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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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July 2004

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Welcome

MORE THAN JUST NAVAL GAZING

As I promised last month the July magazine looks at how you, the greenkeeper, are perceived by others. It may appear to be an exercise in little more than navel gazing but it is actually extremely important. If you don't know how well, or otherwise, you are considered by the people around you then you are in no position to do anything about it. It's as simple as that.

And let's face it even your biggest supporters, those who fight the greenkeepers' corner when push comes to shove, don't always really know the levels of expertise required to do the job to its fullest. They may know that there is more to it than cutting grass. They may even know it involves identifying diseases and introducing the cultural practices to prevent them. But very few will know the complete range of skills required to produce a well maintained golf course.

And no, the complete greenkeeper doesn't - or to put it into the language of my birth "disney" - attend "Mickey Mouse" courses in the country's educational establishments and pick up meaningless qualifications. I've harped on about it on more than one occasion but when the former Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Whitehead, routinely devalues the work of greenkeepers by grouping the training courses with those of Beer Making, Flower Arranging and Circus Studies, it shows the size of the task we have ahead of ourselves when it comes to increasing the respect you should have for doing such a complex and involved job.

The people who have kindly taken part in the "See Yourself as Others See You" feature are all golf people and they do have a positive opinion of your work but they are aware of the problems and I would bet that if you were to ask them detailed questions even those who spend their lives writing about golf and golfers would struggle a little.

A concerted approach to promoting the qualities and skills of BIGGA members is what is required, and over the next few months plans will be put in place to make that happen.

Please take part in the exercise. If you have any examples of greenkeepers being treated badly by golfers, or indeed the converse, please write to me at BIGGA HOUSE or email me at scott@bigga.co.uk. It will all help when it comes to putting a campaign together. Obviously anonymity will be respected if requested. We don't want to make too many martyrs!

I genuinely believe that this is the key to everything. If you are identified and seen as professionals you will be treated as professionals

I close with some good news. Gordon McKillop, of the STRI, is back behind his desk in Bingley. Doesn't sound too significant on the face of it but Gordon suffered a health scare recently and the fact that he is back shuffling papers around his desk again is very good news indeed.

Scott MacCallum, Editor



The Devon and Cornwall Section held a Machinery Maintenance Workshop last month at Seale Hayne College, Newton Abbot. Over 60 members were in attendance, in what proved to be a tremendously successful event. All attendees received certificates from Toro and Ransomes Jacobsen. The Section would like to thank Clive Pinnock and Toro, Alan Dommet and Devon Garden Machinery, Glen Forsdyke and Ransomes Jacobsen and Patrick Flegg, of P.J.Flegg Ltd, for their contributions in making the day such a success.

HISTORY LESSON

New guidance on golf courses in historic landscapes is to be produced by Land Use Consultants for English Heritage. This will review the past, present and future effects of golf course development on historic landscapes, provide criteria for assessment of golf course developments and best practice advice on design, management and planning control and policy.

The project will question assumptions on developments such as golf courses in the historic environment and will thoroughly examine the current situation and future trends to produce a positive and practical guidance document of use to a wide audience from golf course architects to developers, local planning officers and golf course owners and managers.

The study will focus on golf within nationally designated landscapes in particular those on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, but it will also consider best practice within the wider historic environment including World Heritage Sites, Listed Battlefields, Conservation Areas, National Parks, and on the

settings of Listed Buildings within these landscapes.

Working with Land Use Consultants on the project will be the landscape historian David Lambert, formerly Conservation Officer for the Garden History Society, and golf course architect Tom Mackenzie of Donald Steel and Company.

Consultation will be an important part of the process of developing the guidance and initial input is sought from individuals and organisations involved in golf course development, management and the historic environment.

Details of good practice in design, planning policy and practice and landscape management would be particularly welcome. A consultation form is available to be downloaded from www.landuse.co.uk or english-heritage.org.uk/parksandgardens or by contacting Jane Wilson of Land Use Consultants on 020 7383 5784.

A full consultation on the draft document will take place in Autumn 2004, with final publication planned for early 2005.



The Kent Section held a well attended golf day at Hever Castle GC, hosted by Course Manager, David Wood. For report and results see Around the Green.

DE VERE SIGN UP WITH TORO

Leading hotel and leisure concern the De Vere Group plc has awarded Toro a multi-million-pound contract to re-equip all its golf courses in the UK with new turf maintenance machinery.

Under a new five-year deal - valued at up to £500,000 a year - Toro will supply a comprehensive range of turf equipment to all seven of De Vere's existing hotels with golf courses. These include four-times Ryder Cup venue The De Vere Belfry, Warwickshire, De Vere Slaley Hall, in Northumberland, and De Vere Carden Park in Cheshire.

In addition, Toro machinery will be supplied to one other site that will become part of the De Vere portfolio over the next few years - The Carrick on Loch Lomond, which is currently under construction.

"We are delighted to be working with Toro," said De Vere Golf Operations Manager, Robert Maxfield.

"The company has an excellent reputation in the industry and we are looking forward to a very successful five years," he added.

Toro's European Director of Sales, Bob Buckingham, said: "Toro is very pleased to have been chosen by De Vere as their partner for the maintenance of their portfolio of golf properties. We believe together we can introduce significant efficiencies and productivity gains that will



augment the local management of the group's high-class golf courses spread across England and Scotland.

A vital part of the agreement is the high-level of after sales service and tournament support that will be provided through Toro distributor Lely UK and its network of local dealers. Toro has also created a web-based user-guide especially for De Vere. This will log all specifications, service and other details for all of the machines so that Course Managers can see at a glance their complete history.

Peter Mansfield, Toro General Manager at distributor Lely UK, said: "Lely is delighted to be working on a flagship account with such a high-profile group as De Vere. This deal also brings great benefits to us and our dealers and we eagerly look forward to being of service."

NEW STYLE...



David Fellows, Head Greenkeeper of Cocks Moor Woods Golf Club, (Birmingham), rose to the challenge when Midland Section Secretary, Sean McDade, made the wearing of a BIGGA tie

compulsory at Section events. The fine for non compliance being £1 with proceeds going to the Christmas Event's Captain's Charity.

David had long preferred the bow tie to the more conventional version so, as the Association doesn't supply the bowed variety, Sean thought he would have a ready supply of £1 coins before the year was out. That was before David, turned up at the Spring Tournament at Trentham Park GC sporting a BIGGA bow tie which was tailored by a friend of his, from an old style standard BIGGA tie.

NEW IOG PRESIDENT

Derek Walder has been elected President of the IOG. Well-known in the industry as a former Chairman and as the IOG Saltex Site Operations Manager, Derek had a long career in horticulture and sportsturf management before his retirement three years ago.

He was handed his chain of office by retiring President Bob Corbin at a board meeting in Milton Keynes.

"This is a tremendous honour and I will continue to promote and work for the IOG with renewed vigour.

"The IOG has a bright future. To follow in the footsteps of Bob Corbin is going to be a difficult act to follow," said Derek, who is a holder of the BEM.

FRIENDS REUNITED



Suzanne Barrett (left) has been appointed Marketing Co-ordinator at Ransomes Jacobsen.

Reporting directly to Selina Flynn, Communications and Promotions Manager, Suzanne will be responsible for assisting in the planning and implementation of Ransomes Jacobsen's international marketing activities throughout the UK.

"We are delighted to welcome Suzanne to the Marketing Department. The experience she has gained through working in the Human Resources department has equipped her more than adequately for the responsibilities she will face in her new role," said Selina.

This is not Suzanne's first experience of working with Selina; previous to their time at Ransomes Jacobsen, they both attended the same primary school, The School of Jesus and Mary in Ipswich and have in fact known each other since the tender age of four!



The STRI Soil Science team with their USGA accreditation.

Royal Inverdivot GC...

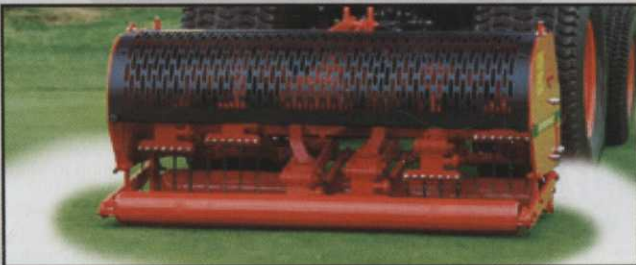
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THE MAGIC OF WENTWORTH



Around 50 greenkeepers from all over the country gave up two days of their Spring Bank Holiday to help out Chris Kennedy and the Wentworth staff for the final two days of the Volvo PGA Championship. They don't all work both days but most do and apart from the shirt and the cap their reward is a season ticket and car park pass for the whole week.

I know that this tournament is dwarfed by The Open but Wentworth really is a magical place. Just walking the course with the odd short cut takes you past houses that take your breath away with their splendour. It's not just the odd one or two but there are so many of them! Walk near the clubhouse and you are never sure who you might see if you are a 'celebrity watcher'.

The weather this year was reasonably kind,

one big spark in the sky on Sunday with just the odd shower or three. Chris Kennedy's warning on the Sunday morning of a heavy storm around one o'clock (that means squeegees out!) did not materialise. This brings me to the magical bit.

David Miller, Merrist Wood GC, had been allocated Scott Drummond's match on the Saturday. Scott had a stormer. His caddie said to David that things were so well that they wanted to keep everything the same and would David be the bunker raker on the Sunday. David explained that the allocation was pre-arranged.

Being so superstitious the caddie (and Scott) were devastated.

David duly went out early on Sunday morning but had finished before Scott Drummond had teed off. The caddie, spotting David passing the 1st tee and asked him if he would come and complete the team. David, after checking that the allocated Greenkeeper, James Lomas from Hadley Wood GC,

didn't mind complied with the request and James and David went out in tandem. The result is now well known, Scott shot a 64 to win the Championship. This brings me to the magical bit.

Being on modest expenses, your correspondent was staying some eight miles away at a very average bed and breakfast and as he had to be on the course so

early in the morning could never get the breakfast. Now Scott Drummond has won but £11,000 this last year on the tour and with family commitments he obviously could not afford the likes of the five star Pennyhill Park Hotel and similar nearby establishments. You've guessed it. Scott, his wife and four week old baby were staying in the bed and breakfast.

Seriously, thanks to all of you who volunteered your services. It made it a great occasion to retire on and it was a wonderful few days.

Derek Farrington



TOP MAN



Anthony Peterson has scooped the top prize of Overall Winner – The Most Dedicated Learner and the prize for Part-time Learner at the Oaklands College Adult Learners' Awards. Anthony was nominated by his tutor Andy Wight for showing an outstanding commitment to his studies and a determination to succeed. He collected his

certificate, a commemorative glass plaque and a cheque for £50 from the Mayor of the City and District of St Albans.

"Anthony is an excellent example of a student who has enriched his life through adult learning and has shown that it is never too late to re-enter the academic environment. His achievement is outstanding and he thoroughly deserves to be our overall winner. We wish him every success for the future," said Helen Parr, Oaklands College Principal.

"When I began the course I was really apprehensive about how I would get on. I didn't do very well at school and left without gaining any qualifications so starting the NVQ was a big step for me. I found the tutors were exceptional and truly supportive and I have really enjoyed my time at the College. I have also found that my writing skills have greatly improved which I am thrilled about as this wasn't strength for me at school," said Anthony

NEW SALES APPOINTMENTS



Rigby Taylor have made two appointments to its national amenity sales force. Steve Dickinson, previously worked for the company in the 80s and early 90s and has spent the last 10 years working for the European Tour. He will

be servicing local authority and fine turf customers in the East Midlands and East Anglia.

Ryun Holden, started his greenkeeping career at Darwen GC and joins Rigby Taylor from Oakmere Park GC where he was Course Manager for the last five years. He will be servicing customers in the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire areas.



Following the first GTC article in last months GI, that explained the role of the GTC, David Golding the GTC's Education Director, highlights the changes that have taken place in greenkeeper education and training during recent years.

Hopefully, many readers of this magazine especially the more "mature" BIGGA members will remember my time as the Association's Education Officer from 1989 –1993. I left BIGGA in the spring of 1993 to "front" the Greenkeepers Training Committee. Many people found it difficult to understand why the two established bodies had to separate into individual organisations. Although separately managed and administered, the GTC offices have been and are still are "next door" to BIGGA at Aldwark Manor near York which allows the two organisations to work very closely together.

Why then did the separation of the GTC and BIGGA have to occur back in 1993?

The simple and quick answer is that BIGGA was established to represent greenkeepers and the GTC was funded by the golfers through the Home Golf Unions, the R&A and by the PGA European Tour, plus, in more recent years by contributions from BIGGA and from the GCSAI. Therefore, the change enabled the greenkeeping sector to have a "united" voice on greenkeeping matters, especially greenkeeper qualifications.

The R&A endorsed the work of the Home Unions and the greenkeeping associations not just through matched funding the members per-capita levies but through it's guidance and more recently requesting the support of the GTC to develop the excellent Golf Course Best Practice website www.bestcourseforgolf.org.

I explained the structure and aims and objectives of the GTC in the June edition of GI. The fact that the greenkeeping sector of our great sport first entered into formal training and qualifications back in the early 1960's admirably led by the greenkeepers themselves gave the reformed GTC a firm base to influence the Government on the vitally important area of greenkeeper education, training and qualifications.

In the early 90s the Government was encouraging all industries to adopt vocational qualifications, which had to be employer led. I was invited to Government led meetings that had to have, golf club employers represented otherwise we would have little or no chance of gaining Government approval for greenkeeping qualifications! However, professional bodies such as BIGGA and the IOG were given due recognition.

Therefore, to show that the GTC represented the employers, it had to be independent of BIGGA.

The GTC's vision that vocational training and qualifications were "here to stay" and that a substantial amount of Government funding would be made available to those industries who took ownership of their own qualifications has, I believe, proved vital in the improved quality of greenkeepers, greenkeeping and the subsequent improvement of playing surfaces.

Up until the introduction of vocational qualifications the most popular qualifications for greenkeepers were the City & Guilds awarded Phases and the Scottish National Certificate. Excellent awards but, for example as with the City & Guilds Phases, they very often included the passing (or failing) of an examination. Vocational qualifications (National in England Wales and Northern Ireland and Scottish in Scotland) require competence in 'doing the job' and underpinning knowledge. Many countries around the World are now keen to introduce vocational qualification and we the GTC believe it has got to be good for our sector.

When I joined BIGGA back in 1989 the concern among golf club employers at golf clubs that was highlighted in the R&A's visionary document The Way Forward was that "somebody" had to focus on giving Head Greenkeepers more and better management training. This was to ensure that through effective communication with employers, agronomists and staff they would whenever

possible uphold the traditional methods of maintaining golf courses to give golfers the opportunity to play golf 365 days per year. Oh what a challenge!

BIGGA introduced the first Management courses back in 1989 and I am pleased to see the likes of Frank Newberry and Brin Bendon still helping greenkeepers with communication training including presentation skills plus a wide range of other management skills.

The GTC with the help of BIGGA began to develop the "Headmen" and while management skills have now become the norm for the younger Course Managers many of the more mature Head Greenkeepers have really had to "dig deep" to become effective communicators. How do I know? I was that "soldier!"

We at the GTC fully recognised, even back in 1993 that the future for greenkeepers would be to establish an apprenticeship and also give those craft workers the opportunity to develop to be Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers. To become a reality, the sector had to introduce the appropriate structure and career path that suited both practical outdoor loving people as well as those who have the skills to maintain and manage our golf courses. I believe after a few battles here and there that the greenkeeping sector now has such a structure.

Today's modern Government approved apprenticeship scheme is virtually free to employers but the schemes incorporating the Sportsturf N/SVQ's are designed to be work-based and that in our case means the golf course.

The introduction of N/SVQ's to our sector in 1993 created major problems for training providers who had, traditionally, provided the more classroom, theory based. Now they were faced with the problems of at work assessment.

In simple terms, N/SVQ's were introduced to our industry to ensure that employers "controlled" the content of the qualifications and that staff gained the required skills to produce better golf courses. Easy!

The concept was and still is brilliant, be trained, be assessed and get the recognition for the job you do – National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications!

Much of the work of the GTC in recent years has involved us in implementing the apprenticeship scheme (soon to be funded for all ages throughout the UK) and in the introduction and monitoring of N/SVQ's.

KEY ISSUES WE HAVE TRIED TO ADDRESS INCLUDE:

1. Ensuring the content of the different levels of the Sportsturf vocational qualifications meets employer's needs.
2. Ensuring that the apprenticeship scheme for greenkeepers meets the needs of employers.
3. Ensuring that a network of GTC approved training providers (mainly land-based colleges) provide the education and training to the required standards within the range of turf qualifications.
4. Ensuring that any other qualifications that have been developed by colleges such as National Diploma's, HND's and the more recent Foundation Degree are related to the occupational standards required at craft, supervisory and management levels.
5. Engage the Head Greenkeepers, Course Managers and where relevant their Deputies in training to become qualified work-based trainers and assessors.

In the forthcoming months I will be discussing the various qualifications available in more detail, the role of the colleges in today's education environment and next month the vital role that Course Managers plays in the education and training of their staff.

If you cannot wait to discuss these matters you can contact the GTC on 01347 838640 or email David direct on david@the-gtc.co.uk



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Education Update

Time seems to fly by here at BIGGA House, especially this week, which has seen a very successful inaugural Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day, a Board of Management Meeting and a meeting of the Standing Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries.

Toro Student of the Year Competition 2004

The Regional Finals of the TORO Student of the Year Competition take place this month. The Scottish interviews are in Edinburgh on July 5, the Northern and Irish interviews are at Manchester Airport on July 6, the South East Interviews are at Hemel Hempstead on July 7, the South West Interviews are at Cheltenham on July 8 and the Midlands Interviews are at Huntingdon on July 9. Full results should appear in the August edition of the magazine.

BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

The deadline for entries to this year's Competition has passed. However, there is still time to get your application in to the judges if you are quick. Thanks to our sponsors WRAP, Scotts and Syngenta, we are able to offer even more prizes this year, so don't delay and send in your application today.

Continue to Learn 2005

Please remember that Continue to Learn 2005 at Harrogate next January will have even more opportunities to expand your knowledge and skills when we present five workshops and three days of seminars that cover subjects from soil science to leadership and management.

We have managed to keep costs down to give all levels of greenkeeper a chance to attend one, several, or all of these exciting sessions.

Students and lecturers have free entry to all seminar sessions that will be held in Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre on Tuesday 18, Wednesday 19 and

Thursday, January 20, 2005.

