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INTERNATIONAL



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Growing success



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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## Welcome

### MEMORIES ARE SHORT

If you are anything like me you are much too busy dealing with the here and now to have any time left to look back. I say this because if we did I'm sure we'd be shocked at what we put ourselves through, and what we put up with, in previous lives.

I can think of extended periods in the last dozen years when I've worked away from home, living in rented or B&B accommodation through the week, eating less than wholesomely and suffering the consequences of a poorly sprung mattress.

Financially it was crippling and it was compounded by a long drive home on a Friday evening, followed by an early rise and the reverse journey on the Monday. But the thing is I coped and had some very happy times in what were less than perfect circumstances.

The reason I mention it is that there are times now, when stuck in a traffic jam on my relatively short journey home, or I've forgotten to put the Chablis in the fridge that morning, that I think I'm the unluckiest bloke on the globe. The old me would have scoffed at such a lily-livered approach to life.

It's the same with BIGGA as an Association. I can recall in the mid-90s climbing the stairs to my attic office in the old rented building and having to charge down stairs again every time I wanted to print something off my computer or send a fax – no email in those days.

Nowadays we are in the superbly appointed BIGGA HOUSE, and the Editorial department has grown to incorporate an Assistant Editor which makes editing the magazine far less of a seat of the pants operation. Illnesses don't have to be postponed until an appropriate time slot becomes available any more.

Back then BTME had already established itself as a superb event, but compared to now it was a fraction of the size and the busiest day was quieter than the quietest day nowadays.

BIGGA was seen in some quarters as very much as a young upstart in the world of golf administration. Nowadays we punch our weight, have a voice within the game in the UK and talk with other organisations on a regular basis on matters of shared interest.

On a personal level I'm sure many of you would find the same if you thought back. I'm not saying it would be as stark as, "Remember when we weren't even allowed in the clubhouse", although for some of you it may be the case, but there will be quite a number of improvements to your working life which have been introduced in recent times. Some of these will have been down to health and safety legislation but many will have come about as a result of your improved status within the club.

As I say, it does pay to think back on occasions, not just to recall how much we were capable of tolerating, but also to show just how much our lives have improved over the years.

Scott MacCallum  
Editor

### OLD COURSE VOTED NUMBER ONE

The Old Course at St. Andrews has been awarded the accolade of the best golf course in Britain and Ireland by Golf Monthly magazine.

The panel of judges, composed of golf writers, administrators, course designers and photographers, assessed over 500 courses and rated them according to the challenge presented to players, course condition, visual appeal and off-course facilities.

"It is only fitting that the Old Course stands on top of the pile as it prepares to host the Open once again in 2005," commented Jane Carter, Editor of Golf Monthly. "The off-course facilities for visitors

have improved out of all recognition at the Home of Golf in recent years and there really is no finer place to play."

In a further honour to St Andrews Links, the 107 year-old New Course was voted number 34 in the rankings.

"We are delighted to receive this recognition from so prestigious a source," said Alan McGregor, General Manager of St Andrews Links Trust. "All our courses, including the Old, are open to the public and clearly remain a favourite with golfers, even after 600 years of history and with so much high quality competition out there today."

### 75 NOT OUT

The STRI celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an open day and dinner for invited guests last month.

During the day the Bingley headquarters, the trial grounds and the Bingley St Ives Golf Club played host to 13 "zones" where STRI staff gave demonstrations on their departments and looked forward to what can be expected in the years ahead.

The 170 guests at the evening dinner at nearby East Riddlesden Hall heard speeches from STRI President Lord Griffiths and R&A Secretary, Peter Dawson.



Dr Gordon McKillop escorts the Lady Mayoress around the demonstration area.



Denis Lawson explains his stand to Lord Griffiths in the company of Jeff Parris and David Marsh.

### NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR UNSUNG HEROES

Terrain Aeration's unsung heroes Brian Payne and Tim Parker opened nominations for this year's awards as part of the STRI's 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations.

Dr Tim Lodge, Senior Agronomist and Southern Area Manager for the Institute, who hosted the proceedings, praised the awards saying that they acknowledged the hard work of ordinary groundsmen and greenkeepers that keeps the entire Turfgrass Industry moving.

"They are the absolute opposite of the self promotion that so often leads to less than ideal individuals occupying the limelight," he continued.

Dr. Lodge is one of a three man judging panel, including Gordon Child, of BIGGA, and Derek Walder, of the IOG, which will send one groundsman and one greenkeeper to the South of France next year for a week's holiday with their families.

Terrain Aeration's Unsung Hero Awards are open to all UK practising greenkeepers and groundsmen, judged by their contemporaries or clubs to regularly put in that little bit extra.

Nomination forms can be found on the pitchcare website or with Lynda Green at Terrain Aeration Tel: 01449 673783.



From the left; Brian Payne, Tim Lodge and Tim Parker open nominations for Terrain Aeration's Unsung hero Awards 2004.



## NEW MD FOR RANSOMES JACOBSEN

David Withers, a well known and popular figure within the industry, has become the new Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd.

He takes over from Steve Chicken, who continues in his role as Managing Director of Jacobsen International, Ransomes Jacobsen's holding company.

David has been with Ransomes Jacobsen – through the Jacobsen side of the company – since 1992 and for the last two years has been Sales and Marketing Director.

Following on from David's promotion, Alan Prickett has been promoted to Sales Director from the position of UK Sales Manager.



## CHANGING TIMES AT AMENITYWISE

Amenitywise are pleased to announce the appointment of Stewart Jeffs as their new Amenity Manager.

Stewart, who has over 20 years experience in the industry, previously worked for Rigby Taylor, as a Technical Sales Representative, and prior to that worked for Jacobson, in a similar role.

"I felt that I needed new challenges and Amenitywise seemed a very positive and forward thinking company," said Stewart.

His 'challenge' is to take Amenitywise forward, making them a market leader in the industry.

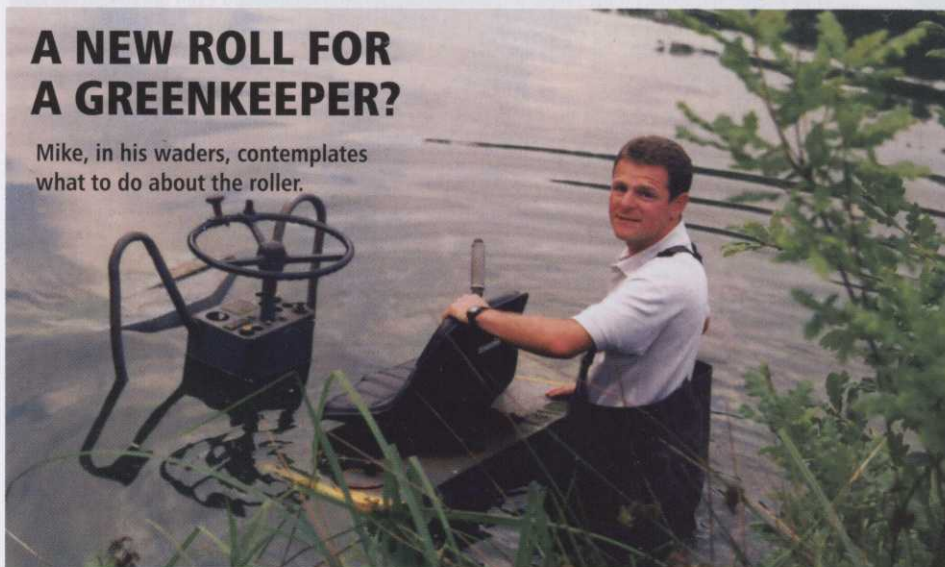
"Although Amenitywise have been in the market for several years now, the time has come to really push the business forward and one of our strengths is technical support we are now able to offer all our customers, along with an improved product range."

To help him in his new role, Amenitywise have also taken on Catherine Butler as the Amenity Administrator.

Previously from a marketing background, Catherine has been brought on board to assist in the marketing and running of the business.

## A NEW ROLL FOR A GREENKEEPER?

Mike, in his waders, contemplates what to do about the roller.



Mike Gash, of Moseley Golf Club, had an interesting problem to solve recently after vandals set a cricket roller running. The machine then ran over the cricket pitch, over the golf course and into a pond.

"Fortunately it avoided our greens otherwise it could have caused much more damage than it did

but it didn't prove to be easy to get out of the pond," said Mike.

When it was finally removed by a crane, the problems were not over as the pollution left by the roller caused the water to turn a particularly unpleasant colour.

## A SAD FAREWELL FOR TERRY

Broadstone Golf Club said farewell to one of its long-serving greenkeepers recently when Terry Elborn left to become a Conservation Officer and Ranger with Poole Borough Council.

The 30 year old had been at the club since 1990 and such has been his dedication to conservation on the course that Broadstone was presented with an environmental award in 2001.

"Terry was instrumental in us winning that award," said Club Secretary Colin Robinson, "He has done tremendous work on habitat projects, building dew ponds for dragonflies, installing bird boxes, making reptile and bat surveys and many other things.

"He has also organised course walks for members and visitors and been instrumental in aiding all the wildlife we have here."

After being presented with a commemoration plate by the Club Captain, Ian MacFarlane-Thompson, to mark his 15 years at Broadstone, Terry said, "The club has been very supportive with my conservation work. I've also had cooperation



Terry Elborn (middle, left) receives a commemoration plate from Club Captain Ian MacFarlane-Thompson and the greenkeeping team.

from my fellow greenkeepers which has sparked more interest among them about conservation. This has made the job so much more enjoyable.

"We are lucky to have so much land around the course which enables the wildlife to thrive. We have all three species of snake here as well as all the native reptiles. There are also many types of insect while we also have bats and many birds including nightjars and buzzards."



## A WIDER VARIETY FOR DAVID

Amenity Technology have appointed David Evans as their new Area Manager for the South Wales, Somerset, Wiltshire and Bristol regions and the M4 corridor to London.

David has been involved in the turf market for more than 12 years, with the majority of his time spent with Maxxi-Crop, and his vast experience will service his new company well.

"I'll be servicing the same sort of clients and I expect to continue along the same lines as I always have.

"What is different though is that I am able to offer a few ideas and avenues into a wider variety of sports turf.

"Yes, I am pleased to come on board and widen the scope a little bit," said David.

## SAFETY ON GOLF COURSES

A recent statement by Master of The Rolls, Lord Phillips stated that, "Many Councils are no longer providing everyday leisure activities because of the fear they will be sued if people hurt themselves."

This has presented a big question about the future of municipal sports provision, in particular golf courses.

Lord Phillips said that Councils were effectively 'blackmailed' into paying compensation because it was cheaper than fighting false claims.

However, he did warn that it would become harder for people to sue councils successfully if they were hurt pursuing a risky leisure activity, such as golf.

"What's called for is for the population as a whole to have a reasonably balanced approach to indulging in these pastimes.

"They should not expect if they have an accident, which is always liable to happen, that there must automatically be somebody else who carries the can.

