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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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Welcome

AS CHANGEABLE AS THE WEATHER

Well, we can honestly say the season has well and truly started. Phil Mickelson has shaken off the tag of "Best Player Not to Have Won a Major" in outstanding fashion at Augusta. Ironically I missed the best Masters for several years as I was on holiday in Tenerife where none of it was shown live on television. With so many good Spanish players I found that a little strange, and not a little frustrating.

Back home, competition secretaries are sharpening their pencils, or to be more precise in this modern age, dusting down their software and you are receiving plaudits for the excellence of your winter programme construction work... well, it would be nice wouldn't it? But what can we hope for in 2004?

Well good weather would be nice. I know how much you suffered from the cold start to the season last year and I'm sure a plea for warm sunshine and a little nocturnal rain would not go amiss.

If you think about it so much rides on weather in the greenkeeping profession. A good dose of the aforementioned combination and you will have every chance to prepare your course to its best. Golfers have the sun on their backs and putting surfaces which give the best chance for the ball to drop. Result? Happy golfers, and happy golfers mean fewer moans and fewer moans mean fewer complaints flying in your direction. That allows you to get on with your job. If you're not pulled away to answer the complaints of a 23 handicapper who thinks the only reason he three putted five times was the state of the green you can concentrate still further on the course condition.

Alternatively, if the weather goes against you, you will no doubt find that it is your political acumen rather than your agronomic know how that is of most use.

You would hope that more people would appreciate that the weather can't be controlled and a degree of understanding for the problems it brings wouldn't go amiss.

So can I shed any light on the upcoming weather? I've trawled the web to find out any long term forecasts and can reveal that May is going to be significantly warmer than average with rainfall below average. Having said that the third week will see rain in most areas of the country.

Looking further ahead scientists say that sea levels will rise by four centimetres a decade increasing the risk of flooding.

Further still and by the year 2080 we can expect double the number of days 25 degrees or above than we have now but we will also experience more intense storms.

That's what our successors can look forward to and no doubt that will cause them just as many problems as you are facing at the moment. By then though I'd like to think that golfers were able to take a more objective and mature approach and cut the greenkeeping staff some justifiable slack.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

NEW LOOK TO BIGGA'S SALES TEAM



▲ Samantha Richardson, Sue McDonough and Amy Newport

The BIGGA sales team has taken on a new look with the arrival of Samantha Richardson, Sue McDonough and Amy Newport who, together with Sales Manager, Rosie Hancher, will be responsible for selling adverts and exhibition space in Greenkeeper International, the BIGGA Golf Directory, BTME and ClubHouse.

Advertising Sales Executive, Samantha, 28, joins the Association from Maxi Print in York where latterly she was selling advertising for the official magazine of English Cricket. Prior to that she worked for an IT company in York.

A qualified Beauty Therapist, Sam married Dominic in Las Vegas last year and they have just moved into a new home in Fulford, York, which they share with two dogs, three cats and two rabbits. In her spare time she is a keen artist, specialising in landscapes.

Sue, 35, is Exhibition Sales Executive and is reunited with Rosie with whom she worked in Harrogate where, together, they launched a magazine for school leavers.

Previously she worked for News International in London. As part of the team on the Times Educational Supplement (TES), she sold advertising on Nursery World Magazine and was involved with the launch of the Nursery World Exhibition held in Olympia and GMEX.

Now happily living in Harrogate Sue juggles her work and home life with her husband, Michael, and five and a half year old daughter, Hannah.

Amy, 25, is Sales and Marketing Assistant and arrives at BIGGA HOUSE

from a post with an agricultural company based in Harrogate. She holds a BSc in Business Technology from Sheffield Hallam University, where she also spent two years in army training before deciding on life as a civilian. She is currently undertaking a marketing course at night school.

Amy once took four months to travel round America and during that time dropped into Gracelands to pay homage to one of her heroes, Elvis.

She lives in Harrogate and got to hear of BTME and ClubHouse through her fiancé, Chris, who is an exhibition designer with his own company, Ncompass. They have a dog called Vegas.

The changes to the Sales team were brought about following the departure of Cheryl Broomhead and Katie Davies and the need to support the growing Exhibition sales of the Association.

UPDATED USGA GUIDELINES

After a nearly year-long review by more than 100 scientists, agronomists and industry experts, an updated edition of the USGA's publication Recommendations for a Method of Putting Green Construction is now available.

For more than 40 years the USGA Green Section has published recommendations for the construction of golf putting greens. USGA greens are widely recognised for their agronomic excellence because of their history of success throughout the United States and many other countries.

Many of the greens constructed to the original recommendations, which were released in 1960, are still in use today. However, to

address the increasing demands placed on modern putting greens, the USGA conducts updates which incorporate the latest research information from around the world, much of which is sponsored by the USGA Turfgrass and Environmental Research programme.

The guidelines represent a time-tested, agronomically sound method of building putting greens. They are offered to the game of golf and turfgrass industry at no charge. The 2004 USGA recommendations can be obtained by visiting the USGA Web site at:

<http://www.usga.org/green/coned/greens/recommendations.html>

MIKE LINCOLN-SMITH RETIRES



One of the best known and respected salesmen in the business, Mike Lincoln-Smith, of Hayter, has retired.

Mike started as an apprentice agricultural engineer at Eastern

Counties Farmers Aylesham almost 40 years ago, he then became a salesman, covering the Diss area.

On the way to Hayters which he joined in '92 he worked for Vicon, Turners and Ransomes. Mike's thorough knowledge of engineering, both from a theoretical and practical perspective, has always meant that he has been heavily involved in product development as well as sales.

Mike has had many and varied interests outside of work. An accomplished sailor he is qualified to instruct in all aspects of the sport. He

is a keen golfer although often other activities like motorcycling and building and driving kit cars would take precedence.

Where he has found the time for his other interests, DIY and photography, is anybody's guess. Running the marathon when he was 50 years old was another of his accomplishments.

Hayter have announced a number of changes to their sales team for commercial products. Joining the company is Simon Holmes who will be responsible for Scotland and the North of England. Simon, who is 26 and lives in Morpeth, comes to Hayter with a solid background in agricultural and horticultural sales.

Following Mike Lincoln-Smith retirement this has meant a realignment of the territories covered by Barry Halls and Sales Manager Robin Boyes. Stephen Clarke, who is currently a Territory Manager for Hayter consumer products, will also now take on responsibility for the commercial dealers in the South East.

FRAUDULENT USE OF THE BIGGA CARD

It has come to our attention that fake BIGGA cards are being used to gain courtesy golf in the Manchester area.

The cards being used are the old style plastic wallet cards which are notoriously easy to fake. We have changed the membership card to a white plastic credit card due to these problems and the plastic wallet cards have therefore not been in circulation since 2001.

If you are presented with one of these cards please confiscate the card from the individual and send it in to BIGGA House. The people involved in this scam risk affecting the courtesy golf scheme for genuine members of BIGGA.

"NEW" CHALLENGE FOR DAVID



A Head Greenkeeper for the 109-year-old championship New Course at St Andrews Links has been appointed following Euan Grant's move to the Old Course.

David Coull, previously Course Manager at Glen Golf Club, in North Berwick, took up the position at the Links last month. David, 37, has been at the Glen Golf Club since 2000 and has made a number of improvements including lengthening the course, building new tees and greens and revising bunkering. In 2002 he was one of three additional greenkeepers to work at Muirfield for the week of The Open Championship.

Prior to working at the Glen Golf Club, he was Head Greenkeeper at Oldham Golf Club and Greenkeeper at Luffness Golf Club.

"David impressed us with his commitment, enthusiasm and experience," said Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent at the Links Trust.

"I am very much looking forward to working with him and am confident he will make a significant contribution to the Links."

NEW KIT FOR GLENEAGLES



The Gleneagles Hotel has taken delivery of a new tranche of course maintenance equipment from their local dealer, Scottish Grass Machinery. This latest round of machinery which includes

Iseki TK546 compact tractors, two new E-Z-GO ST 4x4 and ST480 golf utility vehicles, Cushman Turf Trucksters and Ryan GA24 aerators, is part of a four-year tripartite agreement signed between Ransomes Jacobsen, Scottish Grass Machinery and Gleneagles.

"The golf courses here at Gleneagles are second to none and our members and our visitors from around the world, expect the very best playing surfaces. We are open all year round and therefore, the maintenance of the courses is very important to us. This new machinery is an invaluable aid to the daily preparation of the courses," said Scott Fenwick, Golf Courses Superintendent.

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NEW MAN FOR WIEDENMANN



Wiedenmann, the Glasgow based distributor of specialist aeration equipment has appointed Bruce Alexander as Area Sales Manager for their Central sales area.

He has recently returned from the UAE where he

has been serving as Sales Manager for Omtag, the Ransomes Jacobsen and John Deere distributors for the Middle East.

Bruce will be responsible for Central and Northern England as well as Wales, adding to the excellent support already enjoyed by Wiedenmann customers throughout the UK.

GENTLEMEN'S WHITEOUT!



The day of the Gentlemen's Evening at Walton Heath dawned. Grey but dry in Worthing (where I live). That's good I thought, no sign of the snow that had been forecast.

With 108 teeing-off, 130 sitting down to dinner, an obligation to pay a fee to the comedian booked as after dinner speaker and the last Gentlemen's Evening that I shall be organising the last thing I wanted to see was snow!

The first phone call came at around 6.30 am. It was Tony Dyke, of Wyke Green GC. "What's happening?" he asked. Gradually the full horror hit me. North of Worthing there had been snow. It was confirmed by Mick Haynes, Deputy at Walton Heath, at around 6.50 am. "One and a half inches," he said. I left home at 7.30 am and apart from a light dusting in the Horsham area there were very few snow flakes to be seen. I took the back lanes to Walton Heath, still no snow and I was only two or three miles away. As I climbed the hill the odd patches of white appeared to get larger the higher I got until I was driving alongside the practice ground. Totally, totally white!

But the staff at Walton Heath were tremendous. The Secretary, Mike Bawden, was on to the Met. Office for a local prediction while Caroline Edwards and her staff were answering non-stop telephone calls about whether the event was on or not.

As a watery sun appeared, all eyes and ears were on Clive Osgood (his last Gentlemen's Evening as Course Manager as well) who had done a quick tour of the course. "You can start at 12.15 and you will all get 12 holes in," were his most welcome words.

The only problem was where to put Johnny Beck and the Sherriff Amenity Services chuck wagon. In the end it was decided that the safest place was on the 1st tee so that all players could start with breakfast, as usual, beautifully cooked by Johnny, ably assisted by James Watson, Headland Amenity.

This also meant that Starters Dennis Smith, now retired from Rigby Taylor, and Joe Crawley, Vitax, would, of course, be pigging it out all day!

Of the 108 originally playing we did, of course, lose some, especially those with long journeys and no promise of play, but in the end 92 teed off. The only casualty to the weather was the Sisis Putting Competition as the snow did not clear in time but David Luxford still arrived for the dinner and was happy for the Sisis prizes to enlarge the raffle.

I would like to make a serious observation at this juncture. At no time did anyone complain. Nobody moaned and they just got on with it and turned what could have been a disaster into a really good day.

The dinner despite everything was very well attended, with most of those who hadn't made it for the golf turning up for the banquet. The Region had made sufficient funds to keep themselves viable for another year!

The highlight of the evening was when a presentation was made to Clive Osgood. Clive has been at Walton Heath since leaving school and has been Course Manager for this event since its inception. In all of those years

nothing has been too much trouble for Clive, we have always played the course in its best possible condition for the time of year. So it was with much pleasure that Regional Chairman, George Barr, presented Clive with a memento of his last Gentleman's Evening.

The golf had taken place, a superb meal had been enjoyed, speeches were done, the raffle had been drawn and Kevin Devane (ably assisted by John Jennings, of Dukes Meadows GC) had entertained us well.

The winners of the various categories were:-

0-9 Handicap 1. (and the Shullockie Putter) David Murdoch, Liphook GC; 2. David Badham, Stockley Park GC; 3. Mike Gould, Copthorne GC. 10-17 Handicap 1. Jon Hill, Birch Grove House; 2. David Gibbs, Kingswood; 3. Tony Dyke, Wyke Green. 18 - 24 Handicap 1. Lee Strutt, Richmond; 2. Ray Godall, Saffron Walden; 3. Murray Long, Coombe Hill.

Greenkeeper playing with Club Official. Winners. David Gibbs and Kevin Constable, Kingswood; Runners-Up. Anthony Kirwan and Adrian Livesey Colchester GC. Guests 1. Jack Buchanan, Hindhead; 2. Gary Ogilvie, Avoncrop; 3. Mark Day, Tacit.

All of those prizewinners received their prizes from the Captain of Walton Heath Golf Club, Tim Taylor. Tim had a lovely story to tell after the dinner when he replied to the toast of 'Walton Heath Golf Club'.

His daughter, aged 15, had acted as a scoreboard carrier on the first day of The Open Championship at Royal St Georges. She was very nervous, having been allocated the very prestigious game, and the wind was very strong making it difficult to carry the board. She managed with the help of the Open Support Team member who had been allocated the game. Tim was full of praise for this unknown (to him) greenkeeper who had been such a gentleman to his daughter.

With the help of Peter Boyd, Scotland's Regional Administrator, I discovered that it was Richard Saunders, St. Neots GC, and I was able to offer him the Barry Pace, of BSP Landscapes Ltd, sponsored place at the event for a "Deserving Greenkeeper".

Richard duly attended the event and was surprised to receive a mention (not to mention the bottle!) as well as sincere thanks from this year's Captain of Walton Heath Golf Club.

As usual Regional Chairman, George Barr, got the last word. I wondered what was afoot when he told all assembled that although it was well known that I was a lousy golfer, my real game had been cricket.

With this in mind he had acquired a cricket bat autographed by the South African Touring Team of 2003 and asked me to accept it as a memento of my last Gentlemen's Evening. Once again, thanks guys.

All that is left is for me to thank our sponsors who make the day what it is and to remind you that they were:- Amenity Technology; Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd; BSP Landscapes Ltd; CMW Ltd; Complete Weed Control Ltd; Ernest Doe And Sons Ltd; GEM Professional Ltd; Golf Innovations Ltd; Grass Roots Trading Co Ltd; Headland Amenity; Rolawn (Turf Growers) Ltd; Symbio; The Scotts Co (UK) Ltd; John Shaw (Machinery) Ltd; Sherriff Amenity Services Ltd; Sisis Equipment Ltd; Tacit Golf Equipment Ltd; Vitax Ltd; WOLF-Garten.

Derek Farrington, South East Regional Administrator

A Safe Pair of Hands

To anyone who has had any serious involvement with BIGGA over the past decade the Association's new Chief Executive will need no introduction whatsoever.

John Pemberton has been a senior figure within the Association for the past 11 years and was Acting Executive Director during the period of Neil Thomas' illness, so when the Board of Management came to discuss a successor and the future of the Association, John's name, and his installation as Chief Executive on a permanent basis, was high on the list of options.

In discussing his new appointment and what it means John was typically honest and open in his assessment.

"Now that I've had a few weeks to settle in and think about it, it's quite scary really. Although it is nice to fulfil an ambition," he smiled.

"BIGGA has grown from being a small organisation into a significant body within the world of golf and people's expectations are much higher now than they have ever been," said John, as he settled into his new office just along the corridor from his old one.

"Neil, who unfortunately we lost earlier this year, had made a major contribution towards the success of the Association and put down some very solid foundations and, in many ways, it is because of this that expectations have been increased."

Having said all that, John brings with him a wealth of experience, not just that acquired with the Association.

"I have been in a position of having run companies in the past so taking serious responsibility isn't something that is new to me. But I would be lying if I said I wasn't a little apprehensive about it all," he said.

John joined BIGGA 11 years ago as the Association's Accountant but soon found his role expanding.

"Basically my role developed to meet the requirements of a growing Association and I've always been one for being fully employed and so as I saw opportunities to help the Association develop I became more involved.

"It's a very interesting business and until you are at the sharp end you don't really appreciate just how diverse its activities are."

Shortly after John's arrival David Golding left to lead the GTC and with one of David's jobs being to organise the BIGGA Open Championship Support Team, John took that on board.

"While a very onerous task it was extremely rewarding to be involved in such a prestigious event and to have the opportunity to be see The Open at close quarters."

BTME was another event where John's skills were put to good use and he took the opportunity to learn what it was all about before he joined the Association officially.

"I was due to start in March, but would have had to wait 10 months to the next one, so I came along in January to see what it was all about. At that stage it filled about one and a half halls, but with the number of staff we had employed at the time it was still a big event to run.

"I can remember we used to produce all the visitor badges in-house, insert them into plastic clips and then file them all alphabetically in cardboard trays. Heaven help anyone who dropped a tray!"

As the Association grew and Neil recognised John's abilities his role developed to the extent that Neil was delegating more and more to him and involving him more in the decision making of the Association.



"Neil and I respected each other and my background made me the most natural person to support him which is why, seven years ago, we recruited Tony Cocker to take some of the accounts pressure off me."

Another of the major projects in which John played a key role was the move to BIGGA HOUSE.

"Really it was a team effort but we had to find somewhere where we could build offices. We looked at quite a few alternative sites, none of which were really suitable, but after a battle with the local planners we received approval to build at Aldwark.

"Then it was a case of negotiating contracts with builders and architects and making sure we had the furniture to kit it out. The physical move was accomplished with the help of Aldwark Manor Course Manager Richard Gamble and his team, complete with tractor and trailer!"

John is a native of York, educated at the local grammar school before becoming an Articled Clerk with a local firm of Chartered Accountants.

"In those days articled clerks weren't paid a lot of money and the prospect of higher earnings in the industry lured me away."



BIGGA's new Chief Executive, John Pemberton, reveals his plans for the future of the Association to Scott MacCallum

"Over the years I have held a variety of posts, mainly involving the financial aspect of running businesses, among them a substantial period for a local firm of merchants in the leather and wool industry.

