take in the UK. For us this was a really positive situation to be in. We had lost 50% of our problem in one go. The poa was hit and we sowed 500kg of BAR 2 seed in March and April into the greens. The cold spring held the poa back but the new seed still germinated then we waited as the scars started to fill in, not with poa but fescue. It would have been so easy to reach for the fertiliser spreader and hit the irrigation switch to on and hey presto no more scars and a nice crop of poa.



▲ Ian has worked hard on his greens at Rungsted

▲ A core sample from the year 2000 with 5-6cm of thatch and little rootzone



▲ A measure of improvement

I have 1100 members who like some of yours were not over impressed by their playing surface this spring but by communicating they understood what our aims for the greens were and that we were looking to the long term not a quick fix. (If you want a member to read a report leave a few copies in the bar area as well as on the information board). We could never have achieved so much without the understanding and support of the membership. If you do not communicate you would probably never get past your first season doing a renovation of your greens on the scale that we have done.

So how do you stress out the poa without losing your playing surface altogether? The one thing that poa loves is fertiliser and water and lots of it so this is where you take control. Water is only applied just before the greens start to show signs of wilting. Our greens used to receive 200kg of N/Ha per year. The first year we were down to 120Kg of N/Ha, last year 90Kg of N/Ha and this year I am looking at 70Kg of N/Ha. This is probably still a lot of fertiliser in some people's eyes but you cannot just shut off the nutrient and water supply and expect fescue and bent to take over.

I am the first to admit that we still have a lot of poa but this is a long term process and you have to try and push the balance in favour of the finer grasses and let the poa struggle and at these levels of nutrient it struggles. When the poa gets anthracnose you know that the nutrient level is on the limit and a small application of Sulphate of Ammonia, (which the poa hates), will keep it tickling along but, because it is so weak, the fescue and bent dominates. It is at this stage that management of the anthracnose situation is critical. If you let it run too far you will end up with thin, possible bare, areas. What is really interesting is that on three greens we have developed Take-All. After discussing this with Chris Haspell, who has already gone through this process at Falster GC, he informed me that in his third season of changing the grass type his greens also developed Take-All. I can only put it down to the 900 tonnes of Topdressing applied during the last three seasons and that we have now, in effect, a sterile growing medium and not a soil green anymore, therefore very little bacteria to counteract the disease.

Regular applications of seaweed helps with the rooting and establishment of the young fine grass plants. We aerate with 8mm solid tines every two weeks throughout the playing season to keep the surface open and allow the new grasses maximum chance for establishment. If anyone should follow a similar programme you will have challenging periods as you try to keep the nutrient balance in favour of the fine grasses and will have to be very patient as it will take at least five years before you will start to see a dominant of fescue/bent in the sward. It is a slow process and we are so dependent on the weather that the process may take even longer if we have wet seasons. The important thing is to keep focused and believe in what you are doing and the results will follow.



▲ Ian has been pushing the balance of his greens in favour of the finer grasses

I would also like to comment on the issue of green speed. The greens at Rungsted never go below 5mm. Obviously the new generation of A4, L93 Bents are a different story that demand being mown at 3mm and lower. The speed on our greens comes by producing a firm dry surface and the more top dressing you apply the more the surface will give good pace. Add to that as the sward composition changes and the poa starts to be in the minority so there are less seed heads therefore less resistance on the roll of the ball. A fescue green cut at 5mm will give as fast a surface as a poa green mown and groomed at 3mm. If you are attempting to alter the botanical composition of the sward as in our case you have to give the new seedlings chance to mature and compete and they need as much leaf surface area as possible to help with photosynthesis and root development. Attempting to establish fescue and mowing below 5mm will be a waste of time and effort.

While all the work has been going on with the greens we have also been renovating other areas on the course. In my last article I talked about the permission to start the bunker renovation programme. This has been a very satisfying project for my relatively inexperienced team as they learned a great deal about bunkers, drainage and shaping using our new 3.5T excavator with a 4 in 1 bucket. We have tried very hard to put the bunkers back as C.A. MacKenzie designed them back in 1937. The biggest shock was to discover 50cm to 60cm of bunker sand in most bunkers so the members soon commented that the new bunkers were difficult to exit now that they were deeper. Ron Kirby, Golf Architect drew up plans to redesign the 12th green by replacing the two existing green side bunkers which had collapsed by five pot bunkers and adding an extension to the back left side of the green. All this work was carried out in-house by the staff and to date we have rebuilt 30 bunkers with the remainder been tackled this autumn/winter. We are also in the planning stage to redevelop the maintenance facility over a three year period to improve the storage area for the machines, a new Waste2Water washing down facility to comply with environmental laws and a new covered area to store top dressing materials etc. At the time of writing this article we also have contractors working to a Ron Kirby/Paolo Gueltrini design to improve the driving range facility. We are having five target greens, a 75m par 3 hole, a new 375m<sup>2</sup> pitching green, 4 covered driving bays and a new practice base for a further 10 golfers built. My staff shall complete the remainder of the design changes to include the landscaping of the whole clubhouse area this autumn.

Thomas Bjorn, Søren Hansen, Anders Hansen, Søren Kjeldsen and Steen Tinning are five Danish golfers now competing with the best on the European Tour with great success. That is creating an enormous influx of keen young golfers wishing to follow in their hero's footsteps. This can only be good for the future game of golf in Denmark and as for us greenkeepers, we shall try to give them natural golf courses maintained by traditional greenkeeping methods for them to perfect their game upon.

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# A Better Breed of Seed

Gerard van 't Klooster looks at the breeding of disease resistant turfgrass varieties

The Greeks and the Romans talked about 'pratulum' or the little meadow in the garden (source *Lawns and Playing Fields* by F. J. Reed). Later, people started to play golf, bowls, cricket and football on this turf and from then on there was a greater need to keep grass short.

After the invention of the rotary mower in 1830 by Edwin Budding, grass could be mowed more regularly and that gave rise to a denser sward. The grass mixtures of a 100 years ago contained more species than they do today. Although this meant less disease, people wanted to see a more even result, without too many patches of different grass species. These days we can make a cultivar selection within a few species and these are normally well adapted for golf and sports turf.

There are many breeding programmes all over the world which are aiming to find the best of the best. Programmes can start with a selection of collected plants, or with cross-breeding between existing varieties. The whole selection process can take from 9-12 years and after that the official testing process starts. There are many different ways of breeding and selection and this varies between different grass seed companies.

End-users can see the improvements that have been made over the years when they use Pacey – one of the first perennial ryegrasses for turf. Persistency, sward density, colour, winter hardiness, drought tolerance and of course disease resistance are all improved. But denser swards, or longer active turf, contains more diseases than it did 20 years ago. And because people travel more, and seed and turf are imported, some 'new' diseases are more of a problem for the greenkeeper, groundsman or home-owner.

The use of pesticides is restricted and the pressures to reduce usage are growing all the time. This is why the use of more disease resistant cultivars or mixtures is the best choice for healthy turf. And think about the fact that we have to co-operate with Mother Nature. Turf is a society of many plants which, together, form your fairway or green. Sometimes all the plants are the same species, so they are very closely related, but when mixtures are used the plants are from different species. There is always competition and co-operation between the plants – many plants together are stronger than just one plant. But there is also competition for water, fertiliser, light and, of course, room to grow.

Initially, germination of seed can be excellent, but within three months the survival of the fittest comes into play. Plants will die and make room for other, stronger plants.

Diseases can create space, but to fill the space you need strong healthy plants. So the use of disease resistant cultivars is vital.

Since 1994 Barenbrug Research has started to include more disease tests in its breeding programmes. As a breeder we are always pleased when there is a disease in the field – like a doctor who sees an interesting disease as a challenge – but sometimes we have to wait for the optimum conditions to study the disease.

At the moment the Barenbrug research lab can screen under laboratorial conditions for red thread, fusarium, dollar spot, leaf spot and brownpatch. It took some years to find the best method of doing this and the various methods required for each disease. All these diseases are spread by spores, but each one behaves in a different way. Optimum temperature, humidity and day-length also vary.

Initially we did a lot of work to find the best testing method for each disease, and we worked closely with many experts all over the world. As a breeder, we need to be sure that the test is as close as possible to natural conditions, so with the introduction of a fungus, such as dollar spot, we have to accurately create what could happen on a golf green or fairway. The test should give more resistant material to help the end-user achieve turf which is free of dollar-spot.



▲ Dollar-spot on golf course

## DOLLAR SPOT

This disease can cause big problems in a very short time. Turf management can help to reduce the effects of the disease, but a strong attack is very difficult to treat. Dollar spot will appear when days are hot, nights are cool and when fertiliser levels are low in nitrogen. Dew is a very important transport medium. The construction of a room with more or less these conditions was the first step.

The second step was to multiply the disease fungus so there was enough to spray over the plants. Sometimes spraying is the best way, or the fungus can be put in a medium and dropped close to the plants. Dollar spot is a patch disease and as breeders we have to work with mini swards in the climate room. These swards can be as small as 3 cm<sup>2</sup>. New turf and old turf show different diseases, which means it's very important to get the right information about the age of the tested plants.

Under these controlled conditions Barenbrug tests new populations of species like fine fescue and perennial ryegrass. The tests can be done in the winter or synchronised with outside turf trials. There is also a possibility of testing plants to find more resistant plants and start new crossings.

Like most diseases, dollar spot can change its habits. A resistant cultivar could lose its resistance in 10-15 years. This is not only a disease found in the United States and more warmer countries, there are more strains and for the test a mix is used to get the best overall result.

## RED THREAD

This is a common disease in fine fescue and perennial ryegrass lawns. It will turn the leaf colour from green to yellowish brown and the red thread mycelium can be seen as red needles.

Many tests are themselves tested to develop a working test. Sometimes the disease fungus grows better on the plastic of a small greenhouse than on the plant. When we start a test like this the conditions for the fungus should be so good that it will attack the plant and not stay in its medium, or on the plastic.





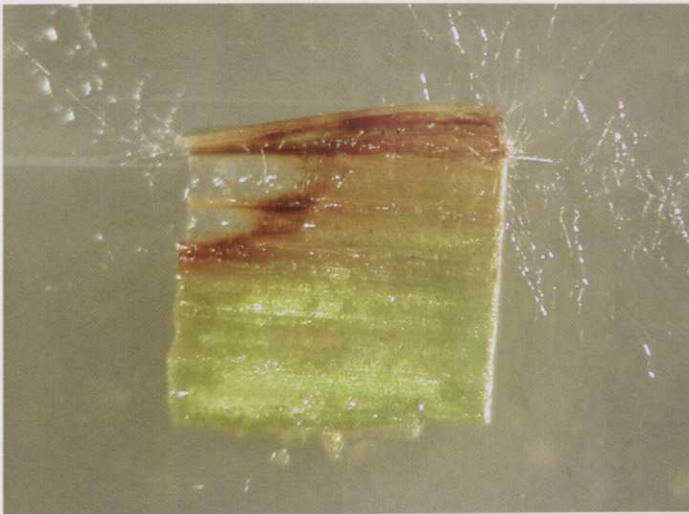
▲ Red thread in perennial ryegrass field

There is a huge variation in red thread resistance between cultivars within the species. In red fescue this is more visually obvious than in perennial ryegrass. More resistant cultivars show a better turf quality. The present test we use shows the same results as on the trial field.



▲ Mini sward

After six days under the most ideal conditions, the disease is visible on the plants and on the mini sward. The leaves are still green, but after a few days they turn brown.