"If you are too obsessed about the risk of getting sued, you can take steps which stop

people enjoying the kind of pastimes that people always have in this country," said Lord Phillips.

In the Best Value analysis demanded of local authorities, the future of local sports provision is likely to be affected by the consequences of accidents, as Councils decide whether to retain or dispose of the facilities they provide. Too often they cannot afford to fight claims and it is cheaper for them to settle.

With more proprietary pay and play golf courses and driving ranges they are bounded to ask themselves, is it right and proper to continue to own and operate our own golf courses and driving ranges?

PGA Design Consulting Ltd, the technical design and consultancy advisors to the PGA frequently act as Expert Witness. Bob Hunt, Managing Director said, "Recently, we have seen a considerable growth in accidents at golf courses and ranges and even greater increases in the level of claim settlements being awarded by the Courts. These accidents do not restrict themselves to municipal courses and ranges but are experienced at all types of facility including members' clubs and proprietary golf facilities."



Course Care's Area Manager, John Harwood, hands over the special barrel to Ian Pullan.

## SLICK SELLING SEES 5,000 BARRELS SOLD

Course Care has recently sold their 5,000<sup>th</sup> barrel of oil since David Mears and Andrew Vincent took control of the company in June 2001.

To mark the occasion a special barrel was produced. Finished in a red metallic paint and decorated with extra graphics the barrel was sent out to the 5000<sup>th</sup> customer.

The lucky recipient was Ian Pullan, Course Manager at Marriott Hollins Hall Golf Club near Bradford.

Said Ian; "I have been buying a number of lines from Course Care for years, but had only just decided to take their engine oil. I was amazed when the fancy barrel turned up!"

## FORSYTH THE WHITELAW WINNER

The Whitelaw Bowl was played recently at Penrith GC.

The day was sponsored by Rigby Taylor and there was a belter turnout this year than in previous years.

David Forsyth and his staff had the course in great condition and, after all the rain this year, looking much greener than usual.

The results were:

0 - 13. 1. David Forsyth, 38pts; 2. Aaron Watkinson, 37pts; 3. Peter Hogan, 36 pts.

14 - 28. 1. Gary Tomlinson, 31 pts; 2. Ian Holoran, 27 pts; 3. Tony Smith, 27 pts.



The overall winner of the magnificent Whitelaw Bowl was David Forsyth.

Many thanks to Rigby Taylor and especially John Molt for their sponsorship, which I hope will continue for many more years, the caterers for a superb meal and, of course, Penrith GC for allowing us courtesy of the course.

Barry Heaney, past Chairman of BIGGA, was also presented with a

gift for his support over the years.

There will also be a seminar at Penrith GC on November 25 entitled "Environment Issues". Anybody interested contact Peter Larter on 01476 550115.

**Bert Cross**

## GALLEY TAKES ON AMENITY GRASSES



Keith Galley has been appointed National Product Manager for amenity grasses for leading seed company Nickerson.

He will be responsible for the highly successful Top Green brand, which uses high performing cultivars in mixtures suited to every sports, amenity and landscaping situation.

Keith joined the company in 1990, spending two years in France working for Nickerson's parent company Group Limagrain - the largest plant breeding and seed development company in the European Union.

Keith will work from Nickerson's UK headquarters at Rothwell in Lincolnshire, and the company's seed mixtures production plant in Falkirk, Scotland.

## NEW APPOINTMENT AT PLM POWER

PLM Power Products dealerships in the north of England, Scotland and Northern Ireland will benefit considerably from the appointment of Roy Duncan as Area Manager.

Roy has a wealth of knowledge spanning 23 years in both the sales and technical side of the outdoor power equipment industry.

In his new position Roy's responsibilities will include the developing the sales of PLM's high quality outdoor power equipment ranges and providing full dealership support.



Johnny Beck with a tray of his pies.

## SO WHO ATE ALL THE PIES?

At Saltex last year we reported how Johnny Beck, of Sheriff Amenities, had successfully passed his catering exams to enable him to man a barbecue for visitors to their stand.

It was a huge success, not least because the wonderful smells and accompanying smoke ensured that everyone knew Johnny was about.

This year a new approach produced slightly less smoke but kept the visitors fed just as well.

Armed with an on-site oven, Johnny dispensed over 1200 pies and pasties of all descriptions over the course of the three days.

## INTURF CHOOSE SOUTH EAST REPRESENTATIVE

Andrew Lofting, formerly of Driving Force Leisure, has been appointed by Inturf to service existing clients and sell to new customers in Greater London and the Home Counties Inturf's comprehensive range of products for all sports and landscaping markets.

Andrew's wealth of experience and knowledge in the turfgrass industry is well known and will be a great asset to Inturf in an area that has been relatively untapped, apart from the high profile and prestigious projects synonymous with the turf growers from Yorkshire.

Andrew will be based in Kent and will be dealing with Inturf's general turf sales, the Custom Grown Turf products and the Installation Services available from this fast growing.

## TOUGH TEST FOR CENTRAL SECTION



Central Section held its autumn meeting at Downfield GC, in Dundee, and a full field enjoyed facing the demands of one of Scotland's toughest inland courses. The photo shows the cream which rose to the top during the day.

# Tip of the Month

This month by John Wells MG  
Course Manager, Brocket Hall GC



BIGGA's Master Greenkeeper John Wells MG provides his tip to help you in your course management.

## Avoiding fusarium patch



The autumn months are when many inland courses suffer from fusarium patch.

My simple tip is always carry out dew removal on the greens, including after light frosts, and always include the collar of the green as often fusarium will start in the collar before spreading to the green.

We at Brocket Hall Golf Club have two forms of dew removal, which are:

1. When cutting the greens we always finish off by putting the mowers out of cut and running them round the collar to remove the dew.

2. We use a large dewy brush, which again takes in the collar as well as the green.

This is a very simple but effective way to aid in disease control.



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Golden and Silver Key Membership is available to both companies and individuals.

For details, please contact Ken Richardson on 01347 833800 or via [ken@bigga.co.uk](mailto:ken@bigga.co.uk)

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# Education Update

Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, is into the busy part of the training and education year, including making arrangements for the new conference.

## Turf Managers Conference - speakers announced

Things are getting even more hectic in the Education and Training Department as Sami and I strive to present education and training opportunities for all members of BIGGA.

The Regional Conference season has begun. Regional/Section Courses are in full swing, BTME & ClubHouse is just around the corner and the British and International Turf Managers Conference is ready to launch.

## The British and International Turf Managers Conference

With so much happening at Harrogate during BTME & ClubHouse, the BIGGA Board of Management decided to move the Education Conference from Harrogate in 2005.

They also decided that we should concentrate on Golf Course Management and the title of The British and International Turf Grass Managers Conference (BITMC) was chosen.

Therefore BITMC, which is supported by Syngenta Professional and by the John Deere Team Championship and endorsed by the R&A, the Scottish Golf Union, the English Golf Union, the Welsh Golfing Union, the STRI, the GTC and the IOG, will take place over the weekend of 19 and 20 March 2005 at the Staverton Park Conference Centre, nr Daventry.

The draft programme is:

### Friday 18 March

Arrival and informal Dinner

### Saturday 19 March

Session One

Dr James Murphy, Specialist in Soil Physics, Rutgers University

Session Two

Mr Brin Bendon, Management Trainer

Session Three

Mr Peter Jones MSc, Greenkeeping Consultant

Session Four

Darin Bevard, USGA Green Section Consultant

Session Five

Dr Ruth Mann, STRI Scientist

Session Six

Mr David-Bancroft Turner, Management Trainer

### Sunday 20 March

Session Seven

Mr Steve Jones MG, Greenkeeping Consultant

Session Eight

Dr Alan Gange, Biological Scientist, London University

Session Nine

Mr Roger Greenwood, Broadcaster, Film Maker, Journalist

Session Ten

Mr Richard Hayden, Environmentalist

Session Eleven

Dr James Murphy

All the speakers have confirmed their attendance and subjects include: Research into Soil Biology, Current USGA Research, An Holistic Approach to Disease Management, The Use of Modern Technology in Golf Course

Management, Obligations to the Environment, People Management on the Golf Course, Maintaining Personal Relationships and Dealing with the Media.

Staverton Park is a purpose-built Conference and Training Centre that has four star accommodation, excellent food and full leisure facilities including its own golf course.

The intensive two-day learning programme will cost less than £400, including VAT, that includes two nights accommodation in a single room, all meals, including the Conference Dinner, two days of top level education and full use of the leisure facilities (except golf).

Full details of BITMC, together with a booking form, will appear in the December Edition of Greenkeeper International.

## Continue to Learn at Harrogate

Some people seem to think that Continue to Learn week at Harrogate has been diluted, but the opposite is true.

As you should have seen from the Continue to Learn Brochure in last month's edition of GI, the number of opportunities for education and training has increased, with more Workshops than ever before, three days of Seminars, instead of two days, plus a full day of presentations by the Association of Golf Club Secretaries.

Places on the Workshops are limited and we have received a large number of bookings already, so make sure of your place by booking early.

For further information, contact Sami at BIGGA House on 01347 833833.

## Regional/Section Courses

Some of this Autumn's courses are fully booked, whereas some are in danger of being cancelled. Remember, use them or lose them. Places are available on:

Essential Management Skills

Ross on Wye Golf Club 9 & 10 November

Communication Skills

Cleethorpes Golf Club 17 & 18 November

Management Skills for Head Greenkeepers

and Course Managers

Old Fold Manor Golf Club 22 & 23 November

Next Steps in Management Skills

Dunham Forest Golf Club 25 & 26 November

Negotiating Skills

Exeter Golf Club 30 November

Each two day course costs £99 + VAT (£116.33) and the one day course costs £49 + VAT (£57.58) thanks to a massive subsidy from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund.

## Regional Conferences

Education Conferences are being held at:

Midlands

Warwickshire College 10 November

South West & South Wales

Cannington College 17 November

North

Penrith Golf Club 25 November

Contact your Regional Administrator for details of how to book your place.

## David Golding, the GTC's Education Director, clears the mist which sometimes surrounds the "who does what" in terms of greenkeeper education and training.

Some things change for the better, some things change for the sake of change and some things never change, thankfully in greenkeeper training, work-based training remains the tried and tested method of giving staff the skills they require to maintain the golf course.

In my privileged position with the GTC I can offer any disgruntled greenkeepers a very optimistic outlook for the profession. More and more golf club employers are looking for professional Course Managers who can maintain and manage their course and are willing to pay for that talent.

The balance between spending time ensuring the course is to the required standard and the management responsibilities now demanded is a fine line.

However, I think most top Course Managers will agree that you are judged on the golf course and that might give you a strong clue as to where I see the priorities in time spent.

Hopefully most readers in recent years will have seen how the GTC has focused much of its resources in the training of Course Managers as work-based trainers/assessors and to ensure the sectors qualifications reflect the employers needs from craft to management level.