The Wednesday of Harrogate week traditionally starts with the Presentation of Awards to new Master Greenkeepers and Environment Competition Prize winners. Next year, 2005, will be no exception when at least two new Master Greenkeepers join the current 36 who hold this coveted award.

Congratulations go to Stuart Hogg, currently at Fortrose and Rosemarkie Golf Club and to Ken Ingram who is the Golf Course Superintendent at Bretton Wood, Silver Spring in the USA. The next Master Greenkeeper Examination will take place on 21 and 22 October 2004.

Regional Training Courses

You should have received a Regional Training Course Leaflet in this copy of Greenkeeper International. If you have not received your copy then contact me or Sami and we shall ensure that you get a copy by return post.

Keen eyed members will see that we have had to increase the cost of the courses to £49 for one day and £99 for two days. They are still excellent value however as each day of

training costs BIGGA approximately £120.

Therefore, each delegate gets a subsidy of £71 per day from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund thanks to our Golden and Silver Key sponsors. The Fund is also subsidising the South West Region Conference, the Midlands Conference, the Scottish Region Conference and a number of Section Seminars.

British and International Turf Managers Conference 2005

The plan for the first BITMC, which will be held at the Staverton Park Conference Centre on March 19 & 20, 2005, is beginning to take shape.

Speakers have already agreed to present papers on a number of turf science and management topics plus a number

of management subjects including Media Relations, Leadership and Management and Establishing Working Relationships. Put a note in your diary for 2005 to attend this high level conference that is aimed at Golf Course Managers.

N/SVQ Level 4 Sportsturf Management Review

Along with representatives from all parts of the fine turf industries I attended a meeting held at the offices of Lantra at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, to review the Standards of knowledge and skills required by Course Managers and to decide which of those Standards should be incorporated into the Level 4 N/SVQ.

Fine Turf, ie: Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship, have led

the way in the introduction of N/SVQs and this meeting proved, once again that the Sector was well prepared to present its case for the Sportsturf management qualification to continue.

A further meeting will decide on the actual content of this VQ but Course Managers can rest assured that it will be totally relevant to their needs and to the needs of golf clubs.

BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships

Thanks to continued sponsorship from Ransomes Jacobsen, the BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship Scheme is set to run for a further three years.

With more than 40 scholars so far, the scholarship scheme is proving vital in the greenkeeper's search for higher

education funding. The first three Masters of Science, supported by the scheme, graduate on 9 July and my congratulations go to Peter Jones, Eoghan Buckley and Barry Dore.

"Are You Managing Your Health and Safety Using a Maintenance Plan"?

Tutorial Two

I was recently in the unfortunate position of having to investigate an accident involving a young member of the greenstaff who was asked to perform a simple job of work requiring the use of a step ladder. To get the ladder the member of staff had to climb on to a temporary mezzanine structure above the green shed offices that subsequently collapsed injuring his arm and back. The accident should never have happened.

The investigation by the HSE which follows such accidents, found that the club's whole Health and Safety process FAILED.

WHAT WENT WRONG.

- There was no Health and Safety Management System.
- The Health and Safety policy was out of date and responsibilities poorly defined.
- The risk assessments were out of date and not sufficient.
- The job was not supervised correctly nor were safe working procedures in place.
- The club had not been audited previously.
- The Greenstaff were unaware of legislation updates.

Good health and safety management is about knowing the daily, weekly, monthly and yearly requirements of the club, and ensuring you have in place a system for achieving all of the requirements. A lot is written nowadays about managing health and safety but very little is written as to why and the good reasons for it. I will explain. Good health and safety management is all about preventing accidents and illness to employees, golfers and visitors to your establishment. Health and safety management is not about generating endless heaps of paper and endless amounts of checklists that will put you off the real tasks in hand. A good Maintenance plan is presently operated by many clubs and has taken much of the burden of health and safety work from the club and Secretary/Head Green keeper. The plan does not and will not remove any of the responsibility but it does ensure that work gets completed and information stays right up to date.

THE PLAN WORKS BASICALLY WORKS IN TWO MAIN STAGES;

- To ensure the club is in full compliance with UK and Eu Legislation
- To arrange for the club to receive updates to stay complaint with legislation and risk assessments.

Developing your own system or subscribing to a proprietary Maintenance Plan is the easiest way of ensuring your club stays fully compliant with the laws and that Health and Safety becomes a core value in your club operations.

- A Maintenance Plan will encompass the following key elements;
- Health and Safety Audit-Annually
- Update to the Health and Safety Policy-Annually
- Updates of the Risk Assessments-Regular
- Regular Legislation Update notifications
- Updates of the Safe Working Practices/Procedures-Annually

The main advantage of a Maintenance Plan is knowing that your club is organised, Health and Safety is being regularly checked and all of the compliance documentation remains up to date

Haztek International® currently operates a 'Maintenance Plan' package and presently has over 200 clubs subscribing. This plan achieves all of the above.

To find out more please look at www.safegolfplan.com or call us on 0208 905 7552 email info@safegolf.co.uk



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TORO Count on it.

Rachael and Gemma from the Membership Department would like to welcome 44 new members to the Association and introduce the Summer competition.

Membership Update

Latest Privilege Discount Card Offers

Included in your membership package this year is a privilege platinum card allowing you to get a variety of discounts both in your local shops and the National chains. Most of you will have already received your cards with your membership renewal. If you have still not received a card and would like one before your membership is due for renewal please call the membership department.



The latest company to offer discount with the privilege card is powerplay.com. Powerplay is a website offering discounted DVD's, Videos, CD's and games. Typical prices on the site include £8.99 for the new Keane CD, 'Hopes and Fears' (RRP £15.99) and £29.99 for the Lord of the Rings Trilogy on DVD (RRP £49.99).

Members should access Powerplay through the link on www.discountpages.co.uk to receive a further £1 discount and free delivery.

The supermarket voucher scheme which allows you to make savings at Sainsburys, Waitrose and Safeways has been extended to include Morrisons. For more details call the helpline on 0800 587 8800.

BIGGA welcomes...

SCOTTISH REGION

James Brannan, West
Gerard Broadley, West
Darren Leith, North
Sean McLean, East

NORTHERN REGION

Robert McGillivray, North West
Jeremy Mellor, North West
Robert Spencer, North West
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MIDLAND REGION

Gary Carr, Midland
Joao Faisca, Midland
Paul Hedger, BB&O
Phillip Hutchings, Mid Anglia
Ray Swift, Mid Anglia
John Walshaw, Midland
Trevor White, Midland

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WIN A CHAMPAGNE BALLOON FLIGHT



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

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

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

JULY'S MEMBERSHIP DRAW WINNER

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win an 0.5 litre isolating flask suitable for hot and cold drinks and soups.

Our congratulations go to Andy Paynter from East Brighton Golf Club.



Message of the Month Winner

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

Our congratulations go to July's winner, Alex McCombie from Parkstone Golf Club whose message was posted on the 4th May 2004 under the 'Talk about Turf' section.



Course Feature



▲ Billy McLachlan

Matthew is the youngest member of the McLachlan family and has watched his dad, Course Manager, Billy, prepare the famous old course for the most important Championship in golf.

The family home is right on the golf course, half way along the 16th fairway, and Matthew has seen incredible comings and goings, particularly over the last few months.

"He watched all the staging arrive and be stored outside his front door and he became very protective towards it. He was always checking to make sure everything was ok. He was almost in tears when the contractors came and moved it up to the 18th green," said Billy, who is preparing for his second Open in charge, having been at the helm in 1997.

With two of his four children experiencing their first Open – the other being Laura, aged six – and the other two, Emma, 10, and David, 13, much more able to appreciate what their dad is involved with this time around, you get the impression Billy is relishing the prospect of the world's finest golfers coming to play.

"The kids are excited about all the hype of The Open and, touch wood, at some stage, when the weather is good and everything is under control, I'll be able to get out with the kids and show them what it's all about," said Billy.

With one successful Open Championship under his belt – the course in '97 received rave reviews – Billy and his team are confident everything is and will be done to ensure a successful 2004 Championship.

When we met in early June the weather had been kind, the course preparation was well up to schedule and Billy was ensuring that every element which goes towards building an Open Championship site was well co-ordinated. Nothing being left to chance.

"Not knowing what another contractor has done could cause problems so I'm very big on communications and everyone knowing what everyone else is doing. Otherwise silly things could happen which shouldn't happen but can be done before you know it. It's all down to communication or to be more accurate a lack of it."

During the week itself Billy is keen to ensure that his team are not overloaded with sets of new instructions or jobs to do.

"I've said that when the week arrives I don't want a whole lot of things thrown at me or the team. I want everyone to have their mind on the job

A Family Affair

Scott MacCallum met up with Billy McLachlan who was deep in preparations for this month's Open Championship

For one little four-year-old this month Christmas will be coming early. Matthew McLachlan wasn't around when the last Open Championship was played at Royal Troon but this year he will be in the thick of the action.



▲ Royal Troon Greenkeeping Team

and not facing distractions and I don't want them arriving in the morning absolutely knackered, or rushing to finish a job, and making a mistake or having an accident. Make it simple and keep it simple is the motto."

"The length of the day is quite frightening. Tired people make mistakes and concentration goes and it might result in cutting into a green a little bit harder, or driving a machine into a bunker.

"It's a case of how are we going to keep the guys going to the extent that they are not walking around on Friday like half shut knives. If I can keep their work load down during the actual week it is a sign that everything is going well and that will please me and keep them fresh."

It is here that Billy is drawing on the experiences of the last Open.

"From last time we have a routine that we know and I know what jobs need to be done, what way to do them and how many bodies I need to do them. Last time I was never sure if I had enough men or, just as bad, too many. What if I had six guys standing around doing nothing?"

"Having done it last time I don't have that sort of worry this time... although we could have a wet week and throw everything out."

One thing Billy was able to do last time and he hopes to maintain this time, is to grab a couple of hours sleep in the afternoon.

"It's exactly the right thing to do. I'm still contactable. If the phone goes I wake up but you need to stay sharp to make the correct calls when you need to."

That's all very well but he perhaps wasn't at his sharpest last time round when, after a quick power nap, he got up, walked back onto the course and promptly left the back door open much to the dismay of wife, Andrea.



▲ The 11th

"She said to me 'There's 40,000 people walking past our house and you left the door open!'," he said smiling ruefully at the memory. The chances of him making the same mistake again must be slim.

He is particularly happy to be able to call upon the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team which, in addition to sending out a man with each group to rake all the bunkers, will prepare all the bunkers before the start of play each day.

"Golf starts at 6.30am on the Thursday and Friday this year earlier than the last time we were here and knowing that the Support team will be doing the bunkers allows us to concentrate on the cutting programme," said Billy, who recently took delivery of seven new John Deere hand mowers.

The greens on Royal Troon and its sister course, the Portland, have been regularly hand cut recently and Billy is delighted that he is in a position to do just that.

"We are very fortunate as others may want to hand cut but not be able to."

It is all part of a very progressive policy put in place by the club.

"I have a very positive committee and every Greens Convenor I've had since I've been here has been excellent. This year's Captain, Arthur Dunsmuir was Greens Convenor at the last Open while the current Greens Convenor, Ken Arthur, is another excellent guy.

"I'm very lucky with the people I work with. The Committee, the members and my own team are all great," he said, before pausing, laughing and adding. "Something is bound to go wrong now."

He has a staff of 14 including his two Deputies Gary Ross, who works on Royal Troon and his brother, John McLachlan, who works on the Portland.

The team was given a recent taste of a high profile event when it hosted the 2003 Amateur Championship and they treated the event as a dress rehearsal for this month's Open.

"The course will be set up the same as it was for the Amateur, although I'd say the rough might be less than last year, because it's been a little colder this year," said Billy, who recalled a white frost and a -1 degree temperature at the end of May.



▲ The 4th



▲ The 18th



▲ The 5th

Indeed the course won't have too many dramatic changes from the '97 Open other than a few new tees and revamped bunkers.

"The 1st tee is the biggest change as it has now moved to the right giving the hole a new shape and perspective. It is set up into the shore and more along the shoreline.

"As for the bunkers we've done all the faces since the Amateur. We've not heightened them but just taken the crown off and straightened the angle a little bit. Some of the members have mentioned to me that they can't get out of them. I can understand where they are coming from, the bunker faces are steep, but it is The Open."

Ten new bunkers have been built bringing the total for the course to 93.

Billy retains two strong memories of his last Open Championship. One was the wonderful way the Champion, Justin Leonard, took time to sign a complete set of flags for Billy to give to his team just a few minutes after being presented with the Claret Jug and the second is another lesson he has learned from for this year.

"On the final afternoon it was fairly relaxed and I sent the team home for a few hours and went for a walk. Then I noticed these huge dark clouds moving towards Troon.

"Twenty-four hours later the course was evacuated because of the rain and it would have stopped the golf that final afternoon had it been a little earlier. I would have had all sorts of trouble and my team wouldn't have been on hand immediately. It was a silly mistake."

Despite all the pressure which goes with the territory of managing an Open venue Billy is looking forward to his second Championship in charge.

"It sounds daft, but I am looking forward to the week, getting it done, enhancing the reputation of Troon; suffering no disasters and everyone getting something out of it."

Perhaps no-one will get more out of it than young Matthew, who, you never know, might put all his experience of this year to good use when he's Course Manager for the 2034 Open Championship.

Photographs courtesy of Brian Morgan.



▲ The 6th



▲ The 8th

Your Letters...

The Greens Really Are Grassier!

As a newcomer to the greenkeeping industry, I thought you might be interested in my story. Last Easter, my life changed forever. My wife and I had just moved from London to Saffron Walden in search of a more peaceful and fulfilling life. I had made some enquiries into part time study of arboriculture or greenkeeping, something that maybe one day would take me out of the stuffy offices of banking and into a more natural environment. As I have always played sports; cricket, football and golf, one of my dreams has been to work in that field in some way. Until an interview at Writtle College in Chelmsford, with Richard Hughes and Stuart Brown, lecturers in Sports Turf, I had no idea that I was qualified enough to study for a degree, let alone my favourite subject, Sports Turf! However, with plenty of encouragement from tutors and my wife, my application to Writtle college was successful, with a start date of September 2003.

Having spent 19 years in the banking world, I could stand it no longer. So Easter 2003 I quit my job as a management accountant. My resignation was met with astonishment and envy by my colleagues. My wife had already resigned the previous year, after 22 years in the same bank, in order to study the Alexander Technique (something to do with pain, posture and performance). Which has come in really handy as she gets to straighten me out after a hard days work! So with five months before I start college, my wife and I spent much of the summer getting to know the beautiful countryside that is North West Essex.

Well, things just keep getting better and better. It turned out that our next door neighbour is a tree surgeon. A fantastic guy, who, after knowing me for only a few weeks, offered me some part time work with him during the summer. He also made his extensive horticultural library available to me to aid my future studies. He even gave me copies of trade magazines, so I could drool over the delights of tractors, grass cutting machines and other amenity machinery.

Even more good fortune was to come. One of my college courses required me to compile a conservation evaluation report on a golf course. So, a couple of months ago, I went to Saffron Walden Golf Club to seek some assistance for their management team. I was met by the Course Manager, Ray Goodsall, who couldn't have been more helpful. He gave me a guided tour of the course, lent me their STRI reports and other publications to help with my report. I was allowed to choose and photograph an appropriate site, and Ray spent much of his valuable time with me discussing his plans for the course and how he could help me in my assignment.

Then, much to my delight, he offered me a part time position on the greenkeeping staff. The position, which has been mine now for a month, and comes complete with the nickname Friday (as so far I mainly work on Fridays). My new colleagues and club members have all been fantastic, making me very welcome and answering my endless questions. They did get their own back by allowing me to clean the ladies loos on my first day (rotten lot!).

Still more good news was heading my way! After becoming a member of BIGGA, I recently saw an advertisement in Greenkeeping International for volunteers to help out at the Volvo PGA tournament at Wentworth in May. I sent off an e-mail, and to my surprise, Derek Farrington, South East Region Administrator, contacted me to invite me to be part of the team. As a complete novice to greenkeeping, Derek offered to arrange a master class in bunker raking at a friendly golf club before the tournament. As it turned out this was not necessary, because I have received extensive training on how to rake bunkers "Bermuda style" at Saffron Walden Golf Club. Derek also sent me a couple of complementary tickets so that both my wife and father could join in the experience of attending a professional golf tournament.

There is, however, only one downside: as member of BIGGA, every month when Greenkeeper International arrives through the post, I have to fight with my wife to read it first!

I am so grateful to everyone that has given me support over the past year. Not once have I regretted my change of career, even though there is still a long way to go. At 37, I am nearly one of the youngest "mature" students at Writtle college and I do not think I have left it too late to change the course of my working life. I am sure I will find a great job when I qualify in three years time.

One last word: on my leaving card, presented to me by my banking colleagues, one of them said they hoped the "greens would be grassier". Well, next time I see him, I'll have to say "so far, so good!"
John Coote, Undergraduate at Writtle College, Great Sampford, Saffron Walden

Letters continued on page 40

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

Physiological Response of Grasses to Mowing

Lawns and sports fields are mown for aesthetic reasons. Grasses that are properly mowed form a dense, uniform, and visually appealing turf. Sports fields are also mown to accommodate play of activities such as, football, golf, tennis and, here in the USA, American football and baseball. Grasses are clipped to provide a uniform surface for ball roll and bounce, as well as for movement of athletes.

*Continue
to learn*



However, mowing is a destructive process that wounds grass plants, altering plant growth and development, and increasing susceptibility to other stresses. It is essential, therefore, that appropriate mowing practices are developed to ensure plant health and vigor. In this article, we will discuss physiological and morphological responses of grasses to mowing practices, like height-of-cut, mowing frequency, and mower maintenance that should be considered when developing a mowing programme.

PHYSIOLOGICAL AND MORPHOLOGICAL RESPONSES OF GRASSES TO MOWING

Plants harvest energy from the sun in a process known as photosynthesis. The net result of photosynthesis is manufacture of carbohydrates that are analogous to food in humans. Carbohydrates can be broken down to provide energy for processes involved in the growth and development of the plant. Plants store carbohydrate reserves when production exceeds requirements of the plant, much like humans store fat when food intake exceeds needs. These carbohydrate reserves are used to provide energy for metabolic processes at night or for use during periods of stress.