"I worked for them for 17 years before they were taken over by a large national company and then a further 18 months before deciding it was time for a change.

"It involved quite a bit of time away from home as I was in charge of two companies with depots throughout the UK. It required a lot of travelling and I never seemed to be home.

"My wife put a picture of me on the wall to remind the children who I was! "While the rewards were good and, if I'm honest, there was a lot of job satisfaction, it was just too demanding on the family and I looked for a change," said John.

He is married to Judith with three children Michael, Cathryn and Carolyn, with his first granddaughter, Sylvia, arriving last October.

Prior to joining BIGGA he was the Company Accountant for a Northern based company which sold fittings into the double glazing industry.

Whilst there he introduced a fully computerised accounting and stock taking system as well as taking an active role in the overall running of the business. Attracted by an advert in a local paper and the prospect of a new challenge, he decided to explore the vacancy at BIGGA. The rest, as they say, is history. He had minimal knowledge of golf at the time, but his desire to throw himself into anything he is involved in has seen him pick up the ethos and politics of the game remarkably quickly.

Out on the course, it would be fair to say that his handicap has not quite kept pace with his growing talent, to the extent that he can often be seen sporting a mask!

John has now become the longest serving member of BIGGA's staff and has used his financial acumen to steer the Association through some difficult times.

He has also seen the Association develop to the extent that, thanks to the generous grant given by the R&A, BIGGA HOUSE is fully paid for and the Association can move forward on a financially sound base.

Ever the canny Yorkshire accountant, John is quick to admit that there is sometimes a very thin line between profit and loss at the end of the financial year, but he is, as always, positive about the future of the Association.

"BTME & ClubHouse is developing further and Greenkeeper International, always a profitable publication, is turning the corner quicker than most following the advertising recession.

"BIGGA is now well established. We have an excellent team in place and I'd like to see the Association take the next leap forward," he revealed, speaking with the zeal of a man who now tackles his golf with the same determination as he previously brought to his rowing and squash.

"Part of what I want to achieve is to develop much stronger ties with

the other bodies in golf. We do have excellent relationships but these can be further developed, which would be to everyone's benefit, not just BIGGA's.

"We are the second largest organisation of its type in the world and, as such, are a very reputable and prestigious organisation. We have to use that position for the benefit of the members and greenkeeping in general.

"Our prime role in life is education and that isn't just the education of greenkeepers but also of golfers, and to an extent non golfers as well.

"Golf still receives a bad press at times and we can help change perceptions through the promotion of activities such as the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition."

John's open, friendly, demeanour will also be reflected in his management approach.

"I'd like to see a more open form of management and, looking internally, I certainly intend to involve all members of staff in the decision making and development of the business.

"While we are an Association run for the benefit of its members, it must also be recognised that we are a business, run very much in a commercial way.

"One of the things we must get to grips with is the updating of our five year plan, which was originally developed some time ago, but which has started to gather dust. We need to keep it regularly reviewed and use it as a working document."

Externally he also intends to travel the country and meet as many BIGGA members, and prospective members, as is possible.

"The perception among some members is that we're building an empire here at BIGGA HOUSE and that we are removed from the reality of what goes on at Section level.

"We've already decided that the Management team will spend more time out of the office visiting Section events and hopefully from the feedback we get from those meetings, coupled with the contact of the Regional Administrators, we can work towards bolstering support within the Sections.

"Some Sections are struggling for committee members and it is perfectly understandable as jobs, particularly those of the Course Manager are becoming far more demanding.

"They've also got to cater for family life and this doesn't always allow time for committee work. We'd like to give them the support from here at BIGGA HOUSE and through the Regional Administrator so members can get real benefit and enjoyment out of being involved with BIGGA rather than it being seen as a burden."

As you can see BIGGA's new Chief Executive is a safe pair of hands and, if you have not already done so, given his desire to meet as many members as he can, you might have a chance to shake one of them in the not too distant future.



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to include all golf, lunches, dinner on Monday and prizes

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VAT £12.66

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Handicap

BIGGA Section

Golf Club

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PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for entries into the Championship
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will be ineligible for a refund.

The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association VAT REG NO 500 2920 05

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO GET TO ALWOODLEY GOLF
CLUB CALL SARAH NORRIS ON 01347 833800
OR VISIT www.bigga.org.uk

Photography courtesy of Alan Birch

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

Members may enter the competition on a first come, first served basis as per the package below:-

Cost £85 (inclusive of VAT). Includes entry into the Championship, lunch at the golf club on each day and dinner on Monday 4 October. Entrants must make their own accommodation arrangements.

Entries will be limited to 100 and entrants must be full greenkeeper members of the Association.

ACCOMMODATION

For accommodation queries please contact the Leeds Accommodation Booking Hotline on 0800 80 80 50.

SUGGESTED LOCAL HOTELS INCLUDE:

Weetwood Hall Hotel	www.weetwood.co.uk	0113 230 6000
Ramada Jarvis Leeds	www.ramadajarvis.co.uk	0113 267 2551
Ramada Jarvis Wetherby	www.ramadajarvis.co.uk	01937 583881
Thorpe Park Hotel Leeds	www.shirehotels.co.uk	0113 264 1000
Village Hotel & Leisure Club	www.villagehotelsonline.co.uk	0113 278 1000
Travelodge	www.travelodge.co.uk	08700 850 950
Travel Inn	www.travelinn.co.uk	0870 242 8000



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Education Update



BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

Following my news about the BIGGA Environment Competition in the April Edition of Greenkeeper International, I can now confirm that the new joint sponsor alongside Scotts UK Professional and Syngenta Professional Products is the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP).

WRAP is a not-for-profit company supported by funding from DEFRA, the DTI and the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

It is working to promote sustainable waste management by creating stable and efficient markets for recycled materials and products, including glass, wood, plastics, organics, paper and aggregates.

The aims of the Competition, the aims of BIGGA and the aims of WRAP fit well together and the support of WRAP, Scotts and Syngenta will ensure the continuation and expansion of this important competition. This will allow more golf clubs to benefit from the visits and the advice from STRI Ecologists and from the significant prizes offered.

Full information on how clubs can apply for the 2004 Competition has been sent to all golf clubs in Great Britain so make sure that your club is in the running to win a prize by applying today. Prizes include:

- A Scotts' Weather Station and a cheque for £2,000 for the winner
- A cheque for £500 for each regional winner
- A cheque for £500 for the most impressive newcomer

- A cheque for £500 for the best overall environmental initiative
- And this year, a cheque for £500 for the best use of recycled materials

Judging will commence from July onwards with ecologists from the STRI assessing all entries.

Golf clubs will be judged on their commitment to environmental management and will be assessed on:

- Nature Conservation
- Energy Efficiency and Purchasing Policies
- Landscape and Cultural Heritage
- Education and Training
- Turfgrass and Pest Management
- Communications

Water Resource Management
Public Access and Awareness
Waste Management



Many golf clubs have gained a great deal from entering the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition. It gives all golf clubs the opportunity to learn from others, to improve their golf course, to improve the environment and, perhaps to win a prize.

Whether your golf course is large or small; rich or poor, it provides an important link in the environmental chain, helping to achieve long-term ecological benefits.

Let your members, local residents and the general public see what you are doing to improve the environment by entering this year's competition.

Continue to Learn 2005

Planning for the Continue to Learn Week, held in at Harrogate next January, has continued this month. With an extended education programme, there will even more opportunities to expand your knowledge by attending a workshop or some or all of the seminars.

The theme for 2005 is 'Back to Basics' and the week will start on **Sunday 16 January** with 3 two-day workshops. Each workshop will be limited to 20 delegates and will cover:

- Golf Course Design
- Soil Science
- Tournament
- Preparation



Monday 17 January will see the three two-day workshops continuing and the start of two one-day workshops. Each one-day workshop also will be limited to 20 delegates and will cover:

- Irrigation
- Communications and Negotiations.

Tuesday 18 January sees the start of BTME & ClubHouse, that will be held in the Harrogate International Centre.

The exhibitions will be reinforced by a wide range of seminars for all types of delegate plus the TORO sponsored careers fair, the exhibitions banquet and a Master Greenkeeper Seminar. Further details will follow in subsequent editions of Greenkeeper International.

The 21st Century Manager

Plans are progressing for a new, high-level conference that will be held in the spring of 2005. With support from the R&A, EGU, STRI and the GTC, this Conference, with the theme the 21st Century Manager will include speakers from the UK, Europe and the US. Watch out for more details in the next edition of this magazine.

TORO Student of the Year Competition



The deadline for the TORO Student of the Year Competition is fast approaching with all entries due at BIGGA House by the end of this month. Regional interviews will be held in early July.

Recycling. Never a Waste of Time

Maggie Newton, explains how compost can provide an environmentally sustainable and cost effective solution

wrap

Creating markets for recycled resources

Recent years have seen a transformation in turf management, and one development, which is generating increased interest, is the use of compost as a key component of long-term turf management. Maggie Newton, Marketing and Awareness Manager (Organics), at WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) explains why compost can provide an environmentally sustainable and cost effective solution to many common turf management concerns.



Providing safe, hardwearing and attractive playing surfaces for recreational activities such as golf, requires intensive turf management. Turf grasses are exposed to extensive wear and tear, making them difficult to manage, and liable to soil compaction, poor drainage and turf diseases. Faced with these concerns and mounting pressure to identify materials that are both cost effective and environmentally sustainable, greenkeepers are steadily turning to compost as a material of choice for turf management.

WHY CHOOSE COMPOST?

Compost is a natural product made by composting biodegradable materials under managed conditions. Produced mainly from garden or landscapers' prunings, grass cuttings and leaves, compost is an environmentally sustainable, cost-effective alternative to peat. When used in turf establishment and renovation, compost offers a variety of benefits.

IMPROVING SOIL QUALITY

Perhaps most significantly, compost has the unique ability to improve the chemical, physical and biological characteristics of soils or growing media. Compost supplies organic matter that improves soil structure, water infiltration rates and water holding capacity. It also provides nutrients such as nitrogen to the ground in a slow release form which stimulates turf establishment and 'greens up' grass without leading to excessive grass growth. Compost also provides a good supply of potassium which aids grass hardness.

Compaction is a key concern in sports turf due to the sheer amount of surface 'traffic', particularly during wet weather. Compacted soil hampers healthy turf establishment by inhibiting the movement of air, water and nutrients within the soil. While traditional methods of alleviating soil compaction are labour intensive, expensive and often only a short-term solution, compost can be incorporated into compacted soils to improve turf establishment and root penetration, providing a more permanent solution.

Used in conjunction with aeration techniques prior to adding topdressing, compost can also lead to increased water absorption and drainage and enhanced resistance to pests and disease.

SUPPRESSING DISEASES

Compost can help to suppress many turf grass diseases because it is a biologically active material. Studies carried out on golf courses and sports pitches in the USA and Canada have demonstrated a reduction in the severity and incidence of a wide range of turf diseases such as fusarium patch, red thread and grey snow, particularly when compost was applied as a top dressing or used as a root zone amendment.

QUALITY GUARANTEED

Quality is of paramount importance for greenkeepers when specifying materials for use on their courses. National standards for compost are defined by the British Standards Institution's Publicly Available Specification for Composted Materials (BSI PAS 100), a benchmark which resulted from collaboration between The Composting Association and WRAP in 2002.

The scheme provides independent verification of compliance with BSI PAS 100, which means greenkeepers can be confident that the compost they purchase from producers on the scheme will be high quality, reliable, traceable and safe. Throughout the UK, there are now 41 sites manufacturing compost in line with BSI PAS 100, producing approximately 250,000 tonnes of composted products in a variety of grades.

MAKING THE MOST OF COMPOST USE

When using compost in turf management applications, it is important to ensure that the compost used is of the right quality which is where the BSI standard can provide reassurance. It should not contain any stones or physical contaminants and should be mature so that it helps support healthy turf establishment. The optimum time to spread compost is during the autumn or spring, when the weather is warm and the soil is moist.

To get the most from using compost in turf establishment, it should be applied at 25-50mm deep and then incorporated to an approximate depth of 100-150mm. The compost application rate will vary depending on the soil conditions, compost characteristics, and the turf species to be established. A soil analysis test should be undertaken to establish the quality of the site soil.

Once incorporated, a proper seed bed should be established and the seed lightly brushed into the surface using a drag mat or rake. Turf may be applied directly on to the soil surface either manually, or with specialised equipment. Once planting is complete, the area should be fertilised if necessary and watered on an ongoing basis to ensure adequate rooting.

TOP DRESSING AND DIVOT REPAIRS

Compost can also be used as topdressing for all areas of turf, either as a component of a mix, or on its own. Topdressing with compost is usually more successful when the compost is first mixed with sand as the added bulk density from sand helps the compost to penetrate better. Typical topdressing mixes for



golf courses are comprised of 70% to 90% sand and 10% to 20% organic matter.

Compost can also be blended with various other materials such as sand and loam to produce a product that matches requirements, especially closely mown fine turf and sand dominated, free draining sports turf root zones. When used as topdressing, compost should be applied to the turf surface at a rate of 6mm to 12mm, and should be brushed in and watered if necessary.

A lower application rate of compost should be used on sports turf and lawns, whilst a higher rate should be used on low maintenance grass and roadside verges. Core aeration techniques can also be used and the compost should be moist but flowable to facilitate application.

Divots can also be fixed effectively using a blend of compost and grass seed mix. The compost contains nutrients and holds moisture and the dark colour can also absorb heat from the sun, speeding up germination in cooler periods.

OVER TO YOU

Compost is an extremely versatile product for the greenkeeping sector and there is real potential for an increase in its use. It can provide a solution to many common turf management concerns and at the same time, help greenkeepers to significantly reduce the costs associated with turf management.

Information on where to find your nearest supplier on The Composting Association (TCA) certification scheme can be found at www.wrap.org.uk.

TOP TIPS FOR USING COMPOST IN TURF MANAGEMENT

- carry out a soil analysis test to establish the quality of the site soil
- make sure site drainage is adequate before planting takes place
- if the soil has compacted layers, these may need to be ripped and this should be done when the soil is relatively dry
- ask for a sample of compost before ordering to make sure that it is the required quality
- ask compost producers for a recent chemical and physical analysis
- use the lower application rate of compost on sports turf and lawns and the higher application rate on low maintenance grass and roadside verges
- the optimum time to spread compost is during the autumn or spring, when the weather is warm and the soil is moist

BENEFITS OF COMPOST AT A GLANCE

- Nutrient rich
- Improved moisture retention
- Erosion and weed control
- Increased yielding potential and faster turf establishment
- Better plant survival and growth
- Environmentally sustainable alternative to peat
- Cost effective
- Reduced need for fertilisers and irrigation
- Increased root growth from slow release phosphate
- Improved turf density and colour

NOTES

1. WRAP is a not-for-profit company in the private sector, backed by substantial Government funding from DEFRA, DTI and the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
2. Originally established to promote sustainable waste management and create stable and efficient markets for recycled materials and products, WRAP's remit has recently been extended to include a set of new programmes for England. The new work comprises: a Household Waste Minimisation Programme; an Organics Market Development programme to provide material specific support and investment to the composting sector; the development of an Advisory Service to local authorities - the Recycling and Organics Technical Advisory Team (ROTATE); and a Waste Communications and Awareness programme.
3. WRAP has laid down targets across nine programmes - six material streams (paper, plastics, glass, wood, organics and aggregates) and three generic areas (Procurement, Financial Mechanisms and Standards and Specifications).
4. Further information on all WRAP's programmes and activities can be found at www.wrap.org.uk

Rachael and Gemma from Membership Services would like to welcome 106 new members to the Association.

Membership Update

Where do your Subscriptions go?

It is a popular misconception among some members that their combined subscription forms the major part of the income for the Association and that these funds are used to maintain an 'ivory tower' at Aldwark Manor.

In reality the bulk of the Association's income comes from commercial activities, mainly its annual exhibition, advertising and sponsorships as shown in Chart 1 which is taken from the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2003. The profit from these ventures is used, in part, to fund a wide range of member benefits which are automatically given to members or which are available through the Association's provision for education.

These benefits include: free accident insurance, free legal help for the member and his/her household, 12 issues of Greenkeeper International magazine, access to both free and heavily subsidised training, free entry to a variety of competitions, free inclusion in a national discounted purchasing scheme, the opportunity to receive educational grants and access to specially negotiated rates on a variety of products. The average cost of tangible benefits per member for 2003 was £68.93 (Chart 2) compared with an average income from each member of £58.75, this does not include related staff and administration costs at Headquarters. The discount scheme, introduced in 2004, costs an additional 80p per member.

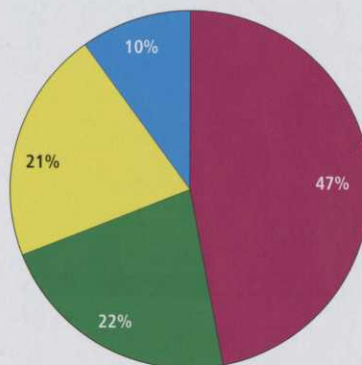


CHART 1 - INCOME ANALYSIS

- BTME/ClubHouse
- Membership
- Advertising
- Other

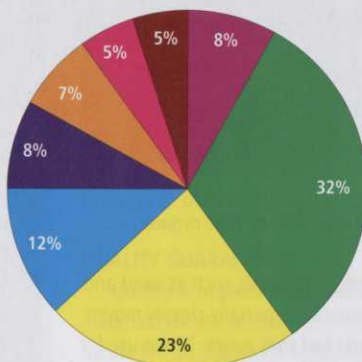


CHART 2 - MEMBER COST ANALYSIS (excluding headquarters)

- Accident Insurance
- Greenkeeper International
- Regional & Section Support
- Legal Help
- Courses
- Learning Materials
- Grants
- Directory

BIGGA welcomes...