This initiative has received not only excellent financial support from the GTC's funding bodies, including the EGU, SGU, WGU, PGA European Tour, BIGGA and the R&A but also these bodies have actively promoted to golf clubs the importance of having a well trained, competent Course Manager.

In recent years we have seen the Home Golf Unions hosting seminars to inform the golf clubs they represent about many subjects, including the importance of having well trained staff, the various training schemes available and the link to legislation.

The R&A's website, [www.bestcourseforgolf.org](http://www.bestcourseforgolf.org), has clear references to the role of the Course Manager and BIGGA promotes professionalism as the key to successfully managing a golf course.

One of the most important skills a Course Manager must have is that of staff motivation or team building.

Who was it that said the manager is only as good as his team? If the team play for you, there will be more goals than own goals, but get it wrong and it will very soon reflect on the course! This cliché can also be attributed to employers; a happy staff is a productive staff.

Staff development, in terms of greenkeeping, often depends on how the Course Manager keeps the employer fully updated on the "team" and,

having identified training needs, they know exactly where these can be obtained, the costs and the benefits to both the club and the individual.

One slightly worrying aspect of the work-based training system is when I hear some headmen stating, "I'm too busy to train the staff, that's the college's job" or "the old system was the best."

Maybe at best they are not getting the right level of support from their chosen provider, but at worst they really do not see themselves as the right person to pass on their skills and knowledge to their staff.

As for the old system I presume the City & Guilds Phases is what the vocational qualifications are being compared to and, whilst I understand there will be

comparisons, we have to move with the times, hence on the job – vocational - training has been introduced to all industries.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss any issues regarding today's education system and let us not forget the colleges still offer the more academic awards such as the HNC and the Foundation Degree.

The GTC will continue to work on reviewing the turf qualifications, but the most critical part of a greenkeeper's education is what is actually being taught and, while we provide a list of Approved Training Providers, we have recently taken the decision to develop a standard set of learning materials to assist our providers.

These learning materials have been developed by sector specialists in their particular subject area and embrace the best principles and practices that are based on upholding traditional greenkeeping.

On-line learning is now an option available from a major provider and the tried and tested distance learning for a HNC still continues to be popular.

The more traditional part-time route of day-release or block release has somewhat been overtaken by the learning "on the job" option.

Many GTC providers now give the employer and Course Manager the options of which delivery system they chose in order to suit their needs, and the most successful providers are the ones who actually visit the employer to discuss these options.

The GTC is at the heart of all the developments in greenkeeper education and please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss the options and your club/staffs' training needs.

David and the GTC may be contacted on Tel: 01347 838640 or email: [golf@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:golf@the-gtc.co.uk)

**'You are judged on the golf course and that might give you a strong clue as to where I see the priorities in time spent'**

**'One of the most important skills a Course Manager must have is that of staff motivation or team building'**

**'These learning materials embrace the best principles and practices based on upholding traditional greenkeeping'**

Rachael and Gemma from Membership Services would like to welcome 77 new members to the Association and talk about the ARCO benefit.

# Membership Update

## ARCO goes local

### CHANGES TO THE SCHEME

Arco currently offer BIGGA members 20% discount on a wide range of workwear, safety clothing, equipment and industrial and maintenance products.

In the past members have had to order goods over a central phone line to qualify for discount. To make purchasing products far easier you are now able to obtain discount from your local depot.

Due to changes in the computer systems depots are now all geared up to accept your orders, just make sure you let them know you are BIGGA members.

For your convenience you can still order over the phone or via the website, [www.arco.co.uk](http://www.arco.co.uk), if that is your preferred method.

To obtain a copy of the 'big red' book, Arco's safety and maintenance supplies catalogue then call 01482 611611 or log on to the website.

Discount is not available on selected technical products and special offers.

# ARCO



#### PRIVILEGE CARD:

Due to lack of use, the privilege card is being withdrawn with effect from the 1st December 2004. Please do not use your card after this date. Thank you for your co-operation.

## DESIGN A SLOGAN

Thank you to all of you who have put pen to paper and sent in your entries. We will be looking at all the slogans over the next few days and converting the best one into a car sticker. The winner will be announced in next month's edition.

## Message of the Month Winner

Our congratulations go to November's winner, Scott Thomson, from Wetherby Golf Club, who's message was posted on the 11th October 2004 under the 'Talking Shop' section. David receives an 18 litre Gelert Rucksack featuring a multi function organiser, 2 mesh pockets and a grab handle.

### BIGGA welcomes...

#### SCOTTISH REGION

Keith Alexander, East  
Shaun Anderson, Central  
James Arthur, East  
David Brown, East  
John Church, West  
Francis Clarkson, Ayrshire  
Steven Copeland, West  
Alan Dykes, West  
Alan Hendry, East  
Ross Mackenzie, North  
Andrew Peace, West  
Niall Sandie, East  
Martin Stewart, East  
John Tait, East  
Gordon Von Krafft, East  
Craig Watson, North  
Rob Wooddisse, Ayrshire

#### NORTHERN REGION

Christopher Baker, North Wales  
Daniel Binner, North East  
Michael Cooper, North West  
Trevor Dobson, North West  
Martin Garside, North West  
James Sands, North East  
Ian Stewart, Cleveland

#### MIDLAND REGION

Charles Allwood, Midland

Stephanie Bell, BB&O  
Michael Bohanan, Mid Anglia  
Simon Dipple, East Midland  
Andrew Helby, BB&O  
Ryan Helliher, BB&O  
Vic Holt, BB&O  
Peter Kendall, East of England  
Niall Kerr, Mid Anglia  
Ignatious Masvosva, Midland  
Cyril Millward, Midland  
Stuart Nash, BB&O  
Thomas Price, Midland  
Peter Tomlinson, Midland  
David Walls, BB&O  
Paul Whitten, Midland  
Donald Wilmott, BB&O

#### SOUTH EAST REGION

Daniel Barnes, Surrey  
Simon Bates, Kent  
David Bingham, Surrey  
Thomas Clark, Surrey  
John Clarke, Essex  
Kevin Cole, Kent  
Andrew Cracknell, Essex  
Stuart Dare, Surrey  
Alan Drury, Kent  
Stephen Fawcett, Kent  
Jaey Goodchild, Surrey  
Rocky Hughes, East Anglia

Robert Meintjes, Surrey  
David Miller, Surrey  
Daniel Morgan, Kent  
Dwayne Moss, Surrey  
Paul O'Kane, Essex  
Darren Stuttle, Essex  
Phillip Whaley, Essex  
Michael Williams, Surrey

#### SOUTH WEST/SOUTH WALES

Graham Down, South Wales  
Christopher Ralph, Devon & Cornwall  
James Trollope, South West  
Woody Whyte, South Wales  
Paul Wilkie, South Wales

#### OVERSEAS MEMBERS

Tommy Franzon, Sweden  
Richard Laux, USA  
Leif Mattsson, Sweden  
Mark O'Sullivan, Germany

#### STUDENT MEMBERS

Jason Bastable, South Coast  
Richard Crocombe, Devon & Cornwall  
Andrew Sprunt, USA

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Robert Baker, London  
James Orpin, Germany



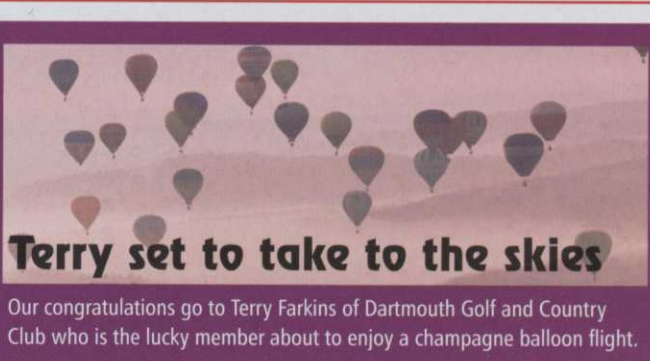
## Tip top merchandise...

Continuing our focus on BIGGA merchandise, BIGGA have two performance fabric polo shirts available. Both polo shirts are made with a dry gear fabric that actively pulls moisture away from the skin by rapid evaporation.

The Dry Gear shirt is the cheaper of the two at £16.00, it is made from a 52% cotton, 48% Polyester mix and is available in white with either blue, green or red collar trim.

The Nailshead polo shirt is priced at £19.50 and boasts a 65% cotton, 35% polyester mix. The Nailshead is available in navy, light blue or rust.

For further information call Rachael Duffy on 01347 833800.



## Terry set to take to the skies

Our congratulations go to Terry Farkins of Dartmouth Golf and Country Club who is the lucky member about to enjoy a champagne balloon flight.

## OCTOBER'S MEMBERSHIP DRAW WINNER

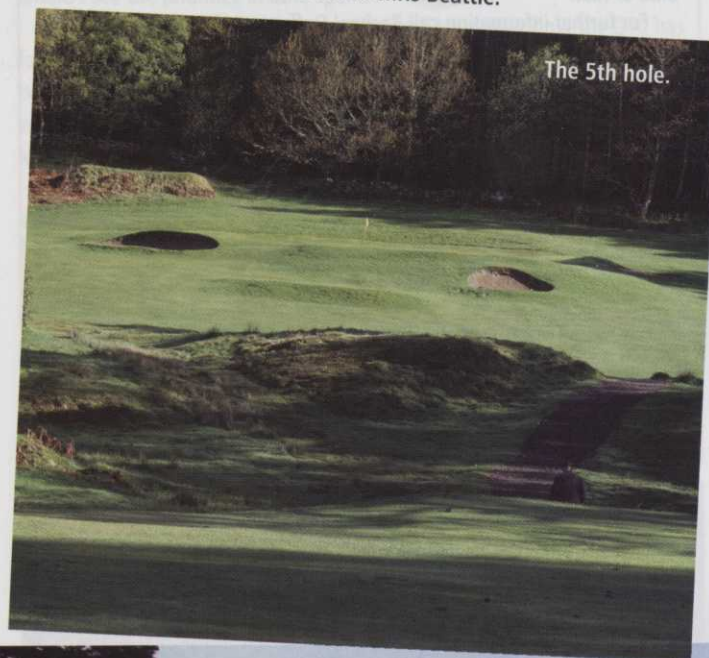
Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win an 0.5 litre isolating flask suitable for hot and cold drinks and soups. Our congratulations go to Paul Harris of Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands Golf Club.

# Course Feature

## Aye, Aye Captain



▲ Ally Philp, seated, with Assistant Chris Beattie.



The 5th hole.

**Ally Philp is Head Greenkeeper and, for the last two years, Captain of Comrie Golf Club as well. Scott MacCallum met with one of the most contented men in the industry on a wet day in Perthshire.**

Bump into Ally Philp, Head Greenkeeper of Comrie Golf Club, in Perthshire, and more often than not he will have a smile on his face. Not just because he happens to work in one of the more attractive areas of the British Isles, but because he is immersed in a job he loves, doing it at a club in which he has more than just a vested interest.