Mowing removes leaf tissue that grasses use to acquire solar energy, effectively lowering the rate of photosynthesis and limiting the ability of the plant to synthesize carbohydrates. Re-growth and initiation of new leaf tissue after mowing is necessary to develop the photosynthetic leaf area required for production of carbohydrates. Grasses often increase leaf and shoot density below the height-of-cut to re-establish leaf surface area. Plants rely on carbohydrate reserves to provide energy and raw materials required to redevelop leaf and shoot tissue.

Redistribution of carbohydrate reserves for shoot re-growth occurs at the expense of root formation. In general, root growth decreases as mowing

height decreases. Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis* L.) clipped weekly at 6.2 and 2.5cm developed 41 and 76 per cent less root mass, respectively, than non-mown controls two to four weeks after the first mowing. Researchers also observed shorter total root length of creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera* L.) mown at 3mm compared with grasses mown at 4mm. They also noticed a reduction of root mass in creeping bentgrass mowed at 3.2mm compared to turf clipped at 4.0 or 4.8mm.

MOWING PRACTICES THAT AFFECT GRASS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

The height at which grasses can be maintained differs among species. Growth habit by and large dictates the height at which grasses can be clipped. It is not uncommon for creeping bentgrass and hybrid bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon* [L.] Pers. x *C. transvaalensis* Burt-Davy) to be mown as low as 2.5-3mm. Lateral stems, or stolons, formed by these grasses result in a dense turf canopy, even at low mowing heights.

A dense turf canopy ensures that the rate of photosynthesis will be sufficient to supply carbohydrates to the shoots and roots. Grass species with an upright growth habit do not tolerate low mowing heights as readily as stolon-forming grasses. Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea* Scrb.) are examples of grasses that develop an upright growth habit. Low mowing heights reduce the number of tillers formed in grasses with this growth habit, limiting the ability of the plant to increase leaf density below the height-of-cut.

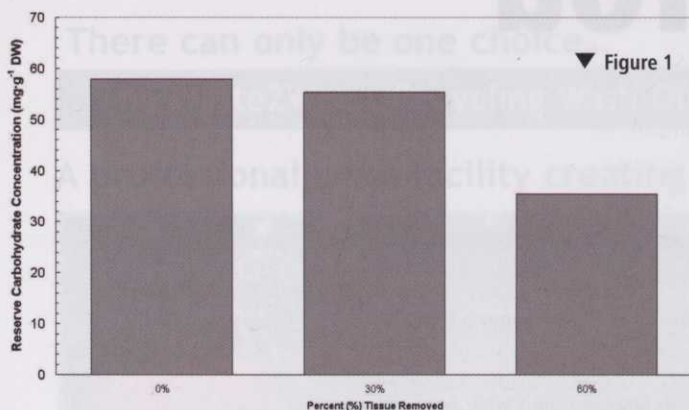
This diminishes the photosynthetic capacity of the plant and its ability to provide carbohydrates for shoot and root growth. Annual bluegrass (*Poa annua* L.) and perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne* L.), bunch-type grasses with upright growth habits, are notable exceptions. Annual bluegrass is often observed in golf course greens mown at heights of 2.5mm, whereas perennial ryegrass can be maintained at 6 to 6.5mm under favorable conditions.

MOWING HEIGHT

Recommended mowing heights have been developed that best meet the agronomic needs of grasses. In general, Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue are clipped at the highest mowing heights, whereas perennial ryegrass and fine fescues (*Festuca* spp.) may be mowed at lower heights. You are advised to consult turf experts in your region to determine mowing heights pertinent for your geographical area and environment.

Sports play, however, often dictates that grasses be mown lower than recommended. In these instances, special attention must be given to water, fertility, pest, and pathogen management because at lowered mowing heights the ability of the plant to tolerate stress is reduced. Disease severity often increases in grass mowed at lower than recommended heights lower during warm, summer months. Lower mowing heights are also associated with increased infestation of weeds, like crabgrass and annual bluegrass.

Mark Howieson and Nick Christians, of Iowa State University, take a scientific look at mowing



CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

The goals of our current research projects are to identify physiological mechanisms that allow creeping bentgrass to tolerate close and frequent mowing. In addition, we would like to identify wound responses that may contribute to overlap marking, the unsightly groove that develops between successive passes of walk-behind mowers, or among the overlap area of reels in multiple reel, or gang, mowers. Primary areas of interest include carbohydrate metabolism and activities of antioxidant enzymes.

As mentioned previously, carbohydrates play an important role in regeneration of shoot and leaf tissue after mowing. Carbohydrate concentrations are altered in response to common mowing practices, like mower sharpness and mowing frequency. Preliminary results indicate that grasses that are mowed with dull mowers contain less carbohydrate reserves than grasses mowed with sharp mowers.

Grasses maintained on sports fields often are double-cut, or mowed twice in different directions, to create a more uniform playing surface. This practice is especially prevalent on golf course greens. Results from our research, however, have demonstrated that grasses that are double-cut have less carbohydrate reserves than grasses that are mowed once, or single-cut. Reduced carbohydrates levels observed in double-cut grasses may contribute to the severity of overlap marking.

In response to wounding, plants generate reactive oxygen species that kill plant cells. Plants produce several antioxidant enzymes that breakdown and detoxify reactive oxygen species to limit tissue damage. The activities of antioxidant enzymes may be an indicator of the severity of mowing stress.

FREQUENCY OF CUT

Growth rate and mowing height dictate the frequency that grasses should be clipped. No more than 30 - 40 per cent of leaf tissue should be removed in a single mowing during periods of active growth. For example, if the desired mowing height is 5cm, grasses should be clipped when they reach 7cm. Similarly, mowing height should be gradually reduced to allow grasses to increase shoot and leaf density below the height-of-cut.

In a study performed at Iowa State University, 'L-93' creeping bentgrass maintained at 1.25cm was not mown or mowed at heights of 0.88 and 0.50cm to remove approximately 0, 30, and 60 per cent, respectively, of leaf tissue. Carbohydrates were extracted from leaf tissue collected 36 hours after mowing and were analyzed by using high performance liquid chromatography. Grasses mowed at 0.50cm had 36 per cent less reserve carbohydrates than grasses that were mowed at 0.88cm (see Figure 1). Excessive tissue removal also reduced visual quality (see Figure 2).

The results of this study demonstrate the importance of proper mowing frequency. Severe defoliation limits the availability of carbohydrates for shoot and root growth and development.

MOWER MAINTENANCE

Regular mower maintenance is essential to achieve the best possible quality of cut. Dulled mower blades tear and fray leaf blades, resulting in brown and ragged leaf tips that reduce the visual quality of the turf. Moreover, grasses mown with dull mowers are subjected to more stress than grasses mown with sharp mowers. Rotary mower blades should routinely be inspected and sharpened by using a file or bench grinder as necessary to produce as clean a cut as possible.

Several methods of sharpening reel-type mowers exist, including single-blade grinding, spin-grinding, carbide-milling, back-lapping, and facing of the front face of the bedknife. The decision on which method, or combination of methods, to use often depends on economic, labour and time factors, as well as desired cutting quality and personal preference.

There is no set standard regarding how often reel-type mowers should be sharpened. That depends on several factors, such as the area of turf to be mowed, the regularity of cutting, the species of grass being cut, the method used to sharpen the mower, and the adjustment of the reel to the bedknife. A goal of a research project at Iowa State University is to develop general guidelines to determine how frequently reel-type mowers should be sharpened. Several mowers will be sharpened by using different sharpening techniques and will be used to mow a known area of turf each week. Measurements of leaf blade tissue damage, carbohydrate concentration, photosynthetic yield, and cutting surface geometry will be used to quantify mower sharpness over time.

▼ Figure 2



SUMMARY

Development of a practical mowing programme that balances agronomic requirements with sports play demands is important to produce dense, uniform and visually appealing turf. When possible, clip grasses within recommended mowing height ranges. If grasses must be mowed at heights lower than recommended, careful attention should be paid to water, fertility and pest management because grasses will be less tolerant of environmental stresses.

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AUTHOR INFORMATION

Mark Howieson is a graduate research assistant at Iowa State University. Nick Christians, PhD, is a university professor with the Department of Horticulture at ISU.

See Yourself as Others See You

Colin Callander, former Golf Monthly Editor and golfer, takes a personal look at greenkeepers

I wonder if I am alone in believing that a lot of golf club members treat their Head Greenkeeper a bit like the manager of their favourite football team.

All too often, it seems to me, greenkeepers receive little or no praise when things are going well. But, invariably, at the first sign of trouble, they are apportioned the blame, usually by misguided members who, a bit like football pundits, have little or no idea about what they are actually talking about.

Nor is it an isolated problem. It's endemic and will continue to be so until amateur golfers understand better what their greenkeepers are trying to achieve.

The Ups and Downs of the Scottish Greenkeeper

SOTTISH greenkeepers believe modern-day greenkeeping equipment is making their jobs easier than ever before.

In an exclusive survey carried out by *Scottish Club Golfer*, the greenkeepers highlighted certain pieces of lawnmower equipment that were making every day tasks around a formally. Our survey found that 47% of club greenkeepers believed achievement in the manufacture of modern aerator equipment was the single biggest improvement in technology. In second place, on 30%, was the improved design and workability of lawnmowers. And progress in the development of greens equipment was voted the best improvement in recent years by 17% of greenkeepers.

However, club golfers who believe their greenkeeper knows little about actually playing the game of golf may be surprised to learn that a massive 90% of Scottish greenkeepers play golf regularly, and a significant percentage play off single figures.

Amazingly, a total of 73% said they took up the profession because of their love of golf while 21% said they took the job because they wanted to work outdoors.

On a less positive note, our survey revealed that 50% of club greenkeepers had been on the receiving end of verbal abuse from a club member. A high percentage, though, said this figure would probably drop if clubs realised the importance of good public relations between the two parties.

According to those who took part in our survey, the most common complaint by a golfer is the condition of the course. A massive 80% said just that. Fifty per cent said golfers complained about the state of the greens while the condition of bunkers and rough also figured prominently.

One greenkeeper said: "Where would you like me to start? They golfers complain about the greens being too slow, the rough being too thick, bunker sand too soft, greens too fast it goes on and on."

The strain between club greenkeepers and club green committees was also brought to the fore as 17% of greenkeepers said they wanted to either abolish club green committees altogether or make sure that the position of the greens convenor did not alternate every two years.

One unhappy greenkeeper said: "I would like to have better communication with the green committee and, preferably, have just one person to answer to."

Seventeen per cent of Scottish greenkeepers said they would like to see a change in their salary while, if a little optimistic, a total of 20% suggested a better climate would make their job a whole lot easier.

And, on a topical note, nearly 90% claimed today's golf courses were becoming too easy for top players and that technology needed to be restricted.

"The art of shot making is no longer relevant," said one greenkeeper. "It's a shame some great courses like the Kings Course at Glenelg and Royal Melbourne are regarded as too short for top-flight competition."

"I think the trend will go for full circles and smaller undulating greens will

become an 'ogre' and handicaps and positioning will be given even more consideration."

Alan Carruthers in 1988 for example. Everyone on the first tee on Thursday has the same chance of winning - the lowest score on Sunday wins. Maybe the scoring doesn't match 20-under-par - but does it have to?"

38 *Scottish Club Golfer*

I first became aware of the sort of treatment meted out to greenkeepers when, as a youngster, I supplemented my meagre student's grant by working at the local golf club.

Subsequently, I learned a lot more about the difficulties they endured while helping to edit the excellent Nick Park series, entitled *The Management of British Golf Courses*, which appeared in *Golf Monthly* during the early 1980s.

Finally, all my worst fears were confirmed when, a couple of years later, I was persuaded to become the Greens Convenor at the club in Glasgow where I was a member at the time.

My stint as Greens Convenor, which lasted for about two years before I moved south for business reasons, turned out to be even more demanding than I thought it would be.

At the time, much to his credit, the Head Greenkeeper at our club was doing his utmost to rid the course of the poa annua that infested it and made the greens virtually unplayable for most of the winter months. However, he was also facing a mounting backlash from a section of the membership that did not understand his aims.

My role, at least as I saw it, was to deflect that criticism, thereby allowing him the time to complete the job. I was, to all intents and purposes, his buffer. It was a painful task, one that I now know I should have handled better.

Nick Park, in his aforementioned *Golf Monthly* series, made it quite clear that, at golf clubs, most problems are caused by golfers' misconceptions, not greenkeeping ones and he was quite right, of course. The problem was that, at the time, I didn't understand how crucial that distinction was.

HERE'S WHAT SOME OF THEM HAD TO SAY

Questions	John Gallagher 10 years	Jim Paton 23 years	Simon Freeman The Maitie Golf Club 5 years	Douglas McIntosh Cairn Ross Golf Club 6 years	Brian Hillen Dumfriesshire Golf Club 8 years	John Hillen Hawick Golf Club 14 months
How long have you been at your current club?	10 years	23 years	5 years	6 years	8 years	14 months
What made you become a greenkeeper?	Wanted to work outside in a sporting capacity	Wanted to work in golf environment	I've always loved golf	Outdoor environment and enjoyment of golf	I was looking for an outdoor job	I have a passion for golf
What piece of equipment has improved the most?	Greens-cutting equipment and attachments	Greens mowers and aeration equipment	Aeration equipment	Drainage excavator	Aeration equipment or rills on mounds	Top-dressing equipment
Have you ever been the subject of verbal abuse from a member?	No	Not to my face	Yes, I don't mind when I'm working - but not on my day off	Not yet!	No. PR is part of the job	Often. It's always the greenkeepers' fault for your play!
What is the most common complaint you receive from members?	Slow greens	Condition of bunkers	Condition of greens	Why is our course not like Augusta?	Bunkers	Pin positions, rough, fairways and greens
Do you feel you waste a lot of time dealing with pernicious members?	No	No	No	No	No	Yes. Lowest handicap being 2
Are you a grinder?	Yes	Yes	Yes - current handicap 1.7	Yes. Handicap 2	Yes	Better understanding of my job
What single aspect would you like to change in your job?	To be answerable to one man	The weather	The weather	Better communication with members	To work in a better climate	No. Technology has advanced so far but non-golfers can now play for extra
Are courses becoming too easy for top players?	Yes	Yes	Totally	Yes	Yes	Yes. My industry buddies and sales reps are very helpful
Do you feel you receive enough help with your job?	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No

Waste Water Management?

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MORE THAN JUST A WASH-OFF STATION

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very reliable. The standard maintenance time each week is less than 20 minutes! Features include a Self-Cleaning Sump (no volunteer needed) and a Dirt Settlement System to remove the dirt and keep the recycled water clean.

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Waste2Water will design your concrete operations area so that everything slopes into a collection sump. The system takes care of spillages of oil, petrol, diesel and chemicals etc. Degreasing? No problem. You can even wash your own sprayer off! The wash hoses provide a superb wash facility which automatically transfers the grass clippings from the self-cleaning sump to a wheelbarrow for you.

If you require further information on the Waste2Water system or the new Pollution Prevention Guidelines please call 01782 373878.

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ESD Waste2Water

If you would like further information:

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Email: info@waste2water.com
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LETTER TO THE GOLF CLUB SECRETARY & COURSE MANAGER

Dear Sir or Madam,

THE LEGISLATION.....

You will have read this year in the trade press about the impact of the new groundwater regulations that now exist. This has now made it a CRIMINAL offence to allow certain substances, including mineral oils and chemicals such as Pesticides to enter surface waters, groundwater or even a Soakaway.

SELECTING YOUR SUPPLIER....

You may have already discussed the issues at committee level and made the decision to install a new Recycling Wash-off System to comply with these new regulations. Here comes the tricky stage : selecting your supplier and ensuring that you have made the correct choice.

INTRODUCING WASTE2WATER..

We are the European operation of the leading supplier of biological wastewater treatment systems in the U.S.A., with thousands of systems installed world-wide. We became aware of impending European legislation three years ago and opened our UK facility in January 2001.

The groundwater legislation has now arrived and with this a number of other potential system suppliers. So how can you make an informed decision?

When assessing potential suppliers we suggest you ask a few questions:

A few questions you might ask your supplier...	Waste2Water	Supplier X
Your Potential Supplier		
Is waste water treatment your main business?	YES	
Number of years supplying golf course wash systems?	12	
Golf wash-off systems installations worldwide?	2,000+	
Golf wash-off systems installations UK?	40+	
Your proposed System - does it include...		
Frost & security protection for outside installation?	YES	
Above-ground installation for ease of maintenance?	YES	
A Self-Cleaning Sump and Dirt Settlement Tank?	YES	
Is it UK assembled with European components?	YES	
A 10 year system guarantee?	YES	

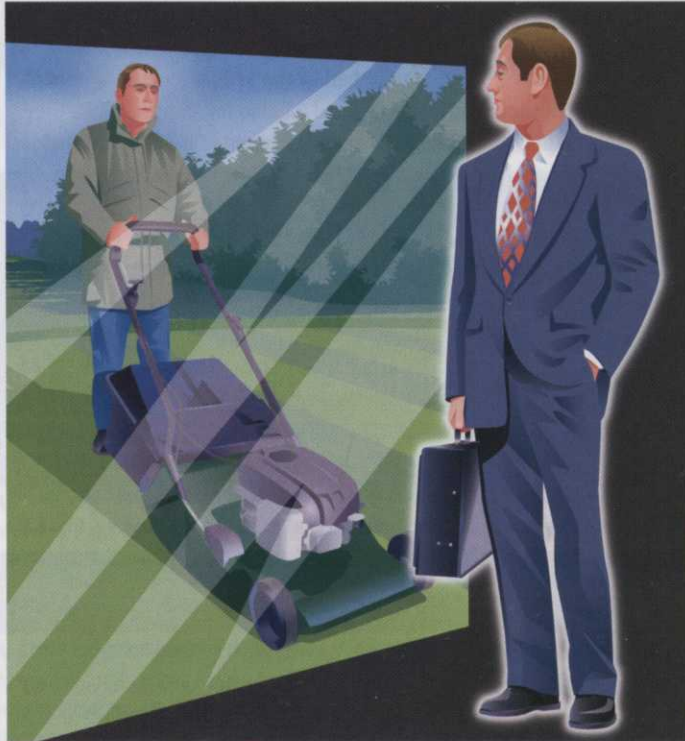
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We got so bogged down with our poa problem (and I use that phrase advisably) that we forget to tell the membership why we had to combat it. What's worse, as we began to see progress, many members believed things were getting worse. They had been indoctrinated into believing they should have a "nice green golf course".