SCOTTISH REGION

Paul Armour, Central
Neil Cunningham, Central
David Feeley, West
Colin Haldane, Central
Mervyn Hernaman, West
Steven Kelly, Ayrshire
Darren McKenna, East
Marc Millar, North
Fraser Munro, North
Kenny O'Donnell, Central
Michael Robertson, Central
Neil Smith, Central
Douglas Smith, East

NORTHERN REGION

Stephen Barnett, Sheffield
James Birch, North West
Neil Bishop, Sheffield
Andrew Boyd, North West
Tony Boyd, Sheffield

Matthew Butterworth, North West
Andrew Clough, North West
Gary Curran, North West
Steven Dudley-Brown, North West
David Edmondson, North West
Stephen Hesk, North West
Phillip Hind, North East
Matthew Keigher, Sheffield
Alan McMonagle, North West
John Moyses, Sheffield
Ryan Stirling, North West
Matthew Stone, North West
Thomas Story, North Wales
Jody Stroud, Sheffield
Craig Williams, North West
Jonathan Wilson, North West
David Womack, Sheffield
Adam Wrigley, North West

MIDLAND REGION

Leon Brant, BB&O
Chris Coles, Midland
Ian Favell, Mid Anglia
Thomas Harrison, Midland
Paul Kendall, East Midland
Brendan Kingston, Mid Anglia
William Lewis, Midland
Andrew Marsh, East Midland
Philip Oldham, East of England
Philip Pleasance, Midland
Ivan Simmans, Mid Anglia
Peter Smith, BB&O
Michael Smith, Mid Anglia
John Tomlin, Midland

SOUTH EAST REGION

Russell Bain, Kent
John Beamont, Surrey
Ian Boothby, London
Paul Brady, London
Danni Chandler, Kent

Paul Davy, East Anglia
Richard Edwards, East Anglia
Daniel Frost, Essex
James Gill, East Anglia
Glen Holman, Kent
Jason Hunt, Surrey
Justin Hunt, East Anglia
Alvin Huxen, Essex
Alex Keene, Kent
Paul Knight, Surrey
Jason Lock, Kent
Jonathan Marwick, Surrey
John McDonagh, London
Peter Millin, Sussex
Gary Moore, Surrey
Benjamin Scrivener, Essex
Warren Torch, Kent

SOUTH WEST/SOUTH WALES

Peter Brett, South Coast
Maurice Campbell, South Wales
Andrew Edwards, South West

Paul Escott, South West
Dave Escott, South West
Peter Fletcher, South Coast
James Hallett, Devon & Cornwall
Declan Healy, South West
Denis Jay, South Coast
Kevin Maher, South West
Adam Tunmore, South West

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

Niklas Denzel, Germany
Alan Hess, USA
Jonathan Jennings, USA
Jon Maddern, USA
Jim McGarvey, Canada
Jim Nix, Canada

STUDENT MEMBERS

Bryan Barkley, East Scotland
Paul Blann, Midland
Vince Clegg, Kent
Darren Johnston, East Scotland

Jose Piza, East Scotland
Stephen Ridgeway, East Midland

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Dave Axland, USA
Geoffrey Fall, Sussex

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Peter Butler, BB&O
Chris Camfield, BB&O
Geoffrey Medhurst, BB&O
Keith Thorne, BB&O

SILVER KEY MEMBERS

Richard Freeman, Essex
Steve Haynes, Surrey

GOLDEN KEY MEMBERS

Iain Booth, East Midland
Marcus Morris, North Wales
Gwynfor Preece, East of England

MAY'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 John Gubb from The Bedfordshire 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 May's winner, Graeme Taylor from St Andrew's Links Trust whose message was posted on the 31st March 2004 under the 'Talk about Turf' section.





DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

Anyone who missed Continue to Learn at Harrogate in January can now catch up on what they missed by buying a copy of the Continue to Learn DVD.

NOW ON SALE AT HALF THE PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED PRICE

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Course Feature



▲ Bill Payne

Glorious Goodwood

Scott MacCallum travelled south to meet Bill Payne, The Goodwood Club's Course Manager, a man with a lot to be happy about.

Bump into Bill Payne, Course Manager at The Goodwood Club, in Sussex, at the moment and there is a fair chance you'll notice either his Cheshire Cat-like grin or his two tails. If he also looks a little taller than you remember him perhaps it's because, if you look closely, you can see that he's walking on air.

Indeed, you wouldn't need to be Sherlock Holmes to spot that Bill is a fairly happy chap at the moment. The reason?

Well, the course is currently undergoing a complete make-over and having a serious amount of money spent on it. There are six brand new holes, a complete set of new greens, tee, fairway and bunker renovation and a new irrigation system to boot and while Bill is enjoying being a key man in the renovation process he can't wait to get his new improved course back so he can begin looking after it on behalf of the Goodwood membership.

"This is like having all your Christmas presents at once," said Bill, who also threw into the conversation that he had a complete set of new machinery and a new state-of-the-art maintenance facility.

The catalyst for Bill's current state of euphoria was the return of the golf course to the responsibility of the Earl of March at the end of its lease to Goodwood Golf Club Limited. The Earl took the decision to bring the golf course back into the fold of the Goodwood Estate which encompasses Goodwood House and its Park which holds the annual Festival of Speed; the famous Goodwood Racecourse, home of 'Glorious Goodwood' every July; Goodwood Aerodrome, and the Motor Circuit, which hosts the Goodwood Revival each year. One of the more progressive thinking of the country's landed aristocracy, Lord March had a plan to create a unique leisure concept in an area already rich in tourist potential and the golf course fitted the plan superbly.

"It is Lord March's aim to raise the profile of the course and to make it the best downland golf course in the country. And it will be," said Bill, as he showed me around... oh yes, in his new company 4x4.

Bill has been at Goodwood for eight years and did feel that the course was in need of some investment.

"Being a 100 year old course it had been ticking along as old courses do. The irrigation had been in for 35 years and the members felt it would probably be there for another 35 years. A new mower would be purchased only when the old one had literally fallen apart!" recalled Bill.

That all changed when he was called to a meeting about two years ago and told of the plans for the course but he certainly didn't suspect that the transformation would be quite as dramatic as it has proven to be.

"I thought we might redesign half a dozen holes but the scale of the development became apparent during a series of presentations which were made to the existing membership of the club."

Howard Swan was the man chosen to undertake the design work and his plans have transformed the course.

"What the members have seen has made it much easier for them to swallow the bitter pill of disruption to their golf at the moment. They come up to me and say 'Bill, have you seen the new green on the 18th' or 'The new 2nd looks tremendous'."

One of the main challenges for Howard was the fact that the course was split by a very busy road. The car park is on one side of the road, as is the 1st hole and the bulk of the course, and the closing holes on the Clubhouse side. Bill's maintenance facility is currently on the same side as the Clubhouse.

"Every bit of kit has to be registered for the road, have a beacon and full lighting on it and be taxed which is a major headache while the health and safety concerns are considerable.

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▲ It is a wonderful setting, note the race course in the top right

"That will be resolved with the rerouting of the course and the installation of a tunnel which will be wide enough for our machines."

The construction work has been carried out by John Greasley with the irrigation being installed at the same time by TIS (Scotland) Limited. The Leicester-based Greasley team and the Scottish-based irrigation installers live locally and work a fortnight on and a weekend off.

The irrigation system was designed by Bill Hawthorn, of 2iC, and he has also designed the irrigation for the rest of the Estate, a mammoth project bearing in mind the demands placed on it by the Racecourse and the huge numbers who attend the horse and motor racing events during the year. 2iC also undertook a GPS survey of the existing course, to provide accurate plans and elevations to Swan Golf Designs, and will update this for the new layout, including the new irrigation system, once all works are complete.

The course's system uses gravity rather than a pump and runs from a 200 cubic metre tank on top of the Trundle Hill and Bill has nothing but praise for it, as he does for the work of both the Greasley and TIS (Scotland) contractors.

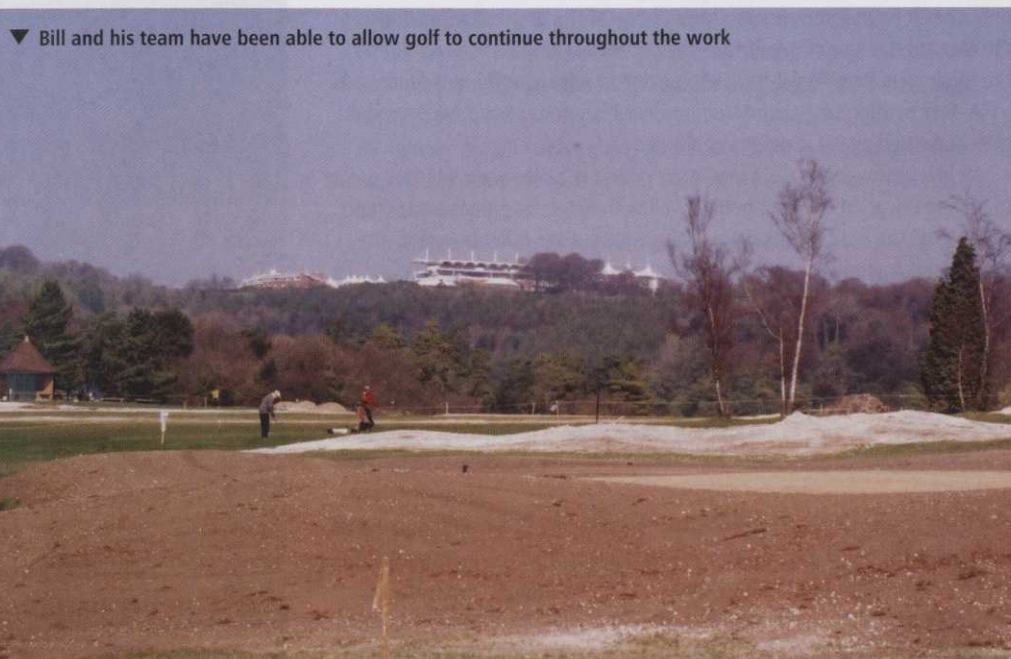
"Both teams have been absolutely superb. I think they're getting on with it as they want to go home," he joked, as we watched a shaper expertly filling in a narrow drainage ditch in one of the new greens.

Bill works closely with Club Secretary, Stephanie Sherlock, Trevor

Michie, Greasley's Project Manager, and Neil Porteous, of TIS (Scotland), who all sit down every Tuesday and plan the week ahead.

"That in itself is a major operation as the biggest challenge has been to keep people playing golf.

"As you can imagine my diary has been stuffed with notes saying which hole is shutting and where we need to put in temporaries. Right at the beginning we had an overall Plan A which I worked out with my Deputy, Steve Smees, showing where we would be putting temps but, of course, what happens? There is a new bunker going in there or an irrigation pipe so you can never be too sure what's going to happen," said Bill.



▼ Bill and his team have been able to allow golf to continue throughout the work



▲ A John Greasley shaper shows some great control

In fact they put two temps on to each hole so for example they have 13A and 13B and 14A and 14B .

"It means that we can shut down two holes completely and bring in, for example 13B."

But with the co-operation of the membership it has worked out well.

"We had to shut part of the 4th to allow fairway irrigation to go in.

There was an open trench and we had to get the golfers to go round one half one day, fill it in and turf it and then let them go round the other way the next day. In fairness TIS are used to working that way."

The total work project amounts to six complete new holes - the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 16th, 17th and 18th while the rest of the holes have resculpted fairways, new tees, three or four times the size of the originals, and every green rebuilt .

"The greens are all re-designed and re-constructed with new drainage systems while we've also got 77 new bunkers. It's fairly major work," he said, with a degree of understatement.

The course has always drained well and golf is genuinely a 365 day a year pursuit while Bill and his team are getting ready to the challenge of maintaining the course to a standard befitting the work that is being carried out and expected by anything which carries The Goodwood Club label.

Goodwood is an extremely interesting site in more ways than one. Not only does it have some superb views of one of the prettiest race courses in the country it is also of significant archaeological importance and during the work an archaeologist has been on site to ensure nothing is damaged.

A deer herding compound from ancient history has been uncovered on the course and as Bill is quick to point out,

"It has always been a nice walk but now it is a nice walk which is going to be a really good game of golf as well with excellent greens and superb bunkering. The old bunkers were in the wrong place and the wrong size and even I could hit over them," he admitted.

Goodwood also boasts a fine golfing history having been originally designed by James Braid and being the venue for Bobby Locke's first ever European game of golf. Apparently, if the plaque on the Clubhouse wall is to be believed, his opening tee shot was nothing to write home to South Africa about.

Listening to him you can't help but be carried away by his enthusiasm and drive.

"How could you not be driven by something like this. I've found myself drawing on new skills I didn't know I had in me. It's been the best thing, it really has. I was definitely more hands on before but now I've taught myself computer skills and emailing while my record keeping is much more accurate," said Bill, who now attends meetings with the other Goodwood



▲ All the greens have been redesigned and rebuilt

Estate managers instead of a traditional Green Committee.

"There are over 200 people working on the Estate. I will soon have a staff of seven and am enjoying being part of a larger, professional team. I'm about to give a Powerpoint presentation on the progress of the work to the other managers."

I'm sure that if the enthusiasm he showed during my visit is replicated during his presentation he will have even the non-golfing Goodwood managers itching to get out onto the course.

▼ The new tees will make a huge difference



SOIL VARIABILITY ON GOLF COURSES: THE CASE FOR BETTER INFORMATION

TORO

Count on it.

By Van Cline, PhD, The Toro Company, Minneapolis, USA

Soil is the foundation of all forms of agriculture. There are a few exceptions, such as the hydroponic production of certain vegetables, but by and large the quality of the soil in which a crop is grown determines the yield and quality of the product.

Turf is no exception. The product course managers and greenkeepers strive for may be different compared to other crops. Quality and consistency of the turf surface are the criteria against which greenkeepers are judged instead of yield and produce quality, but the role of soils in the production of turf is just as important.

QUALITY SOILS COMBINED WITH SOUND MANAGEMENT PRODUCE QUALITY TURF

Soil quality on golf courses is often less than optimum. Soils are considered less important in the overall function of a golf course compared to other forms of agriculture. In golf the focus is on the overall quality of the landscape and on the experience of playing the course.

The connection between soil and turf quality is not made as strongly as with other crops. Golf holes are designed and built to make the game challenging and interesting. The aesthetic quality of a golf course is central to the overall experience. Golf courses are often considered works of art like other designed landscapes.

But the process of building a golf course can be damaging to soils. Typically, large volumes of earth are moved to create the right experience. Topsoil is stripped off and stockpiled, landforms are created through cutting and filling and the topsoil is reapplied and graded.

The construction process can dramatically alter the original soils on a site by destroying structure, creating compaction in the rooting zone and in subsoil layers, and generally disrupting natural processes that keep soils healthy.

Following construction, routine management practices combined with traffic from golf carts and foot traffic exert significant stress on soils. In addition, the use of a variety of chemicals and the tendency to over-water, keeping the root zone wet, can alter microbial processes critical for sustaining soil health.

Treating soil problems on golf courses is difficult since soils under turf are less accessible and are more difficult to modify compared to other agricultural soils. Since turf is a long-term perennial crop, soils are exposed only during initial construction or renovation.

Most agricultural soils are exposed every year or every few years, making cultivation or modification easier. In addition, what's judged as the product of the greenkeeper's efforts, a uniform, consistent, high quality surface, discourages any activity that disrupts the turf. Dealing with soil problems in turf management is a major challenge.

An added complication related to soils is the issue of variability in factors that influence fertility, aeration, water-holding capacity, drainage and susceptibility to compaction. Soil texture, or the relative amounts of sand, silt and clay, and stable soil organic matter strongly influence these qualities.

A knowledge of how soil conditions change across a golf course is central to a greenkeeper's ability to efficiently apply irrigation, fertilizers and cultivation treatments such as aerification.

Because turf is a perennial cover, the ability to see differences in these

characteristics based on soil colour or other visual clues that are often used to judge variability in agricultural fields is limited.

With increasing pressure to reduce overall inputs of chemicals and water, and to manage labour and equipment more cost effectively, golf course managers and greenkeepers need more detailed information on how soils vary across their courses.

All things considered, the importance of maintaining healthy soils is indisputable in growing healthy turf. But greenkeepers are confronted with a range of soil problems brought about by the way golf courses are constructed and how the golf turf is used and maintained.

The inability to get at soils under turf only complicates the issue. And the increasing importance of efficiently applying water, nutrients and other inputs that are affected by soil conditions increases the importance of detailed soils information that is rare in the industry.

A study is underway at The Toro Company to analyse and map soils on a variety of golf course fairways to gain a better understanding of the inherent variability in conditions that typically exist.

Toro's specific interest is in the efficient control of irrigation in response to increasing pressure to conserve water in golf course management. Understanding soil variability in detail is a key to this objective. Significant variation in soils is assumed to exist on golf courses, but very few have detailed soils information quantifying this variation.

Therefore the objective of the study is to quantify soil variability in order to better understand how changes in soil conditions across large areas such as fairways affect turf management practices.

A number of golf courses have been chosen for mapping and they represent a range of several factors that ultimately have an affect on soil conditions, as follows:

1. The amount of disturbance during construction
2. The amount of topographic and corresponding soil variation indigenous to the site
3. The age of the golf course

The assumption is that soil conditions on a course are influenced to a significant degree by these factors. For example, a course built on undulating terrain and modified little during construction would be expected to have considerable variation in soils corresponding to patterns native to the site.

On the other hand, a course whose soils were heavily modified from grading during construction may have less variation in surface layers due to the homogenizing effects of stripping and reapplying, but may have significant differences in the subsurface layers resulting from cutting and filling.

*Continue
to learn*

The results presented here are from a single fairway on an 80-year-old golf course in the upper Midwestern United States, illustrating the significant variation in soil conditions that can exist from undulating terrain that was modified little during construction.