This month Ally comes to the end of a two year stint as Club Captain, during which time he has seen the opening of a new clubhouse. Ally's period in office has also seen two of the club's younger members take impressive strides towards making an impact on the game, a key factor for which must lie in the lessons given to the local youngsters every Thursday in the playing season.

Ally assists the Assistant Pro from nearby Crieff Golf Club in this, educating the children on etiquette, bunker raking, pitchmarking and divot repairing, as well as passing on playing knowledge which comes with a 2 handicap. He is, after all, a 12 times Club Champion at Comrie.

It typifies what is perhaps the most impressive thing about Comrie Golf Club - how much the club is a part of the local community and how much responsibility the 470 members take for the successful running of the club.

When I arrived it had been raining for most of the morning, and the previous night, and the clubhouse was buzzing to the sound of the Senior and Ladies' teams taking part in an indoor putting competition as they had decided it was too wet to go out and play their charity match in aid of McMillan Nurses.

Indeed Ally's records show eight and a half inches of rain in August alone so the Comrie members' waterproofs have been well used this year already. "The course isn't closed. They've just decided not to go out," explained Ally quickly.

Comrie was opened in 1891 and redesigned by the great James Braid in 1924. In the clubhouse, opened by Colin Campbell, a Comrie man and Head Professional at Loch Lomond Golf Club, was at a table groaning under the weight of home made sandwiches, cakes, pastries and anything else designed to make a mouth water. I can personally vouch for the quality of the Lady Captain's bacon and egg flan.

Later, during the interview conducted in the men's locker room, one of the Senior members interrupted us to ask if he could do some Hoovering. You couldn't see that happening at Sunningdale or Muirfield.

"We had a vote when we came to deciding upon a new clubhouse and 99% of the membership were in favour and 99% were against having a bar in the new building," revealed Ally.

Although he was born and brought up in Comrie Ally has only been Head Greenkeeper for the last two and a half years, having previously been Head Man at another nine holer, St Fillans.

"The job actually became available while I was Vice Captain and, although I had reservations about applying because of that, I was encouraged to do so by other members and certainly haven't regretted it one little bit."

He has seen nothing but plusses through his dual role and has taken the opportunity to educate the membership on what he's been doing on the course and why he's been doing it.

"Members ask why I'm aerating and I explain why. Then they'll say 'But the greens are good', and I'll then say 'Well, why are they good?' As Captain they are more inclined to listen. I do get some criticism about pin placements and the like but I just rib them about not having anything else to talk about."

Before launching his greenkeeping career Ally had started an apprenticeship as a glass engraver with Stuart Crystal in Crieff.

"I was made redundant and told I could either leave at the end of the week or straight away. I walked up to the golf club to speak to my dad, who was an assistant at Crieff, and told him I'd been made redundant. The Head Greenkeeper overheard me and asked if I wanted a summer job so I started there."

Ally has chaired all the club committee meetings for the last two years but, although he can contribute to the discussions, as an employee, he doesn't vote on matters.

"In two years I can say there has been no real conflict in my dual role. Sometimes when I'm out on the course I can be called in to take a phone call but the Club Manager, Steve van der Walt, has been very good at handling most things and I am really just a figurehead."

Listen to Ally and you hear the voice of a contented man, but it masks the fact that working at Comrie is no walk in the park. Indeed with a staff of two, including Ally, the job very much resembles that of a hamster on a wheel.

"It's non stop. We don't get paid overtime, just time off in lieu which can be very difficult to fit in. Although we're not compelled to by our contracts we don't take holiday in May, June, July, August or the beginning of September as there is just so much to do."

The situation is compounded if Ally or his recently-qualified Assistant, Chris Beattie, are ill. Fortunately Ally has only had one day off sick in 20 years but Chris, who joined the staff initially on a part time basis, but then full time last year was off this summer for a few days with an injury.

At a stroke this severely increased Ally's workload and reduced what could be done on the course for a key period in the summer.

The nature of the never ending hard graft is graphically illustrated by Ally as he runs through a regular week at Comrie.

"Monday is Medal day here so I'll change holes and cut fairways and Chris will cut greens and rake the bunkers and then we'll divot fill all the tees. Then it's lunch after which we'll cut rough and do our strimming and flymowing."



▲ The clubhouse from the 2nd green.



▲ The 7th hole.



Players on the 8th tee.



The view of the 3rd hole from the tee.



The 3rd hole.



The 3rd green.



Players on the 6th green.

"The Seniors have a 9am Shotgun start every Tuesday with the Ladies medal that afternoon which means a rush to get all the jobs done. If the Seniors have a home match that's another shotgun start on a Thursday," said Ally, who added that being a nine holer means that it is more difficult to keep out of the way of play than an 18 hole course.

It does mean that there are many jobs which they'd like to do but through lack of manpower and finance these have to be put on hold.

"If Chris and I were to rebuild a bunker we'd hire a digger and buy in rootzone and turf and it would take us about four to five days per bunker on top of the regular work we'd still be doing"

But it is the tees which Ally sees as the job he'd like completed in the medium to long term.

"A lot of our tees are uneven so I'd like to rebuild and enlarge them," said Ally.

Adult members of Comrie pay £145 annual subs currently so there isn't a huge sum of money coming into the club each year, but the members do hold fund raising events and among the beneficiaries is a Course Development Fund.

"It may be we'd have to look to increase the subs if we had a particular project we wanted to do," admitted the Club Captain.

But Ally is a pragmatist and knows that, like most courses, he is judged on the quality of the greens.

"You don't get people saying 'Have you seen Comrie's tees?'. It's greens we're all judged on so that's what I spent most of my time improving since I got here."

A dedicated follower of Jim Arthur - who visited the course in 1980/82 - Ally still keeps the reports Jim produced at home. He has a minimalist approach to course management and aerates the greens every two to three weeks, which has improved the quality of grass coverage in the time he has been there.

Such is the way with small courses Ally calls on the services of colleagues at other courses to help, or members have also been on hand to help.

"For example, Charlie McDonald, at Crieff Golf Club, vertidrains for me once or twice a year and in return he borrows our vibrating rollers and pro seeder.

"It works very well, while our local Toro dealer, Henderson Grass Machinery, at Kinross, are excellent and take account of us being a small nine holer when it comes to doing business."

In addition to the double compaction and wear and tear a nine holer experiences Comrie is a moorland course which suffers from not having much depth to its soil – three inches on one of the fairways with rock just below the surface.

"When changing holes you need a pinch bar as well as a hole cutter as you do hit stones and have to lever them out as you go round."

But whatever the obstacles Ally and Chris face they do produce a golf course which is a test for the best, including two youngsters who have already made a splash in the game. Wallace and Carly Booth are a talented brother and sister team of whom a great deal is expected.

Both learned their golf at Comrie and now Wallace is on a golfing scholarship in Augusta, Georgia, while 12 year-old Carly has already made headlines by playing in a pro-am with Sandy Lyle and has all the attributes to go a long way in the game.

It's feeling he's had some input in the development of the young golfers of the town as well as providing an excellent test of golf for the members... not to mention that bacon and egg flan, that helps to keep Ally smiling.

#### Inventory of Equipment at Comrie Golf Club

- 1 Tym T431 tractor
- 1 Kubota B2150 tractor with front loader
- 1 Toro 3200-D – Greensmaster
- 1 Toro 2300-D – Reelmaster
- 1 Toro 3000- Greensmaster
- 1 Ransomes Super Certes handmower
- 1 Groundsman 460 HD
- 1 Allan National Banks mower
- 3 True surface vibratory rollers

- 3 Toro verticut units
- 1 SISIS outfield spiker
- 1 Disc Aerator
- 1 Kawasaki blower
- 1 Allen flymo
- 1 Stihl brushcutter
- 1 Pedestrian walkover sprayer
- 1 Birchmeier 20litre knapsack
- 2 cyclone spreaders, 1 pedestrian, 1 tractor mounted
- 1 1.2m pro seed
- 1 Marston trailer
- 1 Rotary Deck
- 1 set Allet gang mowers

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# The Career Path to Success



## Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2004 – Alex Shore

Careers are very individual things. While some people stick with one particular job, at one certain level, and are happy to do so, others find a vocation that suits them, then climb the career ladder step by step and don't stop until they hit the top.

That is certainly what Alex Shore is doing, and winning the 2004 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award has helped him jump up a few rungs.

September 27 was the date of the Final held at BIGGA HOUSE and Alex, along with the seven other finalist – Kate Walls, Christopher Kerr, Robert Finnegan, Peter Kennedy, Stuart Glover, James Canham and Alastair Higgs - faced a exhausting, but exhilarating day of tackling both an interview and conducting a course report of Aldwark Manor.

So how do you start an interview with the 2004 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year? Simple in my case, ask him an obvious question. "So Alex," I started, "how does it feel to win?"

"It really hasn't sunk in yet. I think it will take a while to believe that I won, but I'm sure by the time I get back to work it will have hit me, and the lads at the club will help bring me back down to earth," replied Alex.

That is the answer from someone who didn't dream of winning the entire competition. A modest individual, Alex, 26, knew that, with the high standard of the finalists, anyone could have won it.

"Everybody knew their stuff and were really passionate about their jobs and greenkeeping as a whole. A bunch of us were talking before the ceremony and we all agreed that it was very close, I don't think any one of us could have predicted the winner. I certainly did not expect my name to be read out."

The spirit of the eight finalists was summed up when Alex chose to take his time to shake the hands of the seven other entrants and thank them before going up to receive his award.

"Everyone was very friendly, and that made for a great few days. The standard was so high, and everyone wanted to win, but the atmosphere always remained friendly and everyone helped each other out when needed," added Alex, after his celebration night out of bowling and beer.

Alex's career has been built around education, and the important role it can play in life. After leaving school he started his professional days at a company called Ravens Sports Fields, which is a sports turf/ground maintenance company. He was soon to be back in the classroom however.

"I left school about eight years ago, went to Ravens and they put me straight back into college. I was studying Amenity Horticulture at Oaklands College, while developing my landscaping skills at Ravens.

"I am very grateful to the manager there for taking me on and putting me through college and for showing me the ropes.

"It was a fantastic experience for me and I don't think I would be in greenkeeping, let alone the winner of the Toro award, if he hadn't been so encouraging."



Alex now had his career and was quickly looking onwards and upwards. The next step for him was clear.

"I wanted more variety and I wanted to work with people who were really passionate about their job, they were certainly that at Woburn Golf and Country Club. I enjoyed sports field maintenance, but I think moving into greenkeeping was the natural progression for me. I see greenkeeping as a higher level of groundsmanship, so to get into that was the next path for me.

"I enjoyed playing golf, though I was never a world beater, and it just seemed the right move for me at the time. I have never looked back."

His last statement is backed up by the passion you detect in his voice when he talks about the club he has been an Assistant at for five and half years.