Thanks to watching TV, and in particular the annual Masters tournament at Augusta National, many of them equated "green" with "good" so, when the course began to take on a more natural hue, their alarm bells started to ring even louder than before.

Nowadays, a few more amateur golfers understand how the trend towards "Americanisation" has damaged our traditional British courses. Unfortunately, though, they remain a small minority. The rest, still influenced by misguided comments in the media, demand the unattainable.

They want their courses to be lush and verdant in summer but also playable in the winter months. Obviously, of course, that isn't going to happen. Inevitably, too, it is the greenkeeper who bears the brunt.

Frequently, greenkeepers find themselves at odds with their members, often through no fault of their own. The more fortunate will have a supportive Greens Convenor willing to fight his corner.

However, more often than not, the Convenor will have been voted on, not because of his knowledge of agronomy, or his desire to maintain the status quo, but because his mates want him to "sort things out".

When a greenkeeper finds himself in this sort of situation, I can't help but feel the best thing to do is to attempt to take the initiative. Obviously, that is easy for me to say because my livelihood does not depend on it.

But think about it, if you choose to acquiesce to the demands of a Greens Convenor who does not understand sound greenkeeping practises, the chances are that all you are doing is postponing the inevitable difficulties. It is better, surely, to put your case firmly at the outset. Who knows, you might even persuade him to give your way a try.

If I was a greenkeeper, an unlikely scenario I admit, the first thing I would do is purchase a copy of Malcolm Peake's "Confessions of a Chairman of Green" and present it to my Green Convenor. Come to think of it, I would buy several copies and leave them dotted around the clubhouse for members to read.

What do people think of greenkeepers?

Greenkeeper International also asked some well known golf writers and a few other people besides what they thought of greenkeepers and the greenkeeping profession and got some interesting responses.

While millions of people would love to work out in the open rather than stuck in a factory or office, it takes a real dedication to duty, almost a passion, to be a good and successful greenkeeper.

The hours are long, their work is not always appreciated as much as it should be, but the best greenkeepers don't need a pat on the back. They know when the job is well done.

Mark Garrod, Golf Writer for the Press Association

I first hit a golf ball at the age of 11 in 1949 at a public course in Birmingham. Our junior class became reasonably proficient having been given lessons by the professional before being allowed onto the course itself, but this was not good enough for one particular greenkeeper who clearly hated the thought of small children, let alone small children on a golf course.

He terrorised us, haranguing us and making all sorts of unrepeatable remarks. Once, when one of the kids answered back, he charged at him with his hand-held mower.

It could have killed our interest for good and thankfully it did not. Out of that junior class there emerged an Amateur Champion (John Beharrell), a Midland Amateur Champion (Martyn Edwards) and a would-be Open Champion who somehow metamorphosed into the golf correspondent of The Guardian.

It could not happen today for the behaviour of that man would not be tolerated. In fairness, in 1949 it was hard to get workers for any line of work and greenkeepers were regarded more often than not as menial labourers.

Not now, when it is a pleasure to "fall into chat" as my Irish wife would call it, with any of the groundskeeping staff at any golf course. In fact if the Chairman of Green at most courses would fall into chat with the Head Greenkeeper more often it would be beneficial all round.

David Davies, Golf Correspondent, The Guardian

I joined a Lurgan Golf Club and my predecessor (Sean) was Head Greenkeeper and a member of the Club. This made him less subtle when addressing members complaints.

On one occasion when spraying a green, one of the jack legs on the sprayer fell and left a lovely furrow from the front of the green to the back. Looking down the fairway a golfer was coming in our direction.

"It's the Doc," Sean muttered

When the 'Doc' came on to the green he made clear his feelings that this really should not have happened if we were professional and had we followed correct procedures. (in not so many words)

"That's the difference between your mistakes and mine, Doctor. Yours are buried where no one sees them," replied Sean.

Priceless.

Kyle Irwin, Head Greenkeeper, Lurgan Golf Club



Scottish Club Golfer produced a survey recently which asked greenkeepers from north of the border a series of questions relating to their work. Hats off to the magazine for taking the time to canvas opinion from greenkeepers and passing on the results to club golfers.

Among the results was the sad statistic that 56% of greenkeepers had been on the receiving end of verbal abuse from a club member and that the main reason for complaint was the condition of the course, which accounted for 82% of the total. Sixty percent of golfers complained about the state of the greens while the condition of the bunkers and rough figured prominently.

It was also revealed that 73% took up the profession because of their love of golf with 21% saying they wanted to work outdoors.

According to 47% of the greenkeepers surveyed the single biggest improvement in technology belonged to modern aeration equipment with 30% feeling that the improved design and workability of the fairway mower and 11% believing greens equipment to be the greatest advancement.

Thanks to Martin Dempster and Scottish Club Golfer for making the results available to Greenkeeper International

I always wave to greenkeepers. I think that's because I don't generally feel they get the recognition they deserve. We have a regular column in Golf Weekly now called GUR which is written by Chris Lomas, Course Manager at The Berkshire. It is intended to educate golfers about the work that their green staff get up to.

Peter Masters, Editor, Golf Weekly

Before I got involved in golf I thought a greenkeeper was somebody who just produced highly manicured turf. I didn't even consider the rest of the golf course. Most but not all, televised golf concentrates on the playing area you hardly ever see natural habitat. If you are as ignorant as I was then you think that's all there is green, fairway tee and a bit or rough.

A Course Manager is a person manager; he maintains the golf course, including the non playing surface; he's got to liaise with Joe Public - the golfers; he's got to liaise with the committee. He's got about five different roles and it's a terribly sophisticated job and the amount of training which goes into that is extraordinary.

I've been walking round the golf course with a greenkeeper and people have come up and been really rude. I think that's outrageous they just don't understand what's gone into the production of that green. Not even grateful, they are antagonistic and really horrible, haven't the faintest idea and I think it's dreadful.

Dr Alan Gange, Royal Holloway College

"Confessions", which is published by the STRI, is a marvellous book and one that should be made required reading for all prospective Green Convenors. In it, the author tells how he supported his Course Manager, Martin Gunn, in his quest to return his club, Temple Golf Club, near Maidenhead, to its former glory. It wasn't easy.

After years of over-watering, too much fertiliser and not enough aeration the course was in a sorry state. It took several years to rectify but the transformation is now complete. Put simply, Temple, as it is now, is arguably the best conditioned inland course in the British Isles.

Peake's book teaches the aspiring Greens Convenor a great deal. For starters, the author questions a new Convenor's right to dictate to his head greenkeeper on matters appertaining to agronomy.

He tells that when he started: "I thought I knew about golf courses, but how could I? I only played golf - I didn't have any qualifications. But I, like every other golfer, had an opinion on the golf course. I had a lot to learn - first lesson"

As it turned out, numerous lessons had to be assimilated, another being how important it is to keep members informed about progress, what was to happen next etc, etc.

In the end what Martin, Malcolm, and numerous others have found is that communication is vital if the grumblers are to be silenced and the relationship between the greenstaff and the members is to be improved.

I have no doubt that communication of this sort has improved markedly in recent years but still I believe more can be done.

Take my new club as an example. There, both the Course Manager and the Greens Convenor do an excellent job keeping the members informed about when the greens are to be aerated and when other major projects are to be undertaken.

But seldom, it seems to me, do they go one stage further and tell us why the work is being done. For that reason, they leave themselves open to criticism, however misguided it might be.

Frequently, when I arrive at the club, I hear members moaning about "the greens being dug up again". That criticism comes from golfers who have no idea about how important it is to aerate greens on a regular basis but that is beside the point. Disquiet can be inculcated and problems can brew as a result.

Let's return to the football manager analogy for a second. At the Conference club I support, the Manager and his Chairman have started to stage regular Fans' Forums during which they outline plans for the future and deal with an assortment of questions from supporters.

To date, these sessions have proved hugely successful, to the extent that I cannot help but feel they could be copied in a golf environment.

Nowadays, numerous clubs stage Rules evenings, when a resident, or visiting, expert answers questions on the Rules of Golf.

That being the case, why shouldn't clubs also hold a separate Course Maintenance forum, specifically set up to allow the greenkeeper and the greens committee to explain their policies.

In my experience, the aforementioned Nick Park was quite correct when he suggested that most greenkeepers came under fire, not as a result of their agronomic policies, but because their members failed to understand what it is they are trying to achieve.

Sort that out and I believe greenkeepers would go a long way to reducing the unwelcome, and in most cases, unfair criticism they all too often receive.



Golf Finance

Finance for Mowers

Ian Henderson, Managing Director of Golf Finance Ltd on funding of Mowers and other Grass Machinery.

Q. How many Golf Clubs use finance for the funding of mowers and other grass equipment?

A. "The majority of Golf Clubs, whether Members Clubs or proprietary businesses use finance, when acquiring new machinery. There has been a very big change in attitudes towards finance in the past 10 years with most clubs now very comfortable with all forms of structured funding".

Q. There are several forms of finance talked about, such as Lease, HP and Contract Hire. What is the best type of agreement for a golf club?

A. There are great benefits to members clubs with either leasing or contract hire. With this type of agreement the club can spread the vat over the life of the agreement, rather than having to pay it all up front as with Hire Purchase. With the current vat de-minimis in place the savings made in spreading the vat can go a long way to offsetting the interest charges on the agreement.

For proprietary clubs or clubs who are out with de-minimis, hire purchase is a good alternative.

Q. You mentioned Lease and Contract Hire, what is the main difference between these products?

A. Lease, or Finance lease to give it the correct name, is where the club agrees to hire the equipment over a set period, of say 3 or 5 years. At the end of this time the club effectively own the full value of the asset. If the club choose to sell the equipment or trade the machine back in, they would benefit from a 100% rebate of sale proceeds. If the club choose to retain the machine after the primary rental period a small "secondary" or "peppercorn" rental is normally paid on an annual basis. With Contract Hire, or Operating Lease the machine is simply returned to the supplier at the end of the period. It is fairly common to have a maintenance schedule built in with a Contract Hire agreement, which gives the club a one stop shop.

Q. Over how many years do Golf Clubs normally finance their mowers?

A. With the quality of machines which are produced by the main manufactures today, it is quite common for clubs to finance mowers over anything up to 7 years, sometimes longer for a small or 9 hole course. The average is 5 years, which allows a manageable cost annually, but avoids any large repair bills and maintenance charges.

Q. Golf Finance talk about "Cashflow Matched Finance", what exactly is this?

A. Every club is different. We understand the income cycles within clubs vary, depending on the geography, the time of year when subscription payments are collected and visitor income levels. By studying these details we can design a package which is suited to each clubs cash flow. This avoids collecting large direct debits when the club has little or no income.

Q. How do you manage to stay ahead in this competitive market?

A. As independent brokers we will negotiate the package for the club which is the best suited, and most competitive given the circumstances. Whether the deal is for a £3,000 hand mower or a £3 million pound mortgage we have a range of funding partners with whom we have worked for many years and are always keen to do business in our market place.

Q. How does a club go about arranging finance through Golf Finance?

A. Our details are in the buyers guide in Greenkeeper International each month, or you can visit our website www.golffinance.co.uk and email an enquiry, or simply call us on 01620 890200.

We have facilities for all types of new and used equipment, and would be delighted to discuss any requirements any clients may have.

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Cutting It

Roland Taylor gets out and about and discovers what some greenkeepers feel about the cylinder mowers they use.

The principle of the cylinder mower has changed very little since Budding patented the system back in the 1830s.

The main differences since those early models are the methods of propulsion, number of blades in the cylinder, the means of powering them and materials used in their construction.

Bearing in mind that the actual cutting is virtually the same on every mower. What makes one particular model a Course Manager or greenkeepers choice? To find out some of the answer to this question a number of courses have been visited to discover which machines they were using and why they chose them.

Gavin Playford of Royal Norfolk GG tackles his fairways, in the rain, with the John Deere 3235C



Built virtually on the beach, the Royal Norfolk Golf Club can be pretty hostile and cold with freezing northeast winds coming straight off the northern ice cap. When visiting this course it is advisable to check the tides, as there are times of the day when it is cut off from the mainland.

The fairways are on sand, so grass cover is often sparse, especially in drought conditions even though the course has its own bore hole for irrigation. The course is a continual challenge against the elements for Head Greenkeeper, Gavin Playford, and his team.

For mowing their fairways they use the latest John Deere 3235C. Gavin said they are very pleased with the machine's high output and quality of finish.

Because they are running a number of different John Deere machines they have found that the standardisation of height adjustment and cylinder settings make it easy for the operators.

"Spending all day on a mower can be very tiring, so ergonomics regarding the driving position and layout of the controls are important. We have found on this machine that this is a major feature of the design.

"A very comfortable seat can be adjusted to suit each operator and all the controls are within easy reach. What we do need however is a cab; it is not very pleasant out there on the course with a gale howling in from the northeast. I understand they are developing one let's hope it is sooner rather than later," explained Gavin.

Other features they liked about the mower are the simple servicing procedure and ease of access to all moving parts.

The 3235C has a 48.5hp turbo diesel engine and servo controlled hydrostatic pump to all the wheel motors. There are five cutting units and the Royal Norfolk have the eight bladed version, which has a height of cut range from 9.5mm to 76.2mm and a frequency of cut of 2.14 km/h.

Get the credit you deserve

A control module enables the operator to monitor the machines performance and identify any problems.

There are a number of reasons why Gavin has chosen John Deere, but one of the most important is the outstanding after-sales support they get from their dealer, Ben Burgess, of Norwich.

"We are out in the wilds so if a machine goes down or we require replacement parts, backup is needed immediately, our dealer ensures this happens.

"This type of service is paramount to us if we are to carry out our commitment to provide the club members with the playing surfaces they expect," said Gavin.

Spalding in Lincolnshire is famous for its bulbs, horticultural and agricultural produce. One of the reasons for the soil's fertility is that this area of England was once, long ago, under water.

Rivers flowing into the sea at this point left deep silt deposits that have, over the ages, combined with fine clay to form a highly productive

the wheels and tyres from a G-Plex III have been fitted. The 12" tyres will be of benefit on the steep sides of tees and also enable them to cut very close to bunker edges without damaging the lips.

Spalding has an excellent workshop where they carry out all their maintenance and repairs including regrinds.

"The MagKnives will give us considerable savings in downtime and for this reason we are considering fitting these cylinders to our Fairway 405. The units are interchangeable with the T-Plex and will give us even more flexibility," explained John.

The MagKnife, which was launched at Saltex, is claimed to have a revolutionary method of fitting bottom blades, which in the past have been held in place by a number of screws.

Removing a worn or damaged blade has always been difficult and when a new one has been fitted it has often had to be ground to ensure it is level.

The MagKnife is said to eliminate these problems and where as before



◀ John Masell, Spalding GC with his new Jacobsen T-Plex MagKnife

and moist retentive soil.

John Maskell, Head Greenkeeper of Spalding Golf Club said that when they were building an on-site reservoir, the work was stopped three times because ancient saltpans were discovered and archaeological records needed to be taken before the work could continue.

The fairways on the course considerably benefit from this type of soil base and maintain their greenness longer in drought conditions.

John, who has been involved in greenkeeping for over 28 years, joined Spalding G C 18 months ago. He said that part of their programme was to rejuvenate their tees and provide higher quality playing surfaces.

To help in this project they have recently purchased a specially-adapted new Jacobsen T-Plex MagKnife. The machine has been modified to suit their compact tee boxes.

Eleven bladed reels are used for a fine cut and to achieve better traction

the changeover per unit has taken in the region of one and half hours the new operation is said to be completed in three minutes.

MagKnife uses powerful magnets with a force of 19kgm instead of screws to hold the bottom blade in position on locating dowels. According to Jacobsen a special tool is required to break the magnetic force and once this is done its only a matter of removing the old bottom blade and locating a new one.

Barkway Park Golf Club is a privately owned course, built 11 years ago on agricultural land in North Hertfordshire. The underlying soil is heavy clay, which makes it a difficult course to maintain and adding to this problem there is a wind factor, so drying out often occurs.

Anthony Lake is the Head Greenkeeper and has been at the club for just over eight years. For the last two years he has used a Toro Reelmaster 6500 D for the fairways.



"We like the unit very much especially its robustness and strength. For us this is important because our dry ground conditions can place a lot of stress on the machine. The high level of output is another feature that goes down well here at Barkway, as there is only two of us plus occasional help to look after the 18 holes," he said.

"We have found the Reelmaster very 'user friendly' and comfortable to operate for the long hours it is worked throughout the year. It is easy to maintain and the backup support we receive from our local Toro service dealer, Cam Mower Services, is excellent."

To maintain the standard their players expect, the fairways are mown weekly at alternative angles of cut and are fed and scarified once a year.

Toro's Reelmaster 6500 D has a mowing width of 2.44metres, which is made up of five 56cm cylinder units mounted on a LINKS cutting system

It is not just the grass that will be stressed by blunt or badly set cylinders all the mower's components can be effected. In addition with the high temperatures the machines are working at the situation is compounded by placing extra loading on the engine, bearings and drive systems.

With all the machines featured, keeping the units sharp and correctly set is well catered for and relatively easy to carry out. Some would say easier on certain models than others.

Next month some other clubs will be featured with details of the types of mowing machines they are using for their fairways, tees or greens.

See Buyers' Guide for companies that specialise in mowing equipment.

The Toro out on a very wet day at Barkway Park Golf Club



suspension. This consists of four free-floating linkage arms and individual lifting arm dampers to ensure the units hug the ground contours.

Power is provided by a 55hp Peugeot diesel engine. The data log system is available as an optional extra that enables a mechanic to find intermittent problems. There are diagnostic points on the mower for the front and rear-cutting unit drives and lift plus ones for the steering and hydrostatic transmission.

From the clubs visited it is clear that in their particular areas there has been a strong growth of grass over the last three months, although at the time of writing, temperatures are soaring into the high 20s.

Regardless to the amount of grass and the standard of the fairways one of the most important factors for producing a quality finish and smoothness of the mowing operation is the sharpness and set of the cylinders.