▲ Fungus on petri-dish

Parts of the fungus are connected to special medium which spreads it around the plants or on the mini swards.



▲ Mini sward after six days

Normally we will wait a few more days for a screening. In that period the fungus has had a chance to kill the leaves. Red thread will normally not kill the whole plant, but just parts of the leaves.

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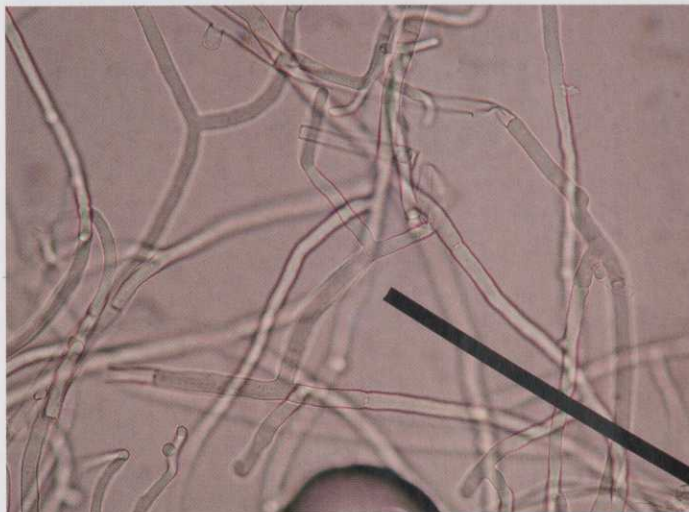


▲ Red thread screening

The resistant plants will be used as parents for new varieties or for new crossings.

**BROWNPATCH**

This is another disease which is becoming more and more common in Europe. Warm nights with enough water can be enough to destroy turf over just a few days.



▲ Brownpatch mycelium

Brownpatch propagates via a mycelium. A different laboratory test is conducted for this disease. First the leaves show some brown areas, not spots like leaf spot.



▲ A leaf with brownpatch



▲ A plant with brownpatch

The next stage is large patches of dead plants.

The screening will take place when the first plants are dying. With these test you can't wait too long, or all the material can die. Normally there are many more screenings in a trial, so the researcher can trace back to the best discriminated observation.



▲ A brownpatch test

All the different disease screening tests will be a great help in developing more resistant varieties which are less risk for the end-user. In this fast changing world we always make sure that everything is kept up-to-date. The Barenbrug R&D laboratory staff are always pleased when a new diseased piece of turf arrives. Firstly a screening for the disease is carried out, then the fungus is isolated and the disease propagated.

The laboratory is also a gene bank for turf diseases. The material is stored in a specially conditioned room and used when necessary. This process is becoming an increasingly important part of the whole grass breeding programme and will increase still further as we put more pressures on our turf.

The search for higher levels of disease resistance plays a significant part at Barenbrug Research. We are continually learning and improving our methods to develop more resistant cultivars.

**Gerard van 't Klooster is Barenbrug Product Development Manager for Europe**

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# Notts Golf Club Takes the Initiative



Andrew Wood of the STRI's Ecology Unit outlines the initiatives of the four runners up in the New Initiative Category of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition followed by that of the winner, Notts Golf Club.



Golf Environment  
Competition

With the presentation of the 2003 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition prizes at BTME & ClubHouse fast approaching, it is time to announce the results of the Best New Initiative Award. The majority of clubs that entered the 2003 competition had undertaken at least one initiative within the last year. From bat box erection to guided ecology walks for members, each initiative was a credit to the club that put it forward. Yet there could only be one winner and after much deliberation the judges decided it should go to a club that has recently introduced Hebridean Sheep to the course, as part of its heathland restoration programme.



▲ The Minchinhampton Mix

## MINCHINHAMPTON GOLF CLUB'S WIND-ASSISTED COMPOSTING

Several clubs in the competition this year had composting programmes in place to recycle their organic waste. On many courses, the composting takes the form of a large heap that breaks down over many years in a hidden-away part of the course. However Paul Worster, Courses Manager at Minchinhampton, has addressed the issue of composting in a totally different way and the result has gained a place in our top five new initiatives.

The first clever move on Paul's part was to seek advice from the Compost Association who made a visit to the club and suggested creating a system that would speed up the composting process. The base of the composting area has been specially constructed so that a fan can draw air through a perforated plastic pipe located beneath the heap. The fan, which is operated for just a few hours each day, greatly increases air movement within the heap and this has two positive effects. The first is that the extra oxygen moving through the pile is utilised by the microbes, which break down the organic waste into soil. The second is that the air movement

prevents the pile from getting over wet, enabling it to be left uncovered without fear of nutrient run off or leaching.

Due to the increased rate of organic breakdown, the composting process has been found to now only take a matter of months rather than years. Therefore all the club's organic waste can be dealt with in a relatively small area. This even includes the club's waste cardboard from the clubhouse and pro-shop. Previously, this cardboard was costing the club £1,500 per year to dispose of. Now it is stored in a cage next to the heap and periodically the contents are fed into the Amazone Groundkeeper, which shreds the cardboard before it is mixed into the pile. The end product is of good quality and the club uses it as mulch on flower beds and around shrubs and trees. However, this uses just a fraction of the output and so the compost has been made available to the members at 50p per bag with proceeds going back into the greenkeeping budget. In addition to this, the £1500 saved in waste disposal more than pays for the small amount of electricity needed to power the fan.



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### COTTESMORE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB'S HABITAT CREATION

This golf club did not figure as a regional winner in this year's traditional Environment Competition, yet by no means did this rule it out from figuring in the best new initiative section. In terms of habitat creation, the Cottesmore course is like a showroom for 'Boxes-R-Us' as there are man made homes for many different wildlife species on this course. Bats, birds of all sizes, hedgehogs and harvest mice are just a few of the wildlife species encouraged on the course. All boxes are thoughtfully positioned with careful consideration given to feeding grounds, climatic and human influences and potential predators. That said, there are a few bird boxes in positions, which are highly visible to the membership. This is a good method of publicising the greenkeeping team's commitment to the nature on the course. Another aspect of this initiative that the judges admired was the value for money of the initiative. An old corrugated tin sheet placed in a cove for use by reptiles costs nothing, as does an old tennis ball on a stick which makes a perfect nest for a harvest mouse. A great deal of ingenuity was evident at Cottesmore which has proven that it is not just golf clubs with big budgets that are in the reckoning for this prize.

### LOCH LOMOND GOLF CLUB'S RHODODENDRON CLEARANCE

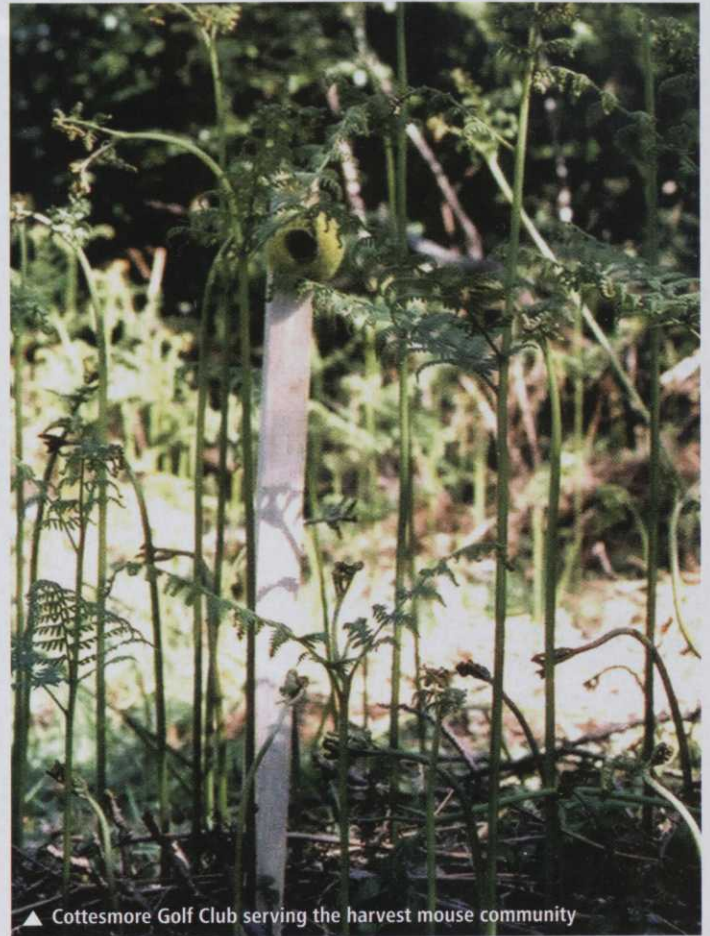
The first of two splendid initiatives in Scotland was at Loch Lomond Golf Club, where a large scale project to clear an area of woodland of the non-native rhododendron has commenced. Historically, the unwanted rhododendron has been removed physically by chainsaw and operator. This process was followed by herbicide applications of either Imazapyr or Glyphosate over two seasons to prevent re-growth.

The aim of the Loch Lomond's initiative was to investigate whether the rhododendron could be cleared in a way which was less labour intensive, less physically demanding and less dependent on the use of follow up chemicals. Therefore research commenced on finding a rapid technique to remove as much of the rhododendron as possible, including roots, in order to eradicate the plants and avoid the need for follow-up spraying.

In 2002, the Club located a contract team who possessed a flail chipper and mulching machine, which could be utilised to extremely good effect to eradicate rhododendrons. The machine was brought on to the site during September 2002 and June 2003 and a total area of between four and five hectares was cleared. This work will continue over the next two seasons or so, where it is envisaged a further seven hectares will be cleared. A major benefit of this equipment is the extent of work that can be carried out during any one operation and the reduction in the large amount of aftercare work that would otherwise be involved. The Club, however, are not sure as to the effect of leaving chippings over the surface and are setting up a series of trials to look at the benefits of leaving chippings and



▲ An area of the rhododendron clearance at Loch Lomond Golf Club



▲ Cottesmore Golf Club serving the harvest mouse community

waste as compared with clearing and re-scraping back to the underlying humus layer.

Unfortunately, even though the areas of woodland have been cleared of the rhododendrons their legacy is a high level of toxicity in the soil that will inhibit the ability of native grasses, trees and flowers to regenerate. However, over time, a large-scale improvement in the ecological value of this woodland will occur due to both the research and practical work that the Loch Lomond Club have carried out.

### ST ANDREWS LINKS TRUST'S DRIVE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

St Andrews Links Trust has undertaken not one but many special initiatives within the last year. For this part of the competition they have been grouped collectively as initiatives which promote the Trust's drive towards greater sustainability.

Only a few years ago the Trust was, dare I say, playing catch-up in this area. Yet, perhaps due to the self-evaluation required to enter this competition and the Committed to Green programme, the Trust has turned this weakness into a real strength. In 2002 the Trust requested an energy efficiency audit, which was subsequently carried out by the Scottish Energy Efficiency Office. By 2003, 95% of the recommendations published in the audit were completed. The work had involved using more energy efficient lighting, improving gas regulation and use, and improving the way in which the irrigation-pumping stations operate. Out on the course, sprinkler heads were changed from 360° to 180°, the petrol/diesel buggies have been replaced with Yamaha electric buggies and a free shuttle bus is now in place to transport golfers between the clubhouse and different site facilities. This will not only ease congestion but will significantly reduce pollution.