"It is a close team at Woburn, so originally that helped me fit in quickly. It's a very friendly team and everybody helps each other out. We have three courses, the new Marquess course, the Duke's and the Duchess courses.

"Each has their own green staff, so it's individual in that way, but then we all come together and help each other out when needed, so it is still a big team effort, and that creates a good spirit and an excellent working environment."

Another reason for Alex's attraction to the Woburn vacancy back in 1999 was that the club had similar ideas

to his own about the importance of education. The club is known for placing a high emphasis on training programmes, while allowing its staff to make up their own mind whether or not to take up the opportunities out there. In fact it was the club's green staff, who were studying at Oaklands College at the same time as Alex, who recommended the position to him.

"With all employees the club make education schemes available for anyone who wants them and when they want them. So the club is always very pleased to help you in any course you want to take up, from first aid to spray training to gaining a training licence. Eddie (Bullock), the Managing Director, is always keen to help his staff into the education side of greenkeeping," stated the award winner.

As normal, Alex was both keen and quick to make the most of the

### Gareth Jones meets Alex Shore, the 2004 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.



opportunities provided, and he believes it has made a big difference to him as a greenkeeper.

"I was pleased to make the most of the chances in front of me. I wanted to push myself forward and learn more. The more qualifications, certificates and, most importantly, more knowledge about your job you have the better off you are going to be. So doing my NVQ Level 3 has helped inspire me to do as much as I possibly can."

In any successful career you need to be in the right place at the right time and the 2004 Student of the Year is currently in the right place. Woburn has just hosted the European Tour's Heritage Tournament, which was won by Sweden's Henrik Stenson.

Alex played a major part in the set up of the Duke's course, but was forced to miss the final rounds due to the Toro competition at BIGGA HOUSE.

The club also held the Bovis Lend Lease European Senior Masters this year and in the past has entertained the cream of women's golf with the Weetabix British Open and has had the men's British Masters over the Duke's course for 20 years until 2003.

"I am lucky to be at a course that holds major events. To have that kind of experience is great, and not every greenkeeper is fortunate to have that kind of tournament experience. As I said, I am lucky.

"Holding major tournaments like the Heritage and British Masters, means that the club demands a high standard of work, so you have to set yourself up to that level. That, along with the fact that your colleagues are working to the same high standards, is going to have a positive effect on your work and development as a greenkeeper."

The future is looking healthy for Alex, particularly with the Toro Shield and Crystal Bowl taking pride of place on his mantle piece. Former Student Greenkeeper of the Year winners have gone on to scale the heights of the Greenkeeping and Groundcare industry, and Alex has similar ambitions.

"I really enjoy it at Woburn, there is enough variety to keep me interested and motivated. If a deputy position came up that is certainly the next step for me and it's something I'll be looking at closely. I eventually want to be a Head Greenkeeper, but I wouldn't say I am ready to be one yet, I still have a lot to learn before doing that."

More to learn, does that mean more time in the classroom for Alex?

"I've been looking in to doing a HNC or a foundation degree possibly. For now I will be concentrating on going to America and the training course I will receive from the University of Massachusetts and then I will see what happens after that.

"I would like to learn more on the scientific side of things, and it will be nice to apply my theory to practice on the Duke's course. Andy Brown (of Toro) said to us all that it is important in today's environment to also learn the business and budgeting side of golf, so that's another thing I would like to get more involved with, but that is all for the future," said the man who is clearly keeping his feet on the ground.

Past winners, such as Keith Scruton in 2003, speak highly of the eight week trip to the US. The visit entails a six week period of study and then two weeks visiting the Toro factories in Minneapolis and California and also a trip to the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in Orlando.

"I'm really looking forward to the trip. I am nervous about it too, as eight weeks away from home is a long time. Hannah, my wife, was shocked and delighted when I told her I had won, but like me she is a bit anxious to be losing me for that amount of time.



▲ Toro's Andy Brown presents winner Alex Shore with the shield with runners up James Canham, left, and Robert Finnegan.

"However we both know how important this experience will be and the great benefit it will be to my career. The course is very scientific based and that is something that will help me and I really want to learn more on that side.

"Like greenkeeping in general, it will be very hard work, but it's all worth it. You really do get out what you put in. It is about dedicating time to education and your learning, it is hard to juggle both, but if you can do it, it really will be of benefit," concluded Alex, as he took in the magnitude of winning the entire competition.

So, how do you finish an interview with the 2004 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year? Ask him another obvious question. "So who would you like to thank then?" – See told you it was obvious.

"Well there are a few people. On the golf side, Eddie Bullock, Managing Director at Woburn, Chris Hunt, Course Manager, Steve Tompkins, Head Greenkeeper and his Deputy, Simon Trotter, have all been very supportive and I owe them a big thank you. They taught me how to compile course reports and things like that. Chris White, my lecturer at Oaklands, had the confidence in me to enter me in the competition and he

has stood by me all the way. Hannah, my wife, has been very strong and a great help, her support has made a big difference to me."

"BIGGA and Toro have been wonderful. Everyone at BIGGA has been very helpful, especially Ken Richardson and Sami Collins. From Toro, Andy Brown and Peter Mansfield have been excellent. The two organisations put so much work in to this competition and that effort makes the competition really magnificent.

"Finally I would like to thank all the other contestants, they helped confirm my belief in the importance of education in greenkeeping and also made the whole few days very memorable for me."



▲ The entire cast of the 2004 Toro Student of the Year Award final.



▲ Winner Alex with runners up James and Robert.

## The Runners Up

After selecting Alex Shore as the winner of the competition the panel had to make two further decisions – the two runners-up. The two 2004 Student Greenkeepers of the Year runners-up receive an all expenses paid trip to Continue to Learn and BTME and Clubhouse 2005 in January. After much deliberation Robert Finnegan and James Canham were declared the 2004 runners-up.

### Robert Finnegan

Spend two minutes with Robert and his passion for greenkeeping will no doubt rub off on you, it really is infectious. He began his career as an Assistant at Navan Golf Club, before moving to Scotland to gain the training he was desperate for. Studying a HND at Elmwood College, Robert has landed himself a job at none other than the home of golf, St. Andrews, on the Old Course.

An ambitious individual Robert, 20, is determined to make the most of the opportunities that come along, and he plans to work as a greenkeeper around the world while still in his 20's. He plans in particular to spend time working in both the US and Scandinavia.

With Euan Grant, the Head Greekeeper of St. Andrews' Old Course, nurturing Robert's enthusiasm and ability, the youngster should progress to be a fine greenkeeper.

### James Canham

James is just 18 years of age but has knowledge beyond his years. Educated at the College of West Anglia, James is working towards his NVQ Level 2 and has clearly

absorbed everything he has been taught so far.

James is an Assistant at Weston Park Golf Club and has aided in the many changes within the course. He is keen to gain more knowledge in the machinery, business and budgeting side of greenkeeping, as he believes these are becoming increasingly important factors within the industry.

Another individual who has a great passion for his job, James enjoys the challenge of putting the theory learnt in the classroom into practice on the golf course.

James plans in the future to gain as much knowledge as possible in as many areas as he can. This attitude should see him rise though the ranks of greenkeeping and he plans to be at the top within 10 years.

Despite not being crowned the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year for 2004 the remaining five Finalists certainly did not leave empty handed.

BIGGA Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, and Toro's Andy Brown emphasised at the awards ceremony that all eight entrants really were winners. A cliché maybe but one that is certainly very true in this case.

The interview panel of John Pemberton, BIGGA Chief Executive, David Walden, BIGGA Board member, Peter Mansfield and Andy Brown, both of Toro, were extremely impressed with the standard of all eight interviewees and the course reports that they produced.

It resulted in some tough and very close decisions having to be made by the panel, which highlighted just how the standard of education in greenkeeping is increasing year on year.

Christopher Kerr, studying at GOSTA, Peter Kennedy, at Reaseheath College, Stuart Glover, Greenmount College, Alastair Higgs, of Sparsholt College, and Katherine Walls, from Myerscough College, all left BIGGA HOUSE with the great experience of being in the competition final, and all that it entails, and the knowledge that they are among the top young greenkeepers in the UK and Ireland. All can look forward to very bright futures.

After the success of the 2004 Student of the Year competition and the high benchmark set by the entrants BIGGA and Toro are already eagerly awaiting the start of the 2005 competition.



▲ The eight finalists, from left, back row, Stuart Glover, Christopher Kerr, Katherine Walls, Alastair Higgs and Peter Kennedy and, front, James Canham, Alex Shore and Robert Finnegan.

# A Triumph for Persistence

Scott MacCallum witnessed Graeme MacDonald's fine win in the National Championship, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, and wonders if credit should go to a famous spider.

Must of us, well those from north of the border, know the story of Robert the Bruce. Depressed, having lost another battle, and holed up in a cave somewhere, his eye was drawn to a spider attempting to weave a web. The poor spider got close a few times before it all fell apart, but eventually persistence earned its reward and the spider succeeded. Bob drew inspiration from this try, try and try again mentality, gathered up his broad sword, climbed aboard his horse once again, and went out and changed the course of Scottish history.

Although he has a Scottish name, I'm pretty sure Graeme MacDonald was more likely to have been thinking about Ransomes Jacobsen's new revolutionary remote controlled spider mower when he teed up at Alwoodley for the 2004 National Championship, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, but having come close in the event so often he showed similar fortitude to Scotland's most famous spider to clinch a fine win.

A model of consistency, the Newark Golf Club Course Manager has won a host of club Championships in and around the Peterborough area, and had regularly collected prizes in the National Championship but the top one had always eluded him.

"I lost on countback to Chris Lomas at Coxmoor and Hollinwell last year so was determined to go one better this time," said a delighted Graeme, after he had been presented with the BIGGA Challenge Trophy.

"I've played in the National Championship for many years and, knowing the history of the event, it was always something I wanted to win. Having now done so, it just about tops anything else I've ever achieved on a golf course."

Graeme thought the course was awesome and certainly deserving of its reputation as one of the finest, and toughest, in the country, particularly as the two rounds were played in weather more conducive to kite flying.

"I didn't play too well on the opening day but played really well, ironically in the company of Chris Lomas, on the second day."

Rounds of 84 in extremely windy conditions and 75 off a handicap of 4, in only slightly weaker wind, just pulling him clear.

He opened his second round with a bogey and was actually two over after three holes but was a model of consistency after that with two birdies and three bogeys over the final 15 holes.

Royal County Down's Noel Crawford, had to settle for the BIGGA Challenge Cup after rounds of 78 and 75.

It was to be the third time that scratch man Noel has won the Cup,



Alwoodley proved to be a hospitable club, but a fiendishly difficult course.



Graeme MacDonald with the BIGGA Challenge Trophy.

having been best gross in 2000 at Fairhaven and St Annes Old Links and 2002, when he did the same at Hillside and Hesketh.

Noel, another regular attendee of the Championship, had a real scare on the second morning after his taxi got lost on the way to the course. He only just made it to the tee in time, having to play his opening drive in his street shoes to do it.