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Lloyds of Letchworth Ltd	01462 683031
Massey Ferguson (AGCO)	02476 851286
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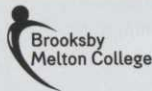
ABINGDON AND WITNEY COLLEGE Warren Farm Campus, Horton-cum-Studley, Oxford OX33 1BY **Contact:** Alan Brown or John Revis **Tel:** 01865 351794 **Fax:** 01865 358931 **Email:** john.revis@abingdon-witney.ac.uk **Web:** www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk **Information:** Warren Farm Campus is the base for Abingdon and Witney College's education and training in Greenkeeping, Sportsturf, Amenity horticulture and allied land based courses for the whole of Oxfordshire. Courses include:- NVQ Levels 2 & 3 in Sportsturf, Landscaping and Nursery. We also offer a range of short courses for the Industry including Health & Safety, pesticide training and chainsaw operation. For more information contact either Alan Brown or John Revis on Tel: 01865 351794 or Fax: 01865 358931.

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE

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



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



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



CANNINGTON COLLEGE Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2LS **Contact:** Steve Hasell **Tel:** 01278 655123 **Fax:** 01278 655055 **Email:** enquiries@cannington.ac.uk **Web:** www.cannington.ac.uk **Information:** National Certificate in Amenity Horticulture (Sportsturf), Certificate of Higher Education in Golf Course Management, Foundation Degree in Golf Course Management, NVQ Level 2 Golf Greenkeeping, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management, NVQ Level 4 Horticulture (Sportsturf), FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Off-Road Vehicle Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics, Certificate in Irrigation (BTLIA) 1 week course. Note: Certificate of Higher Education is available as a part-time option.



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



HADLOW COLLEGE Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL **Contact:** Sally Flanagan **Tel:** 01732 853241 **Fax:** 01732 853207 **Email:** sally.flanagan@hadlowcollege.ac.uk **Web:** www.hadlow.ac.uk **Information:** National award and National Diploma in Horticulture. NVQ Level 1 Horticulture, NVQ Level 2 & 3 in Amenity Horticulture in Hard Landscaping, Sports Turf and Production Horticulture.



HARTPURY COLLEGE Hartpury House, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL19 3BE **Contact:** Rosalind Camp **Tel:** 01452 702132 **Fax:** 01452 700629 **Email:** enquire@hartpury.ac.uk **Web:** www.hartpury.ac.uk **Information:** Courses available: College Certificate Greenkeeping, First Diploma Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Award Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Award Greenkeeping & Groundsmanship, National Certificate Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Certificate Greenkeeping & Groundsmanship, National Diploma Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Diploma Sport (Performance and Excellence)(Golf Studies). Work Based Training NVQ's, RHS examinations City & Guilds, TDLB Assessor Awards as well as a full range of amateur, leisure and day release courses.



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



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



NESCOT - NORTH EAST SURREY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 3DS **Contact:** Mr Colin Smith **Tel:** 0208 394 3228 **Email:** info@nescot.ac.uk **Web:** www.nescot.ac.uk **Information:** NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options). Part time Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses. Also available - RHS General and Advanced Certificates in Horticulture. RHS Diploma in Horticulture.



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



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



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

Training providers guide

Available courses guide

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

ENGLAND

Rodbaston College



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

SPARSHOLT COLLEGE HAMPSHIRE

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

The College of West Anglia



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

Warwickshire COLLEGE

WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE Royal Leamington Spa & Moreton Morrell, Moreton Morrell, Warwick, Warwickshire, CV35 9BL **Contact:** Andrew Turnbull **Tel:** 01926 318258 **Fax:** 01926 318300 **Email:** enquiries@warkscol.ac.uk **Web:** www.warkscol.ac.uk **Information:** Greenkeeping Courses: HNC Sports Turf & Golf Course Management (Day Release 2 year Programme also distance learning option); NVQ Level 2 & 3 Day Release and Workbased Option (we come to you); two year ND in Horticulture with Turf Option; BTUIA Certificate in Turf Irrigation. Short Courses: Computing for the Greenkeeper - various times throughout the year - ring for details. FEPA; Spraying Certification, Chainsaw Certification; TDLB; First Aid. Also RHS General and Diploma, PA1, PA2A and PA6. Professional Certificate/Diploma in Greenkeeping. Advanced National Certificate in Sports Turf Management - 2 year day release.

Writtle COLLEGE

WRITTLER COLLEGE Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR **Contact:** Registry **Tel:** 01245 424200 **Fax:** 01245 420456 **Email:** info@writtle.ac.uk **Web:** www.writtle.ac.uk **Information:** SPORTS TURF PROGRAMMES NVQ Level 2 - Sports Turf, NVQ Level 3 - Sports Turf Maintenance. NVQ Levels 2 & 3 - Amenity Horticulture. HNC - SportsTurf Science. HND Sports Turf and Golf Course Management. Other Programmes National Certificate, National Diploma (with Sports Turf Option). BSc (Hons) Sports Turf Science and Management. BSc (Hons) Horticulture, BSc (Hons) Landscape and Amenity Management. MSc Landscape and Amenity Management. NVQ 2 and 3 Service Engineering, First Diploma Agriculture (Mechanisation), C & G Agricultural Mechanics Certificate. FEPA. Chainsaw. Tractor Driving.

NORTHERN IRELAND

College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise

GREENMOUNT COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & RURAL ENTERPRISE Antrim, County Antrim, Northern Ireland BT41 4PU **Contact:** Paul Campbell **Tel:** 028 9442 6870 **Email:** paul.campbell@dardni.gov.uk **Web:** www.greenmount.ac.uk **Information:** Day release courses to (a) NVQ Level II Greenkeeping & Sportsturf, (b) NVQ Level III Golf Course Supervision, (c) Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture (sportsturf), (d) Higher National Diploma turf options, (e) FEPE, Health & Safety and a range of short courses.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

teagasc

TEAGASC COLLEGE College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin, DUBLIN 9, Republic of Ireland **Contact:** Pat Suttle **Tel:** 00353 18460644 **Fax:** 00353 18460524 **Email:** psuttle@kinsealy.teagasc.ie **Web:** www.teagasc.ie **Information:** Courses offered: Level 3 Certificate in Greenkeeping Level 3 Certificate in Golf Course Management National Diploma in Horticulture (Greenkeeping Major offered).

elmwood COLLEGE

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

GOSTA TRAINING LTD

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

LANGSIDE COLLEGE

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



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

south Ayrshire COUNCIL

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

Coleg Pencoed Pencoed College

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

Coleg Garddwriaeth Cymru Welsh College of Horticulture

WELSH COLLEGE OF HORTICULTURE Northop Mold, Flintshire CH7 6AA **Contact:** Mr Gareth Phillips **Tel:** 01352 841034 **Fax:** 01352 841031 **Email:** gareth.phillips@wcoh.ac.uk **Web:** www.wcoh.ac.uk **Information:** Full-time - Highr National Diploma in Turf Management. Part-time - Day release Higher National Certificate in Turf Management. Block week - NVQ Amenity Sportsturf Levels 2-3. Briefing Days - NVQ Level 4, TDLB Assessor Courses A1, Z1. Day Courses - FEPA, Chainsaw Certification, First Aid, CIEH.

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www.nptc.org.uk Email: information@nptc.org.uk

Disease Analysis

- How can it work for you?

Dr Kate Entwistle discusses the importance of accurate disease analysis.

There are three main reasons why turf disease analysis is important:

1. Accurate and effective management relies on knowing the cause of the problem.
2. Identification of the cause will enable appropriate fungicide selection (if it are needed)
3. The cause of the problem may not be related to pest or disease activity

Diagnosing the exact cause of damage to amenity grasses can be both challenging and rewarding. Your experience as a turf manager allows many pest and disease problems to be confidently and correctly identified on the course, but there are occasions when confirmation of a tentative identification is needed, or diagnosis is uncertain and a laboratory examination of the problem can be helpful.

INVERTEBRATE PEST, FUNGAL DISEASE OR DISORDER?

Turfgrasses can be damaged by invertebrate pests and by fungal disease but the symptoms that develop on the sward, especially during the early stages of infection, can sometimes be quite similar for both.

In addition, certain disorders (problems not caused by a living organism but by environmental conditions or maintenance problems, e.g. water repellent rootzones, nutrient imbalance, scorch) can also produce symptoms on the turf surface that can resemble both invertebrate pest damage and disease problems.

Some of the terms generally used to describe symptoms of unhealthy turf, are given in the left hand column of Table 1 with descriptions of these terms below. The table gives an indication of when these terms can be used to describe fungal disease problems, invertebrate pest damage and disorders as they develop on amenity turfgrasses.

The '?' symbol in the table means that, for example, certain invertebrate pests can cause spots to develop on some host plants but these symptoms are not common symptoms on amenity turf.



▲ Figure 1

Table 1

Terms used to describe the symptoms of disease, damage and disorder on turfgrasses.

	FUNGI	INVERTEBRATES	DISORDER
Chlorosis	yes	yes	yes
Reddening	yes	yes	yes
Etiolation	yes	?	yes
Necrosis	yes	yes	yes
Watersoaking	yes	no	?
Wilting	yes	yes	yes
Spots	yes	?	yes
Pustules	yes	no	no
Reduced vigour	yes	yes	yes
Dieback	yes	yes	yes

Chlorosis: Fading to pale green/yellow; **Reddening:** Of entire leaf or edge; **Etiolation:** Yellowing/whitening of leaf + lengthening of stem; **Necrosis:** Death, accompanied by darkening or discoloration; **Watersoaking:** Plant tissues that are wet or translucent; **Wilting:** Loss of turgidity; **Spots:** Limited chlorotic/necrotic circular-oval areas on leaf; **Pustules:** Blister-like, usually erumpent; **Reduced vigour:** Reduced healthy growth; **Dieback:** Progressive death of leaves/roots from tip backward

Invertebrate pest problems can, on the whole, be confidently identified on the course if you know where to look for the potential cause of the damage. Depending on the time of the year, the larvae of certain flies or beetles will be found at different depths in the rootzone and the larvae of the frit fly will only be present within the plant itself.

The latter can be quite difficult to see due to their pale colour and small size (approximately 2 mm long) but a x10 hand lens should enable you to see the larvae and also the brown pupae of these flies that also develop between the stem tissues.

In addition, moth caterpillars (cutworms) have been found on courses across the UK but, given the size of these larvae (35-50 mm long), they can be relatively quickly identified (at least to a basic level) using reference textbooks.

With potential disease problems, the process of identification is not as straightforward. Although the majority of diseases on cool-season turfgrasses are known to be caused by fungi, the fungi themselves are microscopic and therefore you are not able to see them in the field.

The exceptions to this are the fruiting bodies or mushrooms of certain basidiomycete fungi that can be seen at certain times of the year and the masses of aerial mycelium that may develop on the sward during conditions of ideal growth. Individual strands of this mycelium are microscopic.

What you will be able to observe on the damaged turf are the symptoms that develop following fungal infection. To complicate the diagnosis of disease problems, the expression of the symptoms will vary depending on the grass affected, the composition of the sward, the height of cut and local environmental conditions.



▲ Figure 2

Fungi produce several structures that can be clearly seen using a microscope, for example the mycelium (the 'body' of the fungus), spores (reproductive propagules), spore producing structures and resting structures.

The spores of the fungus can be regarded as their fingerprint since no two fungi produce exactly the same spore size, shape, colour or structure. Under high magnification (x400 or x1000), the spores of the fungi can be recognised and a name given to the fungus that is present.

Not all fungi produce spores and an example of those that do not are the *Rhizoctonia* species of fungi. Their identification is therefore based on other characteristics. It cannot be over emphasised that the presence of a fungus on an affected turf does not necessarily mean that it is causing the damage.

All swards will be covered by and all rootzones full of, a wide diversity of microorganisms (including fungi) which starts to build up from day one following the construction of any area. Fungal identification and disease identification are two separate things but experience allows any relationship between these two to be confirmed.

Disease identification is based partly on the ability to recognise the characteristics of the fungi that are present and partly on the ability and experience of the pathologist to interpret the findings in the context of



▲ Figure 3

what is happening on the sward. Therefore, what you get out of any turf analysis depends largely on what you, as the turf manager, put in.

SENDING THE RIGHT SAMPLE IS IMPORTANT

Diagnosis of the cause of any damage is essential if effective management is to be realised. In addition, if you want to use plant protection products as part of your integrated management approach, it is necessary that you identify the problem correctly.

If a problem develops on the turf and a sample of dead material is sent to a laboratory for analysis, all that is likely to be found are saprophytic secondary infections that are developing on the decaying plant material.

The best way to ensure that the pathologist has the material they need to identify the cause of the problem, is to send a sample of the turf to the laboratory that has been taken from the edge of the affected area, not the centre.

The reason for this is that most fungal disease problems will start from a central point and develop radially outwards. Since the centre of the affected area was the first part to be infected, it follows that this part of the sward will be the most heavily decayed by secondary, saprophytic infections.

As the disease progresses through the sward, it will pass in to unaffected plants around the edge of the affected area. It is these recently infected plants that are of most use in determining the cause of the damage. If you are in any doubt as to the best way of taking a turf sample for analysis of the problem, speak to the pathologist and they will be able to advise you.

DOES SIZE MATTER?

The size of the turf sample is important for several reasons. A large, hole cutter sized sample will show not only the sward composition but also the grasses in the sward that are affected and the symptoms of the infection on those plants (Figure 1).

Hollow tine cores and small pieces of turf pulled from the sward are not useful for disease identification (Figure 2). There will be very few intact plants and most plants will be separated from the roots when sampled in this way.

This means, for example, that it will not be possible to relate root infections to a specific grass type in a mixed sward and an accurate diagnosis of the turf symptoms cannot be made. In addition, large samples sent with a depth of rootzone will allow additional analysis of the rootzone quality and comments to be made on how this may relate to the symptoms on the sward (Figure 3). This is again not possible with hollow small core samples.

PACK THE SAMPLES CORRECTLY TO AVOID SPOILAGE

Samples should be wrapped tightly in newspaper or paper towel and packed into a padded bag or cardboard box for postage and not sent in plastic bags. It is important to try and keep the sward clean of rootzone and packing the sample tightly will prevent the sward from being contaminated during postage.

The rootzone contains many organisms that will 'spoil' the surface and potentially mask the symptoms of disease (Figure 4). Packing the samples in plastic bags will encourage them to sweat and to speed up saprophytic growth and plant decay (Figure 5).

Samples should then be sent by next day delivery to ensure minimal deterioration of the sward and rapid delivery of the result so that the problem can be dealt with quickly and effectively.

Remember to include your contact details with the turf samples – you would be surprised how many turf cores arrive in the laboratory with no indication of who sent them and from where.

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR TURF IN THE LAB

Initially, the intact turf sample is looked at under a dissecting microscope at a magnification of up to 50x. This allows the infected grasses to be identified, the symptoms on the affected plants to be recorded and problems with the roots to be observed.

Small pieces of the affected plant material are then placed on to glass slides and viewed under higher magnification using a compound microscope that can magnify the material up to 1000x. On occasion, the fungus can also be isolated from the disease plant tissues by encouraging it to grow on to artificial nutrient media.

This isolation of the pathogen can allow characteristics of its growth habit to be observed away from the plant material and it can also be encouraged to produce spores that will confirm its identity.

The results of the analysis are issued in a report that states what has been found on the sample. It is only when the findings of the analysis are used in conjunction with the detailed history of the problem that diagnosis of the disease can be confirmed.

FROM FUNGUS IDENTIFICATION TO DISEASE IDENTIFICATION

Some turf disease problems are relatively easy to identify, if you know what you are looking for, but for the majority, information on the history of the problem is essential for an accurate and complete diagnosis.

The important facts that need to be given are (i) when did the symptoms first appear, (ii) what did they look like and how have they developed from then until the present day, (iii) how old is the sward (is it seedling turf or established), (iv) what grasses are present and which are affected, (v) what products were applied during a 10-14 day period prior to the symptoms showing, (vi) what products have been applied to the turf since the problem developed.

ANALYSIS CAN TELL YOU MORE THAN WHAT DISEASE IS PRESENT

Quite often, analysis uncovers evidence of product applications that have not knowingly been made. Suspicions as to the cause of any damage can often be confirmed or discounted, but often the best evidence of problems being related to applications is the presence of 'lines' across the damaged area – invertebrates and fungi don't do lines!



◀ Figure 4



Figure 5 ▶

Certain products 'distort' the growth habit of the plants in the sward and this is clearly visible under the microscope. Granular products can be seen at the base of the sward and descriptions of these can help you to confirm what has and what should have been applied.

I have had cases where I have been told that nothing has been applied to the sward, but analysis shows definite residues on the leaf (possibly fungicide) and intact granular products on the surface.

Accurate identification of the problem does depend largely on receiving all the facts and a pathologist is interested only in being able to help you to identify the cause of any damage.

Analysis of the rootzone can also highlight developing problems of water repellence and reduced water movement through the profile. If these are picked up early, severe problems can be avoided in later months.

Sending turf samples for disease analysis can be seen as another tool available to you in managing a healthy sward. Analysis can confirm the nature of current the problem and allow you to choose the best management option for your course. It can prevent unnecessary product applications and ensure effective use of resources.

A complete analysis can also inform you of potential problems in the rootzone and, where certain diseases are developing as a result of them, allow you to consider alternative cultural approaches to reduce disease incidence or severity.

Turf problems can develop rapidly on any well-managed sward but knowledge, experience, communication and openness can work together to relieve at least some of the stresses inherent in our profession.

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

NEW PRODUCTS

ULTRA SPECIAL DEMOUNTABLE SPRAYER

The ultra-light, ultra-compact, ultra-low-profile demountable sprayer from Spraytech breaks new ground in sprayer design.

The ultra low profile tank offers not only unparalleled all round vision but near perfect weight distribution for greater stability on inclines, whilst the ultra light design provides both less stress on fine turf and less stress on back axles!

Because of an entirely new approach designed to improve both ease of build and down-time maintenance, the bewildering complexity of hoses and fittings common on other sprayers have been discarded in favour of a degree of simplicity not previously thought possible.

All services are now totally enclosed within the tank envelope. A new compact plumbing module, together with the triple diaphragm pump and a clean, direct coupled, hydraulic drive are located on removable trays, while hoses have been reduced to a minimum, one only 12cm long!



▲ RJ series 600 ltr sprayer and 4.5m Hurricane on a Cushman at Pedham Place, Kent

Spraytech's is the only sprayer worldwide fitted as standard with a BS6356 Part 9 sealed filling system demonstrating our unique concern for the sprayer operator and the environment – and as such it requires no special protective clothing to be worn.