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The administration side of the Trust is turning green at a rapid rate thanks to the influence of Gordon Moir, the Links Superintendent, and his Secretary, Lorna Marroney. The Links Trust has this year made a concerted effort to contact as many companies as is practically possible to request that no junk mail is forwarded without prior consent. This, although still in its infancy, is already reducing the amount of waste, which would otherwise be accumulated. Everyone involved within the St Andrews Links Trust now recycles and members (seasonal ticket holders) are even bringing their own cardboard and paper for recycling. Even the Links News is now printed on chlorine free 100% recycled paper and there are regular articles explaining how the environmental credentials of the course are improving.

Grass clippings from greens tees and aprons are collected at all times, while those produced from fairway cutting are collected 80% of the time. These clippings are stored briefly on the course before being transported to central storage sites. There they are mixed with other organic materials and composted, to be used again as divot mix, top dressing or construction material.



▲ The cardboard recycling station at St. Andrews Links Trust

### NOTTS GOLF CLUB'S SHEEP GRAZING SCHEME

The course at the Notts Golf Club (Hollinwell) forms an ecologically valuable oasis of heathland habitat within a landscape now dominated by intensive agriculture. However, until recently, the heathland character of the course was in gradual decline as large areas of land out of play had been allowed to revert to scrub woodland. In 1997 Course Manager, Philip Stain, introduced the club to The Sherwood Forest Trust, an organisation able to provide advice and finance towards the restoration of this important habitat. The Trust provided the club with information and support sufficient to convince the members that it was time to act. The Club heeded the message and entered into a 10 year long Countryside Stewardship Scheme, putting into place a radical management plan. The plan has been created with the aims of preventing further decline and restoring vast tracts of heathland back to their former glory.

Philip is well aware that the benefits of this work are two fold. "From an ecological viewpoint the work is very important, Nottinghamshire has lost 95% of its heathland and it is therefore vital that the club acts as a competent custodian of this important habitat." Yet he has also noted the benefit to the club, both from a greenkeeping and a playing point of view. "The removal of dense, ecologically poor woodland from areas close to play has resulted in increased light and air movement throughout the course, which in turn has led to an improvement in the quality of playing surfaces." In addition, the course has re-captured much

of the former heathland character with spectacular views appearing from where before there were only dense stands of spindly birch trees. Ian McLachlan, Chairman of the Greens Committee, is pleased with the recent increase in prestige of the Course, which he feels can be attributed to the heathland restoration work. "In the past five years the Club's Golf World ranking has risen from 47th to 25th and the assessors stated this rise was largely due to the improved character of the course."

The fact that the restoration work has been ongoing for a number of years makes this project as a whole ineligible for the New Initiative award. However, one new initiative introduced this year as part of the scheme did catch the judges' eye. This was the introduction of sheep grazing.

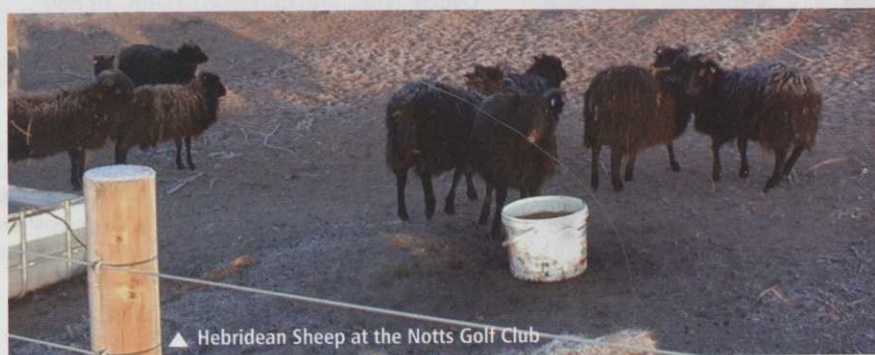
The club has cleared land on such a large scale that it has simply not got the resources to prevent scrub regeneration, especially the growth of self-set birch saplings. When discussing this problem with a representative from the Sherwood Forrest Trust, Ian McLachlan flippantly mentioned the prospect of using Hebridean sheep and the initiative was born. Any doubts that the membership had regarding the idea were allayed through an explanation of the benefits of sheep grazing and a description of the support that the Club had managed to gain for the project. Adam Goodall, of the Sherwood Forest Trust, took on the role of Project Organiser. He secured matched-funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the 2.5 Km of fencing required to keep the sheep within two grazing areas on the course. These areas were out-of-play and combined covered approximately 12 ha.

The Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust provided the 55 sheep, (known as the flying flock) which were introduced to the course in September. The Hebridean breed was specially selected as they will graze woody vegetation such as birch saplings, thus preventing scrub regeneration. In addition, this breed will selectively eliminate problematic grass species from the heathland sward, such as Purple Moor Grass. The current plan is that the sheep will remain on the course for several years until the heathland has re-established and stabilised. They may then be moved to another section of the course or indeed another forward thinking golf club such as Notts that has the vision, the contacts and the drive to undertake such a superb initiative.

The New Initiatives Award has been a highly successful new category within the BIGGA competition and though it has been won by a large scale, well supported project this year, there is nothing to say that a small, self financed, well thought out and well executed initiative won't take the award next year. What the judges are looking for is ingenuity and inspiration, so if you have a cunning plan that you intend to execute next year, make sure you get the 2004 BIGGA entry form filled in!



▲ Left, Philip Stain and right, Ian McLachlan within one of the grazing areas at the Notts Golf Club



▲ Hebridean Sheep at the Notts Golf Club

# TALKING HEADS

Compiled by Malcolm Huntington MBE

## ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS



Name: Stuart Hogg  
Course: Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club, Inverness  
Region: Scotland  
Course type: Links, 18 holes  
Staff: Course Manager, plus three

Does your club have an environmental/ecological management plan?

Yes, we are committed to Green and were the seventh club in Scotland and 16th in Europe to be recognised.



Name: Paul Eddlestone  
Course: Fishwick Hall Golf Club, near Preston  
Region: Northern  
Course type: Parkland, 18 holes  
Staff: Course Manager, plus three, plus casual labour

We are in the process of putting one together and are very keen to move forward on this.



Name: Phil Gates  
Course: Trentham Golf Club, Trentham, near Stoke  
Region: Midland  
Course type: Parkland, 18 holes  
Staff: Course Manager, plus seven

We do, backed up by English Nature and STRI. We are one of 70 clubs visited by an environmental official each year.



Name: Gary Johnstone  
Course: Southerdown Golf Club, Bridgend, South Wales  
Region: South West and South Wales  
Course type: Downland links, 18 holes  
Staff: Course Manager, plus five

Not at the moment, but with one of our members being chairman of the Glamorgan Wildlife Trust and arranging a visit from an ecologist, we are in the process of getting one. We tried to get some wild flowers growing but sheep on our common land soon got rid of those.



Name: Peter McMorran  
Course: Farnham Golf Club, Surrey  
Region: South East  
Course type: Heathland/parkland, 18 holes  
Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus six

Not at the present moment, but we are working on recommendations from English Nature and STRI and have felled 300 trees so that we can establish heath grasses and heather on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 11th holes.



Name: Jim Eager  
Course: Royal Belfast Golf Club, Holywood, Co Down  
Region: Northern Ireland  
Course type: Parkland, 18 holes  
Staff: Course Manager, plus seven

Not at present, but we are aware of the factors surrounding these issues. We have conservation volunteers, who make recommendations on the woodland etc.

# 1

# 2

**Are you aware of the variety of wildlife using the course?**

Very much so. We have a big population of skylarks and also starlings, linnets, greenfinches, thrushes and yellow hammers among others, in addition to some rabbits.

Yes, we certainly are. In fact we have identified and listed the wildlife which includes rabbits, deer, voles, birds, foxes and squirrels, We also have a badger sett.

Very much so. We have a wide range including rabbits, goshawks, buzzards, which are looking for nesting places in nearby woodland, green finches, nuthatches and goldcrest and many others. We work hard with nest boxes for owls and bats.

We have Dartford warblers, sparrowhawks, yellowhammers green woodpeckers, buzzards, jackdaws, skylarks, crows, foxes, rabbits voles shrews, stoats, adders and many more.

We had a report done by the local council and have a record of all wild life, examples being rabbits, roe deer, foxes, moles, birds, including kestrels and woodpeckers.

We are indeed. We have a lot of rabbits and some badgers and foxes, the odd pheasant and squirrel.

# 3

**Are the membership concerned with the ecological enhancement of the course?**

We have their full backing. Over the last six or seven years we have done course reports and the management plan for winter is always announced in September or October. We also have a page on our web site.

We are making our members more aware of this and are trying to educate them by highlighting issues and showing them the broad band of an ecological plan.

A certain percentage are aware of it. I let members know via the notice board about planned winter work.

They are and we are doing as much as possible, but members are well aware that we are very restricted because we are on common land We have 40 commoners who have the rights to graze anything from goats to sheep and horses, although only two of them are active, grazing sheep.

Our chairman has done seminars for our members, making them aware of work done on the course and explaining why we are taking trees down. This provides a better environment for the development of turf because shade has caused us problems.

Yes they certainly are. If we are planning work on the course we inform members via the club notice board and they are very quick to give us their views.

# 4

**Do you have an organic waste policy?**

Because we are a links course we have very little organic waste. What few clippings we have we feed back on to course pathways.

Not as yet, but we are trying to implement one.

We have just started to develop one with compost boxes on the cards at some point this winter.

We collect grass clippings, turn it constantly and use it for top dressing. We collect bottles, cans etc in containers and these are recycled.

We have discussed with English Nature and the STRI about recycling and the cutting and collection of grass. Also the areas we cut once or twice a year enabling us to develop plant life over a period of time.

Not as yet, although it has been discussed. There are bottle banks nearby.

# 5

**Is the current environmental legislation regarding waste management, chemical usage and protected species/habitats to be effective?**

I think it is effective. We make minimal use of chemicals and fertilisers. Some courses have to rely on them at the moment, but I believe everyone will need to alter their ways sometime in the not too distant future because of the changes that are taking place.

Very much so. Legislation and government bodies are helping us to become aware of ecological issues in general.

I do, very much so as far as greenkeepers are concerned, but then are a few niggles from other members of the public who can buy chemicals over the counter. There has been a good education promotion by BIGGA over the last five to ten years.

I don't think there are enough people going round golf course enforcing this. We don't use anything harmful to sheep and don't use fungicides. We haven't any disease problems and spray only once a year when the sheep are taken off the course.

Yes I do. This is very important because of the safety of individuals in chemicals and waste collection. We don't have any protected species on our course, but obviously we would look after them carefully if we did.

Yes, it certainly is in this neck of the woods. We have had a waste disposal company coming for the past two years. We have a skip and we shoot rabbits which cause us a few problems. We are keen to protect virtually everything else and don't allow people on to the course who may give us problems.

# NEW PRODUCTS

## FIRST FIVE DECK

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

The 3245C features a powerful 'clean and quiet' John Deere Series 220 liquid cooled and turbocharged diesel engine, with a maximum power rating of 48.5hp. The engine is contained within a new, aerodynamic hood made of a composite material for extra durability and reduced noise levels.

Combining the ability to follow ground contours very closely with optimum cutting performance, at mowing speeds of up to 9mph, the 3245C has five 53cm (21in) independent rotary rear discharge decks, made of heavy duty 10 gauge steel. These provide a total cutting width of 228cm (90in), 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.

A new Command Arm operator console, as featured on the John Deere 2500 greensmower, is designed for maximum driver comfort and convenience. This provides fingertip control of the throttle, deck drive and raising and lowering of the cutting decks – it even has a built in drink holder, which can also be used to hold a two-way radio or mobile phone if required.