After such a sticky, or should it be slippery start, his round came alive with an eagle courtesy of a holed 60 yard chip on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Phil Taylor, Alwoodley's excellent Course Manager, and his dedicated team had ensured the 76 competitors faced a genuine test of golf and the immaculately prepared course was as good, in condition and in layout, as any to have hosted the National Championship in recent times.

Next year's National Championship will be hosted by Sherwood Forest and Worksop Golf Clubs and will be played on Monday and Tuesday, October 3-4, 2005.



The overall winners from two days at Alwoodley.



Richard Andrews chips onto the 16th green on day two.



At least this ball was found.

**BIGGA National Championship sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd**

**BIGGA National Champion (Best Nett Score)**  
**BIGGA Challenge Trophy – Graeme MacDonald, Newark GC, 151 Nett**

**BIGGA Scratch Champion**  
**BIGGA Challenge Cup - Noel Crawford, Royal County Down GC, 153**

**Gross 36 Holes**  
**Andrew Unwin, Rotherham GC, 160 (Better Second Round)**  
**Mike Hughes, Edgbaston GC, 160**

**Handicap 36 Holes**  
**Anthony Gerrard, Halifax GC, 155 Nett**  
**Dave Fellows, Coxmoor Woods GC, 156 Nett**

**1<sup>st</sup> Round**

**Scratch – 7**  
**Denis Tweddle, Turnberry Hotel, 75 Nett**

**8-15**  
**Matt Folka, Hawkstone Park, 76 Nett**

**16-28**  
**John Watts, Leeds Golf Centre, 83 Nett**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Round**

**Scratch – 7**  
**Eamonn Crawford, Royal County Down GC, 72 Nett**

**8-15**  
**Simon Woolley, Brickendon GC, 74 Nett**

**16-28**  
**Gary Crawford, Royal County Down GC, 73 Nett**

**Nearest the Pin (Day 1 only)**  
**David Beale, Orsett GC**

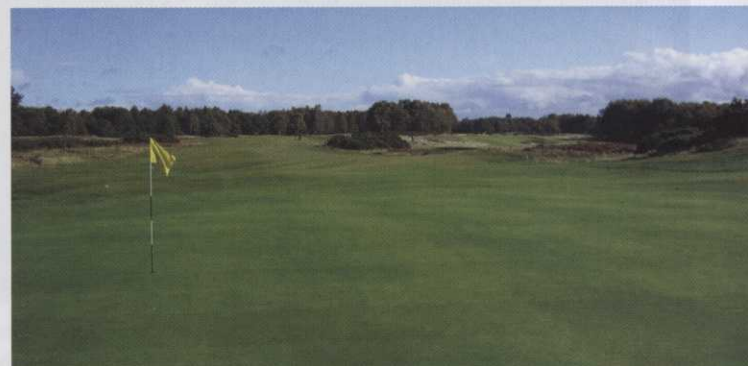
**Longest Drive (Day 1 only)**  
**Adam Newton, Fulford GC**

**Regional Trophy**  
**Midland Region**

**Richard Barker, Antony Bindley, Matt Folka, David Goodchild, Barry Holt, Mike Hughes, Graeme MacDonald and Simon Woolley, 641**

**South East Region**

**Richard Andrews, Don Clark, Philip Gerrard, Mark Henderson, Ian Semple, Chris Wells, Darren Woodward and David Badham, 643**

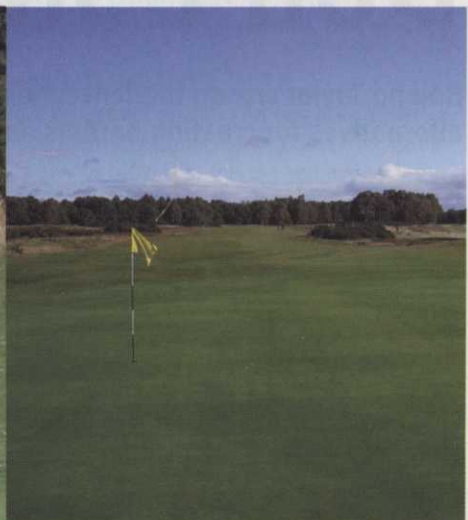




Chris Lomas, the defending champion, found it more difficult this time around.



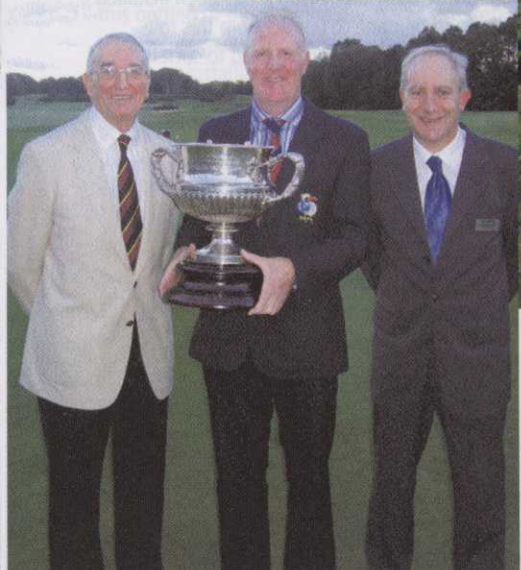
Played left handed the course was even more difficult.



The two Peters, Boyd and Larter, hard at work.



Graeme MacDonald found gold at the end of this particular rainbow.



Above: A player watches the result of his tricky up and down.  
Left: Winner Graeme MacDonald with the trophy presented by Club Captain Brian Mason (left) and Jim Whitton from sponsor Ransomes Jacobsen.



The South East Region collected the team prize.

# Don't Sit on the Fence

Roland Taylor sits on the fence, hedges his bets, and looks at the alternatives for creating barriers and boundaries.

Fencing is likely to be a low priority on the list of course management tasks for most clubs and the subject only gets attention when it really becomes necessary. It is however, an important means to protecting property and land. Fencing and other types of barriers primarily have two roles, to keep intruders, including livestock, out or keep the latter in. However, there is a third aspect that is worth taking into account. For some clubs, especially those set in parkland, it can provide an overall aesthetic quality to the landscape, especially when in the vicinity of the clubhouse or hotel.

## Security Fencing

When considering fencing the first thing that comes to mind is security and with the considerable investment that clubs now have in equipment this is a top priority.

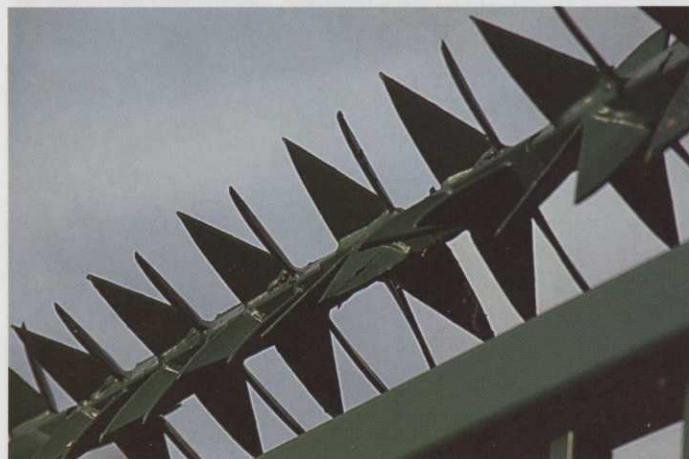
There is a wide choice of security fencing available and careful consideration should be given to what are the aims and priorities and whether planning permission is required. The height of any fencing should be appropriate to the risk and the location of the site. As a general guide security fencing for industrial estates needs to be at least 2.4 metres high.

The question then is what system to use? Welded mesh and steel palisades are considered the best. The palisade style is the most common as it is strong and easy to erect. There are various tops available, with triple pointed ones being the most common, especially where high security is the key issue. For safety reasons these should not be used on fencing below 1.8 metres.

Welded mesh panels are an alternative. They have the advantage of giving great surveillance, but should be made from a mesh small enough not to allow finger or tow holds. Another choice is solid steel panels.

All security fencing needs to be mounted on steel posts set in reinforced concrete. As an extra deterrent the top of the fencing can be fitted with barbed or razor wire. Another alternative is revolving spikes.

These consist of a series of metal spikes that, when touched, revolve, thus eliminating the possibility of someone gaining a foothold and in the



Rotating spikes on top of fencing make it virtually impossible to climb over.



A hedge that has been correctly laid forms an impenetrable barrier and when the new growth appears is an attractive feature.

process suffering considerable discomfort and possible injury. They act as a formidable barrier and deterrent.

If thieves are persistently visiting the premises, then electric fencing might be a consideration. It is legal, providing it is installed by a specialist, but should be only used in extreme cases. Both technical and legal advice must be sought before going ahead.

When considering fencing the most likely type to spring to mind is chain link. From a security aspect this is a non-starter but is very useful as a boundary marker. Chain link is constructed from steel wire woven into a mesh, which can be bought in various grades and sizes. There is a choice of either galvanised or PVC coated. Like security fencing it should be mounted on concrete or steel posts. These can be cranked at the top to take barbed wire.

All security fencing and chain link is unattractive but this can be overcome with a little forethought. Obviously the reason it has been installed is to deter intruders, so nothing should be done to detract from this role. However, some soft vegetative climbing shrubs could be used to soften the image and, if thorny varieties are included, will also add to the protective screen. However they need to be sited so as not to act as cover for an intruder.

## Wooden Fencing

Nationwide the most popular fencing found in the countryside is post and rail. This system, while pretty mundane, can, if built correctly, add attractiveness to the landscape, especially in parkland, with a backdrop of trees. Alternatively, if the fence is painted white it can add to and set off an entrance to a course.

When it comes to erecting post and rail fencing there are a number of key issues that need to be considered so that it looks good when completed. One of the most important aspects is the post alignment, which must be straight. This is time consuming but the end result is rewarding. Once the proposed line of post has been established and markers sited it is time to put in the post. There are two ways of doing this either, by digging holes or by driving them in. The later is fast and the posts firmer. This system is favoured

by fencing contractors who generally use specialist equipment. It is possible to drive the posts into the ground with a sledgehammer, but there is considerable risk of damaging the tops.

The fencing contractor contacted had a Bryce Suma Powershift ram, which was modified to his own specifications. The machine aligned each post to ensure the flat surfaces were identical, so that there was no twist when the rails were applied. Each post was driven exactly three foot straight into the ground, taking into account terrain and contours.

If holes are going to be dug then there are plenty of earth augers on the market that make the job faster than the older method of using spade, pickaxe and crowbar. Earth augers come with a variety of attachments to either fit a tractor and skidster or as one or two manned self-contained machines.

Once a series of posts are in place it is then time to fit the rails. For post and nailed fencing, where there is no chance of people climbing on them, the general rule is to fit rails that are 1.8m long, 38mm thick and 87mm deep, these conform to a British Standard (BS 1722-7 1999).