The modular mix and match design permits a wide range of detachable zero-emission boom options, including ultra-

light Hurricane trailed and Tornado suspended booms, which offer manual or electric wing fold options, plus manual or power tilt boom stow options (standard open booms are also available). With shielded booms, any nozzle can be used with confidence, tank mixes spray up to three times the area, tripling productivity and on-target accuracy brings reductions in pesticide application of up to 20%, making these latest State of the Art sprayers perhaps the only machinery in the



▲ JD series 600 ltr sprayer and 4.5m Hurricane on a ProGator at Roehampton



▲ JD600 with 4.5m Hurricane neatly stowed around the tank for transit

workshop that actually make a contribution to overheads!

Products are available either from Spraytech direct or from carefully selected and appointed dealers.

For further information Tel: 0845 4080 675.

NEW BRUSHCUTTERS

Tracmaster, manufacturer of the Camon range of garden and landscape machinery, have launched a new range of Camon 4-stroke Brushcutters.

With a combination of strength and superb Honda reliability, the Camon C25 Brushcutter features a D-loop handle and is powered by the GX25 4-stroke 25cc engine offering efficiency, reliability and reduced noise emissions.



The more Camon C35 features the 35cc Honda GX35 4-stroke engine, which combines strength with a lightweight design. The C35 is fitted with cow-horn type handles giving extra balance and control.

Designed for continuous use under the heaviest conditions, these superb Brushcutters use the innovative BesserTrim System, a cutting head that features a unique, patented nylon cutter, designed to eliminate the tangling and clogging commonly associated with the nylon line found on most conventional brushcutters.

Designed and built to Tracmaster's own specifications, the Camon C25 and C35 Brushcutters are the perfect addition to their comprehensive range of landscape, groundcare and garden machinery which already includes Cultivators, Turf Cutter, Mowers, Stump Grinder, Trencher, Hole Borers, Chippers and Shredders to name just a selection!

For further information Tel: 01444 247689.

GRIP AND GRAB

New to the STV International innovative range of handy home products is the Grip 'n' Grab Picker. This tool is a must with its patented 'Sure Grip' jaws enabling precision picking of all manner of objects from 1g to 1kg.

The Picker is great for fruit picking, the 'soft feel' lining to the jaws protecting the fruit, or as a pruning aid moving brambles out of harms way allowing the operator to prune in comfort.

A reach of up to 1.5 metres can be made with the picker, ideal for high shelves, picking off the floor without bending or retrieving those items that annoyingly drop behind furniture or heavy machinery, plus dozens of other uses.

The STV International Picker is lightweight and is operated with a simple trigger action and retails for just £9.95.



NEW FROM BSG

BSG Supplies Ltd has launched two new additions to their range of utility vehicles; the Goldoni Transcar 28 air-cooled 26hp and Transcar 33 water-cooled 34hp version. The new Transcars boast a number of additional design features to further increase the flexibility and suitability of these machines in areas requiring maximum traction and minimum soil compaction.

The new low emission Lombardini air or water cooled engines are cleaner, more efficient and effective in reducing noise levels. This and other adjustments to the design have been introduced to improve not only performance, but to create an ergonomic, environmentally friendly vehicle which outperforms others in its class. The new synchronised gearbox provides eight forward and four reverse gears are easily operated with re-positioned gearlevers, ensuring smooth transmission when working on slopes and in difficult terrain. Road speed has been increased to achieve up to 30kph, with larger adjustment free brakes for safety and control. Rigid and articulated steering options are available. The three-way tipping body has a capacity up to 1900kg. The tipping cylinder has been re-positioned to give an even greater incline to discharge its load.

A sound-proofed, heated cab with safety frame can be fitted to the rigid steer model, mounted on an integral platform fitted with new mufflers to



absorb noise and vibration, ensures maximum comfort for the operator. The new digital display dashboard gives easy to read information on speed and (once engaged) PTO rpm.

For further information Tel: 01206 212092.

TOP PRIZE FOR SHELTON'S

A major technological advance in sportsturf drainage by Shelton Sportsturf Drainage Solutions has been recognised by the Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE). The Society has awarded its prestigious Silver Medal to the Shelton System 25™ a machine designed to install intensive drainage systems on sportsfields and other areas of fine turf.

The Shelton Company designed the machine with the aim of digging trenches 25mm, 50mm, or 75mm wide with minimum disturbance to the playing surface. To this end they have a conveyor carrying the excavated soil to a trailer running alongside. Simultaneously, a vibrating hopper on the rear of the machine places a permeable fill in the trench in a one-pass operation.

Such is the neatness of the completed operation use of the facility may be resumed almost immediately.

The RASE judges praised the high build quality of the equipment noting the fact that stainless steel has been used extensively in its manufacture. Stainless steel enhances soil flow through the trencher and gravel placement in the narrow trenches, as well as saving weight and having non-rusting properties.

Shelton System 25™ has also been specifically designed to install 25mm diameter land drainage pipe; additionally it is capable of handling 60mm and 80mm land drainage piping.



This advanced equipment is mounted on the 3-point linkage of a tractor and will be of interest to those managing golf courses, football stadia, racecourses, caravan sites and the like.

RANGE OF SEEDERS

Rustons Engineering is now offering a choice of seeders and over-seeding units as part of the Rotadairon range of soil renovation equipment that the company distributes in the UK.

The seeding machines are available either to fit behind a soil renovator, so ground can be prepared and seeded in a single pass, or as separate tractor-mounted units for use on already prepared ground. The former are available with working widths from 0.75 metres to two metres and hopper capacities from 55 litres to 200 litres, and they require from 12 to 90hp, depending on the model and soil conditions. They cost from £835 to £2735.

Two tractor-mounted models are available - one with a 1.5 metre working width and 150 litre hopper requiring 30 to 60hp, the other working at two metres with a 200 litre hopper that requires 50 to 95 hp. The 1.5 metre model costs £4650, and the two-metre version £5325.

The over-seeders are used in tandem with scarifier units that aerate and remove thatch on mature turf and can be supplied either 1.4 or two metres wide with 150 litre or 200 litre hoppers. The machines, which can place seed in rows or across - the full working width, cost £7995 or £10,995, complete with scarifier units.

All the Rotadairon seeders have stainless steel hoppers and seed tubes, wind-guards and adjustment mechanisms that allow precise seed rate control.

For further information Tel: 0114 266 4668.





News from the Chief Executive

Three months into my new role as Chief Executive and I wonder where the time has gone. The management structure at Headquarters has been revised and now centres around myself, Ken Richardson, Scott MacCallum and Rosie Hancher thus creating a positive team which is committed to working with the Board of Management and to moving the Association forward. In line with my determination to improve the transparency of the day to day running of the office we have already visited many Section and Regional events and meetings, with more planned for the coming months. We have also welcomed many visitors to BIGGA HOUSE, some for the first time who realise that the staff are approachable and work hard on their behalf. This exercise has been well received by members who all too often feel that the headquarters staff are remote from them and the realities and pressures of greenkeeping today. I have also been concentrating on building relationships with the other bodies with whom we are associated as well as strengthening the ties with our trade partners. While we are a significant body ourselves we must not lose sight of the fact that we are only one part of the industry and if we are to influence thinking in the future on such topics as the environment or education then we need to present a unified approach to others.

Through my column each month I will attempt to keep you up to date with BIGGA's current policy, its implementation progress and I'm sure a few thought provoking and perhaps at time contentious observations and comments.

Plans are well under way for BTME & ClubHouse 2005 and the halls are already approximately 80% sold. Twice a year we hold a Steering Committee meeting at Aldwark comprising of exhibitor representatives and members of BIGGA staff. There is however still a strong undercurrent in the trade which would like to restrict the number of shows serving the industry to one each year in order to reduce their costs.

The more popular suggestions are: 1) Alternate shows annually with the IOG ie SALTEX one year and BTME & ClubHouse the next; 2) Combine forces with the IOG to produce one show at the NEC and 3) Reduce BTME & ClubHouse to a two day show. The Association is committed to an annual exhibition in Harrogate and will do its utmost to ensure that it is a successful three day event. In this connection Rosie and I recently travelled to Peterborough to meet with members of the Outdoor Power and Equipment Industries division of the Agricultural Engineers Association whose members include some of the major machinery manufacturers. Their concern over the future of exhibitions was re-iterated and I can only stress how crucial the profit from the show is to the funding of BIGGA's activities. We continue to talk to try to find a mutually acceptable solution however the support of members is paramount. If you need any more information or would like to know how you can help then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally I would like to thank Derek Farrington for his eight years of loyal service to the members of BIGGA, especially in the South East Region where he was the Regional Administrator also latterly helping out in the South West and South Wales Region. Derek retired at the end of May however I am sure that he will continue his ties with the Association through other channels.

John Pemberton



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

SCOTTISH REGION

North

My apologies to the Section for there being no reports for the last two months, so I will try to bring you up to date.

New members are Dale Steven, Forres GC; Marc Miller, Elgin GC; Christopher Bruce, Duff House Royal; Stephen Grant, Kintore GC; David Leys, Kintore GC; Steven Arnott, Kintore GC; Fraser Munro, Kingussie GC; Welcome to the Section lads. I hope you can make it to some of the outings.

The Spring outing at Moray GC in May was well attended and the course was very well presented by Martin Cameron and his staff with the greens in particular being in 1st class condition.

The Captain and catering staff are also to be thanked for a very enjoyable day. The prizewinners were as follows;

Longest drives: Class 3 G. Asher, Kemnay GC; Class 2 P. Wood, Newmachar GC; Class 1 M. Miller, Moray GC. Nearest the Pin: A Stewart, Royal Aberdeen GC. Sweep: 4. R. Donald, Oldmeldrum GC; 3. S. Robertson, Craigiehill GC; 2. H. Mclatchie, Peterhead GC; 1. M. Main Moray GC.

Guest Winner: Ross Warrender 89-13-76. Trade Winner: Mike Dennis, Rigby Taylor, 84-11-73. Committee Trophy: H. Mclatchie, Peterhead GC, 93-22-71. Veterans: 2. G. Asher, Kemnay GC, 106-18-88; 1. A. Grant, Fraserburgh GC, 88-13-75. Apprentice Trophy: 2. M. Anderson, Elgin GC, 89-6-83; 1. M. Rae, Newmachar GC, 77-4-73. Class 3: 3. D. Adams, Newmachar GC, 107-28-81; 2. M. Wood, Moray GC, 97-17-80; 1. H. Mclatchie, Peterhead GC, 93-22-71. Class 2: 3. B. Brooks, Newmachar GC, 86-12-74; 2. B. Cocker, Alyth GC, 88-14-74. Class 1: 1. M. Main, Moray GC, 87-16-71. Class 1: 3. A. Stewart, Royal Aberdeen GC, 82-6-76; 2. Bradley Wood 78-3-75; 1. R. Donald, Oldmeldrum GC, 79-6-73. Scratch: 2. B. Cruickshanks, Garmouth/Kingston GC, 76; 1. M. Ross, Elgin, 72

200 Club Winners: Jan. Stewart McBain; Feb. S. McIntosh; Mar. H. Mclatchie; Apr. J. Robertson.

Some other news, Celtic diehard, Robert Hardie, Head Greenkeeper at Craibstone GC, has become a father again and this time its a baby boy. Congratulations Rab. Also congratulations to Keith Wood, of Aberdeen Links, whose wife has had a daughter.

A major thanks to Jim McCormack, of Kirriemuir GC, who raised around £5,000 for the Anthony Nolan Trust when he scaled the heights of Kilimajaro. A tremendous achievement Jim and a lot of people are very thankful to you for your efforts.

Congratulations also go to Gary Gruber, Head Greenkeeper of Skibo Castle GC, who presided over the Northern Open in May. The course was a great credit to Gary and his staff.

On the golfing side congratulations again to Steven MacIntosh, Course Manager at Torvean GC, who retained his Ross-shire County Championship title at Tain GC with scores of 70, 71 in very difficult conditions; and to Derek Chisholm Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Kingussie GC who won the Inverness County Championship at Kingussie GC with scores of 66 and 68, also in very difficult conditions. A season ticket to Celtic Park was also a prize for these guys.

On the move is Stuart Hogg, of Fortrose GC, who has now taken the position of Course Manager of St Annes Old Links. Stuart was at Fortrose GC for many years and had been in charge for the last 10.

He has recently been awarded his Master Greenkeeper Certificate, which is a testimony to his ambition and the hard work he has put in over the years. Fortrose GC have also been awarded many environmental awards under Stuart's supervision.

Kevin Fowler, Stuart's Deputy for the last few years has been appointed as the new Course Manager and we wish him all the best.

I hope everyone has a trouble free summer, and the weather is good to you.
Iain Gunn



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
Tel: 01476 550115



NORTHERN REGION

North Wales

The Open Championship at Royal Troon GC will be with us in a couple of week's time and for all of you involved with the BIGGA Support team, you will shortly be boarding that plane from Liverpool to Glasgow or Manchester to Prestwick and then across by bus or taxi to the links.

The biggest event of the year, with the rest of the world watching your help is a vital part for the smooth running of the tournament and it looks like we will yet again be treated to some brilliant expertise with all the top players battling for the prestigious Claret Jug.

Closer to home the Welsh Ladies and the Welsh Men's Team Championship will be held at The Vale of Llangollen GC, from August 11-15.

Our Spring Tournament this year took place at Porthmadog GC and our thanks go to Gareth Williams and the team for the presentation of the course. With the fairways running very fast at 15 on the stimpmeter it was great to reach the receptive greens as we needed something to stop the ball on!

Our thanks also to the caterers for a fine carvery meal and to the club for giving us such a warm and friendly welcome.

A gift in the form of a book on Greenkeeping from a Canadian author Gordon Wittenveen (who also played in the event) was presented to Gareth, after the meal.

I believe he has read some of it and finds it extremely interesting.

The results are as follows; Greenkeepers: 1. Les Parry, Arrowe Park, 35pts; 2. Aled Hughes, Porthmadog, 33pts; 3. John Humphreys, Oswestry, 31pts. Guests: 1. Carl Ashly, 34pts; 2. Fred Crouch, 29pts. The Trade Shield went to Jim Openshaw. We had two Nearest the Pin prizes on the 9th and 13th and these were won by Stuart Hayley, Vale Royal Abbey, and Huw Brown, Golf Son Saura, respectively.

Just across the estuary at Royal St David's the Kerry bros and team, have just hosted another successful European Tour Seniors Event this now being an annual fixture on the calendar the final day being played on July 4. (Just a note to Roger Kerry – I hope you are looking after my pound, as I will be winning it back in our autumn competition at Bromborough GC).

Until next time, keep it on the short grass!

Mesen Cymru
Andrew Acorn

Sheffield

Nothing much to report this month so just a reminder that our Chairman, Gordon Brammah, is progressing nicely with the new Section library, but still needs as many contributions as you can spare.

I'm sure that if you dig around at home, work or in the back of your locker you may find something that you no longer need but might be of use to another Section member.

Best wishes go to David Ingleton who has left Gainsborough Golf Club after 19 years as greenkeeper and mechanic. Dave worked for the club firstly as a greenkeeper then progressed to take on the role of mechanic, looking after the clubs large inventory of machinery.

Very well known by the trade members Dave didn't take an active role in the Association due to his various interests outside work including shooting, fishing, tractor restoration and generally being a Shedhead. The club were sorry to see him go but he left with the club's very best wishes for success in his new employment.

On a lighter note I came across this tale from a website that might interest a few of you who enjoy a laugh.

Bill arrived home from golfing well after dark. His wife, Sally, asked him where had he been all day. He told her that after his 8am round of golf, he stopped to help a gorgeous blonde with a flat tyre. He then went back to her house where they spent the whole afternoon in her bedroom making mad passionate love.

Sally replied, "You lying S.O.B! you played 36 holes, didn't you?"

This and thousands more that are too rude to print are waiting for you at www.golfjokes.co.uk.

Don't forget you can call me with any news or comments on 01427 614175 or 07904 121690 or e-mail me at www.geoff@wellsy1.freeserve.co.uk.

Geoff Wells

Northern

The date has been set for the Northern Section v Sheffield Section match. It will be played at Huddersfield Golf Club on September 15. Start times and other information will be available at a later date.

As some of you may already be aware, at the last committee meeting, Tito Arana stepped down as Chairman and off the committee with immediate effect.

This was due to Tito leaving his post at Riddlesden Golf Club and becoming a car salesman. So, if you fancy a new Nissan, Tito's your man!

I and the rest of the Northern Section Committee would like to thank Tito for all his hard work over the years, and I know he'll be very much missed at all Section events, especially by our new Chairman, Andy Slingsby, who'll now have to make all the speeches!

Welcome to Paul Dankin, who has joined the Section this month.

In next month's report I shall bring you the results of this years President's Day.

Any news regarding Northern Sections can be relayed to me at the usual address: 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford BD2 4EB

Telephone 01274 638366; mobile 07739 319060 or email adam@speight1156.fsife.co.uk

Adam Speight

MIDLAND REGION

BB&O

Having read many issues of various different golfing stories over the years, I recently had the pleasure of listening to one which I am sure, given time, will be published in many a golfer's book and magazine.

It all happened at Wycombe Heights GC during March this year. As part of their winter maintenance programme it was decided that a new championship tee would be built on the signature par-3 16th hole. Rob Surgy and one of his senior assistants carried out the work.

The tee was completed shortly before Christmas and left to mature ready for the new season in the spring. Three months would pass and in late March it was decided that while playing golf that afternoon, Rob and his team would be the very first people to play the newly-constructed tee. The weather was perfect and the receptive pin tucked away in behind one of the greenside bunkers, which protects the green.

Colin, the senior assistant, who helped build the tee three months earlier, was the very first player to tee off after a slippery birdie on the 15th. With an 8-iron in his hand Colin (the best ball striker in Wycome as he now likes to be known!) stepped up, teed it high and let it fly straight down the throat of the pin pitching 18 inches from the hole directly in line and with a bounce and a touch of check it released slowly into the hole.

As you can imagine there was a big eruption on the tee and all preceded to congratulate Colin on his first hole-in-one. We believe that this must be a first in golf as Colin had constructed and built the tee and was the first person to strike a ball at the green and to get a hole in one, this must be some kind of record. Guinness Book of Records take note!

On a negative note the Rigby Taylor Knockout has been cancelled due to lack of support from the members but on a positive note your feedback and comments about this competition will always be welcomed and it is hoped that with constructive feedback this once popular competition will thrive again bringing

Get to the bottom of Dry Patch problems

COMPLETE IMMERSION TECHNOLOGY

RT
rigby taylor

When standard wetting agents are applied to turf they infiltrate the ground through the force of gravity. Inevitably dry spots are left within the rootzone that will continue to be water repellent.

But that's now all in the past.