Midland Hills Golf Course is located in Roseville, Minnesota, in a naturally rolling and intermittently wooded landscape. The original nine holes of the golf course were built in the 1920s with the second nine added in the 1950s. Minimal earth-moving was done during construction of the fairways, taking advantage of the rolling natural landscape.



▲ Aerial view of the 14th fairway at Midland Hills Golf Course



▲ A view of the 14th fairway showing its undulating terrain

As a result, the existing topography and soils are assumed to reflect original conditions. The native soils for the Midland Hills' site as described in the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Survey of Washington and Ramsey Counties, Minnesota, are made up of the Mahtomedi-Kingsley complex (loamy sands), the Hayden Series (fine sandy loam) and the Duluth Series (silt loam), all derived from glacial till.

Soils were sampled on a 9m grid to a depth of 45cm in 15cm increments (0-15cm, 15-30cm and 30-45cm). A portable GPS unit was used to record location data at each sampling point for mapping purposes.

Soil texture was analysed in the Toro agronomic laboratory using conventional methods and recorded as percentages of sand, silt and clay. Organic matter content was also analysed in the laboratory using standard methods.

Soil compaction was measured on site using a hydraulic penetrometer. Compaction was quantified as resistance to penetration in psi at 2.5cm increments to a depth of 45cm.

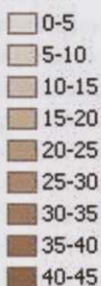
All mapping was done using GIS software (ArcGIS Desktop version 8.3.0 with Spatial Analyst Extension). The maps shown here for the 14th fairway at Midland Hills illustrate variations in each factor using a colour gradient. Only maps for the top 15cm are shown since this layer represents the rooting zone.

Soil texture in the top 15cm was generally classified as silty clay loam. There was considerable variation across the fairway in each component. Sand ranged from approximately 5 per cent to 40 per cent, silt from 30 per cent to 65 per cent, and clay from 23 per cent to 38 per cent. There was a two-fold difference in organic matter in the top 15cm ranging from 3 per cent to 6 per cent.

Soil texture corresponded to topography to some degree, with heavier soils concentrated in a major swale through the middle of the fairway and coarser soils concentrated on high points and in a flat area of the fairway nearer the green.

Soil compaction varied across the fairway surface as well as by depth. The greatest levels of surface compaction

% Sand



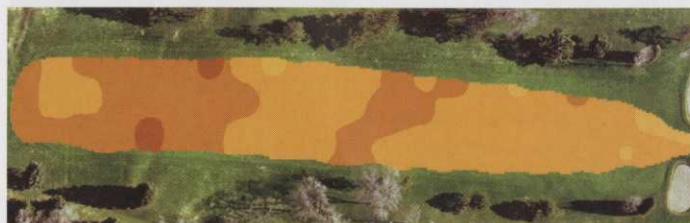
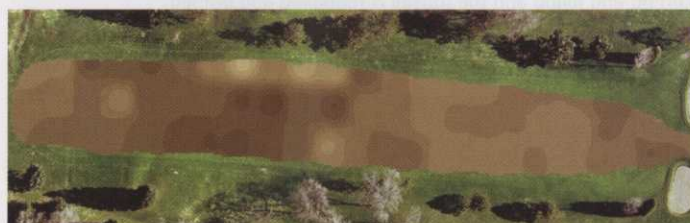
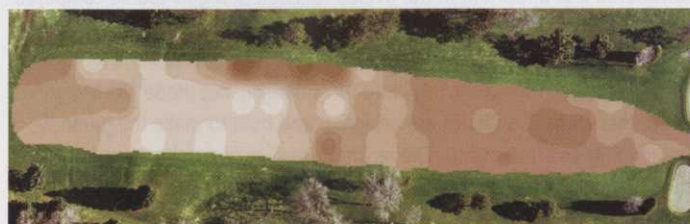
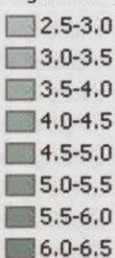
% Silt



% Clay



% Organic Matter



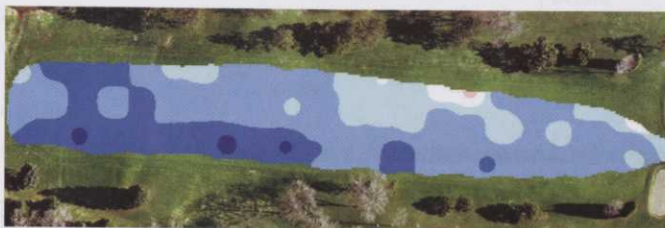
▲ Soil texture variation across 14th fairway at Midland Hills Golf Course



▲ Organic matter variation across 14th fairway at Midland Hills Golf Course

Compaction
(resistance in psi)

- 100-150
- 150-200
- 200-250
- 250-300
- 300-350
- 350-400
- 400-450



▲ 5cm depth



▼ 12cm depth

▲ Soil compaction at 5cm and 12cm. Greater compaction at 12cm occurs just below tine aerification depth, creating a cultivation pan

were located in the landing area of the fairway, which receives the most golf cart traffic. There was no clear relationship between soil texture and surface compaction.

The highest level of compaction by depth was concentrated at 12 to 15cm indicating the presence of a cultivation pan just below tine aerification depth. Deep tine aerators, which are becoming increasingly popular, are designed to penetrate this deeper layer of compaction.

All of this information together verifies the fact that considerable variation in soil characteristics such as texture, organic matter and compaction can exist across large turf areas such as golf course fairways.

It also indicates that the extent of soil variation may dramatically affect the way different areas are managed. A fairway's soils from one end to the other may have significantly different capacities to retain nutrients and water and to resist compaction.

A detailed knowledge of soils in a case such as this could help the course manager and greenkeeper to design more effective treatment programmes on a site-specific basis. If soils are at the heart of growing healthy turf, then the more they know about them the better the job they can do.



SilverKnight RESCUE

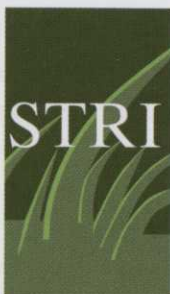
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UK SURVEY ON USE OF BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS - HAVE YOUR SAY!

Stella Rixon, of the STRI, is keen to gather information about the use of biological products and would very much like you to take the time to photocopy or email this questionnaire and return it to her at the address listed at the bottom of the page

CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT

Ever since their arrival in this industry, 'biologicals' have been a controversial subject. Around about four years ago, biological products were going to be the next big thing for turf managers and the market was flooded with products claiming a variety of benefits from improved turf growth and thatch breakdown to disease reduction. some were so confident to make the statement 'no disease' or your money back! Unfortunately the results were not quite as spectacular as the claims, leading to a lot of scepticism in the turf world.

We've had articles flying back and forward in the industry trade magazines for and against, turf managers who swear by them, others who haven't seen anything from them and many others who haven't yet tried one. And it hasn't helped that the experts can't seem to agree either. There has been a number of industry conferences and seminars presenting pro's and cons through both British and American research, but in most cases viewers came away with the eternal question lingering 'So will they work or won't they!'

STRI RESEARCH

Over the last few years, the STRI have performed some field trials on both soil and USGA rootzones using a variety of microbial products with mixed results – some positive, some with a negligible effect and others with no benefit seen at all. This research has been carried out both in-house, funded by STRI/R&A and work undertaken for commercial companies. Clearly, the latter is sensitive information and even the STRI agronomists will not be informed of the results, unless the company themselves release the data. Therefore, the STRI advice on these products to date has had to be one of caution, as achieving successful results can be elusive and therefore could be an expensive learning curve for a Club. The reasons for the frustratingly varied results are numerous, some of which I hope to cover in (my future) this article.

HAVE YOUR SAY...

In the meantime, the STRI would like YOUR help on this subject. We are conducting a UK wide survey on use of biological products to study the exposure of these products, how, why and where they are used, what percentage of users have had positive results and most importantly what is the secret to their success?! I will discuss the findings in future articles and the results will be made publicly available.

BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT USE QUESTIONNAIRE

In an effort to gain a greater understanding of the use of biological products in the turf grass industry, STRI courteously request that you complete the following questionnaire. You are not required to give your name.

Please note that under the Data Protection Act, your personal answers will be treated in the strictest of confidence and will be only used in a general way to analyse the overall findings of this survey. Thank you for your co-operation in completing this exercise.

Please tick where appropriate

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Your name (optional)

2. Name of Club (optional)

3. Type of course/club:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf heathland | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter sports pitches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf parkland | <input type="checkbox"/> Cricket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf links | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf seaside | <input type="checkbox"/> Bowls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf upland/moorland | <input type="checkbox"/> Other - give details below |

PRODUCT USAGE

4. Have you ever tried a 'biological' product?

- ☐ Yes – Go to question 6 ☐ No – Go to question 5

5. If **NO**, please identify why you have not used a 'biological' product. Rank in order up to 3 of the below, 1 being the main reason why you have not used a product.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know of any product | <input type="checkbox"/> Unproven results |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No need to use one | <input type="checkbox"/> Too expensive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other – give details below | |

AIMS AND PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

6. If **YES**, what were your aim(s) for using it?

Rank in order up to 3 of the below, 1 being your main aim.

- ☐ Biologically activate new sandy rootzone
- ☐ Reduce thatch
- ☐ Reduce dry patch
- ☐ Reduce anaerobic black layer
- ☐ Increase growth + density
- ☐ Increase desirable grasses
- ☐ Increase rooting
- ☐ Generally reduce disease + fungicide use
- ☐ To actively control a disease outbreak instead of using a chemical fungicide

7. Please identify the product(s) used and their contents (continue on separate sheet if necessary):

If more than 1, please list each on a separate line. If you are unsure of the content, put a '?' in the appropriate column. Organic content refers to seaweed, vegetable/ animal composted waste, etc.

Product Name	Liquid or Granular?	Organic content?	Nitrogen content?	Bacteria?	Fungi?	Other (give details)
e.g. Bio	L	?	4%	✓	None	

PRODUCT APPLICATION

8. What area did you use the product(s) on?

- ☐ Fine, short mown turf e.g. golf or bowls green, cricket pitch
- ☐ Golf tees
- ☐ Winter sports pitch- high wear areas only
- ☐ Larger area e.g. fairway, winter sports pitch, cricket outfield
- ☐ Other – give details below

9. Did you leave any similar areas untreated for comparison i.e. a control?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No – all greens/ whole pitch treated

10. How many years have the products been used for?

- ☐ 0-1 years
- ☐ 1-2 years
- ☐ 2-3 years
- ☐ Over 3 years

11. What month(s) of the year were the products applied?

- ☐ J ☐ F ☐ M ☐ A ☐ M ☐ J ☐ J ☐ A ☐ S ☐ O ☐ N ☐ D

DESCRIPTION OF AREA TREATED

12. Describe the top 150mm of rootzone in the treated area.

- ☐ Sand-dominated
- ☐ 100% sand
- ☐ Soil-based

13. What is the average soil pH of the treated area? _____

14. What is the age of treated area?

- ☐ 0-5 years
- ☐ 6-10 years
- ☐ 11+ years

15. What was the dominant grass species of the area before and after bio-treatment?

Please tick most appropriate box on each line.

Poa annua	Bent	Bent +/- Fescue	Rye
Before			
After			

16. How much nitrogen (kg per hectare) is applied to treated area/year?

Before treatment	
After treatment	

17. How would you describe the drainage of the treated area?

- ☐ Poor – less than 5mm per hr
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Good – over 20mm per hr

18. How much aeration is carried out on the treated area?

- ☐ None
- ☐ Once a month
- ☐ 3 times a year
- ☐ Every 1-2 weeks
- ☐ Every other month
- ☐ Less than 3 times a year

19. On average, how many fungicide applications are applied per year on the treated area?

Before treatment	
After treatment	

RESULTS

20. Following product application, what results did you get?

Rank in order, 1 being the most obvious result and 6 being the least noticeable effect.

- ☐ No noticeable effect
- ☐ Increased growth
- ☐ Increased rooting
- ☐ Reduced dry patch
- ☐ Less fertilizer required
- ☐ Less disease + fungicide use
- ☐ Control of a specific disease outbreak – give details below:
- ☐ Greener colour
- ☐ Improved wearability
- ☐ Reduced thatch
- ☐ Increase in bent/fescue grasses
- ☐ Less fertilizer required
- ☐ Time/money saved

☐ Negative results – give details below:

21. Please give the results seen an overall mark:

On a sliding scale, 1 represents very positive results, 5 represents negative or nil results and 3 = reasonable results.

Excellent results obtained 1 2 3 4 5 No noticeable effect

22. Would you consider using biological products again in the future?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

23. Any other comments you would like to make?

(Continue on separate sheet if necessary)

Thank you for your time. Please photocopy and return
FAO: Stella Rixon, STRI, St. Ives Estate, Bingley, BD16 1AU
or Fax: 01372 270386 or email: stella.rixon@stri.co.uk



10 Good Reasons to Enter

Lee Penrose, of the STRI, urges you to enter the
2004 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

Golf Environment
Competition



syngenta

wrap

Creating markets for recycled resources

The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition its establishment has played a key role in promoting the positive environmental image of golf.



▲ Waste water from the course and adjacent caravan park are filtered through this reed-bed at Brighthouse Bay Golf Club in Scotland. Although not yet winners, the club have benefited from advice and support from the STRI when undertaking ecological management.



▲ This novel, temporary grass storage bay is part of a larger sustainable composting scheme at Kenwick Park Golf Club. This, and other wildlife enhancement work, helped them to become the 2003 champions. Could your golf club be next?

It has helped to develop relationships with English Nature which in turn has generated interest and a more positive relationship with other statutory and non-statutory environmental/conservation organisations including, for example, the RSPB and County Wildlife Trusts. Keith Duff, Chief Scientist with English Nature, has throughout played a major role and has proved a great supporter.

The competition however can only ever be a platform from which to allow individual golf clubs the opportunity to display their environmental excellence.

It gives golf clubs a focal point from which standards are being set and, importantly, shows what should be and is being achieved. The competition provides a benchmark from which individual golf clubs can assess their own environmental performance.

For most clubs entry to the competition is not simply about the chance of winning and proving that they are 'better' than other clubs in the UK, the benefits are wide reaching and numerous:

Below are listed the top 10 reasons why any golf club should enter this year's BIGGA Golf Environment Competition.

1. Have an STRI Advisor visit your golf club for half a day free of charge in order to discuss any aspects of ecological and environmental course management.
2. Increase and improve habitats for wildlife on the golf course, thereby enhancing the golfer's enjoyment of their game.
3. Elevate the prestige of the club and help promote golf as a positive land use to the wider public.
4. Improve relationships and open lines of communication between staff and the membership through raising awareness and discussing ecological issues which are of interest to all.

- ▼ The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition is not the reserve of rich and prestigious clubs. This superb pond helped Bradley Park Golf Course, a municipal course near Huddersfield, become the 2002 Northern Regional winners



▲ Two-time winners Ipswich (Purdis Heath) Golf Club invested their winnings in a poly-tunnel which is used as a heather and gorse nursery

5. Increase job motivation, knowledge and enthusiasm within the greenstaff through learning new skills and a greater diversity of work.
6. Demonstrating environmental good practice help to place golf in a strong position to lobby local government and opposition bodies who often misrepresent golf as a non-beneficial land use.
7. The competition provides an ideal platform to consider and discuss recent developments in environmental legislation in order to be prepared for any likely changes.
8. Free publicity for the club in STRI and BIGGA literature and potential exposure in local or even national press.
9. New sponsors and more categories mean that your chances of winning one of seven £500 prizes are better than ever. In addition more clubs will receive a visit from an STRI advisor than ever before.
10. You might win the overall title, a cheque for £2,000, a Scott's Weather Master Station and the BIGGA Golf Environment Trophy!

STRI judges have visited hundreds of golf clubs since the competition began and thousands of pounds have been distributed in prizes. Fantastic ecological progress has been made at golf clubs up and down the UK as a direct result of the advice and support received from the STRI ecologists and real wildlife gains have been seen.

Furthermore; wider environmental issues such as organic waste composting, clubhouse/maintenance facility waste recycling, waste water disposal and sustainable energy usage are now being addressed by golf clubs who are at the forefront of sound environmental course management.

Applications to the 2004 competition are welcomed from any golf club whether it be the smallest 9-hole municipal course or a 36-hole hotel and leisure complex, all we ask is an enthusiasm for, and willingness to progress, environmental management!

Applicants are particularly encouraged this year from the Welsh region where the number of clubs entering the competition has been traditionally low.

There really is nothing to lose and everything to gain from entering the 2004 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition – so what are you waiting for?!

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Making the Most of your H₂O

Roland Taylor gives some sound advice on making the most of water features

The recent coverage of the US Masters at Augusta demonstrated how effective water features could be in enhancing the ambience of a course.

Filming showed a triple arched bridge with sunlight behind it and perfectly reflected in a golden pool, an ideal place to relax from the stresses of modern living. The lakes adjacent to the greens reflect the surrounding vegetation and golfers, thus creating an extra dimension to the scene.



Some readers may scoff at these notions, but developing the right image is a factor that should be given careful consideration if any changes to a course's design are being contemplated.

This could be important if a club is looking to stage some high profile competitions in the future and there is a chance of television coverage. Every course management team's priority is to develop quality surfaces that are a challenge to the players.

At the same time it should be a place of relative tranquillity and to a certain degree have scenic qualities. The overall aim should be to create a haven that everyone enjoys playing in and wants to come back too. Water features will make a contribution to this ideal

Water features are in two forms natural or artificial, each has its own impact. If done correctly, the latter will eventually become established and form part of the natural landscape.

NATURAL WATER

This could be a pool, fed by a spring that was originally on the site before the course was built. It will have evolved over several years and developed its own ecology. Alternatively, it could be a wet area that, with a little input from man, has developed into a nature conservation site.