Further operator benefits include a high capacity 68 litre (15gal) fuel tank for all day mowing, power steering, adjustable deluxe seat and steering column, and 50W halogen headlights for increased visibility. Options include cruise control and a mulching kit.

For further information Tel: 01949 860491.



## NEW FROM JCB GROUND CARE

JCB Groundcare has teamed up with Countax to produce a new tractor with unrivalled performance.

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. Electrically operated raising and lowering of the powered grass collector, push button emptying and easy interchanging of cutting decks combine to reduce manual effort to a minimum.

The interactive blade system utilises three contra-rotating blades for 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 JCB D20-50 has a dash-mounted fuel gauge, an operating management system which logs operating hours and service intervals, as well as several warning facilities which regulate the rev count and appropriate speeds for cutting. The result is optimum performance from the industry's most advanced cutting system.

In addition to its mowing capabilities, the D20-50 is a highly versatile piece of grounds maintenance machinery suited to a variety of further applications. 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 PTO 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.

Telephone: 01889 561000.

## NEW RANGE OF SPRAY PACKAGES

Spray Equipment Supplier, Kelland's Agricultural, has recently been appointed as a Suzuki dealer and introduced a new range of ATV based spray system packages which complement the company's range of self propelled sprayers.

Managing Director, Chris Kelland had identified both ATVs and ATV based spray systems as growing markets and sees the Suzuki appointment as an opportunity to enter a new sector which will assist sales of sprayers and other equipment.

The Suzuki Eiger 400 has been selected as the most suitable packaging partner for the range of spot sprayers and can be supplied with three or four metre boom kits.

For further information Tel: 01293766000



## SOAK UP WITH A NEW MINI

With the vast amount of revenue now being paid for many sporting features and the need to keep people playing regardless of the results of a downpour or flooding; the last words any sporting organisation wants to hear are "rain stopped play". This is no longer the case with the new Mini Blotter from Contract Maintenance Services. This latest introduction has been designed as the answer to a majority of these situations. Within a short space of time this machine can make most saturated surfaces playable.

The Mini Blotter has a one metre working width and is capable of removing approximately 3,410 litres (750 imperial gallons) of water per hour. Special attention has been paid to the machines ground pressure and its balance; this ensures minimal compaction even when the drum is full.

This machine is ideal for a host of turf and artificial playing surfaces and is particularly good for removing water from covers, so that play can be restarted quicker.

The stainless steel drum is bonded with a well proven foam covering and the squeeze pressure is applied by an easy to adjust top mounted roller.

A 5.5hp OHV engine provides power to the transmission through an Eaton hydrostatic unit with final chain drives to the drum.

A lever on the handlebars gives instant forward or reverse travel, which makes the machine easy to operate even in relatively confined areas.

There are two models available, the Standard Mini which has gravity fed water discharge system or the Super Mini with a pump to empty the drum and the facility to connect a hose for removing deep puddles or water build-up in channels and other areas.

The main frame is constructed from powder-coated steel and mounted on two wheels which are fitted with 4ply tyres or a roller.

Sealed bearings are used throughout for longevity and the machine has a twelve-month warranty. Service exchange drums are available and the operation of



removing and refitting these takes under 30 minutes. There is a system available for towing the unit between golf greens using an ATV, Truckster or Compact tractor. A specially designed stand takes the pressure off the foam covering when the machine is in storage

The new Mini Blotters from CMS can keep outdoor sports on schedule and during a wet season repays the investment and earns it keep very quickly.

For further information Tel: 07740 483175



## BUNKER SOLUTIONS

The Mantis BunkerMaster provides the ideal partner for general bunker dressing and management.

When used as a rake, the machine aerates the top 4cm of sand leaving a texture that simply needs final dressing using a traditional bunker rake. Dressing sand is however not the only benefit that the new BunkerMaster offers. The ability of the machine to aerate only the top layer of sand allows the easy redistribution of sand in a bunker that has been over-played. The extra depth that builds up at the bunker exit point, where players rake the sand as they leave the hazard, can easily be moved back into the base of the bunker.

The same rake attachment is a very effective professional steel spring dethatcher.

Due to its light weight and manoeuvrability, it can remove moss and thatch build up from the previously inaccessible areas of the course such as bunker banks, surrounds, and the undulating fringes of greens.

By removing the Rake/Dethatcher attachment, a pair of tilling tines can be attached allowing the simple preparation and maintenance of flower beds around the clubhouse. With a working width of 9" / 23cm and the ability to work down to 25cm, the Mantis produces a fine tilth ready for planting.

Using the same tines the Mantis can be used to weed to a depth of 5cm between plants in existing borders.

By removing the engine from the Mantis BunkerMaster and attaching it to the optional 76cm professional hedge cutter bar, routine trimming and maintenance of shrubs and hedges is easily accomplished.

For further information Tel: 01614741525

## OUT FRONT FLAIL

Rytec has introduced the PF1600 out-front flail, which combines high quality finish with durable build and cost effective price.

Following years of development in the field the all new PF1600 provides a reliable alternative to rotary mowing units, able to cut grass from short and dry to long and wet with equal ease. The cut grass is then spread evenly across the full width of the mower. A static mulching blade reduces the volume of cuttings to a minimum while front and rear rubber flaps allow material in, but stop stones and projections from flying out.

Rytec's PF1600 is available for most popular makes of out-front mowing tractors.

A full width easily adjustable rear roller and solid puncture proof front castor wheels control cutting height and combined with a centre mounted front roller a prevent scalping. Choice of flails including Rytec's AERO flail allow the cutting of all types of grass in all conditions with a very high quality of finish. Heavy duty gearbox and oil immersed drive shaft reduce running temperature and therefore increase reliability while remote greasers keep maintenance time to a minimum.

To add to all these features and benefits the PF1600 has a retail price of £2934 + Vat.

For further information: Tel: 01944 768232.



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

## SCOTTISH REGION

Annual Conference, Business Learning Centre, Lauder College, Dunfermline. On Tuesday March 2, 2004 BIGGA Scottish Region will again present their Annual Conference at the Business Learning Centre, Lauder College, Dunfermline.

For 2004 we have speakers from all sides of the industry coming to Dunfermline to provide topics relevant to everyone.

The speakers include Neil Baldwin, Omega Sciences; David Briggs, Campey Sports; David McLay Kidd, a Golf Course Architect; Rex Kimberly, Terralift and Richard Minton, of Complete Weed Control. From the ranks of the greenkeepers we are delighted to have Ian McMillan MG, Course Manager, Murrayshall Golf Club, and Duncan McGilvray, from Potters Bar Golf Club. All these speakers will provide interesting and varied talks that are relevant to all in greenkeeping.

The Conference Centre at Lauder College is centrally located and has easy access from the motorway. The Centre with its first class facilities is the ideal location for this event. It is hoped that greenkeepers, greens convenors and secretaries will attend.

Application forms will be available in the early part of January 2004 and will be posted to all members in the Scottish Region.

Peter J. Boyd  
Regional Administrator.

## Central

It seems a bit strange as I am writing this report in early December, it's supposed to be winter time and we are still cutting grass! Are the courses going to get any rest before opening day? I hope all this report reaches you this time as with my skills, my dyslexic computer and a faulty fax I sometimes have problems communicating with HQ.

I know they are not all my problems but that's another story.

Elmwood College in Cupar was the place to be on November 11 when a very successful workshop/seminar was held. Over 40 members took the time to attend and participated in a very interactive meeting with four excellent speakers in Douglas Shearer, from Elmwood College; George Murray, an Employment Consultant; Ian MacMillan, Course Manager at Murrayshall Hotel and Golf Courses, and Stuart Cruickshank Course Manager at Deer Park Golf and Country Club. Our sincere thanks go to everyone who helped to make this a very successful event, which hopefully we can build on for future events.

Congratulations from everyone in the Section go to committee member Ian MacMillan on becoming a grandfather, Ian's daughter, Gaynor, presented him with a lovely granddaughter, Isobel, on November 11. All are doing well and I don't think Ian has come down from Cloud 9 yet.

Congratulations also go to Jimmy Kidd who is leaving Gleneagles after many years and taking up a new position in Barbados. I hope all goes well with you and your family in your new venture. Scotland won't be the same without you Jimmy!

Club 2000 winners in the second half of 2003 were D. Peddie, L. Kennedy, T. Comerford, G. Smith, J. Wallace, G. Butter, B. Irving, B. Cruickshank, M. Baxter and K. Thomson and everyone should have received their cheques by now. At the time of writing I am still waiting for 225 members to purchase or return their tickets. I sent tickets out to 283 members so you can plainly see how many give support to the Section.

Next month I will include the names of everyone who has still to purchase/return their tickets and the following month I will include those who supported this venture.

We extend a warm welcome to one new member this month in Jonathan Pendry from Gleneagles. As usual, hopefully Jonathan will manage to attend some of our future events where he will get the opportunity to meet some of his fellow members. The dates for this year's golf tournaments at Elie and Downfield have yet to be confirmed, but I will get in touch with you all as soon as I have them.

John Crawford



**Peter Larter**  
**NORTHERN & MIDLAND**  
 Tel: 01476 550115



## North

Six new members to report this month and they are all from Skibo Castle GC, Christopher Mailley, William Matheson, James Shepherd, Glen Herbertson, James Mcbeath and Campbell Mackay. Gary Gruber, the new Head Greenkeeper at Skibo Castle, is also a member, so we have a full squad from Skibo. Welcome to the Section, lads.

Scotsturf has come and gone again and in speaking to members who made it down, there were quite a few companies who did not exhibit this year, maybe preferring once every two years. But I think everyone who made the effort had a good day.

Harrogate is coming again this month and Peter Boyd has negotiated a very good deal for our Scottish Region of £165 for three nights accommodation in the Moat Hotel and travel to and from Glasgow. Places on this package may well all be taken now, but there are other places to stay if it is necessary to do so.

George Mitchell, from Newmachar GC, was nominated for the LANTRA modern apprenticeship awards for his work on Level 3. George's achievement in attaining this nomination was high praise indeed, and although he was not successful in attaining the top prize, the nomination was a first.

The Patron's Awards for this year went to Hugh Mclatchie, from Peterhead, and Ken Andersen, from Newmachar GC. They recently attended the awards dinner in Stirling, along with the new Secretary, Dale Robertson, and would like to express their thanks to the Patrons for their continued support. They go down to Harrogate as part of their award for supporting the section throughout the year.

Dale is trying to set up an e-mail data-base for all our members, if they can get access to a computer, so as to make it easier and cheaper to contact members of any forthcoming outings etc. Dale's e-mail address is dalengc@hotmail.com. Dale's mobile number is 07711274525.

The outings for next year are for Spring, The Moray Old Course; Lossiemouth, on Thursday, May 27, while the autumn outing is to be at Westhill near Aberdeen in September.

Due to a mix with the reports the November's report was printed for a second time. Apologies for this to our members.

George Aitken, of Peterculter GC, is retiring from greenkeeping. George is a great supporter of BIGGA and was an ever present at outings. I would like to wish George all the best for his retirement on behalf of all the members of our Section. On the subject of older members, it was good to see Donnie Dingwall is still doing well at the ripe old age of 78. Donnie who is a former Head Greenkeeper of Strathpeffer occasionally pops up to make sure the things are being done properly. Also another former Strathpeffer Head man, Robert Hardie, is due to become a father again. So best wishes to young Bob and his family.

If any greenkeeper would like to do a Level 3 in greenkeeping from our Section, could they give me a phone as I am trying to get a group set up in the north area who can maybe do the qualification on a fast track basis over a year. Anyone interested could contact me on 01997 420155.