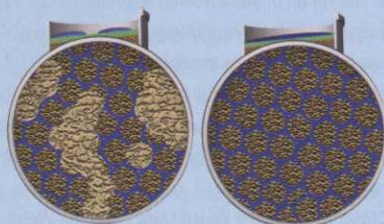
Complete Immersion Technology

Breaker Triple is the latest advance in wetting agents, incorporating Complete Immersion Technology. It contains three advanced components to prevent and cure Dry Patch:

1. A wetting and spreading agent
2. A soil penetrant
3. A re-wetting agent

This powerful combination ensures a strong attraction between the applied product and the water-repellent particles.

The unique spreading action moves the wetting agent both downwards and sideways, effectively treating the whole of the soil profile.



Partial immersion from a standard wetter – many soil particles remain untreated

Complete immersion from Breaker Triple – every soil particle becomes treated

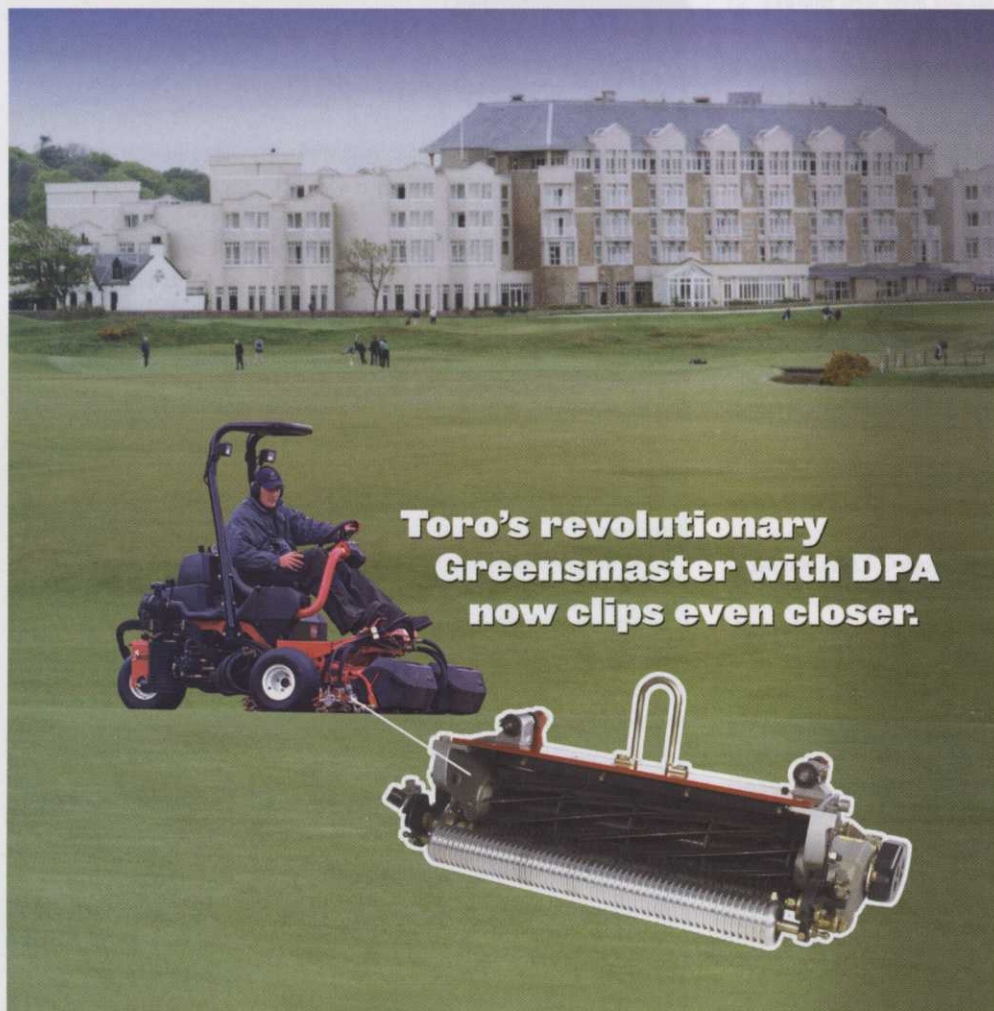
What starts as a totally water-repellent soil is converted to a water-receptive soil. The results are consistent and long-lasting.

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enjoyment to all who participate. Your comments, suggestions and ideas to John Scoones 07880 550 380.

Alistair Holehouse from Blue Mountain GC is leaving the American Golf Group after seven happy years and has accepted a new challenging position as Course Manager with Royal Ascot GC in Berkshire. We wish Alistair well in his new venture.

Meanwhile rock and roller, Justin Robinson from Henly GC, is jetting off to Las Vegas to tie the knot with the lovely Liz, his bride to be. Congratulations. Will it be an Elvis Wedding? Wait and see.

Mark Day

Midland

As I sit here reflecting on a recent visit from my Uncle in Canada, my thoughts are concerned with a planned trip to Iceland to visit a good friend I met in Austria of all places.

My only worry is the outlandish cost of liquor within Iceland. What is a half Irish/Scottish, Englishman to do in such a situation? Rob a bank comes to mind. Perhaps sobriety would be better. What a refreshing change that would make!

So down to business. I am currently in the midst of organising both the snooker and angling events for this Autumn. I hope you will support these sponsored events as well as you did last year. I will let you know the dates next month my friends. Please support them as they take a lot of organising and are done on your behalf as none golfing fixtures.

For some 25 years plus, Hughie McIlwaine has served within our profession with what can only be described as immense character. Hughie has recently been though the mill heath-wise, but with his poultice of Juniper Berry's and Wild Salmon he is doing well. We all wish you the best mate.

On the note of long serving people in our profession, the Section would like to wish John Rawlings every happiness in his well earned retirement.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome five new members to our fine Section. They are Trevor White, Joao Faisca, Gary Carr, Kevin Baker and Sean Wilson. We all look forward to welcoming you to our many and varied events.

On a somewhat personal note, I would like to wish John Wilkes all the very best in his new venture in Scotland. You had better change that accent Wilkston B'hoy's. By God, I've done nothing but talk about members, what's the world coming to!

Don't forget entries to our Autumn Tournament at Hawstone Park have to be in by August 23. As you will see from your fixture card, this is to include our AGM after the golf, with a 5pm start. This year's AGM is earlier than usual due to our Christmas Tournament being held at Hoylake.

Until next month, enjoy the wonderful weather.

Sean McDade

East Midlands

This year's Spring Tournament was held at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club on Wednesday May 12. The weather was dry and cloudy which was a big improvement on all the rain over the past two weeks.

The course must have been in good condition, or the golfers played good golf, as some excellent scores were posted. We were also honoured to have the company of the Club Captain and Club Manager of Kirby Muxloe, who joined us for the golf and the evening meal.

The scores for the day were as follows: Best Gross: Chris Brown, Horsley Lodge, 77. Best Nett: Des Foster, Casby, 90-28-62. Category 1: 1. Russell Allen, Horsley Lodge, 80-8-72; 2. Dave Leatherland, Kedleston Park, 80-9-73.

Category 2: 1. Greg Skinner, Lingdale, 79-12-67; 2. Jamie Bedford, Birstall, 84-16-18. Category 3: 1. Frank Kempster, Cosby, 90-22-68; 2. Craig Watt, Glen Gorse, 93-23-70 Trade and Associate: 1. Russell Latham, Mansfield Sand, 85-18-67; 2. Dave Ritchie, Captain Kirby Muxloe, 77-9-69.

Also as part of the evening presentation a long service award was presented to Mark Bindley by the Captain of Kirby Muxloe for completing 25 years of service.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club for the courtesy of the course and their hospitality.

A special thank you should be extended to Dave Ritchie and Brian Woodcock, Captain and Club Manager, for their participation on the day. Also to the caterers, Rival Catering. Finally I would like to, on behalf of the East Midlands section, thank Mansfield Sand for sponsoring the prize day, and Tacit for Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive awards.

Next years Spring Tournament will be held at Melton Mowbray Golf Club.

Antony Bindley

Mid Anglia

Hello chaps, it's me again, sorry there have not been any reports for a while but there hasn't been a lot of news to write about.

I would like to welcome Bob Butfoy and John Gubb to the committee and hope their input will be of benefit to us all.

Back in May we had our first competition of the season which was held at John O' Gaunt. Thanks to Colin Robinson and his team for the great effort and hard work they put in to provide us with two superb courses.

This was over 36 holes and also a qualifier for the National Championship in October.

The results were as follows: 1. Dan Hodkin, Knebworth; 2. Geoff James, John O' Gaunt; 3. Chris Slimm, John O' Gaunt. Dan and Geoff have made it to the National and will given a donation from the Section to cover the cost of accomodation.

Other results were: Nearest the Pin: am, Steve Mason; pm, Clive Parnell, and Longest Drive: am, Dave Thompson; pm, Gerald Bruce.

Our main sponsor for the day was Rigby Taylor and thanks to Gareth Knight for providing a great prize table and also to all the Trade members for supplying a well stocked raffle.

Thanks to the caterers for looking after us throughout the day and finally the Golf Club for the courtesy of their courses.

The next meeting is at Mount Pleasant on Wednesday July 28 with tee times booked from 1pm. Coffee and bacon roll on arrival and a two course evening meal, which will be casual dress instead of collar and tie. Entry will be limited to 30 so get your forms in early to avoid disappointment.

If anybody has something they want to say please get in touch with any member of the committee and we will try to air your views through this column.

Steve Mason

East of England

The third golf day of the year was held on June 3 at Belton Park. Congratulations go to Gary Poole and his staff on the condition of the course, it was just a shame he couldn't do something about the weather as half the round was played in very heavy rain.

The weather didn't affect the scoring and the Burdens Cup was won by Steven Beverley with a very good 42 points (we will be reviewing his handicap) 2, Ben Corby, 38 pts; 3, Graeme Macdonald 35 pts. Nearest the Pin: Peter Larter; Longest Drive: Rob Welford. Stewart Clayton won the trade prize with 38 pts.

Many thanks go to Burdens Groundcare for their continued support and sponsorship of this event.

The next event will be held at The Lincoln Golf Club on July 22.

Good luck to Rob Welford, from Immingham Golf Club, who is getting married next month to his long term partner, Natasha. If any other members have any news for Around The Green, please let me know and I will put it in the next issue.

Les Howkins



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2004 will see the BIGGA National Championship contested over both days at The Alwoodley Golf Club, Leeds, which is officially recognised as one of Britain's finest inland courses. The Golf Club, which was the first course to be designed by the famous golf architect Dr Alister MacKenzie, regularly hosts county and national events and ranks as one of the top 50 Championship courses in the UK & Ireland. The course layout forms part of Wigton Moor and is of a natural moorland character. In addition to its scenic beauty, the course offers a challenge to all golfers, with only the 10th and 11th greens altered from their original designs. The Championship Dinner will be hosted in the impressive Alwoodley clubhouse on the Monday evening.



The Championship over 36 holes of stroke play will produce the BIGGA National Champion, based on the low handicap score, who will win the prestigious BIGGA Challenge Trophy. The low gross winner will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Cup. The BIGGA Regional Team Cup and prize will be calculated from the 8 best nett scores on the first 18 holes of the competition. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd over 36 holes in both the nett and gross categories. Each day, over 18 holes, prizes for the winners will be awarded in three handicap categories.

ENTRY

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**SOUTH WEST
& SOUTH WALES**

South Wales

Hello all. Firstly I would like to thank you all for the phone calls, e-mails, letters that I did not receive.

The Welsh Open has come and gone, I was lucky enough to attend on the Friday and witness the superb round of golf by the eventual winner, Simon Khan, played on a superbly presented golf course. A huge well done goes to the Celtic Manor Resort - Jim and his staff in particular.

Adrian Panks (strimmer boy from Dudley) is officially nuts. That's the conclusion I came to when I spoke to him at the open and he informed me that he will be doing a little bike ride.

As some of us know he has just recovered from a serious health scare, so the sensible thing would be to ride a bike to keep healthy – sounds good. However he has signed up to do the Taff trail which is 110 miles in one day! I told you he was nuts. He is doing it for charity so any donations will be gratefully accepted. Contact him at Llanwern Golf Club.

I have been accused in the past of favouritism to one Peter Lacey and some are calling this Section Lacey's Chronicles. I feel that I have to inform you of his recent jog around London. Yes he's done the London Marathon and he had a strategy.

His strategy was to run behind the model, Nell McAndrew, who is known as a fit athlete and the sight of her behind would inspire him to his hopeful time of 4 hours 21 minutes.

However, the problems started when she began stopping for TV interviews and Lacey was stopping with her and he was jogging in the background staring at her bum. Anyway after the 10th interview Nell was getting concerned and the police where informed and Lacey spent the night in jail!

A great seminar was held at Royal Porthcawl, sponsored by Countrywide, covering issues on fertiliser, seed and fuel storage. Feedback was excellent so thank you for all your efforts on the day.

Humble Crumble is the shortest poem in history can you name the poet?

Answer: HOAMMED ILA.

Peter Lacey did completed the Marathon in 4 hours, 8 minutes and 3 seconds – well done.

Kerry Jones

South Coast

Summer is among us and as I sit and write this on a sun drenched day, sipping my Pimms, irrigation systems around the south are proving their worth.

The England cricket team have just wrapped up the Test Series, England are just about to win the football European championships, Henmania is about to hit us after his good run in the French Open and how can we forget The Open?

We have several representatives from the Section on the BIGGA Support team again this year and they will no doubt have a great week at Royal Troon. We wish them well and also Billy McLachlan and his team at Troon for what I'm sure will be a highly successful Open Championship. With the Olympics and the Ryder cup to come it's a great year for sport. Unfortunately my wife doesn't quite feel so enthusiastic about it all!

The Section has been fairly quiet although I'm sure we have all been extremely busy on our golf courses. Our fixture lists at Parkstone seem to get larger every year challenging us to be more efficient and continue to maintain higher standards, but we're modern managers like you all, so its like water off a ducks back!

We are about to draw swords in our annual match against the secretaries. The match, which is sponsored by Course Care, will be played at Alresford Golf Club and your team will be looking to retain the trophy and maintain our pride. A full report will follow.

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

Until next time

Alex McCombie

SOUTH EAST

London

If you are reading this than you are extremely privileged as notes in 'around the green' from the London Section are about as rare as an Emile Heskey goal!

I have (foolishly) agreed to write these notes for the foreseeable future so I will be looking to all our members to help fill the page with any news at all, whether it be about golf courses, jobs, births or even Heskey scoring!

The main news for this month comes from our spring tournament, which was, hosted by Batchworth Park, which, before I mention anything else, was in absolute pristine condition, so congratulations to Andy and his team on presenting such a beautiful course.

Also our thanks go to the club and its entire staff for welcoming us and providing a great meal afterwards.

On a gloomy and wet day there was some very good scores returned, but the clear winner with an excellent score of 40 points (5 handicap) was Richard Highway. Joining him at the National Championship was Dave Badham who had the best nett score of 36 points. Congratulations to both and good luck at the National.

On the day we had a great turnout and a huge number of trade who all helped out with prizes for the event, the raffle and on course refreshments provided very well by Ernest Does and Textron.

The man known as Supergrass, Phil Jones, with other contributions from gem sponsored superb main prizes, and, of course, our ongoing support from Alan and Barry of Turners, and Avoncrop respectively.

Just a quick add on – readers will see that the golfing legend Ian Semple did not win (this is because he didn't actually play) but I hope his shoulder won't be too sore when he has to dig into his deep pockets to enter the nationals!

Finally, I wish to remind readers that entry forms for the summer tournament, at Sandy Lodge, must be received at least two weeks prior to the date, July 22, as we cannot accept names or payment after the cut off point.

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible, new and old.

07789 955 817

Alec MacIndoe

Essex

Well it's me again,

Winning Golfer of the Year last year took it out of me so much that I have not had the time to write another article...

As I sit and write this we should be in spring, but having been in my shorts for three weeks (not a pretty sight), I now find myself getting soaked everyday. You just cannot bank on the weather. It's all been a bit challenging; it's amazing how fickle golf club members can be.

Two weeks ago we had the 40th anniversary celebrations at our golf club which consisted of 10 days of events. Every member and guest was commenting on how wonderful the golf club was and the condition of the course especially given the time of year.

Last week we had a trolley ban for two days because of all the rain - and according to our members the course is in terrible condition and it is a crime that they cannot have their trolleys on! Happy days!

A break from writing this article as our grass is growing faster than we can cut it, especially on the banks and amenity areas around the course, two weeks later the

Your Letters...

An Inspirational Piece

It was with some pleasure that I read the article HNC Managing Sports Turf: Improving an area, by Nigel White in the June edition of Greenkeeper International.

There are many within our industry who try to decry the need for higher education, insisting that NVQs are the only qualification needed. Nigel is one of my HNC students at the Warwickshire College and the article shows the benefits of studying at this higher level. A.H.E. qualification teaches research skills, how to evaluate the information and then to apply and present the information in a professional manner.

I teach sports turf qualifications at Level 2 & 3 and have seen many greenkeepers greatly benefit from their studies, enabling them to progress with their careers. However, qualifications such as the HNC, HND and the new Foundation Degree provide greenkeepers with the depth of knowledge required of modern, credible and professional turf managers. I hope this article by Nigel inspires others to enquire about studying at this level.

Andrew Turnbull, Sports Turf Tutor,
Warwickshire College

Good Issue

I would like to congratulate all concerned with the June magazine. The inclusion of the GTC Notes by David Golding, now working very closely with Ken Richardson makes very interesting reading. The course feature was again outstanding as was all the other feature articles. It was also good to see Martyn Jones in the May issue again and nice to hear that he is fit again.

Bill Lawson,
BIGGA Founder Member, Retired

Thank You and Fairwell...

Would you be so kind as to allow me to use your "letters" page to convey my thanks and farewell to the Membership. As you are aware I left the employment of the Association at the end of May having been Regional Administrator for the South East for eight years or so and for

almost a year helping out in the South West and South Wales Region. During these years it has been my privilege to meet some wonderful people. I attended as many Section days as I could this year in an effort to say my farewells but of course not all of the Membership plays golf or attends these days.

I was also kept pretty busy with arrangements for the 'Greenkeeping Support Team for the VOLVO PGA Championship at Wentworth so it has been impossible to say good bye to everyone.