In both cases some management is necessary to avoid aggressive and dominating plant species taking over. Where a site has been neglected it will have become choked up with rotting organic matter, dead branches and silt.

If it is decided to create a wildlife pond then ideally it should have shallow water because species such as frogs, newts and toads reside in this form of habitat. This will also attract other wild life including insect, birds and mammals.

Where it is necessary to carry out work the aim should be to achieve a gradual division between dry land and water and ideally an adjacent area of wild flowers should be established. Any overhanging branches should be removed to allow light to penetrate and stop debris and leaves falling into water.



This type of pond can be built artificially and if one is considering this exercise then it might be worth contacting the local nature conservation organisations for advice.

LARGER EXPANSES OF WATER

These are either ornamental or a source of water for irrigation. Depending on where they are located will govern the type of water features. If it is close to the clubhouse then fountains or cascades may be appropriate. Close to greens the water's reflective qualities will be the main feature.

For this water to remain clear oxygenating plants should be introduced and it is likely that some form of aeration system will also have to be introduced.

On any large area of water the surface can be broken up with water lilies and around the edges reeds and marginal plants add to the overall picture. The additions of banks of colourful shrubs, reflected in the water, will double their effect. If the soil conditions are right for azaleas and rhododendrons they can be planted for spring colour and acers for an autumn blaze.

STREAMS, DITCHES AND WATER COURSES

Most golf courses will include one or all of these and depending on where they are located and the water levels; will determine what can be done to make them attractive.

If there is a regular flow of water then this can be harnessed to make a series of features along its length.

Firstly, look at its shape and decide if by changing its contour and its approaches it can be visually improved. The introduction of dams creates pools along the streams length. This increases the water movement and enhances its appearance.

Dams need not be sophisticated structures, but consideration should be given to ensure they harmonise with the existing landscape. In woodland areas secured logs or railway sleepers will adequately suffice but will look

out of place in locations where natural rock predominates and here the use of boulders or stone is more appropriate. The introduction of some stone or wooden bridges with pools on one side and a waterfall on the other will add to the ambience.

In the case of ditches and watercourses there is less likely to be a constant supply of water, however the soil will probably remain moist for long periods and with these the right type of planting is the answer.

They are a haven for ferns and other damp-loving plants such as hostas and reeds. The banks can be planted with colourful shrubs and spring flowers. Many of these types of plants are ground covering so the level of maintaining these areas can be reduced, especially if mulches are regularly applied.

PLANTS

These fall into various categories, submerged (oxygenators), deep water, floaters, marginal and bog plants.

OXYGENATORS

In nature, submerged plants play a significant role in the well being of the underwater eco system, so it is important that the balance is right.

The formation of algae is one of the most common problems found in ponds and lake. Minute spores of algae thrive and multiply on a readily supply of mineral salts, carbon dioxide and sunlight in the water. Within a short space of time the water turns greens and if the algae is unchecked heavy pollution occurs and the pool or lake becomes unsightly. An adequate supply of oxygenators will reduce the algae spores and in small areas of water clear them completely.

The foliage of oxygenating plants is soft with very fine segments through which the water passes freely without damaging the leaf segments. Nature has also ensured that these plants can deal with virtually any type of water movement even fast flowing currents. Like other plants

these need carbon dioxide for photosynthesises and the product of this process is oxygen, which is released into the water.

They also absorb any mineral salts, thus starving the algae of their vital requirements and so restricting their development. If a sufficient quantity of oxygenators are present then algae soon disappears.

DEEP WATER PLANTS

Water lilies act as sunshades and help with the control of algae plus their stems and roots attract myriads of aquatic insects for any fish to feed upon.

FLOATERS

Some plants such as duckweed float around a pond without any anchorage. Large colonies can form on the surface that then present problems.

MARGINAL PLANTS

Most of these species require shallow water. The leaves and flowers are above the surface whilst the roots remain submerged. These add an architectural and colourful aspect to the margins of a lake, pond or stream. They are often highly ornamental with attractive flowers and foliage and will break a flat outline, making it more interesting and eye appealing.

BOG PLANTS

This category is generally made up of plants that like wet conditions without having to have their roots continually in water. There are a number of species worth considering for ditches or watercourse that are less likely to contain water all the year round.

A point that should be taken into account, when considering plants in relation to a natural pool, lake or stream, is that the chosen species are indigenous to the area.



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PLANTING AN EXISTING BANK

Immediately the vegetation is removed from an existing bank erosion will quickly set in because the roots of the native growth have in the past retained the soil. One method of dealing with this problem is to spray the bank with a systemic herbicide. This gets rid of the top growth, which then decomposes into the soil.

Once this process begins to take place plenty of mulch, in the form of well-rotted manure or compost to smother any weed seedlings, should be applied. The old root systems will continue to bind the soil together. Planting can take place during the winter or spring following the spraying and the new plants roots will then take over in holding the bank together.

FISH

If the introduction of fish is being considered then specialist advice should be sought.

KOI CARP

Theses are highly fashionable at present so the investment is likely to be considerable.

Because of their habit of happily eating large quantities of oxygenating plants, a filtration system is essential if the water is to remain clear and healthy. They share most of the characteristics of wild carp and can withstand fluctuations in water quality and temperature, but because of their inbreeding they are not as resilient as their wild counterparts.

Some Koi can grow to over three foot in length and have a life expectancy of between 20 and 50 years. They are best suited to locations close to the clubhouse because of their value and protection from predators such as herons and man needs is essential.

TROUT

Where there is a relatively large area of water away from any direct line of play it could be worth considering introducing rainbow and brown trout for any fly fishing members. Alternatively, there maybe local enthusiast of this sport who would be happy to rent the waters from the club, stock it and maintain it. This could be bring in additional revenue from an area that at present yields none

Natural species of fresh water fish such as carp and bream could also be introduced to help maintain the eco system.

SAFETY

Any water, regardless of its depth is dangerous so safety is paramount. A lake with sloping sides of 45 degrees makes it virtually impossible for anyone, even a good swimmer, to get out. Sheer sides are easier to reach and hold onto. An alternative solution is a build a beach area with the water gradually deepening. The rest of the lake or pool could be fenced off using reed beds to make it inconspicuous.

Having a wide planting area of dense vegetation is also another good safety measure. Creating thick barriers of shrubs, such as bamboo, planted



on dry ground up to the waters edges is also relatively effective. Deep-water notices must always be clearly displayed.

MAINTENANCE

An open expanse of water attracts a lot of debris, so for it to remain looking good and healthy requires some management. Left to its own devices algae growth accelerates and dominant plant species take over. Sludge builds up, the volume of water decreases and it begins to smell leading to unwanted insects congregating around it.

If it has reached this point then expert advice should be sought. It may be necessary to remove the sludge build up using a dredger and the introduction of aerators might be suggested.

These units circulate the water whilst introducing large volumes of oxygen, which encourage colonies of aerobic bacteria to form for dealing with the breakdown of organic waste. This type of clean up will have a positive effect on the any pump or filtration systems, as they are less likely to become clogged.

By this stage many readers will probably be saying they do not have the time to implement this. However, ponder this thought. How much time annually is taken clearing ditches and watercourse of natural vegetation?

If these were planted with marginals and flowering shrubs would the same amount of time have to be spent clearing away unwanted vegetation? The overall landscape quality of the course would certainly be improved. Likewise if pools and lakes already exist then their appearances have to be maintained to the highest standards.

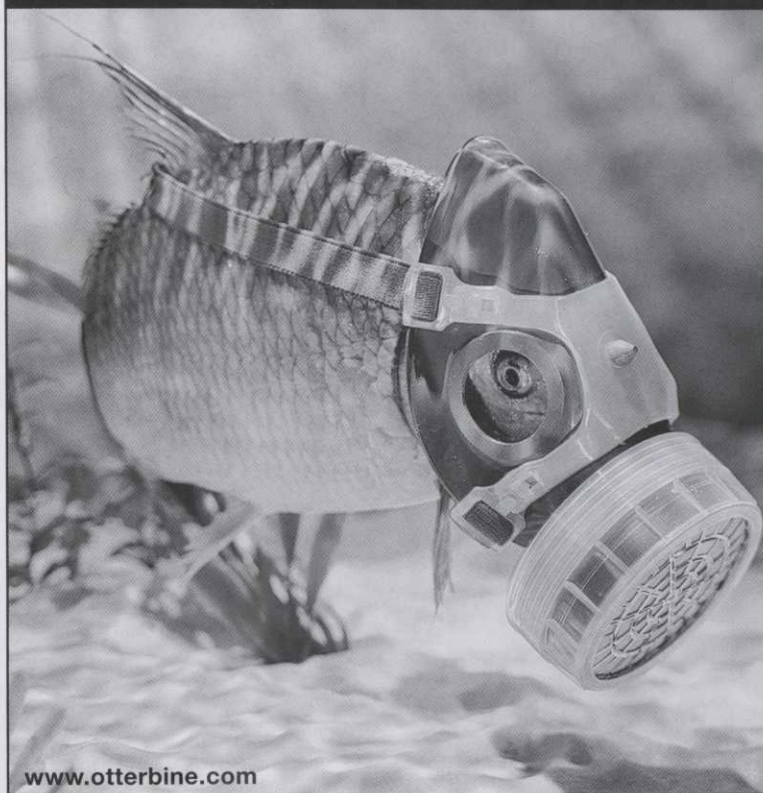
Players join a particular club or visit a course for a round of good golf, if they also enjoy the ambience then they are likely to visit more and tell their friends of the pleasant surroundings.

Golf comes under the heading of sporting entertainment, so it is important the venue plays well, looks good and the customer goes way happy and satisfied. Today, they have plenty of courses to choose from so make sure it is yours they want to come back to.

See page 48 for more companies who specialise in lakes.



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Seed or turf? If time allows, you'll reap what you sow

Ellie Tait looks at when seeding is the right option

With temperatures in parts of the UK reaching in excess of 16°C by late March, greenkeepers looking to renovate will be hoping it marks the start of a long, warm summer that's perfect for growing grass.

The commercial pressure on golf courses to open all year round means that there's often no option other than to turf tees, greens and bunkers to keep them in play, helping clubs to limit revenue loss and ensuring courses remain constantly pleasing to the eye.

Both turf and seed establishment techniques have their place in the turfgrass industry, offering the greenkeeper a choice of methods when establishing, renovating and developing a new grass sward.

If you choose to seed, the advances in seed development during the last decade have not only made the end result more predictable, but they've undoubtedly given greenkeepers the ability to create better playing surfaces.

SEED CHOICE

There's no doubt that the seed you choose is pivotal to the future establishment, stability and longevity of your playing surface.

The 'one size fits all' approach to selecting seed has long gone. In recent years we've seen notable advances in plant breeding, producing grass varieties that can perform and adapt under different conditions.

There are seed mixes to suit all greens maintenance regimes, and as cultivars have become more specialised, it's now possible to request a mix tailored to your courses requirements. By knowing the precise cultivars used, you can design a mixture that suits its individual climatic conditions and other variables that stress the plant including shade, drought, excessive moisture, combinations of soil types, different pH levels, poor soil fertility, windy and exposed sites, close mowing and heavy usage.

When selecting turf, you're restricted to the cultivars and species used by the grower. The grower should be happy to visit your course with samples of their turf or alternatively, visit their premises to discuss your requirements.

PURITY

Through careful preparation of the course prior to sowing and the intensive treatment and cleaning that seed is subjected to during the production process, weed and pest infestation are virtually eliminated. Seed houses have to follow stringent checks and processes governed by DEFRA, reducing the contamination of seed mixes with black grasses, Poa, and weed seeds. The cleaning process also tends to remove weaker seeds that are unlikely to germinate when sown, ensuring that you receive a pure mix of strong, healthy cultivars.

Many mixes are now coated with a preparation that helps prevent disease and stimulates germination and establishment.

As seed is sown directly into the existing rootzone, it develops stronger and quicker rooting than turf and has increased resilience to drought and wear. If you've chosen to turf but not specified the rootzone on which it's grown, there's a risk that what's imported might not be compatible with the existing soil, resulting in the roots staying in the surface area rather than penetrating deeply.



▲ Bent Grass called 'AberRoyal, *Agrostis Capillaris*, bred in the UK for UK golf Courses'

SUCCESSFUL ESTABLISHMENT

Time is probably the most important factor in deciding whether to turf or seed. Turf provides an instant playing surface, while typically, seed takes 12 months before it is established enough to be played on.

The window of opportunity to seed is now wider than ever before. Modern cultivars can germinate and continue to grow in lower temperatures, extending the growing season as late on as November in the southern counties.

The advent of dwarf perennial rye varieties used on tees and fairways means that surfaces can be established quickly, and they do perform on par with more traditional varieties.

Budget restraints may also influence the decision. Although seeding is a cheaper method of renovating than turfing, a 20-25kg bag of grass seed costs between £55 and £200 depending on the mixture, so it's vital that the optimum benefits are achieved.

Brian Robinson, Rigby Taylor's Director of Grass Seed Research, highlighted some common reasons for seed failing to flourish:

"It's absolutely vital that the top dressing touches the seedling so that it can absorb moisture. If it's not kept moist, it will wither after the initial



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germination. For brown top bent, 50% of the topdressing must be put down before sowing, and 50% afterwards, otherwise the seed will be left dry on top.

During renovation work, it's possible to over-sow seed into the existing sward without affecting its performance, but the thatch level must be reduced to a practical minimum to allow space for the roots to go down."

Weather in all its extremes will affect seed and turf establishment and different species require sowing at different times of the year. For example, for golf courses that require bent and fescue grasses, sowing in March and April would be unlikely to yield the best results as the soil temperatures are too low for germination. It's necessary to leave sowing of these varieties until later in the summer, when better weather and higher soil temperatures are guaranteed.

Establishment can be further enhanced by using fleece or germination sheets, which will raise ambient temperatures above the soil surface and provide additional protection to newly seeded areas.

An application of a specified pre-seed fertiliser containing Phosphorous and Potash will also enable the emerging plant to gain a good foothold quickly.



▲ British Seed Houses Grade 'A' Amenity seed mixtures contain the latest cultivars bred by the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER)

On tees and fairways and with reasonable soil and weather conditions from late spring onwards, it's reasonable to expect germination within 7-14 days, possibly quicker with the use of fleece/germination sheets.

The growth rate will differ between species with the more vigorous dominating the sward, sometimes resulting in the finer grasses being lost.

MAINTENANCE

To establish a mature sward from newly sown seed requires higher maintenance than for turf, where the initial establishment has already been achieved by the grower.

Once it has germinated it's important to allow the sward to grow to a predetermined height, dependant upon the grass varieties.

Light rolling two to three weeks in will encourage the plants to thicken and tiller from the base. The first cut should take place within another week or so. Just 'topping' the young seedlings will strengthen and thicken the sward.

From then on, optimal results will be achieved by;

- Maintaining a consistent height of cut
- Keeping the sward watered
- Maintaining soil nutrient status
- Keeping the soil aerated
- Removing any thatch and debris from the surface
- Keeping the sward weed free
- Using the appropriate mowing machines to obtain the desired finish

Within 12 months or so you can expect to have a surface that's fit for play. It's possible to shorten this time slightly if sowing takes place in the autumn and weather conditions remain favourable.

Photographs kindly supplied by British Seed Houses

The Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day

Monday 14th June 2004 at Aldwark Manor

The Annual BIGGA Golf Day has been dedicated to the memory of the late Neil Thomas, BIGGA's first Executive Director, who passed away in February of this year. The event will be held at Aldwark Manor Golf Club, York, on Monday 14 June and the Association welcomes the entry of teams of four, with all profits from the day being donated to St Michael's Hospice, Harrogate, who cared superbly for Neil during his final weeks.



The programme for the day is as follows:

- Bacon sandwich, tea or coffee on arrival
- Tee times from 10.00 am to 1.30 pm
- Teams of 4 entered in competition over 18 holes, under Texas Scramble rules
- Ploughman's lunch available throughout the day
- Halfway House refreshments
- Team prizes plus Longest Drive, Nearest The Pin & Putting Competition individual prizes
- B-B-Q meal in the evening



The entry fee per team is £200 + VAT, with the offer being made on a first come first served basis

If you would like to enter a team in this golf day in memory of Neil, please contact Sarah Norris at BIGGA HOUSE on 01347 833800 or e-mail Sarah@bigga.co.uk

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Your Letters...

Bunker Follow-Up

Will Bowden's tips on perimeter bunker drains in the March edition of *Greenkeeper International* are an intriguing answer to the perennial greenkeeping headache of sand wash-out.

As a greenkeeper, I find it impossible to envy the poor souls whose job it is to return the sand from whence it came. As a golfer, I find it tricky to predict the reaction of a ball played from wet/compacted/contaminated/inconsistent sand. The article could have gone further to suggest that bunker design is the sole cause of sand wash-out.

One of the most important considerations in building a bunker, or indeed any feature on the golf course, is water movement and there are two aspects of water movement that must always be catered for within the design.

Firstly, surface run-off should never be directed into bunkers and secondly, bunker faces should have a gradient that is neither so steep nor so long that it is predisposed to repeated sand wash-out.

It is especially disappointing to see modern courses where the architect has had no thought for the effects of wash-out: I have seen one recently opened course where a green is contoured to direct water into a greenside bunker.

Some might argue that an establishment with large labour resources can afford the luxury of sand wash-out because they have the manpower to redistribute washed out sand after every heavy downpour.

However, the quality of the sand is of prime importance to the golfer and sand that is washed out frequently becomes contaminated with soil particles and hence acquires unsavoury properties. It becomes compacted and thus difficult to "fluff up" for the golfer; and the contaminants will impede and eventually totally inhibit drainage.

How many greenkeepers have heard the golfer's cry: "Why is the sand in this bunker different to everywhere else?" And how many greenkeepers can genuinely convince the golfer that the sand in this bunker is exactly the same, but for the contamination caused by water?