I would like to wish the members a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and I hope the winter is not too severe  
 Iain Gunn



## North East

In October at Seahouses GC we had our annual match against the East of Scotland. The match was a closely fought one once again as it turned out the game ended in a draw so the North East Section retained the trophy.

On behalf of both Sections we would like to thank the sponsors, Stewart's of Edinburgh for sponsoring the day and look forward to the return match next year.

Well, as you will have already read by now, Tony McLure and his team from

Whickham GC played in the John Deere Team Classic in November and finished 20 under par. Quite a good score you would think but the winners were a staggering 39 under. However, I'm sure the lads had a memorable time and enjoyed every bit of the challenge.

Well, it's that time of the year again when everyone will be doing their winter jobs spare a thought for those who are doing major jobs with the likes of Tyneside GC and Hexham GC. For those of you who know Tyneside well, next time you drive over the ravine at the 15th hole, notice the difference as they have partially filled it in making it easier to maintain and nowhere near as deep as it was.

Next it's Hexham GC as they are in the process of a redesign on the 18th hole, by dropping the ridge across the latter half of the fairway by a metre to make a flatter landing area plus reshaping the existing bunkers to grass faces. Work in the area is approx. 2500 square metres. Well they might be finished that job around January if they are lucky with the weather.

Anyone else with any news on their winter programme that they want mentioned give me a ring

0191 413 5232 or e-mailat JFroud123@aol.com  
 Jimmy Richardson

## North Wales

Happy New Year and a warm welcome to North Wales 2004. This month sees our Section Secretary, Andy Campbell, take up his post as Chairman of BIGGA from the current Chairman, George Brown. It will be a busy year for Andy attending all the shows in San Diego, Canada, Norway, Ireland, Italy the list goes on. Not to mention all the Dinner functions. It's going to be tough but I am sure he will cope and do a sterling job promoting the organisation.

Wendy O'Brien, also from Carden Park, has excelled in her newly chosen venture as a guest speaker at educational seminars, Wendy first compiled a revue of her Augusta experience in last year's North Wales seminar (featured in Greenkeeper International) and has since spoken at Cannington and The National Turf grass Conference in Southport. So be quick if you wish to book Wendy for your event as her diary is filling up.

Darren Anderson has attained his HNC in greenkeeping and Peter Sproston will be handed with a Bravery award in February at the Hanover International Hotel from the Fire Brigade for his heroics in saving a motorist from a crash last year.

Dougie Neilson has had a baby boy of 11lb 8oz, which is quite an achievement for a man, and Paul Lowe from Rhuddlan (with his wife) has had a baby girl. Congratulations to you both.

Our Spring seminar will be held once again February 24, at Carden Park, along with training courses in March and April – please contact the committee for details.

Forms for inclusion on to the coach for Harrogate will be in the post second week of January. Please return them ASAP so as not to miss out.

Our Christmas tournament was held at Abergele in December and a big thankyou to all those who took part and made the day a great success. We had just over 60 entrants and we thank Darren Anderson and his team for the fine presentation of the course. The new USGA greens had a good speed on them and the putts took all the breaks. Thanks also to the caterers for the turkey dinner and to the club for the courtesy of the course.

The results are as follows: Members. 1. Allen Lewis, 37pts; 2. John Evans, 36pts; 3. Haydon Jones, 36pts; 4. Rob Myatt, 35pts; 5. Kevin Lewis, 35pts. Guests. 1. Islyn Luke, 35pts; 2. Karl Ashley, 35pts. Trade. 1. Yours Truly, 36pts. The Aggregate Cup for the year was Jeremy Hughes. There were 2 Nearest the Pin Prizes, sponsored by BATgolf.com, and both were won by Rob Myatt, AbergeleGC, and Nearest the Pin, sponsored by Major Owen, won at 5' by Peter Sproston. Thanks also to all the trade Patrons of North Wales for their sponsorship.

I finish with a note to my old friend Bill Lawson. Bill, please note I haven't mentioned pubs or darts this month – Any news or views give me a call.

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## North West

How lucky can we get? Each year we have the AGM in December and we also play for the President's Cup and each year we have been blessed with good weather as we did once again on December 4. A turnout of 39 members and trade members enjoyed an excellent day at Wilmslow GC where we had the tee from 10am after a breakfast of bacon baps and coffee. As mentioned, the weather was good, and the course was in great condition as usual, with the greens as fast as during the summer month's. All credit for this goes to Steve Ultram and his dedicated team.

We played a Stableford round and although it is not an easy course (it is a qualifier course for The Open) the scores were good, with Peter Hogan winning the Presidents Cup with 39 points. Peter has picked up most of the prizes from this year's tournaments, so I think somebody will have to noble him next year.

The golf was followed by the AGM which was also attended by Peter Larter, the Northern Region Administrator. Mike Davie, the Section Chairman, stepped down this year after serving for four years as Chairman, and Paul Eddlestone took over as Chairman for the coming year. Mike was presented with a beautiful engraved hip flask to show the Section's appreciation, and I am sure it will be put to good use. The committee opted to carry on for a further year, with the addition of Alan Donlevy making a total of 10 committee members. The committee comprises: Chairman, Paul Eddlestone; Secretary, Bert Cross; Treasurer, Bill Merritt; Mike Davie, Steve Ultram, Chris Sheehan, Paul Walker, Clive Poole, Aidie Holt and Alan Donlevy.

As the meeting was about to close, the Chairman sprung a surprise on me, and I was presented with a magnificent framed picture of the Old Course St Andrews. This was because I have completed 25 plus years on the N/W Section committee. I had not realised I had done that long, but somebody had been doing their homework. I can assure everybody that it is greatly appreciated and is now displayed in pride of place in my home. Many thanks to everybody. I will close now but I am always available for any news or views on: 0151 7245412 or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross

## Northern

Too much eating, drinking and merry making? Never mind as BTME is almost here. Yes another one is upon us and I hope to see a lot of you either in the show, at the seminars or in the bars in Harrogate making the week another success for our Association.

As normal, I am writing these notes weeks ahead of the publishing date. In fact I am writing it before the Christmas golf at Elland Golf Club, (you think you're premature!). So, I am unable to report on the goings on at the event but I will tell you all the gory details in February's issue.

In the next month or so I am hoping you will all be receiving the new Fixture and Events list for the coming year. This will include details of our spring lecture and possible dinner dance.

Again can I plead with you all, as you can see, I am struggling for content so any news or views would be appreciated or am I writing this for my own enjoyment?

Please note my new address at the end of these ramblings. I have moved much nearer your Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and President and hope I can now do more drinking of the Black stuff or some Timmy Taylor's with them.

Last, but far from least, I must thank all at BIGGA House, and especially Ken Richardson, on the informative computer training three others and myself received through the Regional Training at a bargain price of £60 for the two days. Again and again I hear people say, "What do I get for my annual subscription?" Well, I am sure if you just took up one of the many days put on by the Association in Autumn and Spring you will have recouped the cost of it. So, if you would like to benefit from the training get in touch with headquarters and ask them if they can run a course in your desired field.

Talk to you all again next month, hope the heads are not too sore after BTME.

To contact me: Laburnham Cottage, Keighley Road, Denholme, Bradford, West Yorks BD13 5LY Tel: 01274 834551 Mobile: 07976876264

Email: Dthackray@aol.com

Dave Thackray

## MIDLAND REGION

### BB&O

Another year bites the dust, Christmas is over, new resolutions begun, the Atkins diet going strong coupled with the latest nicotine patch fix and we are all ready to rock and roll for 2004.

The final of the Regional Rigby Taylor Team Knockout has now been played with a 3 and 2 win favouring the Tartan duo Ross Wilson, Colin Hutt, Parasampia GC and magnanimous in defeat Simon Robinson, Alistair Higgs, Calcott Park GC. This event was greatly enjoyed by all who participated and a vote of thanks must go to the organisers.

On a mild, wintry morning in November, the BB&O gathered for its annual Turkey Trot at Frilford Heath GC. Sixteen teams of three with best two counting was the format, which was well represented from the three counties, after a low calorie bacon roll and coffee, a close fought battle commenced on the red course (a fine example in a Heathland setting). The course was very well prepared and in excellent condition due to Course Manager, Sid Arrowsmith, at the helm with his band of merry men, working wonders over the last year in maintaining such a fine golf course. A very big thank you to Sid and all the lads. The results were as follows: 1. Team Henley, Mitch Stewart, Dave Parish, Mike Johnson, 84 pts; 2. Team Flackwell Heath, Steve Gardner, Tony Simpson, John Rouse, 83 pts; 3. Team Hinksey Heights, Dave Shepard, Adam Thompson, Craig Marsh, 81 pts.

Thank you to Frilford Heath GC and Peter Dier, Vice Captain, for making us all very welcome and also for the gastronomic delights and facilities available to us on the day.

Sponsors for the day were Avoncrop Amenity with Colin White in attendance dishing out the well-earned prizes between the 3 teams. We thank you for your continued support. It was nice to see a few new faces on the day and we hope to see many more of you at our events in 2004.

Shot of the day must go to Jason Payne, Burnham Beeches, whose tee shot on the 9th, hit the trees, ricochet out, bounced on the roof of Carl Small's buggy putting his pacemaker on red alert, and landing in Nathan Bond's (the group in front) golf bag, never to see the light of day again.

Congratulations to Leon Brant, from Datchet GC, who is suffering from sleep deprivation with a big smile on his face as his wife has just given birth to a new baby boy, Jack. We all wish him and his new-born family the very best.

Finally a special mention to David Haskell Craig who has been our Section Secretary and stalwart at our golf days over the last few years, organising and making sure we all had a superb day out, David is leaving Maidenhead GC in the capable hands of Chris Mitchell, his Deputy, and emigrating to Australia. As you are reading this, he will probably be sunning himself and sticking another shrimp on the barbie in Sydney Harbour, just as we prepare ourselves for the whirlwind of activity at Harrogate. We wish the "Pommie David" (his new nickname) and family the very best success for the future down under.

Happy New Year to you all.

Mark Day

### Midland

Hope all had an excellent Christmas, and trust too much drink was not taken. A respected University Professor recently reminded me that: "One knows when one has drunk too much, as one shall be found lying on the floor holding on for dear life, as if one lets go, one should surely fall off!". What a delicious quote.

Last month I was fortunate enough to have been selected for interview with mind to a position as a Head Greenkeeper. I consider myself knowledgeable and experienced within greenkeeping, and other related fields. However, at interview I found myself somewhat nervous and indeed unable to string together a coherent sentence despite the greatest efforts of the kind interviewers. Thankfully, Andy Smith has organised an "Effective Communication" two day course to be held at Shirley Golf Club on 16 & 17 March at a cost of £60 plus VAT. This will obviously be specifically dealing with the many differing aspects of communication from the greenkeepers' point of view. To book your place please call either Andy on: 07977 145091, or myself

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Now for something a little lighter. Ray Wise, First Assistant, has knocked-up 25 years excellent service at Great Barr Golf Club. From both the Section and your work colleagues, congratulations and keep up the good work Ray. Wishing you well for the next 20 in our fine profession.

We have two new members to welcome to our fine Section this month, Mr C. P. Jones and Mr R. Wakefield, both being from The Worcestershire Golf Club. We look forward to seeing you at our golf tournaments gentlemen. I hope that your handicaps are not as kind to your game as our Regional Chairman's, Gavin Robson. At a recent Regional Committee Stableford match he scored 41 points, of which contained two blobs. Great golf, Gavin, particularly off 21. What's the name of that Chinese soup?