I would just like to say thanks for the welcome I always received when visiting Greenkeepers on their course or meeting them at Harrogate or wherever. You really are the "salt of the earth" and if I had one wish it would be that all of the golf clubs who employ you recognise the effort and dedication that you give to your job.

Apart from the Greenkeeping Membership I would also like to express my thanks to the Trade. They were always ready to support my efforts with sponsorship for Regional events and it would be more than fair to say that they made my job a lot easier with their generosity. I would also like to thank the Trade for me never having to buy a pen!

That just leaves the 'Legal Helpline'. I am proud to say that through the Association I was able to support some Greenkeepers through some very difficult times, especially with regards to employment. Like the Trade the Helpline made my job so much easier know that good sound legal advice was available at the end of a telephone.

I am sure that some of our paths will cross again in the not too distant future but in the meantime thanks to all of you for eight wonderful years.

Derek Farrington

YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

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sun is now very hot and the irrigation is needed.

Well enough of me waffling on about banks and amenity areas.

The last golf day was at Channels and once again Ray, Dominic and the boys produced a terrific golf course for 55 of our members to play. (sorry none of the Abridge boys were there but we were in the middle of our clubs anniversary celebrations and could not get the time, but we will be at the next one).

I understand from several people who played that day that from greens to banks to amenity areas the golf course was in great condition. A special thanks to Tony Stuart and family and all of their staff for making everybody feel so welcome.

The day was sponsored by Banks Amenity and the halfway house by Collier Turf and also thanks to Vitax, Headland, Scotts, Seoul Nassau, Total Cleaning Supplies, Ernest Doe's, Tacit, Bishop Brother's engravers, Sheriffs, and Rigby Taylor.

Our overall winner was Craig Serafin, from Colchester, who galloped in with 47 pts. YEEHA! and well done.

We had three handicap sections Section 1: 1. Ian Denny, Channels, 40 pts; 2. Tony Kirwin, Colchester, 38 pts. Section 2: 1. Martin Forrester, 41 pts; 2. Martin Guy, 40 pts. Section 3: 1. Wood, Rumford, 35 pts; 2. John Barnard, Theydon Bois, 34 pts.

Longest Drive went to Mark Day. Nearest the Pin went to Mike Bartlett.

Hopefully you all understand Dave Beals new points system, I'm sure Banks would love to employ you Dave.

Finally on behalf of the Section I would like to wish Derek Farrington all the best. He is retiring from the end of May.

See you all at Ballards Gore

Geoff Smith

Surrey

Woking Golf Club played host to our Spring Tournament and qualifier for the National Championship. The numbers were restricted to 42 greenkeepers and it was only because Ron Christie could not play that I was lucky enough to get a game.

It was a first time experience to me to play Woking and due to a course in excellent condition and an extremely attractive layout, I hope it will not be long before I play there again.

Our thanks to John Day and his greenkeepers; Woking Golf Club for the courtesy, the sunny weather and Banks Amenity, our generous sponsors. Best Gross: John Mathis; Best Nett: 1. Paul Bacon; 2. Nigel Colley, 3. Dave Murdoch. Longest Drive: Ken Harding. Nearest The Pin: Rob Summers - only 18 inches away, but he got his par!

The heron on the lake at Woking is apparently so used to people that it did not move, even when approached by machinery. Phil Bennett was heard to say that it must be either a brave or a very stupid bird. Most other players thought that being plastic was probably the reason. An appointment at the opticians could be useful.

A word of warning when using mountain bikes to keep fit: Perry Smith, from Bramley, broke his nose and suffered cuts to his face when out riding with his son. Although in pain, he thinks the nose job was well worth it.

Greg Richardson, whose name is appearing far too often in these reports, is again in the news as he has left Hankley Common Golf Club to become Deputy at Cranleigh Golf Club. We all wish him good luck.

Dave Langheim is to join the Surrey Committee and replaces Dave Murdoch as South East Region representative.

This year's sponsors of the Surrey Bowl pairs knockout competition are TYM Tractors. Derek Farrington was presented with a case of red wine as a personal thank you from Surrey Section and we all wish him a very happy retirement.

All players in golf events must either have a handicap certificate (BIGGA or club) or play off 18 maximum.

After two events, players, will be given an official BIGGA Handicap. No prizes can be won until they have an official handicap.

Brian Willmott

Kent

Cloudy skies and welcome light rain gave way to a sunny afternoon during our golf day on 10th June 2004.

The turn-out was good for the time of year, considering everybody has been so busy coping with the phenomenal grass growth.

Thanks must go to Bob Pullin, Managing Director of Hever Castle Golf Club, for allowing us the use of the golf course and facilities. An 18 hole Stableford competition was followed by an excellent meal.

It was good to see some members who had not played golf make the effort to attend the evening meal. Scott MacCallum came down from headquarters and updated us on recent developments within the Association. Scott also had the most outrageous shot of the day – a 37 yard putt holed on the 11th!

Results. Greenkeepers: 1. Russell Bain, Chislehurst; 2. Andrew Pearson, London Club; 3. Andrew Pearson, Hever Castle Golf Club; 4. Tony Neve, Chislehurst. Trade: 1. Chris Mardon, Greenkeeping Services; 2. Nick Ashman, John Deere.

The best gross score of the day went to Gary Ogilvie. Nearest the Pin: 6th, Gary Branchett, Tenterden. Nearest the Pin: 12th, Chris Mardon, Greenkeeping Services, Longest Drive: 9th, Michael Wigston, Tenterden, Longest Drive: 18th, Matthew Savage, Kingshill. Putting competition: Ernie Walker, Hever Castle Golf Club.

I would like to thank Brian Grimes, from Godfreys, for organising refreshments around the course, Nick Ashman, from John Deere, for putting wine on the tables, and Avoncrop, Doe's, Grass Roots, Parker T Parker and Sons (Turf Management 2003), Godfreys and Sherriffs for contributing to the prize table.

Thanks go to the staff of Hever Castle Golf Club for their assistance, and the green staff for their efforts in preparing the golf course, not just for this day but every day of the year.

Finally the biggest thank you must go to the members who supported the day and made it such a success.

Look out for news on future developments and events in the Kent Section.

David Wood

NORTHERN IRELAND

Well with a week of June nearly gone, many of our courses would like to see a couple of nights of steady rain. There hasn't been any rain for seven to eight weeks in some areas and water restrictions could follow soon as reservoirs are already at late summer levels. Let's hope the situation improves over the next few days.

Our second golf competition of the season was played at Edenmore GC on May 25. We would like to thank the Logan family for giving us courtesy of the course and especially James Logan and his greenkeeping staff for having the course in really brilliant condition.

Many thanks to sponsor Scotts Sands of Toomebridge, who provided very generous prizes.

Results were: 1. Michael King, Royal County Down, 38pts; 2. James Harkness, Malone GC, 36pts; 3. Warren Burnside, Malone GC, 36pts; 4m Michael O'Neill, Fortwilliam GC 35pts. Visitors Prize: James Logan, Edenmore GC, 41pts.

Many thanks to Scotts Director Alan Hewitt, who joined us on the day and presented the prizes.

The next competition will be played at Galgorm GC, outside Ballymena, on July 6 with a 2pm tee time. The competition in July will be sponsored by Coburns, of Banbridge.

Finally, I would like to wish Andrew Kerr good luck in his new position of Head Greenkeeper at City of Derry GC. Andrew has recently moved there from Lisburn GC where he was Deputy Head.

Ken Henderson

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Entries to arrive no later than July 20th 2004. The first correct entry drawn will receive the fabulous 'Blue Experience' Red Letter Day voucher.

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

The solution to the July Turftime Teaser was 'Fife Silica Sands'. The lucky winner of the DVD's and goodies was Lewis Birch from Abbeydale Golf Club, Sheffield - WELL DONE!

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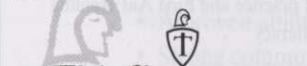
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- Have experience of current Health & Safety regulations
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Please apply in writing with CV to:

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Maple Street, Huddersfield HD5 9AX

Telephone: 01484 643928 for further details if required

SALISBURY & SOUTH WILTS GOLF CLUB

DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

Due to our present DCM moving on to a Course Managers position, this role has become vacant.

The Deputy Course Manager would work closely with the Course Manager and would be responsible for all work on the Golf Course in the Course Managers absence.

This position would be suited to a candidate who has a minimum of 5 years experience in all aspects of greenkeeping and be capable of demonstrating a professional approach to other members of staff.

He/she would be qualified to a minimum of NVQ Level 2 and be preferably working towards Level 3.

He/she must also possess PA1, 2 & 6.

We are committed to personal development and training is available to the suitable candidate. Salary is based on experience and qualifications.

Please apply in writing with a current CV to:

Mr M Cartwright, Golf Course Manager,
Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club, Netherhampton, Salisbury SP2 8PR

SELSDON PARK HOTEL & GOLF COURSE

This classic 4 star deluxe country house hotel with an 18 Hole Golf Course seeks an experienced and dedicated team player in the following position:

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We are looking for a dedicated team player to join our young enthusiastic team. The successful applicant will be qualified to NVQ level II or equivalent, Spraying Certificates and machinery experience preferred, but not essential and along with the Greens team maintain our course to the highest standard.

Our benefits package includes competitive salaries, flexible hours, free meals on duty, accommodation if required and excellent training.

Closing date for applicants: Monday 31st July 2004.

Send a full CV to:

HR Department, Selsdon Park Hotel & Golf Course,
Addington Road, Sanderstead, South Croydon CR2 8YA
or email to selsdonpark.hr@principal-hotels.com

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- 1) M62 corridor.
- 2) South East England.

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We offer an excellent salary, commission, pension, health insurance and car or car allowance.

Closing date 31st July 2004.

Write with your C.V. to Martin Ward,
Symbio, 38 Bookham Industrial Park,
Bookham, Surrey KT23 3EU.

Tel: 01372 456 101

email martin@symbio.co.uk www.symbio.co.uk



TYLNEY PARK GOLF COURSE

COURSE MANAGER

We seek a Course Manager for an immediate start to manage the 'grow-in' period of 6 new holes and 12 re-designed holes on the original course and to maintain re-designed course thereafter. We also have planning permission for 9 further holes at a later stage of development. Experience of new sand rootzone greens essential. Current construction phase completed end of September.

New Clubhouse also to start construction imminently. Golf Course designed by Donald Steel and Company Ltd, a firm of international repute.

The ideal candidate will have a relevant theoretical qualification (preferably NVQ Level 3 in Greenkeeping) plus some 'hands-on' practical experience of between 3-5 years. In addition Spraying Certificates PA1, PA2 and PA6 would be useful and will have an understanding of health & Safety legislation requirements. People without formal qualifications considered if exceptional track record. On-going professional development supported and encouraged.

Candidate will have to manage effectively 4 other Green Staff and machinery acquisition/maintenance programme. He/she will work alongside the Clubhouse Manager and Proprietor to build up a team that meets the highest standard.

Interviews will be held in July.

Salary competitive and negotiable. Please send CV and covering letter to: Chris de Bruin, Tylney Park Golf Club, Rotherwick, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9AY

CANONS BROOK GOLF CLUB

Require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Development and full training is available to the suitable candidate.

Salary will be based on experience and qualifications.

Applications please in writing with your CV to:
Mrs S Langton - Secretary/ Manager, Canons Brook Golf Club,
Elizabeth Way, Harlow, Essex CM19 5BE

WEALD OF KENT

QUALIFIED HEAD GREENKEEPER

required for a privately owned, 18 hole Pay and Play golf course in central Kent. Applicants should be able to demonstrate adequate qualification and experience. We are offering a fair remuneration to the right applicant.

Please apply to: Operations Director, Weald Golf Limited,
Maidstone Road, Headcorn, Kent, TN27 9PT
Telephone 01622 891671

WORTHING GOLF CLUB

COURSE MANAGER

Worthing Golf Club, founded in 1905, is a well established private members club with two downland courses, which enjoys an excellent reputation and hosts many top Sussex events. 2005 is Centenary Year and additional prestigious events will be held.

The successful applicant must possess the appropriate qualifications and have experience in all aspects of Golf management, together with the skills to lead and motivate a large team.

Accommodation is provided and is a pre-requisite for the position.

Salary negotiable according to experience.

Closing date for applications 16th July 2004

Application in writing with full CV and current salary to:

Ian Evans, Secretary, Worthing Golf Club,
Links Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 9QZ
Website: www.worthinggolf.co.uk

City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council

Head Greenkeeper

Grade 5 £294.14 Per Week

Post Ref. No: E5406

City of Wakefield Golf Course, Lupset, Wakefield,
West Yorkshire

A Head Greenkeeper post has arisen due to the impending retirement of the present post holder in July this year. The City of Wakefield Golf Course is a well established Club situated in an attractive countryside location close to the City.

This is a great opportunity for a committed, enthusiastic and motivated Greenkeeper to lead and manage a small team to further develop the maintenance of the Golf Course. Preferably qualified to NVQ3 with PA1, 2 and 6 spraying certificates, it would also be an advantage if you have machinery and irrigation experience.

The successful applicant will be responsible for the daily operation and maintenance of the facility and must be able to lead by example, motivate others and communicate effectively at all levels. The job of Head Greenkeeper will also involve daily contact with Members and Players.

All full-time posts are open to applications on a job share basis.

Typetalk calls welcome.

Application forms and further information can be obtained from Environment Services, Normanton Town Hall, High Street, Normanton, WF6 2DZ and may be requested by post, by telephoning Wakefield 01924 307251 (office hours) or - 01924 307466 (outside office hours - answer machine) or by emailing jobappspd@wakefield.gov.uk

Completed forms to be returned to the above address by 16th July 2004.



wakefield A FAST IMPROVING COUNCIL

www.wakefield.gov.uk

Feature listing from July 2002

July 2002; Open preview; Turf; Steve Isaccs; Emissions; Grinding; Rotary Mowers; BTME preview; Sandy McDivot

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chairman's Column



Pressed for Time

With nearly half of my year as Chairman nearly gone its finally dawned on me how valuable time is. The very fact that I'm writing this report on yet another flight and (much to Scott's frustration) right on the deadline for submission for the July issue is testament to how difficult it is to fit everything in. I really shouldn't complain however as Travel really does broaden the mind and the opportunity it gives to meet people and forge new relationships is invaluable.



Since the last issue the Imaugural Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day has been held at Aldwark Manor. On what was inevitably a day of mixed emotions 29 teams enjoyed fine weather and did their bit to raise funds for the Hospice in Harrogate that cared for Neil so well toward the end of his illness. It was a great pleasure to welcome Elaine, Grant, Adam and Natalie back to Aldwark Manor. They are coping admirably with their loss and I hope the words from Walter Woods and Kerran Daly, on behalf of the Master Greenkeepers, were of some pride and comfort.

While trips to Scotland for the R&A's 250th Anniversary Celebrations and the above mentioned Golf Day and combined Board meetings have been most enjoyable, the pace at Carden has not slackened. We are now busy with final preparations for The De Vere PGA Seniors Championship in early August and my team continue to do a great job- hopefully they can now see some light at the end of what appears to have been a long dark tunnel.

Having just watched most of the last days play at the US Open from Shinnecock Hills the thought struck me about how unusual it is to hear players complain about green speeds being too quick! Maybe just maybe you do reap what you sow! With The Open taking place at Royal Troon this year it will be interesting to see what comparisons are drawn. I'm sure that Billy McLachlan will have the superb layout in its finest condition and my best wishes to him for a successful event.

Wherever you are and whatever the size of event(s) you are hosting at this time

Of year they are all important and give us all the opportunity to show the results of our efforts and the

chance to forget, at least for a time, the unrealistic expectations placed upon us each Spring. It's the duty of all of us to keep communicating the wisdom of sound Greenkeeping practices, leading to sustainable conditions, for as much of the year as possible- at least to those who will listen.

For those of you yet to view the R&A Best practice website, I would encourage you to do so and to share the content with your management, members and staff. It's a live working document and one which I feel will have much value to our working lives going forward.

Hopefully you will all be enjoying the chance to share the longer nights with your families or even play your Golf course. It's a tough job we do but the real reason we do it, and for most of the time at least, enjoy it ,can be found by simply walking your course as the sunsets on a Summer evening. I would venture that for all of the Science, business management etc. that we are engaged in today, it's the artistry and the result of our labours that keep us going. Enjoy it and be proud and when Golfers congratulate, accept humbly for it won't be too long, whether you be a Greenkeeper or the mighty USGA, before their complaints yet again ring in your ears!

Andy Campbell MG CGCS
Chairman

Recruitment

MACHYNYS PENNINSULA GOLF CLUB

(A NICKLAUS DESIGN COURSE)

Require

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPERS

The Club

We are a brand new Nicklaus designed Golf course, situated on the South Wales coast.

We will undoubtedly host major championships in the future as this gem, with stunning sea views, matures and develops.

Candidates

Must be capable and preferably accustomed to working to a very high standard.

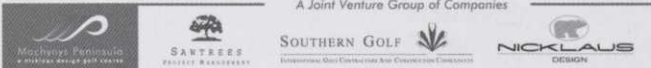
Experience of 'grow in' maintenance a distinct advantage, but not essential.

You will be NVQ2 qualified, self motivated, with a keen eye for detail.

Apply with full C.V and your salary expectations to: Jeff Robinson, Sales Office, PENTRE NICKLAUS VILLAGE, Machynys Peninsula, Llanelli SA15 2DE
Telephone: 07968 022064

Clearly mark envelope 'Greenkeeper'. Closing date 21st July 2004.

A Joint Venture Group of Companies



THE RICHMOND GOLF CLUB

Require an

EXPERIENCED MECHANIC

The Richmond Golf Club is a private members club, situated along side the Richmond park. The 108 year old parkland course has a progressive on-going course development programme.

He/she should be qualified in the workings of machinery set up and diagnosis of equipment failure. Regular machinery service experience and the use of storing information on computer will be a help.

The salary will be negotiable according to experience and qualifications.

Applications in writing by 31st July 2004 to:
Lee Strutt, Course Manager, The Richmond Golf Club,
Sudbrook Lane, Richmond, Surrey TW10 7AS

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CITY OF NEWCASTLE GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the post of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Candidates for this important position will be enthusiastic, appropriately qualified and experienced, be aware of current Health and Safety requirements and possess the ability to motivate, manage and work with existing Greenkeeping staff.

Salary will be negotiable.

Closing date for applications is 23rd July 2004.

Written applications and full C.V. should be sent to:
The Club Manager, City of Newcastle Golf Club,
Three Mile Bridge, Gosforth, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE3 2DR.

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