Those who design bunkers that are susceptible to frequent sand wash-out are not only placing an extra, unwanted burden on greenkeepers, but they are failing the golfers whom they are paid to serve.

Richard Andrews, Highgate Golf Club

Call for Ladies' Forum

Calling all lady greenkeepers - I am hoping to arrange a 'lady greenkeepers' forum' at BTME Harrogate next year. The forum would discuss various issues directly affecting women in the golf course industry and ways of improving the accessibility and development opportunities for us, as well as looking towards raising the profile of lady greenkeepers to encourage more people to enter the profession.

I was recently asked why so many women start in greenkeeping only to leave after a few years? Although there are many different factors, I feel it can be a very lonely and intimidating career always feeling you have to go a little bit further to be able to get ahead, this in turn got me thinking, the GCSAA have a forum for women at their annual conference and show.

It is a great opportunity to meet other lady greenkeepers and discuss the future as it directly relates to us. It is very important that I get as much support and generate as much interest as possible, so please contact me with your thoughts and ideas: e-mail to: wendypob@hotmail.com

Golf Course Dept, De Vere Carden Park, Chester, Cheshire. CH3 9DQ
Wendy O'Brien, De Vere Carden Park, Chester

Letters continued
on page 38...

YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

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

NEW PRODUCTS

NEW E-BOOK FROM PHILIP

Philip Sharples, the Senior Lecturer in Sports Turf at Reaseheath College has published a new lawn/turf care book, 'The Lawn e-Book'. Presented on CD-ROM. This is the first book (known as an 'e-Book') of its kind in the country and allows the reader a flexible approach to reading and absorbing the information contained within. The e-Book can be browsed easily on a computer, printed as individual pages and even printed as a complete hard copy.

The Lawn e-Book offers valuable advice and guidance for lawn and turf care, covering all technical aspects of the subject area. The Author has provided an in depth knowledge of procedures, materials, machinery, maintenance and after care management for turf and lawns. There are many high quality photographs and tables included within the text.

The e-Book can be purchased from www.pitchcare.com (click on shop, then books) or alternatively call 07887 853129

He is currently seeking help and/or sponsorship to allow the book to be produced purely in hardback form. Any interested parties should contact him on 07887 853129 or email phils@reaseheath.ac.uk

NEED A BUGGY?

People looking to buy or sell a golf buggy need look no further with the launch of www.buggymart.com, the worlds first online buggy auction.

Buggymart.com operates on a true auction basis – where interested buyers bid against each other for the winning price.

The site is 100% secure and matches potential buyers with sellers. The auction mechanic ensures that both the seller and the buyer get the best price for both parties on the marketplace.

There are buggies online to match all tastes, from a basic second hand model to a more 'souped' up version. Due to the global capacity of the site, the range of buggies will constantly be changing to ensure that there is something to suit all price ranges.

Buggymart.com aims to sell over 10,000 buggies within the first year of trading.

Buggies currently online start at auction from £295. In addition to buggies, technical parts will also be sold on the site.

NO MORE CRICKED NECKS

McConnel has launched a new Power Arm for Hedge and Verge maintenance which eliminates the need for the operator to look over his or her shoulder to view the cutting head at work.

The New Power Arm 55 is fitted with an additional 1.5m forward extension arm known as a Midcut Pack that is positioned between the reach arm and the dipper arm of the hedge and verge mower. This in turn moves the flailhead visibility from the tractor's seat eliminating previous neck cranking.

From the tractor's seat the operator will now be looking forward through his door of the tractor cab to contro land oversee the cutting rather than over his shoulder.

The Midcut Pack is also protected with its own breakaway ram that will break back under pressure to prevent any damage to the flailhead if any obstruction is encountered. The breakaway ram will then automatically return back into the work position once the obstruction has been passed. The breakaway ram can also be powered in, to position the flailhead behind the tractor for a compact transport position.

The PA55 Midcut base model is available with either a Semi Independent Hydraulic system (Single Pump) or a Totally Independent Hydraulic system (Twin Pumps) complete with a rotor rotation control



from the tractor cab. This machine is fitted with 65HP Cast Iron High Power pumps and motors for improved efficiency and greater power for working in the toughest of conditions, especially grass mowing.

For further information Tel: 01584 873131.

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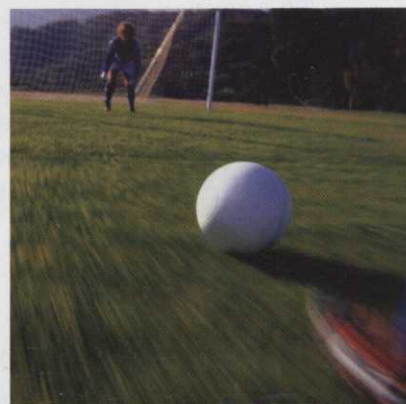
When mixed with seed, fertiliser, water and optional tackifier, Phytofibre forms a homogenous slurry that is easily

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Manufactured from 100% recycled newspaper, Phytofibre is non-toxic and non-irritant and is completely safe to handle without special protective clothing. Phytofibre biodegrades naturally, without the need for catalytic

additives and, as it decomposes, returns precious nutrients to the soil.

For further information Tel: 0161 877 5579.



KAWASAKI MULE GOES UNDERCOVER

Kawasaki's Mule utility vehicle range is widening its appeal yet again with the announcement of the availability of a cab option. Top quality, German made, Mauser cabs are now available and are being supplied ex-stock from

Kawasaki Motors' European distribution centre in Holland. Two versions, a fully enclosed glazed cab and a standard cab, will be offered as part of a major drive to extend the accessories available to the leading utility vehicle range in the UK market.

"There is a strong demand for cabs and accessories for the Mule and we are pleased to be able to supply our franchised dealers direct. As applications for the Mule utility vehicle increase so to do the enquiries for both full and partial protection cabs," explained Kawasaki District Manager Richard Harris.

"Our ability to supply direct from the spares warehouse means a better service for our customers and it increases dealers competitiveness, so everybody should benefit," he added.



"Mauser cabs will be offered as a genuine accessory option and the dealer will be able to assemble and fit the unit prior to delivery of the chosen vehicle should the customer wish."

Along with cabs, the Japanese manufacturer is increasing the versatility of its Mule accessory range with the introduction of winches, bed lift kits, durable bed-liners and mesh sides in the coming months.

Kawasaki has also introduced two new hedgetrimmers for the UK market.

According to the Japanese manufacturer, they're on to a winner with the upgraded models within their power products range for the professional groundscape and landscape market and serious domestic users.

The new models, the KHD600-B double-sided and KHS750-B single-sided trimmer, replace the existing tools in the manufacturer's range and offer users reduced noise and vibration along with improved durability.

Among the new developments is a CDI magneto system with engine RPM limiter which controls the high idle at 10,000 rpm reducing noise and vibration.

A high efficiency felt element has also been introduced to the air filter in another new development to prevent dust ingress to the carburettor to improve efficiency. The starting mechanism has also been improved with Kawasaki's own advanced recoil system.

For further information Visit www.kawasaki.co.uk



NEW BRUSHLESS SYSTEM

Briggs & Stratton Commercial Power has announced the launch of its Etek Brushless Motor System. These fully integrated electric motor systems feature the industry's first pancake-style axial gap design with a programmable electronic motor system. This offers increased flexibility for a broad range of application requirements, and is capable of producing an output of up to 20 HP (8 HP continuous).

The brushless system minimises maintenance and increases overall reliability and productivity, greatly reducing operating costs. It is available in eight inch and 10 inch versions.

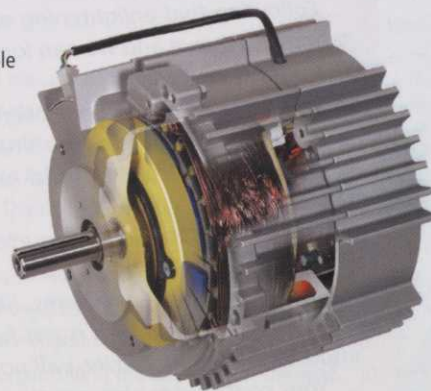
The motor utilises high-strength Neodymium Iron Boron magnets in a disc rotor arrangement to give higher torque at lower speeds in one, smaller and compact package. The programmable electronic motor controller performs the function of brushes in traditional brush motors for high performance and maximum productivity.

To accommodate differing application requirements, the Etek Brushless is also available without the programmable electronic controller, which reinforces the versatility of the motor.

Briggs & Stratton Commercial Power is a leading provider of commercial power solutions.

All Briggs & Stratton Commercial Power engines are backed by the industry's largest dealer support network, with appointed distributors in all key European territories.

For further information Tel: 00 41 26 460 79 32 or visit the website on www.commercialpower.com



NEW CONTACTOR FRONT & REAR MOUNTING

Ryetec has introduced an extension to the Contractor 'S' model heavy duty rear mounted flail mower which is the 'SR' or 'Reversible'.

This machine features the same double skin construction and 200mm (8") diameter rotor in common with the rest of the Contactor 'S' range but is fitted with a double linkage and Gearbox with PTO shafts both front and rear. This allows the machine to be used front mounted for ease of use and lack of wheelings on cut ground, but also allows the machine to be used conventionally as a rear mounted machine if a tractor with front linkage and PTO is not available. This allows for maximum flexibility, and to add to the SR's flexibility it can be matched to front PTO's with either clockwise or anticlockwise rotation and still operate with a conventional rear PTO rotation thanks to a gearbox option which allows for opposite input directions from the front and rear shafts but the same flail direction.

For more information Tel: 01944 768232.



Your Letters...continued

"It is no-one's fault but ours"

I am compelled to reply to your contributor's letter entitled "It's not only the weather we greenkeepers are up against" published in the April edition.

This was an excellent letter and brings up the very real problems associated with the job we are trying to do.

Every Course Manager can relate to many of the points raised and I would like to offer some of my experiences which may help everyone when they find perceived insurmountable problems of this nature.

Unfortunately the problems we have are very much of our own making (conscious or otherwise) and I believe if we do not accept that, we might as well give up now!

Training is the answer (which is easily accessed through BIGGA and the GTC) - it furnishes us with the necessary skills so we may portray ourselves as professional, well organised, competent individuals where officials within golf clubs, whether proprietary or private members, will accept what we tell them.

I take this opportunity to relay a recent personal professional problem to illustrate the point.....

We have just started an unsuitable tree/scrub removal and restocking programme as part of our recently completed tree/ecology policy, in line with our overall golf course policy.

We had been some two to three years in the planning stages and those who know me know that I leave no stone unturned in the quest to inform everyone about what is going on and what is planned for the future - but I did not do it well enough.

The work (planned 1st phase of three) which commenced during March 2004 caused quite "a stir" (that is an understatement - to some tune!!) as it can appear to be devastating - the average person's perception on trees is that all trees, of whatever species, are good for nature - which we know to be far from the truth.

My immediate reaction was to hide until the heat died down or shrink behind officialdom - but through experience I know that this only delays the inevitable.

My response was therefore to make myself available in the clubhouse during Saturday and Sunday, when members come off the course, to answer any questions and concerns.

To help I surrounded myself with information from experts in the areas concerned and tried to placate the vociferous and simply get the message across - I cannot say it was easy but the response from the vast majority of the membership, and particularly the support I received from the Board of Directors, was exceptional.

Following that enlightening experience, though difficult, was that all the club are fully supportive of what we are trying to achieve and we can look forward to phases two and three of the programme in 2004/5 and 2005/6, resources permitting.

None of this would have been achieved if I did not...

- Take responsibility for the situation - training gave me the confidence.
- Possess the necessary skills, received from training, to handle the situation and use it to gain respect and professional kudos.

The benefits to the golf course and the surrounding area in ecology, landscape, and arboriculture in future will be immense.

So if you do have problems, like those mentioned in the letter, seek out the training required (specifically personal presentation training - it is not for public speaking - just necessary for us to do our job properly) and we, but more importantly our employer, will not regret it.

Your contributor also mentioned continuity within the committee structure - this type of structure is not going to go away, so we have to learn to live and work with it, and training gives us the skills.

The solution to continuity, or lack of it, is policy - policy ensures continuity of management, no matter who the personnel/officialdom is, and it is the course manager who must instigate policy for the benefit of the golf course in the long term.

The Course Manager must also demonstrate professionalism through attitude, commitment and enthusiasm/disposition - no-one, not even the Royal & Ancient, national golf unions etc. can do that for us.

And just to add another positive note - at no time in the past has the communication between the various golfing bodies been greater, and BIGGA can be proud of their increasing importance in the discussions taking place at this time - my thoughts for the future are therefore very exciting and positive.

We have an opportunity to go from strength to strength in the jobs we do, but only through taking responsibility for ourselves and our profession and not blaming everything and/or everyone else for the slightest problem which comes along.

Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager, Potters Bar Golf Club

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

SCOTTISH REGION

The Scottish National Tournament will be held at Kilmacolm Golf Club on Tuesday 15 June, 2004 by kind permission of the Captain and committee. The cost of the event will be £20 which includes coffee/tea, filled roll and evening meal.

Entry forms will be available at all Section Spring Outings and from the Regional Administrator.

All entries with remittance must be sent to the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA by Sunday 6 June, 2004. Cheques made payable to BIGGA Scottish Region.

Peter Boyd

Central



This month we extend a warm welcome to Craig Reynolds, from Glenbervie Golf Club, and Ian McIntyre, from Montrose Links, from everyone in the Section, with the hope that we will have an opportunity to meet them at some of our future events.

The date for the Autumn Tournament at Downfield Golf Club has been confirmed for the Wednesday, September 29, so please put this date in your diary. All being well and if things go according to plan the golf tournaments in 2005 will be at Elie in the Spring and Kinross in the Autumn.

Sincere thanks from everyone in the Section go to the directors and staff of the following companies:- Greentech Limited, Henderson Grass Machinery, Scottish Grass Machinery and Rigby Taylor for the superb trophies which they have presented to us and will be competed for at future golf tournaments.

Winners in this year's Club 2000 draw so far are as follows; No. 709 J. Crawford, No. 147 K. Duncan, No. 120 E. Small and No. 200 A. Philip who all win £30 each, and the winners of £20 each are No. 64 D. Scott, No. 137 R. Breingan, No. 307 T. Comerford and No. 197 J. Oliver.

As this is the final year of Club 2000, the Section's only fund-raising event, your committee are in the process of finding other ways of raising funds which are used to the benefit of every member and hopefully every member of the Section will support!

Those of you who read the Section news regularly will probably be saying that the committee always seem to be 'in the process' of doing something every month as this phrase is appearing in a number of reports, well believe it or not we do meet regularly and organise events/seminars/workshops etc on your behalf. As I keep saying, if there is a subject you wish included on our list of events, get in touch with any committee member. It's your Section!

Thanks to everyone who sent cards and good wishes to Ailsa during her recent stay in hospital, with a special thanks to Ian MacMillan and Bobby Fleming for their superb support during this trying time, Ailsa is making steady progress and hopefully it won't be too long before she makes a full recovery. Thanks again!

John Crawford

Ayrshire

Our football match against the West Section took place in Glasgow on Sunday, March 14. Two sides of nine took part in blustery conditions, as the upstart Ayrshire lads took a surprise 0-3 lead after 20 minutes. Sensing an upset the West began to play themselves back in to the match, controlling the last 15 minutes of the half. Ayrshire defended well however restricting the hosts to long range efforts. With the half nearly up the West struck with a crisp strike from the edge of the box, the half ending 1-3.

I won't go into match detail about the second half, as I'm still having recurring nightmares, except to say the West had shaken off any cobwebs, and were soon dominating play, going on to a comprehensive 7-3 victory despite valiant goaltending from Iain Barr. Anyway it was a good day and the match was played in great spirit. Man of the Match went to Barry McCullough (West goalie) for keeping the score down to 3 in the first half.

Now, I worked for two years with Barry and I can honestly say I didn't know he was capable of moving that fast. He was like a cat, okay a big cat but still he was great. Just joking Baz. Well done mate!

Ayrshire team: Iain Barr, Largs; John Mair, Bellshill; Willie McGonigle, Beith; John Russell, Beith; Marshall Sloss, Beith; Denis Tweddell, Turnberry; George Taggart, Ardeer; Stephen Higgins, Ardeer; A. Trialist.

Ayrshire goalscorers; A. Trialist 2, D. Tweddell.

Thanks to Gerry Bruen for arranging the match, to Marshall and Iain for organising and providing strips, and mainly those who turned out. We hope to secure a rematch on home soil later in the year.

Email me on denis.tweddell@virgin.net.

Denis Tweddell



West

The Section Football team was in action during March against the Ayrshire Section. After a bad start and 3 nil down at half time Brian Boland, team captain, made a few changes during the break and the west triumphed 8—3 (According to Ayrshire it was 7-3. Ed). Anybody wishing a challenge give me a phone. Thanks to Gerry Bruen for organising the game.

On March 17 WWB minerals held an open day at their Levenseat quarry. It was a very interesting and enjoyable day. Many thanks to Jim Smith for organising the trip and to Mike Higgins for his first class presentation hopefully more trips can be organised at the back end of the year.

The Association will be holding their regional training courses during Autumn '04 and Spring '05. Contact Gavin Jarvis for further information. These courses are subsidised so give them ago.

The Section's National Tournament will be held over Kilmacolm Golf Club on June 15. Application forms will be available at the spring outing. All the best Ronnie on your preparations.

David Reed, from Lenzie Golf Club, will be going to the gulf with the Territorial Army and I am sure we all wish him a safe trip. All the best, David from the Section. There are three new members this month. Andrew Ramsey, Bishopbriggs Golf Club; Kevin Maher and Mark Healy, from Helensburgh Golf Club. Welcome to the Section.

To get in touch try Mobile 07970-366-355 E Mail karen.ross@tesco.net Fraser Ross

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East

I open on a sad note with the news of the passing of Neil Thomas, our Executive Director. He died in February. I had the pleasure of meeting Neil on various occasions, including BTME. He will be a great loss to our Association. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family at this difficult time.



