

YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

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

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

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