Rhys has once again secured four superb venues for this year's golfing fixtures. These being: Spring, Olton; Summer, Moor Hall; Autumn, Hawkstone Park, and Christmas, Trentham Park.

For many years now, Mr A. Smith has served our Section as a diligent and knowledgeable committee member. Due to other commitments he has decided to stand down. I, the committee, and I am sure the members, would like to thank Andy for his input and commitment to the Section. Your counsel will be sorely missed Sir.

Looking forward to seeing you at BTME 19-22/1/04. Wishing us all a happy and prosperous New Year.

Sean McDade

### Mid Anglia

Firstly, I must apologise to Nigel Phelan and his club. I wrote in last month's issue that he was from St Johns Hospital, but he in fact works at St Andrews Hospital. (How many of you noticed that one?). Sorry Nigel. I hope everyone has had a good Christmas and welcome to 2004.

On December 4, we took part in our final competition of the year at the well renowned Brocket Hall. With nearly 100 participants this was certainly a venue to be appreciated.

Our thanks go to John Moorhouse and his team for the excellent condition of the Melbourn course. Thanks also to the caterers for the traditional Christmas fare. With the format being Texas Scramble in teams of four the results were as follows:- 1. Berkhamsted, 59.2; 2. Boughton Loam, 59.4; 3. Mid Herts, 60.0. Longest Drive, Alan Grew, Berkhamsted. Nearest the Pin, Rob Caitlin, Seoul Nassau.

Congratulations to all who received prizes on the day. These were kindly donated by Avoncrop Amenity Products and our thanks go to our sponsors of the day and also to Barry McCloskey and Colin White for presenting them.

Hopefully, by the next issue, we should have confirmation on the education programmes and their dates and venues. As soon as we know, you will.

I hope everyone has a great 2004 and we as a committee would like to see more of you at the Spring, Summer and Autumn tournaments.

Venues are as follows:- John O'Gaunt, Spring, 36 holes; Mount Pleasant, Summer, 18 holes; Woburn, Autumn, 18 holes+AGM; Chesfield Downs, Winter, 18 holes Texas Scramble.

Steve Mason

### East of England

First of all I would like to wish everyone a happy, prosperous and fusarium free New Year. Christmas over and done with for another year and we can all look forward to lighter nights (and mornings) and the playing season, that will be upon us before we know what's happened.

This is my first entry in Around the Green since taking over from Graeme MacDonald as Secretary, I would like to thank him for all his hard work over the years and for handing over some very well organised paper work.

Plans are well under way for a Section seminar day that will be some time in February or March. More information will appear in next month's magazine and invitations will be in the post as soon as I have confirmed the details.

Finally, if any one has any news about new jobs, marriages, new family additions or even winning a prize with a good day on the golf course please let me know. If you ever have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me on 07702 435122 or e-mail me at leslie.howkins@ntlworld.com

Les Howkins

### East Midlands

The 2003 AGM was held at Kibworth GC. on November 12. We had 30 members attend the AGM with one or two interesting points being raised. Our present Chairman, Adi Porter, finished his term as Chairman, and was thanked by the incoming Chairman, Ian Needham, for his valuable work to the Section. The following committee were also duly elected. Vice-Chairman, Frank Kempster; Secretary, Antony Bindley; Treasurer, Gavin Robson. Committee members, Richard Barker, Adi Porter, Kevin Kinzer, Jamie Bedford, David James. Jeff Dickinson and Steve Goode had retired from the committee, and Richard Barker has retired as Treasurer.

Before all this took place we all had the pleasure of playing the course, in a three-man Texas Scramble format, the winning score of 64-3.2-60.8. belonged to Simon Banks, Adrian Rhodes and Greg Skinner. 2. Richard Barker, Kevin Kinzer and Andy McGreal 67-4.6-62.4.

Thanks should go to Kibworth Golf Club for courtesy of their fine course, Rival Catering for a truly grand meal, and Chris Butlin and his staff for a well presented golf course.

Once again could I please remind all members to enclose their entry form and cheque before the closing date. Next years Spring Tournament will be held at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club on May 12.

Finally there are two places going spare for a Chainsaw course at Beedles Lake Golf Club on March 2 & 3 if anybody is interested please give me a ring.

Antony Bindley



### Devon and Cornwall

Our second Autumn meeting was held at Bigbury Golf Club on Wednesday 19th November. The day started with Rob Guntrip of Devon Garden Machinery starting our golfing members on the 1st tee. Thirty-four members were competing for the DGM sponsored Toro Trophy. The remaining 25 members were escorted on the customary course walk with Head Greenkeeper, Graham Davis.

After some light refreshments, we were treated to a superb three course lunch so a big thank you to the catering team. I would like to thank Bigbury Golf Club and their staff for the use of their excellent facilities and the warm welcome extended to us. I would also like to thank Graham and his staff for presenting his golf course in fantastic condition. Graham has always been an ardent supporter of our Section and the golf course is a credit to him. Another big thank you has to go to our sponsor for the day, Alan Domett of Devon Garden Machinery, for his continued sponsorship. Alan has supported our Section for more years than I can remember and it was great to see him looking so well after his recent illness. After lunch, we held our AGM and everything went quite smoothly. There was little change to the committee apart from Martin Samuel, of Sheriff Amenity, who was voted on as new Trade Member replacing Billy Spratt who has left the industry.

Unfortunately, I will be standing down as Secretary in January 2004 due to personal reasons and a successor is currently being sought. It has been an honour and a privilege to be the Secretary of the Devon and Cornwall Section. A truly fantastic bunch of lads (and lady Katie Walls) with the friendship and comoradary second to none. And after all that, anybody wishing to fill my boots, please give me a ring!

After the AGM, we held the prize giving. Winners of the Toro Trophy were Simon Coombes, from Dainton Park, and Dave Harding, from Exeter, with a staggering 49 pts. Second with 48 pts were Simon Saunders and Scott McAuley, from Woodbury Park, and third were Simon Clarke and Justin Woods, from St Mellion, with 47 pts. Bill Mitchell, from Perranporth, won the Course Walk prize, Jim Arthur's book Practical Greenkeeping 2nd Edition. Bill also won the Course Walk prize last month, which was Jim Arthur's book Practical Greenkeeping 1st Edition! Guess who ain't getting a raffle ticket next month, Bill? Although I have to say, he did give back his last month's prize and after a redraw, Richard Wisdom, of Okehampton, won the first edition.

Dates for your diary: Our meeting at Royal North Devon on January 14, with

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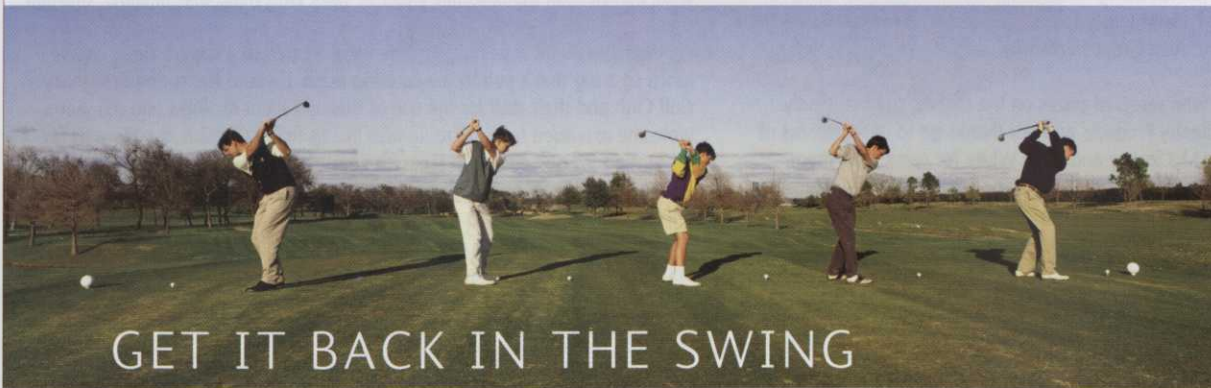
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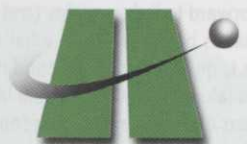
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Andy Cole, of PSD Agronomy, presenting the afternoon educational talk. Andy is one of the top agronomists in the country and one certainly not to be missed.

The BTME trip to Harrogate is from Tuesday, January 20 to Friday, January 23. Amenity Technology are once again sponsoring the coach and the package cost is £140 per person sharing a twin room. Please contact our Regional Administrator Derek Farrington on 01903 260956 for further details.

Steve Evans

### South West

So Christmas is over. There are more needles on the floor than on the tree. Holiday and diet adverts are on the telly and guess what? I am writing this article the day after another successful golf day (it's like back to the future doing these articles). Our Christmas tournament was at Lansdown Golf Club. Dare I say a few problems were apparent with certain aspects of the course but I am sure things will improve in the near future. Thanks for your superb hospitality. Results as follows: In first place, local talent, Richard Carter along with A. Matthews with a score of 68. 2nd place. Paul Godwin, now with Kendleshire Golf Club, after 15 long hard years at Tracey, sorry the Gloucestershire, and playing partner, John Batchelor, 68. Third, more local talent, Rob Lane, of Lansdown, and partner Wayne Vincent, 64.

Nearest the Pins. John Keenaghan and Allister Turner, a rare sight on the golf course, but accurate. A total of 40 on the day. Nobby would like to thank all helpers and participants for their continued support and not forgetting our fabulous patronage sponsors, BS Mowers, Irritech, Amtec, Abbots, Rigby Taylor, Avoncrop, Bioseeds, ALS, Roffeys, and Symbio.

I personally haven't witnessed the Dave Baugen makeover myself and I have it on good authority that it was real and not a 'syrup'. But was it really a purple perm or just a trick of the light? Apparently Robin Greaves was seen later trying to sell a copy of Jim Arthur's, Practical Greenkeeping on the streets of Bristol mumbling something about needing a bed for the night.

On a slightly more serious note, as a Section we are hoping to run a follow up to the Frank Newbury head office sponsored two-day presentation skills course held here at Bath, sometime in late February early March. It's a fantastic course so please contact me if you are interested, I should have some prices soon. Don't forget the training express risk assessment day again here at Bath Golf Club, January 27.

Good luck for the forthcoming year and may the Spring be kind to us all.

See you soon

Guy Woods

### South Wales

Hello folks and welcome to another episode of Around the Green, the section, where nosy parkers, yes that's you, read what's going on in the Regions across the Country.

Firstly, I would like to wish Adrian Panks (Strimmer boy from Dudley) all the best and a quick recovery after a recent illness. Any excuse to get out of writing this article.

Secondly, the Lord was looking down on one Andy Roach, when Andy teed off on a par 3 in the recent Welsh Amateur Championships and accidentally hit it straight into the hole for a one. Well done and although we were not there we will all gladly accept a drink at the next meeting.

Thirdly, I hope the New Heads and their families from Langland and Neath are settling down and are enjoying working and living in Wales.

Some results: Rigby Taylor Match-play. Daryl Bray & Lee Jones beat Gareth Evans & Alun Crichton; Jamie Probert & Herbie Probert Beat Andrew Phillips & Neil Ruck; Jim McKenzie & Jake Waites beat Angus Macloed & Mark Wilshire; A. Panks & G Humphries beat Dave Gladwin & Alain Morgan; Henry Stead & Dai Morgan beat Andy Roach & Micky Davies and

R Anderson & P Holmstrom beat Emyr Nickels & Adam Jones.