On a happier note Richard Mullen, a former Section member, and his wife, Claire, have an addition to their family, in the form of a baby girl - Erin Louisa - who arrived in January. Mum and baby are doing well and

Richard is adjusting to the lack of sleep! All the best to you all from the Section.

At the end of March the Section organised daily maintenance courses at local dealers - SGM, Thomas Sheriffs and Henderson's Grass Machinery. This was to give users a one day course in which they could update themselves in daily maintenance and the setting up of units for a days work. The SGM day was

cancelled due to the lack of numbers, as was the day at Thomas Sheriffs. Henderson's day was held, although fewer than 20 people were present.

As our section has 200 plus members this was a disappointing show!

The events organised were what you asked for so why are they not supported? What do our members want from their Section? How can we encourage you to support your Section? The Section is here to encourage education as well as social events. Ideas welcome! Contact me on the usual numbers, I'm waiting to hear from you.

By the time you read this, the Spring Tournament on April 13 at Craigielaw Golf Club will have passed. Details next month.

The Willie Woods Invitational is being held at the Glen Golf Club, North Berwick on August 24 and the Autumn Tournament is at Broomieknowe Golf Club on September 28.

The Annual Dinner Dance will once again be held in Aberlady on Saturday, December 4. We are hoping for your support in these events. Contact us in the usual ways.

All members should shortly be receiving or have received a newsletter with all events, dates and other Section news - watch the post for yours. If yours does not arrive contact me.

Some of you may have noticed that John Geddes, of Stewart's Turf, has been absent for some time. This has been due to ill health which has now meant that he has had to leave his position. We all wish you well and hope you have a speedy recovery. Your monthly visits to my shed will be sadly missed.

Stewart's have appointed Blair Young as the new representative and he will be calling on you all soon. If you need to contact him he is using John's old number 07836 249974. Good luck, Blair, in your new position.

People on the move over the last few months are Andy Forrest from Stewart's/ Tynecastle. He has returned home to Swanston Golf Club where he spent just over 10 years when I was Course Manager. Alan Campbell, formerly at Eyemouth Golf Club, who moved south last October, has returned north as a Sales Representative for Thomas Sheriffs. Good Luck to you both.

Well that's it for this month, please contact me if you have any suggestions for our Section on any of the following numbers - 01968 661313 (home)/01968 661721 (work) /07719 580449 (mobile), e-mail to christopher.yeaman@ntlworld.com. or by post Westwyn, West Linton Golf Club, West Linton, Peeblesshire, EH46 7HN.

Speak to you all soon. Chris Yeaman

NORTHERN REGION

Sheffield

By the time this newsletter reaches you, we will have had our Spring Tournament held at Retford GC. A report of the day's events will appear in next month's magazine. This match was kindly sponsored by TT Pro Turf.



The Summer and Autumn competitions have now been confirmed. The Summer competition is to be held at Sickleholme GC, tee off at 1.30 pm. Sponsors for the day are Mansfield Sand.

The Autumn competition is to be held at Gainsborough GC on their Karsten Lakes course. The Sponsors will be Palmer Groundcare. This match will tee off at 12 noon and there will also be a putting competition. Players will be able to eat as they come off the course so as to eliminate a late finish, thus benefiting people with a longer journey home.

We would like to encourage all Course Managers to attend the golf days and bring along all of their staff. Each member needs to know that they can contribute to the success of the Section and that their voice will be heard.

You do not have to have attended any of the lectures to play on the golf days as we feel as members of the Section this alone entitles you to play. But we would hope you can come to as many lectures as you can next winter.

We were hoping to include another golf day to the calendar in the shape of a President's Day. Hopefully this would be held at a well-known course out of our area but within a one hour coach journey. We would also like to use this event to raise money for a local charity. As with any new venture we need to know what level of interest there is before we can pursue with it and to see if there is anybody willing to sponsor us. This is something we have very much in mind for 2005 and need your support.

Congratulations go to our Section President, Neil Maltby, and his wife, Marion, who recently celebrated their Ruby wedding.

And finally this month all Section members would once again like to thank Rotherham GC for their continued support in allowing us the use of their clubhouse for winter lectures and their course for the Christmas competition. This year's Christmas competition will be played on Monday 24 November.

Any news or comments please call on 01427 614175 or 07904 121690 or you can e-mail me at geoff@wellsy1.freeserve.co.uk.

Geoff Wells

Northern



I've not much to tell you all this month, I'm afraid.

On March 6 the Annual Dinner Dance was held at Riddlesden Golf Club, and yet again it was a huge disappointment to see such low numbers at what turned out to be a fantastic night. A massive thanks must go to all the staff at Riddlesden for a fabulous meal and great entertainment.

Next month's column will show the results for the Spring Tournament which was held at Garforth Golf Club on April 27.



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

If you have any news regarding Northern Section my contact details are Adam Speight, 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford BD2 4EB.

Telephone 01274 638366; mobile 07739 319060; e-mail adam@speight1156.fslife.co.uk\par
Adam Speight

North Wales



As we drift into May, the last month of spring, we look forward to longer days with more sunshine and put behind us all that rain, wind and hailstones, and, of course, look forward to more golf.

You should by now have had your entries for our spring tournament at Porthmadog GC, on May 20. It has been a few years since the Section has played the course and we look forward to see the new

construction of the 3rd and 7th holes which should just be open by the third week of May.

Bronco and the team have worked hard over the past 12 months to re-shape these holes and make them just that little tougher, more undulating and sexier than before. Danny Tomkins, of Amenity Technology, spent a day there in early March overseeding the new bunker banks with the Hydro Mulch machine and help was given by myself. A very strenuous job I had driving the 4 x 4 truck from the water tap along the fairways - it was made that much better once we had finished by a hearty Welsh 'All Day Breakfast' in the clubhouse along with a pint of sheep's water (not from the bar I hasten to add. The prank that Danny played, soaking me in water from the hydrant, gave everyone a laugh... everyone but me that was.

Moving along the coast a few miles to Harlech, I had an e-mail from Emyr Price's wife, Julie she tells me that Emyr has just notched up over 30 years service at Royal St David's and he loves the job just as much now, as he did when he first started, Well done Emyr. I am sure Roger and John will keep you going for the next 30 years.

Back across to Chester and Len Sproston, formerly of Eaton GC, has just undergone a hip replacement. His son, Peter, says he got fed up with spraying WD 40 on it and decided to have the job done properly. We all wish Len a speedy recovery.

Jez Hughes has been accepted for the 'Support Team' for the 2004 Open at Royal Troon. I was hoping with his playing ability he could get down to scratch as I am looking for another bag job this year!

Moving further East, the job at Sandiway GC has gone to Brian Taylor. Formerly a local lad, he has moved across from his last position at Peterborough Milton GC and we wish him good luck in his new role. This now means there will be no musical chairs around the region, unless anyone is interested in Peterborough that is.

Dave Austin has now joined Rigby Taylor and is trying his hand at 'reping'. I have given him a map - it shows where all the Little Chefs are located. Best of luck, Dave.

Justin Chung, from Upton-By-Chester GC, has re-constructed 11 greens that are due to commence play any time now. Just having a quick guided tour they do look 'mighty fine' and when he does the other seven this back end. I am sure the Section will put in a request for a golf day pretty soon.

Finally, congratulations to Wendy O'Brien, who has been made up to Deputy Head on Carden Park's Nicklaus course. Andy Campbell is hot on



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
Tel: 01476 550115

the footsteps of Phillious Fogg, as he has arrived back in the country for eight days, only another 72 to go as he boards his next plane.

Any news, views or comments give us a call at home on 01925 263394 or e-mail acorn@supanet.com

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn

North West

For those who do not already know the Board of Management at their last meeting appointed John Pemberton as the Executive Director for BIGGA. Since the sad loss of Neil Thomas John as carried out the duties of the Executive Director and I'm sure you will all agree he has done an excellent job.

Those of you who know John, and there are many of you, especially those who have been on the "Open" support team over the years, will know he is very approachable, and always ready to listen, and help.

The Association has become one of the most highly recognised bodies in turf culture world, thanks to Neil Thomas, and the various Board of Management teams, and I know John is the man to carry us forward in the years to come.

By now you should have all received your fixture lists for the year's events. If you have not received one please contact me and I will send you one.

There is one alteration to be made in the fixture list. After about 25 years of playing the "Roses" match (N/W vs. Northern) sections the Northern section have decided not to continue playing this match.

It is sad that such a decision has been made by the Northern section committee, after all I think this match has been played longer than most of the decision makers have been in greenkeeping, but so be it, the end of an era.

An added competition this year is the Golf Management Trophy to be played at the De Vere Carden Park Golf Club on Monday 23rd August. This is a team tournament which includes the Course Manager, Club Secretary, Club Captain and Chairman of Green. Entry fee is £100 per team which includes, coffee on arrival, 18 holes of golf and dinner. Anyone interested contact me for an application form asap.

EDUCATION: There are many courses available for the Autumn of 2004 and Spring of 2005. These courses are available to regions and sections and you have the opportunity to choose the training you require.

The courses are for one and two days and cost £57-58 for one day, and £116-133 for two days.

These courses are subsidised by more than £50 per person from the BIGGA Education fund so they are very reasonably priced, and have excellent speakers. If you have any ideas on training contact me and I will forward this to HQ.

The N/W have a match against N/Wales at Vale Royal Abbey on Wednesday 9th June and I require a team of 12. If you are available let me know. I am sure you will enjoy the day which is sponsored by G.E.M. Professional.

That's it for now and I can be contacted on 01517 245412 or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross





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

Cleveland

As Victor Meldrew always says 'I don't believe it!' The Wearside quiz team beat the El Prez team on the tie breaker at 'Baz and Allie's Quiz Night' at Darlo Golf Club. I THOUGHT WE HAD YOU, LADS!

I suppose I should congratulate the victors but I am trembling with rage as I type in the following names:- Martin Woody, Fil Hargreaves, Tony Cheeseburger, Ian Hollowtine, Ian Pembroke and finally Tiny Smythe. I have already started my search for brain boxes to whip your butts next year!

Seriously, a massive thank you to B and A for the hard work they both put in to make the night such a success. It was just a pity that so few members made it.

Still, we had a great night and the Darlo Golf Club's Pie and Chips were marvellous yet again. We even had some left to stuff into Pembo's massive bait box for the next day. Thanks to the catering staff and also the club for their hospitality.

I have been asked to throw out a challenge from 'The Fossils'. Tony Smith and Ian Holoran will take on any pair, on any course, for any amount of money. Come on lads – take some money off the cocky, tight Yorkshire devils.

Congratulations are also due to the 'Smoggies' among you. It is really fantastic that a North East team has, at last, won a major trophy.

I believe that the interest in playing for the Section's football teams in the Rigby Taylor challenge is poor. Please contact Ian Pemberton if you are prepared to play.

I have heard that George Malcolm of Middlesbrough Golf Club will retire in February 2005. By then, George will have given the club superb service for 41 years. He was one of the frontrunners in forming a unified, quality association for Golf Greenkeepers. However, knowing George, I'm sure he will still be active in turf management of some description. It would be a waste of all that knowledge if he isn't!

Although I couldn't make it myself, the night out 'at the dogs' was a great success. Seventeen members travelled up to Sunderland from the Middlesbrough and Darlington areas in a minibus and the local lads met them at the track. I have heard that some BIGGA punters won over £40! Lucky beggars.

Barry Walker would like any suggestions of similar nights out. He will be only too pleased to organise them if they are going to be well supported.

The Spring Tournament at Castle Eden will have taken place by now. I hope the weather was kind and Graham Border and his team will have produced a top quality course for us – results next month.

On the subject of weather, I see the long term forecast is for a wet Spring and early Summer. I bet they are right too! As a veteran cricketer I should know by now that the first few weeks of a new season are always cold and wet. Richmond 'Titch' and I will have to hunt out the three long sleeved jumpers and the thermals!

Hoping for good grass growing, any news to T.C. on 07831 214879 please.

Cheers. Terry 'El Prez' Charlton

MIDLAND REGION

BB&O

"April showers bring May flowers". I hope you have all had a good Easter weekend without breaking any record temperatures and not forgetting the odd chocolate egg that melted in your pocket on the way to work.

The Annual Rigby Taylor Match play knockout will now be underway and results of the first round will be in next month's report. Section news has slowly been dribbling in from far and wide over the three counties and if any member has any news they would like to share, you only have to call.

The Section welcomes Calum Taylor, formally of Powfoot GC in Dumfriesshire, (sounds like he plays the bagpipes). Calum moved to The Hertfordshire GC as an assistant, and now finds himself another rung up the ladder and looking forward to his new position as Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Hazelmere GC.

It is a very small world as the BBO's very own Lyndsay Anderson started and finished his apprenticeship in Greenkeeping at Powfoot GC under Calum's father. I am sure there will be a lot of catching up between the pair of them at our Section events.

Wycombe Heights GC has appointed Robert Surgey as Course Manager. He was formally the Deputy and has taken charge. Robert promises faithfully to look after Bravedarts dartboard.

Gary Sowden, from Woburn GC, joins the team of Chiltern Forrest GC and will take charge as Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

There is yet another promotion to report. Kevin O Connor, from Sonning GC, moves up the ladder as Deputy Course Manager to assist Greg Wheadon at Aspect Park GC.

Mark Chesman is leaving the BBO Section after a very successful 16 years at Sonning GC as Course Manager. Mark will be returning to his old stomping ground in middle England where old friends and family await him. He will be taking charge of a 27 hole Golfing Complex with Tennis Courts and Driving Range in a beautiful setting in North Lincolnshire and is just the sort of challenge that Mark has been waiting for. We all wish him and his family the very best and good luck for the future.

mark@tacitgolf.com

Mark Day

Midland



I'm sure we have all at some point been subjected to the somewhat derogatory statement of "they only cut grass"! I shall now cite two recent instances for your amusement of "they only cut grass". The first being by Jim, Matt, Tim, Dave and Tom of the greenkeeping team at Druids Heath Golf Club.

They were invited by their club to put forward a team in the monthly Club Quiz Night containing some 20 teams. On three occasions they did so, but only came first, second and third! Well done gentlemen.

Secondly, Your's Truly was recently asked to mount the original Dutch Open Championship Trophy which is a 100 years old, of which was, on five occasions, won by our Chairman's Great Grandfather. I obviously did so

with great pride and very tentative hands. So yes, they only cut grass. I'd have it no other way, would you?

For some 40 years now, Mr Hill, of Stourbridge Golf Club, has been in service within our fine profession. He has during such time brought on many a fine greenkeeper. From all the chaps at Stourbridge and the Midland Section, congratulations and thanks.

Further more, Mr Wood, of Walsall Golf Club, has decided to leave the profession to pursue a career in Bulgaria. We shall all miss your character Steve, but all the best to you in your new venture.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome many new members to our fine Section this month. Such being A. Piziura, G. Dennett, R. Hindhaugh, C. Howes, P. Tildesley, R. Evison, C. Cotes, W. Lewis, P. Pleasance, K. Mackie, T. Harrison, and C. Evans. We all look forward to your involvement within the Section and to meeting you.

As you are all more than aware, during March we tried to hold an Effective Communications Course. Due to a lack of support the course was cancelled. To the two members who showed interest our apologies. These courses can only be run with your support, the next time anyone suggests the committee is not trying to run educational courses should expect a psychological bloody nose. Thank you to Andy Smith, Shirley Golf Club, and Sami at BIGGA HQ for their fine efforts in trying to hold such. Yours and my loss.

By now you should have received the players list for the Rigby Taylor Singles Match Play. Our thanks to T. Cheese for organising this event. Good luck to all, and by God, Mr Harris, you will need it, cows and everything.

Sean McDade

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

Devon & Cornwall



Our Spring meeting, sponsored by Supaturf and Bayer, was held at Teignmouth Golf Club on Thursday, March 25. A total of 45 members were playing for the Supaturf Trophy for Head Greenkeepers and the Bayer Trophy for Assistant Greenkeepers. John Palfrey and Dave McInnes did the starting on the first tee.

The remaining 24 members were escorted by Head Greenkeeper, Charlie Woolnough, on the course walk.

As the rain became heavier, Charlie continued to take us further and further out onto the course, much to the dismay of Ralph, who was dripping wet and complaining somebody had nicked his brolly. Even though we all had a thorough soaking, I haven't enjoyed a course walk as much for many years.

Charlie's enthusiasm for our profession and his dedication to his club, where he has worked for the past 23 years, shone through and Teignmouth Golf Club must be very proud of him.

After an excellent lunch we went on to the presentation for the day's golf competition. Supaturf Trophy for Head Greenkeepers. 1. "Jacko" James, Killiow, 45 pts; 2. Pete Standen, Sidmouth, 42 pts; 3. Justin Austin, Windwhistle, 32 pts. Bayer Trophy for Assistant Greenkeepers. 1. S. Coombes, Dainton, 44 pts; 2. L. Baddely, Crediton, 42 pts; 3. A. Bridgewater, Yelverton, 41 pts.

I would like to thank Paul Clifton, of Bayer Environmental Science, and

Dave McInnes, of Supaturf, for once again sponsoring our Section.

The course walk prize, Jim Arthur's book, Practical Greenkeeping, was won by Stephen Pearn, of Yelverton Golf Club.

Our educational talk was given by Lawrence Pithie, Director of Operations with American Golf UK. Lawrence gave an outstanding Powerpoint Presentation covering all aspects of winter maintenance. I would like to thank Lawrence for taking time out of his busy schedule and we look forward to seeing him later in the year.

I would also like to thank all the staff at Teignmouth Golf Club for their hospitality and a special mention to Charlie Woolnough and his team who had the course in excellent condition.

After the sad loss of our Executive Director, Neil Thomas, the Section organised a collection which raised £130 which will be forwarded to St Michael's Hospice. The day concluded with a raffle and a big thank you to all the trade who donated the prizes.