Where the fence is going to be used to support rabbit netting a lighter version of rails such as 30mm wide and 75mm deep are more suitable. Standard patterns are usually available off the shelf but you can have them made to specific requirements at a cost. Post and rails must be treated and with today's methods this ensures long life.

To fit the rails to the posts the contractor we spoke to used special galvanised ring shanked nails, which were driven in place with a compressor gun. He averaged 100 metres of fencing per day.

An alternative method of fitting rails is to set them into mortises in the post. While this produces a stronger attachment to the rails it is more costly and time consuming to erect.

Where strained wired fencing is being used the most important factor is the straining posts, as these take all the loading. The posts between these strainers only support the wire at the correct height.

A facility for re-tensioning the wire should always be part of the design. As a general rule of thumb straining posts for a wire fence need to be approximately 11.7 metres high and at least 7.5cm in diameter and set at a depth of at least 60cm in the ground.

Terrain is very rarely flat so the hummocks and dips have to be taken into account if the fence line is to remain straight. Likewise soil conditions vary considerably, so if bedrock is encountered the depth of the post will be affected and it may be necessary for them to be set in concrete.

Rabbits cause considerable damage and where they are highly active some control fencing can be advantageous. Hexagon mesh is recommended by the Forestry Commission and there is a British Standard (BS 10223) for this netting. If this is being purchased it is important to check that the distance between the widest parallels is no more than 3cm.

When installing it, it must be bent in the direction the rabbits are coming from and held down by wire or covered with turf sods. The height of the actual fence, once the bottom has been covered over, should be at least 900



**A ram is the fastest way to accurately sink posts at a consistent depth with level face for the rails.**

mm. Wire supports are suggested to ensure that there is no sagging. Any slack in the fence will defeat the objective of the exercise. Rabbit fencing needs to be regularly checked to ensure it continues to be effective.

## Hedges

While hedges are generally cut only once a year their effectiveness as strong barriers can be improved considerably by being laid. This can also add to their attractiveness. Hedge laying is a craft dating back to the 1700's.

Its aim is to create an ongoing barrier, which is difficult for both humans and animals to penetrate. There are a number of hedge styles throughout the country and each of these are designed to meet a range of criteria including plants, altitude, wind and snow.

The governing body is the National Hedge Laying Society and they provide a list of contractors as well as offering training days throughout the country for beginners who wish to take up the craft.

With more clubs considering environmental issues and conservation areas a well-laid hedge might be worth considering for some selected sites.

Details can be obtained from Bruce May (Sec NHLS), "Way Post", Vines Cross, East Sussex. TN21 9EG Tel: 01959565678. Information on registered contractors, countrywide, is available on [www.hedgelaying.org](http://www.hedgelaying.org).

There is a possibility that a grant maybe available for some types of fencing so it is well worth contacting your local Department of Environment Food and Rural affairs (DEFRA) centre to check out this possibility.

## Recycled Materials

Traditionally wood has been used to make products such as boardwalks and fencing. However there are alternatives to this material that will eradicate the disadvantages associated with wood, including ongoing maintenance, treatment and lifespan.

Recycled plastic is becoming a useful substitute for wood fencing. Recycled plastic fencing includes post and rail, birdmouth and picket and patch. This particular material can offer many benefits compared to wood. Recycled plastic is both extremely durable and also vandal resistant.

Due to the surface texture, the product is more resistant to graffiti and more resilient to other forms of vandalism. Plastic is also less flammable and UV resistant, meaning little or no colour loss or sunlight damage occurring with the material.

When it comes to fencing some clubs will have the advantage of being part of a large estate with its own forestry or estate management department who take care of these requirements. Most clubs will not have this luxury, so either they have to do the work in-house or employ a contractor. In the later case it is worth shopping around as like any industry there are good and bad operators.

Third party recommendations and viewing their work will, in general, be sufficient to gauge good workmanship.

If it has to be done in-house then hiring the right equipment will help to eliminate hassle and speed-up the operation considerably. There are plenty of companies out there who can supply this type of machinery on hire.

Well-built fences will give years of trouble free maintenance so it is important to get it right from the start.



**This one man earth auger takes the hard work of making post holes.**



**The tops of security fencing posts come in a range of style, this one is called the trident.**

# ONE MIXTURE DOESN'T ALWAYS FIT ALL!

Lex van de Weerd looks at the factors to consider when choosing grass seed for a new golf project.



Sowing grass seed on a new golf course is done only at the final 'finishing off' stage of the project. Before this happens, many considerations have to be made in order to decide on the right seed mixtures. Whoever makes this decision – the architect, the course constructor, the grass breeder or the seed supplier – has to look closely at factors which are relevant for good grass growth on the new course.

In practice, the best recommendation can be obtained from breeders who have the most knowledge about grasses. Sometimes, the choice for the best adapted mixtures are easy and standard mixtures can be used, but on many projects the conditions are so unusual or deviant that tailor-made solutions are necessary.

So which factors play an important role in choosing the right seed?

## Location

Every new golf course is unique because of its design and location. The latter can influence on the choice of grass. Will it be a links course (flooding or salinity problems to be expected)? What will be the altitude (mountains or flat land)? On which soil type will the course be built? This is important mainly for the fairways and roughs because greens and tees are usually constructed artificially. As the performance of grass species (diseases, thatch build up, availability of nutrients) is influenced by the soil pH, it is important to know this.

For instance, nutrient availability for the plants will become difficult at pH levels > 7.5. This affects P (Phosphorous), Fe (Iron), Mg (Magnesium), Cu (Copper) and Zn (Zinc). Because of deficiencies of these elements in the plants, grass growth is disturbed resulting in slow growth, slow recovery after damage and discolouring of the plants.

## Climate

Within grass species, many differences exist among varieties regarding heat stress tolerance, drought resistance, frost tolerance and disease resistance. Therefore, it is necessary to understand in advance the climatic (local) conditions very well. Although greens and tees are often irrigated, it is still important to know the annual precipitation, which is important for roughs, non-irrigated fairways and driving ranges. In areas with severe winters, not only the lowest average temperature is important, but also the snow and the duration of snow cover. This will pose problems for Fusarium.

## Water

All golf courses use water, but how they use it differs from course to course or from location to location. Water can come from different sources (drinking water, ponds, ground water wells or sewage water). Quality can vary a lot, except for drinking water. The pH value of the water can have a major influence on good grass growth because it will have an effect on the soil pH. In general, most turf grass pathogens are able to grow at any pH encountered by turf. A low pH (<5.5) gives a worse nitrification, a blocking of P, Mg deficiency. Along with difficulties for plants in taking up elements, other negative factors influenced by high soil pH are:

- Limitation of soil microbial processes (breakdown of Nitrogen).





- More summer patch problems on *Poa pratensis*, *Festuca rubra* and *Poa annua*.
- More problems with *Fusarium*.

A pH between 6-7 is considered the best for nutrient uptake and microbial activity.

In dry areas (hot climates) many golf courses are using, or are forced to use, sewage water. This kind of water usually contains a lot of salts which cause problems to grass.

It is possible to select for salt tolerance – not only from species but varieties too. Some new courses are restricted to using drinking water and if there are no alternatives it is important to choose drought tolerant grasses (e.g. *Koeleria macrantha*, Tall fescue or Bermudagrass) to minimise the usage of drinking water and therefore the cost.

### Management

Too often, new golf courses are seeded with grasses without considering the following points in advance:

What is the aim of the club? Will it be private or public (maybe pay and play)? The latter often means more rounds per year, and more wear tolerance is needed. On such courses the choice of perennial ryegrass on tees and fairways is more common than on private courses.

What is the expected quality of the greenkeeping staff? Too often inexperienced greenkeepers are confronted with grasses on their courses which they don't have the know-how to manage.

Monoculture greens (100 per cent creeping bent or 100 per cent Bermudagrass) require more skill from the greenkeeping staff than bent-fescue greens. This problem might be less valid for the UK, where the education level is high, but in many new golf countries (Eastern Europe) it is a real problem.

What is the management budget? Sometimes people want to choose the new generation creeping bentgrass varieties (L93, Penn A4, etc.), but the head greenkeeper lacks sufficient budget to maintain these grasses.

Despite the excellent sward density and close mowing tolerance of these 'new' bents, they need much more verti-cutting due to more thatch, and they also need mowing more frequently. Moreover, adapted mowing machines are necessary, which are often more expensive. This all requires an increased maintenance budget.

Are there any environmental restrictions? If the course is going to be confronted with restrictions for the use of water, fertilizers or chemicals, it is necessary to adjust the grass concept for the course.

Characteristics such as drought resistance, low-maintenance performance and sod density will become essential. Monocultures on

greens should be avoided in favour of bent fescue mixtures. Also, perennial ryegrass is doubtful in such situations.

### Miscellaneous

The lay-out of rough varies a lot on courses. Sometimes the natural vegetation will be used and sometimes the architect wants to sow the roughs. For these areas, several solutions are possible. Mainly low maintenance species are required.

Are there any special requirements from the architect? Sometimes architects like to see colour differences in order to distinguish different parts on a hole. This will have consequences for the choice of varieties in a mixture, which at the same time should also be adapted to the area of use.

The sowing period of the course can influence the choice of species. Particularly in tough climates (e.g. mediterranean areas, Scandinavia) it is not always possible to sow every species in the summer or autumn.

Under pressure, a golf course constructor is often forced to sow during a less suitable period of the year which sometimes results in poor establishment of the grass, or even the disappearance of a species. In such cases it is better to use another mixture composition which is more adapted to the sowing conditions.

Will shade cause problems in the future? If a new course is planned in parkland, or will be surrounded by forest, problems might occur. Although architects have learned to better anticipate expected shade problems from trees, it is not always possible to avoid this.

Therefore grass species and varieties should be selected with good shade tolerance. In the last year new species, such as *Deschampsia* and Tall fescue, have been introduced successfully on golf courses.

It is clear that grass plays a major role in the success of a new golf course. Despite a beautiful design, the image of a new project can be ruined by making bad grass choices at the beginning.

Taking into consideration the cost of seed compared with the total investment of a new golf course, it is incomprehensible that in many cases the project management chooses the cheapest offer without looking seriously at the quality of the mixtures.

Although it is possible to sow the whole course with the same mixture, in many cases a long-lasting, beautiful course is only achievable with a variety of mixtures carefully chosen to suit the conditions. One mixture doesn't always fit all!

Lex van de Weerd is Barenbrug's International Product Manager.



# Where did my nitrogen fertiliser go?

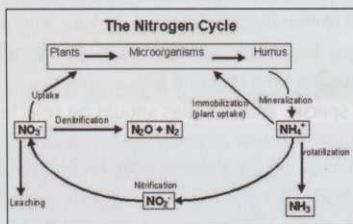
by Brian Horgan, Ph.D. University of Minnesota

Maintaining a healthy turf-playing surface with high wear tolerance, aesthetic quality and an acceptable rate of growth requires efficient use of fertilisers. When added nitrogen (N) is applied, turfgrass managers expect a response from the turf. Most turfgrass managers apply fertiliser and expect the response from the added N to last a defined period of time. Most turfgrass managers consider fertilisers a major line-item expense in their budgets. But, can you imagine 20-45% of your applied fertiliser-N not being available for plant uptake because it was lost?