Overall Winners. Lee Davies and Daryl Bray, both Morrision, beat Fescue Pete Lacey, Pennard, and Steve "Smooth Talk" Mills, Gower.

Education.

Now is the time to start organising and enrolling onto course for the next year – our Section college, Pencoed are running excellent courses for all abilities and are pro active in the development of greenkeeping so if you would like to or you know of any one that would benefit from their services then give

Paul Discombe a call for a chat and a prospectus on 01656 302600 or email enquiries@Brigend.ac.uk

The BIGGA website has been running a discussion forum covering all issues that greenkeepers come up against all the time and I would encourage all to participate as it is useful resource for information.

The BTME Exhibition fast is approaching and hopefully you will have take the opportunity to visit this excellent exhibition and get updated on the modern techniques and machinery.

Question - Do you think these shows work and how many of you will benefit from your visit or is it pointless? Your feedback is much appreciated.

You can contact me on email KerryjokoJones@yahoo.co.uk

I have been prompted by PL to post the score by which they beat me and my partner by in the Rigby Taylor Matchplay - Kerry Jones & Darryl Jones lost to Peter Lacey & Steve Mills 6 & 5. Fluke

Cofion cynnes/Best wishes.

Kerry Jones

### SOUTH EAST

### Surrey

Sorry about the lack of input into last month's Around The Green but news was either nil or too late for the magazine deadline. I trust you all had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a New Year that will bring the ideal weather for whatever your course requires.

My seaweed indicates that the weather in 2004 will bring joy to your hearts but remember it is more probable that your greens committee will bring a pain to another part of your anatomy. November 24, 2003 was the date of the annual England vs Scotland battle at Hankley Common Golf Club and due to some misunderstanding, which in the opinion of all the other team members was due entirely to my age and gradual loss of brain cells. If true I offer my sincere apologies to both team Captains. Perhaps next year to avoid embarrassment and confusion they should both assume I am playing for the other team and let me sit quietly in the clubhouse bar while trying to remember who and where I am. The result was a draw and therefore England retain the Cup.

Surrey Section had its Turkey Trot and AGM at Royal Epsom Golf Club on December 4 and as expected the course was, in Mark Harvey's opinion, excellent and the best it's been since the defection to Essex of that humble and abstemious Scotsman, Mr Douglas Ignatius Fernie. We all enjoyed a windswept game a few beers in the bar and a most enjoyable traditional Christmas dinner. The result was: 1. Chris (Sharkie) Hartnett, 40pts, Addington Palace Golf Club; 2. Derek Cunliffe, 37pts, Old Thorns Golf Club; 3. Tony Bremer, 37pts, Dorking Golf Club. Nearest the Pin was officially won by that great golfer, Tim (Tacit) Webb, but he graciously declined the spotlight as Tacit were the sponsors and so Adam Lunoe, from Richmond Golf Club, received the prize. Longest Drive, into the wind and easily over 100 yards, was delivered by Rob George, Coombe Hill Golf Club.

The AGM had an attendance of over 60 members and was conducted and concluded in a very efficient manner. Billy McMillan confirmed that Bert Watson retires this month from Tyrrells Wood Golf Club and requested that he should be made a life member of BIGGA. Derek Farrington has put the necessary wheels in motion and I hope soon to report that this has been agreed. Good luck, Bert and have a great retirement.

It was also announced by Anthony Freeman that, sadly, Ted Stiles died on Monday November 10. Ted was a most enthusiastic member of the Surrey Section and served for many years on the committee. He was a keen swimmer and played water polo for the county. Ted was also an engineer in the Merchant Navy before joining the Drift Golf Club as a Mechanic/Greenkeeper. Several members attended the cremation service at Walton and a floral tribute was presented on behalf of you all. Paul Weston has been sent a card from Sheila, Ted's wife, thanking Surrey Section for fond memories of golf, snooker and a few friendly pints.

Your committee had its latest meeting on December 1, at Epsom Golf Club. The venues for 2004 events are almost complete and include the following golf clubs, Cuddington, Coombe Wood, Clandon Regis, Laleham and Sunningdale. The Gentleman's Dinner at Walton Heath will be on March 12. Details of this year's Bioseed Bowl will be sent soon but please remember that all competitors must have an official BIGGA, golf club or golf handicap to enter.

Brian Willmott

## NORTHERN IRELAND

Well, did you get to the show in Dublin? I stayed in a really posh hotel with the boys from Raddison Roe Park Golf Club. I arrived first and sat in the bar, while sipping my pint. I looked around, the bar/restaurant was packed full of very smartly dressed people. I certainly would sooner keep the women for a week than a fortnight. Then, all of a sudden, four boys from Limavady walked in. Priceless!

I don't know who phoned me in the middle of the night but I found myself talking to someone on a 'big white telephone'. I remember my mummy used to hold my forehead but Lawrence couldn't have cared less. He asked 'Were you talking to someone?' Some folks need it spelling out, don't they?

John Nolan, from Edmonds Town GC, Dublin, was looking very well indeed. Maybe his honeymoon in South Africa contributed to that. Congratulations, John.

Mr President. I first met the Pres 40 years ago. He came down from Scotland and joined the police SVC (scratch golfer by the way). He was our local rural Bobby. On his night shift he used to set off in his Morris Traveller (do you remember those wooden framed estate cars?), drive round to the local village pub, lift the rear end and put a crate under the axle. He'd put it into first gear, let it run, spend the night in the pub and take her back in the morning with the miles on the clock. Happy Days. He represented the British Police at Golf and played at Royal Portrush, a long time ago. He said the only thing he can remember was looking out of his hotel window in the morning and seeing someone coming down the road on his bike. The only thing keeping him on the road was he kept hitting the kerb either side of the road. He eventually came up to a pub, got off his bike, let it go and walked straight into the bar. I didn't think Joe Findlay was at Portrush then.

Now Serious.

At the AGM on December 3, officers were elected. Ken Henderson, Chairman; Emmett Curran, Secretary; Micky O'Neill, Treasurer and comps and Andrew Kerr, Education.

A special thanks was conveyed again to sponsors of the year. I, in error, forgot to thank Karl Veshar, of Vesta Irrigation, for the sponsorship at the golf day at Portstewart Golf Club and Coburns for sending two players to England. Please accept my apologies. Once again thank you to all the companies who have contributed this year.

Very Serious.

The AGM was poorly attended. Your committee works very hard to provide you with golf days, education events, conferences etc. So, it was very disappointing that you couldn't turn up for one evening either just to express your dissatisfaction or your compliments, or to provide some input into what is, after all, your group. I'm sorry if I have touched a nerve but then I hope I have.

Mickey O'Neill and Ken Henderson won the quiz. Not surprising as Ken got me to repeat every damn question. Andrew Kerr and Jonathan McCabe picked up the booby, again not surprising as Jonathan said he is still on honeymoon.

Once again sorry for what I have said but it needed to be.

Graham Prosser

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This competition is not open to BIGGA Staff or non-members.

The solution to the December Turftime Teaser was 'MJ Abbott'. The lucky winner of the Sony CD Walkman is Tim McCreadie from Royston Golf Club - WELL DONE!

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Full BIGGA members only may apply to be considered for the Team, and must apply to: John Pemberton, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF. Should you require any further information then John can be contacted on 01347 833800 or via e-mail: john@bigga.co.uk

Closing date for applications for the Open: Friday 13 February 2004.

## VOLVO PGA CHAMPIONSHIP The Wentworth Club, May 29-30 2004

The Association will again be providing a support team for the final two days of this prestigious event which this year are Saturday 29 May and Sunday 30 May. Each member will be allocated a match, raking any bunkers found by the players.

In addition, should adverse weather conditions prevail, you may be required to assist the Wentworth greenkeeping staff in keeping the course playable.

You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course and there is no provision for overnight accommodation. You may apply to help on either or both days and usually all those who apply are given the chance to participate on at least one day.

When applying please give details of your polo shirt size as this may be provided together with daily meal vouchers.

Helping at this event will not prejudice your chance of a place on The Open Championship Support Team.

Applications to Derek Farrington, BIGGA Regional Administrator, 35 Cleveland Road, Worthing, Sussex BN13 2ES Tel: 01903 260956 Email: derek.farrington@tesco.net

## Sevenoaks Leisure Ltd.

Operating as

**senciö**  
community leisure

Invites applications for a fully qualified

### **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

for Lullingstone Park Golf course, which comprises 18 and 9 hole, 9 hole pitch and putt and 22 bay driving range.

Candidates should possess the following:

- N/SNVQ Level 2 amenity horticulture and Level 3 sports turf maintenance
- Ability to plan and deliver a work programme
- Thorough understanding of relevant Health and Safety legislation
- Enthusiasm and self motivation
- A proven track record

Starting salary : between £26,000 and £32,000 p.a. according to qualifications and experience.

Closing date for applications: 30th January 2004.

Interviews will be held over 2 days on 12th and 13th February 2004.

Candidates should ensure they are available to attend for a course tour and formal interview on both days.

For more information, contact David Boorman: 01732 227318, david.boorman@sevenoaks.gov.uk

For an information pack and application form, please ring voicemail number 01732 227102 or e-mail recruitment@sevenoaks.gov.uk quoting reference LG.GRE



**MOOR ALLERTON**

**GOLF CLUB LIMITED**

founded in 1923

invites applications for the position of

### **COURSE MANAGER**

Moor Allerton is a most prestigious 27 hole parkland championship golf course that is situated 5 miles north of Leeds, we are looking for an experienced but still ambitious course manager who can help develop all aspects of the 6500 yard course.

The successful applicant must be a proven leader, motivator and manager as well as a good communicator. At least 5 years recent experience working at the highest level would be preferable.

You will have:

- HNC or NVQ to level 3 with PA1, PA2 and PA6.
- Health & Safety training.
- A practical knowledge of both machinery and irrigation systems.
- A full and clean driving licence.

An excellent remuneration package is available to the successful applicant.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

The Greens Chairman, Moor Allerton Golf Club, Coal Road, Leeds LS17 9NH



## **ELY CITY GOLF CLUB**

### **HEAD GREENKEEPER**

Applications are required for a self-motivated, enthusiastic Head Greenkeeper to take charge of the course and the well qualified, hard working staff.

Salary and conditions will be commensurate with experience and qualifications (to include NVQ Level 3 with PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying qualifications) and will reflect the importance of the position.

Ely City Golf Club has 750 members, playing on an 18 hole parkland course of 6627 yds. The Club and its excellent facilities are regularly used for County and Regional events.

The closing Date for applications is Monday 26 January 2004 with the interviews being held on Saturday 31st January 2004.

Apply in writing with a full CV to:

The Club Manager, Ely City Golf Club,  
107 Cambridge Road, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4HX

## **Burhill Golf Centres**

Burhill owns and operates eight golf courses throughout the south and the midlands and currently has vacancies for

### **ASSISTANT GREEN STAFF AT WOKING**

Applicants should be physically fit, well motivated and either NVQ2 qualified or working towards it.

This Centre offers an excellent opportunity for ambitious Greenkeepers to gain quality experience in a friendly atmosphere.

Accommodation may be available with the post if required.

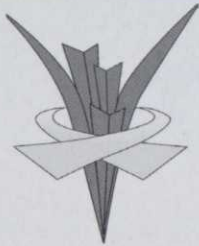
Salary is negotiable and dependent upon experience.