As many of you probably know, I will be standing down as Section Secretary this month for personal reasons. I would like to thank you all for your support over the past 18 months.

We have appointed Don Hunt, of Roffeys, to take over as Secretary. Don was one of the founder members of the Greenkeepers Association in Devon and Cornwall back in the '70s and having known him for many years, I know he will do an excellent job!

Steve Evans

South Coast

Many apologies for the lack of Section notes in last month's magazine - a technical hitch which has been rectified. Spring is definitely in the air now and we can look forward to the summer ahead.

This year's Section seminar 'raising the standard', held on February 26th at Canford Magna Golf Club, was an enormous success. This is not a coincidence, but the result of hard work from your committee in organising the day. We had 98 delegates an increase of over 20 from last year, a great turnout! One of our speakers Stuart Ashworth had to drop out at the last minute for health reasons and we wish Stuart well.

The day was started with an excellent presentation from Tony Mears, Course Manager at Dinsdale Spa Golf Club, who gave us his thoughts on settings standards both on and off the golf course.

This was followed by Duncan McGilvray, Course Manager at Potters Bar Golf Club, whose presentation covered our image in the past and present and how we can change things in the future. Duncan also gave us a brief insight into the work of the BIGGA 'Futures' Committee.

Next up was Ian McMillan, who at the time was Course Manager at Queenwood Golf Club. His presentation showed the enormous efforts and resources that were required to build Queenwood as well as showing some of the obstacles that were overcome. An excellent presentation that was very well received.

This was followed by Alex McCombie who gave a presentation on the corrective programme and heathland restoration work that has been carried out at Parkstone Golf Club.

After an superb lunch Wendy O'Brien, Senior Assistant from De Vere Carden Park gave us an excellent insight into her American internship and experiences in working at Augusta.

The day was rounded off by a brief presentation about the Bernhard Delegation which sponsors 10 BIGGA members to visit the GCSAA show



and conference every year.

All in all an excellent day and many thanks to both Banks Amenities products and BIGGA for their sponsorship. Unfortunately Simon Banks was unable to join us for the day, but many thanks Simon for your help.

We were fortunate to have Sami Collins from HQ attend. Sami is the Education and Training Officer and gave a brief presentation on some of the schemes and educational events available. Thanks for your help and support Sami!

As I said the day was a great success and many thanks to Canford Magna Golf Club for their hospitality and particularly Alain and Jackie for their help. A huge vote of thanks to all the speakers. The success of the day was very much in your hands and you all came up trumps! Also many thanks for all those who attended, if you didn't make it, you missed a great day! I'm already organising next year's event and if anybody has a particular speaker they wish to hear then please contact me.

One other small piece of news. I have been invited to sit on the Futures Committee and attended my first meeting in March. The Futures Committee was formed last year and is a development committee aimed at being very proactive about the Association. I am looking forward to playing a part in the future of our Association.

If you have any news you wish to include in the section notes then please contact me 01202 661106 Mobile 07966 386232

Email a.mccombie@ntlworld.com

Until next month, Alex McCombie

South West

At time of writing Spring seems to be playing ball, not too cold, not too dry, not too wet. There seems to be two schools of thought on the long range forecast at the moment, a predicted wet Summer and a predicted dry Summer. How much do these guys get paid?

Some information for future reference:- The Education Conference part of Harrogate is going back to its old format of a separate conference held over a weekend in March at a different location each year, the first one being 2005 at Coventry.

The Section would like to sponsor a member to go, travel and accommodation paid for. There will also be the same arrangement for BTME and there will no longer be a coach going up to Harrogate. There will still be a package of accommodation and seminars on offer but no travel. On the subject of travel, would anyone be interested in a subsidised mini-bus/coach to the Summer tournament at Lyme Regis.

The Cannington College Seminar on Wednesday November 17 will be on one day this year.

John Keenaghan has asked if anyone is interested in playing a match against the Secretaries or any other Section matches; please contact him on 01454 616837.

Patron Of The Month is Roger Davey, of Irritech. Our thanks to Roger for his boundless enthusiasm on all things H2O. It was always great speaking to Roger about your dilapidated system because he could always tell you a worse tale about some other unfortunate golf course, who for example was using a watering can for irrigation (I jest), somehow having a couple of faulty decoders didn't seem so much of a problem. Thanks for your continued support it is greatly appreciated.

Telephone me on 01225 333928 or 078123 80936.

Guy Woods



SOUTH EAST

Kent

Firstly, thank you to Duncan, Barry and the committee for keeping everything organised over the last few years. Due to increased pressure on his time, Duncan has decided to step down as Secretary. Barry feels that he is not in a position to continue as Chairman, with relocation to France imminent.

An EGM on March 10 to discuss the future of the Section yielded only eight greenkeeping members! It was duly decided to merge the Kent Section with other bordering Sections.

However on reflection, it seemed a pity for the Section to fold. In order to try and get things moving again I have arranged an 18 hole tournament, to be held at Hever Castle Golf Club on Thursday, June 10. All members will receive an entry form in due course.

It will be the first greenkeeper event that we have hosted at Hever, and we are looking forward to welcoming as many players as possible. Of course there is no reason why non-golfers should not attend the evening meal and have a chat with colleagues. Full details will accompany the entry form.

It is planned to hold a Summer/Autumn event in the east of the county and a Christmas event at a central location.

We are currently forming a new committee. Any interested persons may call me on 07970 789708 for more details.

David Wood



Surrey

I was very pleased to be invited to a Charity Day on Wednesday, March 17, at Hankley Common GC in aid of Help Autistic Children. Gareth Roberts, Course Manager at Hankley Common Golf Club was much involved with the organisation of the event and would like to thank all those who supported the day, including the sponsors, the prize givers and the playing teams for helping to raise in excess of £12,000.

The icing on the cake was that the team I was seconded into won first prize and I thank my fellow team members, Kevin Stillwell, Greg Richardson and Phil Rolands.

The first Surrey Section golf event took place on March 31 at Dukes Meadow on the first really warm and sunny day this Spring. We thank the owners of Dukes Meadow for courtesy of the course, the Head Greenkeeper, John Jennings and his team, for presenting this delightful nine hole, par three, course in such excellent condition and the caterers for the delicious food.

This surprisingly interesting course really was a tough golf test and the winning score of 34 points really reflects how difficult it was. The winner was Dave Langheim, Stuart Bedford was second with 32 points and Your's Truly came joint 3rd with Robert Summers on 31 points.

The sponsors for the day were Symbio and we thank them for the prizes which include nine bottles, for nearest the pin on each hole. Nearest the pin winners were:- Alec Bradshaw, Tony Bremner, Anthony Freeman, John Jennings, Dave Langheim, Brian Willmott, Stuart Bedford, Joacim Holgersoon and John Ross. Gary Miles surprised everyone with a progressive score of 14 points and was awarded the set of wooden spoons.

Cuddington Golf Club golf day report will appear in next month's edition.

Brian Willmott

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The solution to the April Turftime Teaser was 'European Golf Machinery'. The lucky winner of the Waterproof Socks & Gloves is Mr M Chapman from Durham City Golf Club - WELL DONE!

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TWO REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS REQUIRED BY BIGGA



Due to retirement the British and
International Golf Greenkeepers
Association is looking to recruit two
part-time Regional Administrators,
one for the South East Region and
one for the South West and South
Wales Region. The Regional
Administrator is a member of the
permanent staff and acts as the main

link between Headquarters and a region and it's respective
sections and members. Working from home you should
have an understanding of the game of golf, the workings
of golf clubs and the role of the greenkeeper. The position
requires attendance at quarterly regional board meetings
where you will be expected to take the minutes as well as

ensure that the meetings and affairs of the region and
sections are run in accordance with the Association's
constitution. You will liaise with Headquarters in developing
the membership base and will also be responsible for the
organisation of regional events and member support, this
involves frequent travel and an occasional night away from
home. It is envisaged that the job will take an average of
between 25 and 30 hours per week for which a
competitive salary will be paid together with the provision
of an Association car.

**For an informal discussion on either post please
contact John Pemberton (Chief Executive) on
01347 833800 and to whom written
applications, including C.V, should be made.**

British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF



SONNING GOLF CLUB

Sonning is a prestigious parkland course built in 1911, situated between Reading and Maidenhead. We are looking for an experienced Course Manager who can develop every aspect of the 6400 yard par 70 course. The successful candidate must be fully trained, have at least 10 years experience in Greenkeeping with the last 3 years in a management role. We also have a vacancy for a fully trained experienced Greenkeeper.

COURSE MANAGER

c. £28-£30,000

Key skills

- The ability to lead & manage a team of 6 staff
- HNC or NVQ3 with PA1, 2, 6 spraying certificate
- Management of Health & Safety policies
- Budgetary control
- Training of staff
- Knowledge of machinery & irrigation maintenance

Reporting to the Secretary/General Manager, we are looking for a candidate who is a 'team player' and who leads by example. The successful candidate must also have proven supervisory & training skills and be able to forge a successful working relationship with the Secretary/General Manager and the Directors. Preference will be given to an active keen golfer.

GREENKEEPER

(salary in accordance with GSC recommended rates)

Key skills

- HNC or NVQ2 preferably with spraying certificate
- Knowledge of all types of machinery operation

Reporting to the Course Manager, we are looking for a candidate who is hard working and a 'team player'. The successful candidate should ideally have several years experience as a greenkeeper. Preference will be given to an active golfer.

No accommodation is provided with either role, but assistance with relocation & temporary accommodation could be available.

Please send a letter of application marked Private & Confidential, with CV detailing your current salary to:

Andrew Tanner, Secretary/General Manager, Sonning Golf Club Ltd., Duffield Road, Sonning, Reading, Berks. RG4 6GJ or alternatively by Email.

Please indicate on the envelope either C/M or G/K.

Closing date for applications Friday 21st May 2004.

Tel: 0118-969-3332

Website: www.sonning-golf-club.co.uk

Email: secretary@sonning-golf-club.co.uk



BROKE HILL

BROKE HILL GOLF CLUB

Require a

COURSE MANAGER

Situated amongst Kents orchards, Broke Hill is a David Williams designed parkland course with a thriving membership, located 5 minutes from Junction 4 of the M25.

The successful applicant should be self motivated, hard working, innovative and have excellent management skills to lead an existing team of greenkeepers. Working in conjunction with the General Manager and a Group Greens Manager, you will be expected to deliver to high member expectations.

You should ideally possess:

1. Minimum of 10 years Greenkeeping experience
2. Experience in all aspects of Course Management
3. Manager or Deputy Course Manager level
4. Practical knowledge of the latest course equipment
5. Ability to prepare and work within an Annual Budget

Closing date for applications is the 28th May 2004.

A competitive salary along with benefits is offered subject to experience and qualifications. Please apply in writing with CV and salary expectations to:

Human Resources Dept, Crown Golf, Batchworth Park Golf Club, London Road, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 1JS



FORTROSE & ROSEMARKIE GOLF CLUB

Require a

COURSE MANAGER

Following our Course Manager, Stuart Hogg, progressing with his career, we require an experienced and qualified person to become the working Course Manager of this popular North of Scotland links course. It is a strong members club but also has big a tourist dimension.

The successful candidate should possess the following qualifications and attributes:

- 10 years experience
- SVQ Level 3 or equivalent
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- Up to date with current health and safety requirements
- Enthusiasm and strong organisational/supervisory/communication skills
- Budgetary control techniques
- Experience in grinding machines and pc irrigation system

Applicants are encouraged to view the course on www.fortrosegolfclub.co.uk

A competitive salary is offered subject to experience and qualifications. Applicants should apply in writing no later than 19th May 2004 including a full CV and stating present salary and salary expectations to:-

The Captain (Marked Private & Confidential), Fortrose & Rosemarkie Golf Club, Ness Road East, Fortrose IV10 8SE



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Closing date 28 May 2004

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Leann Carrick - Human Resources Officer
Myerscough College, Bilsborrow, Preston PR3 0RY



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Please apply in writing with CV to:

Phil King, Horton Park Golf & Country Club, Hook Road, Epsom, Surrey KT19 8QG
Tel: 020 8393 8400 Fax: 020 8394 1369 e-mail hortonparkgc@aol.com

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Requires a

GREENKEEPER

Established in 1894 Romford Golf Club is an evolved woodland course Designed by H.S. Colt and previous host course for The Open Regional Qualifiers.

Candidates should have the following qualifications and attributes:

- NVQ level 2 or other relevant horticultural qualifications.
- Good communication skills and ability to work as part of a team.
- Previous greenkeeping experience desirable but not essential as full training provided.
- The post would suit someone wishing to pursue a career in greenkeeping.
- Salary negotiable.

Please apply in writing with full CV including current salary to:

The Secretary, Romford Golf Club,
Heath Drive, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex RM2 5QB



Require an

QUALIFIED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

A vacancy has arisen for an enthusiastic, professional Greenkeeper to join our existing team on this Championship Links Course.

Please apply with C.V. to:

David Ward, Course Manager, Royal Porthcawl Golf Club,
Rest Bay, Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan CF36 3UW

Recruitment

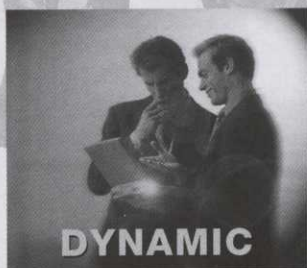


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JOHN DEERE



BALLOCHMYLE GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the post of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Ballochmyle is a busy parkland private members Golf Club situated 30 miles south west of Glasgow seeking to replace the existing Head Greenkeeper, who is retiring after 37 years service.

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

Salary will be negotiable and accommodation is available.

Closing date for applications is 31 May 2004.

Written application and full C.V. should be sent to the Club Captain, Ballochmyle Golf Club, Mauchline, Ayrshire KA5 6LE



STOCKPORT GOLF CLUB LTD

Invites applications for the position of:

COURSE MANAGER

Established in 1906, Stockport Golf Club is a parkland Course which has hosted several Cheshire County events and Championships. Latterly, it has been used as one of the qualifying Courses for the Open Championships.

The successful applicant will be required to lead a team dedicated to the maintenance and development of this fine Course.

In addition, the individual should possess:

- Experience at Manager or Deputy Manager level with at least 2 years in this position.
- Man management skills.
- A proven ability to prepare and work within approved annual budgets.
- A knowledge of Course machinery and irrigation equipment.

No accommodation is available but relocation assistance may be given as part of contractual negotiations.

Please apply in writing with curriculum vitae to:

The Hon Secretary, Stockport Golf Club Ltd,
Offerton Road, Offerton, Stockport SK2 5HL

Feature listing from May 2002

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

June 2002; Finding Fungi; Greatham Valley GC profile; Tyres; Calabria GC profile; Lakes and Ponds; Poa Annuia - Jim Arthur

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

August 2002; BIGGA Golf Day; Open review; Talking Heads - Education & training; Trees; Dr Kate Entwistle; 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 Annuia; 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

Chairman's Column



An Open Mind and Honourable Intentions

One thing that can't be said of the BIGGA Chairman's duties are that they are boring! Life certainly is hectic, and true to the saying that the more you put in, the more you get out.



The now traditional visit to Canada for the Canadian Golf Superintendents' Conference and Show back in March brought more opportunities for John and myself to meet with leaders of the CGCS and trade representatives with a view to strengthening support for each other, all in extremely pleasant surroundings and backed up by an excellent educational conference.

You have already, and will continue to hear much in this column, with regard to forming and developing relationships with allied Associations. In trying to develop and further the aims of BIGGA and its members we obviously have to do what is right for our members, in our judgement, not just for now but also in the future. As a Chairman, Chief Executive, or Board Member we are rightly accountable for the actions we take. To this end we enter into dialogue with others with an open mind, and, I promise, honourable intentions. In a perfect world all our ideas and those of the people we are talking to would match the desires of each, and agreement would be easy. Life just ain't like that and sometimes we have to pass on some ideas. Is this then, a waste of each others time? Not in our opinion, and we as a Board are certainly intent on continuing open dialogue to find ways of promoting BIGGA, its members and its clearly laid out mission statement.

Proof, if it were needed, that BIGGA has a voice in the macro sense, is to be had from the invites from the GCSAA for myself to serve on their education committee and for John Pemberton to serve on a committee formed to further collaboration between Greenkeeping Associations across the globe. Of course, as members you need to see an improvement in your benefits in a micro sense for this to be of any interest. While its always difficult and frustrating sometimes to move things forward as quickly as we would all like, having recently attended a two day meeting in Kansas (fully funded by GCSAA), I believe each Association can show its respective membership some "quick wins" with regard to education.

While spending so much time in hotels it gives me a good opportunity to catch up on the talk forums on all the Greenkeeping sites. For anybody that knows me well it comes as no surprise that I am an aggressive advocate of free and open speech, and will defend the right of members to ask questions of its Board and Officers at every opportunity. With particular reference to recent postings regarding the raising of subscription dues and the destination of any extra revenues raised, I can promise you (and I work in a VERY commercial environment), that the decision to raise subs by more than current inflation levels, was based on sound business lines. Put simply, this Association, partly because the original sub level was set very low, is overly reliant on our trade partners, for revenue. In these unpredictable and tough economic times it would be plain mismanagement for the Board not to recognise this fact and to address it. In addition, if we are to answer the further criticism that the service we offer is inadequate, then extra funds will clearly be needed. Finally the notion that the John Pemberton or the Board sanction inappropriate pay increases, is frankly disappointing. The accounts of the Association are freely available to any member on request, via your Section Secretary who each receive two copies and more if requested, and of course at the AGM where you have the opportunity to question the Board and its officers on the same- nothing to hide, transparent and HEALTHY accounts.

Of course as always should you have any comments, views or concerns, then like all the officers and volunteers, I am more than happy to talk to you. "Until next time" as Kent Walton used to say.

**Andy Campbell MG GCSA
Chairman**

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