Applications in handwriting including a full and current CV to:

Mike O'Connell, Hoebridge Golf Centre, Old Woking Road, Old Woking, Surrey GU22 8JH Tel: 01483 735336

Or, if you require more information about the positions please call the Centre direct

# Recruitment



## Sherriff Amenity Services

Fordham Road  
Newmarket  
Suffolk  
CB8 7LG

### Amenity Sales Specialists

Sherriff Amenity Services is a leading distributor in the UK supplying the amenity market with Fertilisers, Chemicals, Machinery, seed and Equipment.

We are looking to further expand our business and are therefore seeking qualified individuals to join our current team of Amenity Sales Specialists.

Experience in the turf and amenity sector along with industry recognised qualifications will be advantageous but not essential, as full training will be given.

We invite applications from all areas of the UK.

Salary is negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

Please apply with a full C.V. either by post or email to:  
Mark Pyrah, Amenity Director  
Sherriff Amenity Services, The Pines, Fordham Road, Newmarket,  
Suffolk, CB8 7LG  
Email: mark.pyrah@agrovista.co.uk  
Tel: 01638 721888 Fax: 01638 721815



## SHOOTERS HILL GOLF CLUB

Require a

### DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Shooters Hill Golf Club is an attractive 100 year old private members club with 900 members located in Southeast London.

This is a great opportunity for a committed, enthusiastic and motivated Greenkeeper to join our team as we start a comprehensive programme of renovation and modernisation.

Preferably qualified to NVQ 3 with PA1, 2 and 6 spraying certificates it would also be an advantage if you have machinery and irrigation experience. Further training will be provided and encouraged.

Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience, no accommodation available.

Written applications with full CV by 31st January 2004 to:

The General Manager, Shooter Hill Golf Club,  
Eaglesfield Road, Shooters Hill, London SE18 3DA

## ARCHERFIELD GOLF CLUB

Scotland's newest, most exciting golfing destination.  
Require

### EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPERS

We are looking for enthusiastic, hard working greenkeepers to join our growing team to develop our two championship courses in readiness for opening in May 2004.

Qualified to NVQ 2 with spraying Certificates if possible.

Closing date for applications is 23rd January 2004.

Applications in writing to:

Ian Everard, Course Manager, Archerfield Golf,  
Dirleton, East Lothian EH39 5HQ



Has a vacancy for a

### IRRIGATION ENGINEER

For the installation of Golf, Sports, Landscape & Residential irrigation systems throughout the UK.

The position would be suited to a candidate who:

- Has had previous experience in this field
- Is enthusiastic, motivated, committed and a team player
- Can operate installation machinery
- Will work from our depot in Norfolk
- Would be prepared to lodge away at times during the year

The successful candidate will benefit from a company vehicle, pension opportunities and a negotiable salary dependant upon experience.

Please write with current CV to:

Jon Mawson Director, Autoflow Systems, Auto House,  
Ashtree Works, Mill Rd, Barnham Broom, Norfolk, NR9 4DE

## CLEETHORPES GOLF CLUB LIMITED

(Established 1894)

Due to recent promotion, we now require a

### 1st ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have appropriate qualifications and experience, including a spraying certificate.

No accommodation available and salary will be subject to experience.

Applications in writing with CV to:

The Secretary, Cleethorpes Golf Club Limited,  
Kings Road, Cleethorpes, N. E. Lincolnshire, DN35 0PN

## COLONY CLUB GUTENHOF Vienna, Austria

requires

### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

for their 36 Hole championship complex.

All applicants must be suitably qualified to NVQ Level 2 or equivalent and have a minimum of three years experience.

The successful applicants will be expected to work as part of a well motivated team and contribute to the running of both golf courses.

Accommodation and 1st flight provided.

Please send C.V. and photograph to:

John Jackson, Head Greenkeeper, Colony Club Gutenhof, Golf platz, A-2325, Himberg, Austria

# Recruitment

## Chichester Golf Club

One of the largest golf facilities on the south coast of England, Chichester Golf Club is a 45 hole golf complex, encompassing two 18 hole courses - one members, one pay and play, with a further 9 hole par 3 course and driving range as part of a teaching academy.

We are currently seeking applications for the position of

## HEAD GREENKEEPER

Reporting to our Group Golf Courses Manager, Darren Homer, the successful applicant will be responsible for the daily operation and maintenance of the facilities. The individual must possess the ability to lead by example, motivate and communicate effectively at all levels as well as demonstrate a thorough knowledge of all modern greenkeeping practices.

This position would suit a level 3 qualified experienced greenkeeper who is currently employed as an Assistant or Deputy, someone who is hard working, self-motivated with a keen and positive attitude towards their work.

Please contact Jo Bowry on 01243 536666 for an application form  
Chichester Golf Club, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 1AX  
Facsimile; 01243 539922 Jo.bowry@chichestergolf.com

## HANDSWORTH GOLF CLUB LTD

(private members club) Founded 1895

Requires a

### QUALIFIED FULLY SKILLED MEMBER OF GREEN STAFF LEADING TO DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

To join a team looking after an 18 hole parkland course.  
The successful applicant must have NVQ2 and Spraying certificate.

Applications in writing with CV to:

Green Chairman, Handsworth Golf Club Ltd, 11 Sunningdale Close,  
Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1NP

## OAKMERE PARK GOLF CLUB NOTTINGHAM

Require a

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Oakmere Park is a proprietor owned 27 hole golf complex, designed by Frank Penninck with a 20 bay floodlit driving range and short game areas. Membership of 950.  
Open to visitors and societies.

- The suitable applicant should be:
  - Qualified to lead and manage a team of trained staff.
  - Continue the ongoing pursuit of high maintenance and construction standards.
  - Highly motivated and committed. • Work within agreed budgets.

Salary negotiable.

Apply in writing by 29th January 2004:

Director of Golf, Oakmere Park Golf Club, Oaks Lane, Oxton, Notts. NG25 0RH.

## TEE OFF TO A GREENER FUTURE...

### EXPERIENCED AMENITY SPECIALISTS REQUIRED

Attractive Salary + Benefits

Cropwise Limited are one of the largest privately owned amenity and agricultural distributors in the UK.

We currently operate throughout Northern England, the Midlands and the Welsh and Scottish Borders. We are one of the fastest growing companies serving the professional sports and amenity sectors.

Over Twenty years we have built our reputation on the highest levels of quality, service and customer focus.

Due to our continued growth and development we are now seeking experienced Amenity Specialists.

We have opportunities in all areas of the country for qualified experienced Amenity Specialists.

If you are committed to a professional and flexible approach to your work and have a good proven track record of establishing and maintaining Amenity business, then Cropwise is the company for you.

Cropwise Amenity offers outstanding Career opportunities, particularly to those with management potential. You must be committed to providing good customer care as well as having first class Technical knowledge of the Amenity market.

Help Cropwise to develop their vision of becoming the market leaders in the Amenity Sector and open the door to a brighter future.

**Apply in writing to Paul Hensman, in the strictest confidence, enclosing a full CV.**  
**Closing Date 1st February 2004**  
**Paul Hensman, Amenity Director, Cropwise Ltd,**  
**Market Weighton Road, Barlby, Selby, YO8 5LD**  
**Tel: 01757 289191**



*Cropwise Amenity – Specialist Supplier to the Professional Sports and Amenity Markets*

## Feature listing from January 2002

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# One for the Road!



**Almost caught up with things and I will be just about be back to normality in time to hand over the reins to my Vice Chairman, Andy Campbell, who I am confident that with his enthusiasm and drive will take the Association forward.**

I have had a most enjoyable year but it has not all been plain sailing as we have had to face several unforeseen challenges, sadly one of those being the sudden illness of our Executive Director, Neil Thomas, who has had to face the toughest challenge of all and at this time is still unable to return to his duties. We have been inundated with well wishes for Neil and on behalf of all members and friends we wish him and his family better fortune for the coming year. Our Deputy Executive Director, John Pemberton has been holding the fort in Neil's absence, and I must say has risen to the challenge with the sterling help of all the staff at Headquarters, and for that we are most thankful.

Having recently returned from attending the John Deere World Team Championship being played over The Grey Hawk Golf Courses in Scottsdale, Arizona, it makes one appreciate how fortunate those that qualified to play in the finals and officials such as myself were to get away from our winter weather for a week or so. Having said that the first day's practice round was virtually washed out as most of the region had one inch and three quarters of rain in one day (one half of their annual rain fall)! The only difference from home was that the rain came straight down and was warm rather than sideways and cold! My column is too short for the many stories and wonderful happenings that occurred throughout the trip. Whickham Golf Club, our British qualifiers, put up a good show both on and off the golf course, indeed they were a credit to BIGGA especially during the second round, finishing the last 10 holes with an Eagle and nine Birdies, and finished 16th. They may have done better if Cactus Jack spent more time on the fairways instead of exploring the desert where an amazing variety of birds and animals could be easily viewed.

Apart from being generously entertained by John Deere (a report will follow in the magazine next month) additional evening's entertainment was bolstered by the Irish team with their professional singer and guitarist, Kevin Dwyer who entertained until the early hours. One of the highlights of the week must be the Friday dinner and presentations where John Deere donated a cheque to BIGGA for £9200, for the second consecutive year. The funds will go towards education and support programmes for the 2004 conference at Harrogate.

I had no sooner hit the tarmac at Heathrow and then

on to attend the South West and South Wales Region at Cannington College for their two day conference that included some first class speakers. Talking of speakers I recently attended the Scottish Patrons' lunch in Stirling which is always a popular event and a thank you to the trade for their support throughout the year. After lunch former Rangers player, Willie Henderson, entertained us with many wonderful stories of his long and colourful career.

During this past year I have been exceptionally busy and by the time you read this column I will have just about finished my term of office and look forward to more leisure time. I would like to be like my pal Walter Woods and practice my golf. When we were younger we used to play for money but now that we are old the stakes are much more serious, we now play for a Viagra tablet!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their support and kind comments that I have received throughout my term of office. I will have many happy memories to reflect on in my twilight years, I would also like thank the Board members, who give up many days of their valuable time to attend meetings and make decisions on the members behalf, their wisdom has been invaluable and it is not by accident that BIGGA is where it is today.

I am also indebted to my Greenkeeping team at Turnberry for helping to make my year stress free and keeping our Golf Courses and Property in good shape during my time away on BIGGA business. Not forgetting of course my employers, most of all my General Manager, Stewart Selbie, for his continued encouragement and support during my role as BIGGA Chairman.

BTME & ClubHouse at Harrogate it is always a great start to the New Year, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible throughout the week in the meantime may all your grasses stay healthy.

**George Brown  
Chairman**

# There's nothing Mild about Mildothane

Nothing likes to chase away your casting worms more than Mildothane® Turf Liquid.

And when it's done that, it'll go after any lurking turf diseases like Fusarium, Dollar Spot and Red Thread, and see them off too.

You can even tank mix it with Crossfire\* 480 for simultaneous control of leatherjackets.

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# Snap – Click – Done!

Replacing worn or damaged bottom blades has never been so simple with MagKnife™. Exclusively available from Ransomes Jacobsen, it's a revolutionary new system using powerful magnets to attach bottom blades to greens and fairway cylinder mowers, eliminating the need for screws.

**Replacement is reduced from hours to minutes** with this new patented screwless system. And there are additional benefits too! Debris passes through the bottom blade minimising damage to the cylinder. It's so quick and simple to use, changing blades for mowing after top dressing or for a tournament finish takes minutes! And it's retro fit, so the system will fit older machines as well.

Save time, money and improve the finish of your course.

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