The goal of any fertiliser application is to provide nutrients that are needed to sustain a healthy plant. Knowing that not all of the nutrients are used immediately by the plant, the second goal of any fertiliser application is for the nutrients to remain in the soil so that they are available to the plant when needed. However, this is not always the case.

The N cycle is complex and in recent years, researchers have focused on potential N loss mechanisms not only because of the economics, but because of the environmental implications.

These loss mechanisms include:  $\text{NO}_3^-$  leaching which can contaminate drinking water, N volatilisation as  $\text{NH}_3$ , and N denitrified as  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  or  $\text{N}_2$  of which the former is a greenhouse gas that has been implicated in stratospheric ozone destruction.



## LEACHING

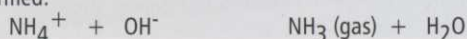
Nitrate is negatively charged and so is the soil. This is why soils have an ability to bind cations (positively charged ions), often referred to as the cation exchange capacity (CEC). Therefore, the negatively charged  $\text{NO}_3^-$  and the negatively charged soil repel each other and the nitrate is free to move with soil water.

Leaching of nitrates ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ) and contamination of groundwater have been studied carefully and are discussed in reviews by Petrovic (1990) and Walker and Branham (1992). The data discussed in these reviews suggest very little  $\text{NO}_3^-$  leaching occurs from an established turf, as the turf has the ability to take-up large amounts because of an extensive fibrous root system.

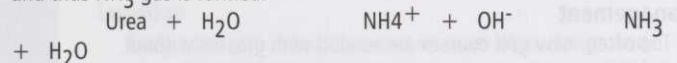
However, during establishment of turf on soils that have relatively high percolation rates, leaching can occur and efforts should be made to frequently apply small amounts of N-fertiliser or slow release N sources until root mass is sufficient to reduce downward  $\text{NO}_3^-$  movement.

## VOLATILISATION

Ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) volatilisation from turf is extremely variable and depends on the source of N, application rate, temperature, thatch thickness, irrigation or rainfall following application, soil moisture, and most importantly, soil pH. In soils with pH greater than 7.0, free hydroxyls ( $\text{OH}^-$ ) are present. When combined with  $\text{NH}_4^+$  from fertiliser,  $\text{NH}_3$  gas is formed.



In particular, if urea is applied to a soil with a pH greater than 7.0 and not watered in with either irrigation water or rainfall, 36% of the fertiliser N can be lost as a  $\text{NH}_3$  (Bowman et al., 1987). This is because as urea hydrolyzes (absorbs water), an  $\text{OH}^-$  is formed in close proximity to the  $\text{NH}_4$  and thus  $\text{NH}_3$  gas is formed.



Therefore, applying sufficient irrigation following the application of urea will help buffer the production of the  $\text{OH}^-$  and reduce volatilisation of  $\text{NH}_3$ .

One aspect of a turfgrass system that will dramatically affect volatilisation is the presence of thatch. An enzyme called urease is present in large quantities in the thatch which helps convert the  $\text{NH}_4$  to  $\text{NH}_3$ . In a turf system that contains a larger thatch layer (5 cm), 39% of applied urea was volatilised as opposed to a turf system that contains no thatch, only 5% volatilised (Nelson et al., 1980).

## DENITRIFICATION

Recent research has demonstrated that a process called denitrification can be a significant avenue for N loss from a turfgrass system (Horgan et al., 2002). Denitrification is a biologically mediated process that occurs in anaerobic (oxygen limiting) soils. This process does not require complete anaerobicity for N to be lost as a gas. In fact, when turf is watered, through irrigation or from rainfall events, small sites within the soil profile can become oxygen limiting (Sextone et al., 1985) and if nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ) is nearby, it will be reduced to  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{N}_2$  gases.

Denitrification is defined as the reduction of  $\text{NO}_3\text{-N}$  to gaseous N.

$\text{NO}_3$	$\text{NO}_2$	$\text{NO}$	$\text{N}_2\text{O}$
$\text{N}_2$ (nitrate)	(nitrite)	(nitric oxide)	(nitrous oxide)
(dinitrogen)	gas	gas	

Let's briefly examine the processes that affect the gaseous N loss:

1. Soil temperature – warmer soils stimulate denitrifying bacteria
2. Available  $\text{NO}_3^-$  – from fertilisers or from mineralisation of organic matter
3. Carbon as a source of energy for the denitrifying bacteria – readily available in thatch
4. Some degree of anaerobicity in the rootzone – either from irrigation or rainfall

Highly managed turfgrass represents a system where extensive denitrification could occur as irrigation keeps the soil near field capacity when soil temperatures are high, multiple applications of N fertiliser are common, and large amounts of organic C are present in the thatch and verdure.

**Dr. Brian Horgan, Assistant Professor and Turfgrass Extension Specialist at the University of Minnesota, explains the role of nitrogen in soil, its effect and how to minimise its loss.**

**TORO** Count on it.

Reviewing Figures 1 and 2, there are some key points that must be noted:

- Immediately following fertilisation and irrigation (day 1), gaseous N losses occurred.

- Denitrification is a process that can lead to significant amounts of N lost from the system. Figure 1, right, Spring Denitrification Losses from Kentucky Bluegrass, was an experiment conducted in the spring when soil temperatures were low and only 7% of applied fertiliser N was lost from denitrification.

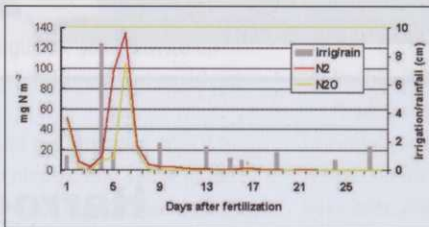
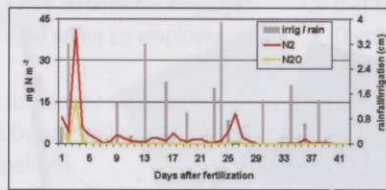
- In contrast, Figure 2 was an experiment conducted when soil temperatures were high and soil microbes were more active, in these conditions, 19% of applied fertiliser N was lost from denitrification.

- N<sub>2</sub>O losses are minor compared to N<sub>2</sub> which is reassuring considering the effect of N<sub>2</sub>O on atmospheric ozone destruction.

- N<sub>2</sub> losses occur even after small rainfall/irrigation events.

- Large N<sub>2</sub> losses are a possibility when large rainfall events occur

immediately following fertilisation. Figure 2, right, shows Summer Denitrification Losses from Kentucky Bluegrass.



#### WHAT FACTORS CAN BE MODIFIED TO REDUCE N LOSSES?

Aerification is typically done to decrease compaction in a soil and improve gas exchange.

By reducing compaction, the soil is able to drain excess water more rapidly which will directly affect the length of time soil oxygen may be limiting.

This same principal holds true for correcting drainage problems in the soil by installing drain-tile. This will help reduce denitrification losses.

Irrigation is necessary to grow high maintenance turf. However, apply a sensible amount of irrigation water following fertilisation so that oxygen does not become limiting when a large amount of NO<sub>3</sub>-N is present.

Also, irrigate when plants show signs of wilt, subscribe to deficit irrigation practices, and use improved varieties of turfgrass that are drought resistant.

The source of N applied can also be a major factor when determining denitrification potentials. If an ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub>) based fertiliser is used or a slow release fertiliser, the N must undergo nitrification (conversion of NH<sub>4</sub> to NO<sub>3</sub>) before the substrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) is present for denitrification or leaching to occur.

Also, if an NH<sub>4</sub> based fertiliser is used, or urea, and soil pH is greater than 7.0; you can reduce the potential volatilisation losses by watering in the fertilizer and managing the thatch layer.

In contrast, if a NO<sub>3</sub>-based fertiliser is applied, the substrate is present and if oxygen limiting conditions exists, gaseous losses will occur and the leaching potential increases.

Sandy soils typically have higher percolation rates than finer textured soils. Therefore, we would not expect high rates of denitrification to occur on sandy soils because oxygen would not be a limiting factor.

However, under these conditions, application of NO<sub>3</sub>-based fertilisers can be moved out of the root zone through leaching.

#### TAKE HOME MESSAGE

Nitrogen losses and potential contamination of the environment can be minimised by subscribing to best management practices. Nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) is more readily leached during grow-in when plant roots are not established and/or in a sandy soil with high percolation rates and a low cation exchange capacity.

Volatilisation of NH<sub>4</sub> is more likely in soils with a pH greater than 7.0 and/or with turfgrasses that form large thatch layers. Proper selection of fertilisers in high pH soils and managing thatch through topdressing, aerification and proper mowing will reduce NH<sub>3</sub> losses.

Lastly, denitrification of applied fertiliser N can cause N to be limiting for turfgrass growth and development. Consider the soil type, source of fertiliser and ability of the soil to drain excess water when planning a fertility program to minimise denitrification losses.

#### NITROGEN LOSS GAME

You read the scenario and determine what the potential N loss mechanisms are. Correct answers will earn you a "pat-on-the-back".

Answers are listed below.

- Scenario 1. Sandy soils, high N fertilizer rates, infrequent application of N.

- Scenario 2. High pH soil, granular urea applied, no irrigation present.

- Scenario 3. Nitrate fertilizer applied, only apply N once a year to my golf course rough, silt loam soil, 4 cm of rainfall just after fertilization.

- Scenario 4. Sand profile, newly seeded turf, soluble N applied weekly at very low rates.

- Scenario 5. Poa/bentgrass putting green, native soil, frequent light application of N, high soil temperatures, summer thunderstorms are common.

Answers: (1) NO<sub>3</sub> leaching, (2) NH<sub>3</sub> volatilization, (3) denitrification, (4) plant uptake, (5) denitrification and/or plant uptake.

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# How to Apply for that Ideal Job

In the first of a three part series Frank Newberry provides a range of useful techniques to help you get the job you really want.

It has been my experience that greenkeepers are not in the job for the money. A good salary is always going to be important, but many greenkeepers could earn more money elsewhere doing jobs that have no variety and no access to good fresh air.

So let's appraise the job you are in and think about ways it could be made more interesting for you. One place to start might be to get your name on something called a 'succession plan'. Every responsible employer has a written or mental succession plan that is used when an employee leaves their job unexpectedly.

The succession plan enables your employer to plan the succession of jobs, i.e. when the Course Manager leaves, the Deputy will do the job until interviews have taken place and a new one appointed.

This approach to staffing can extend down so that a First Assistant succeeds a Deputy, and so on. Getting your name on a list means that your employer has officially stated that you are the successor until the vacancy is filled. This looks good on your CV, but also gives you six weeks or so to demonstrate your worth before the interviews.

Now let's look elsewhere for your ideal job. Take a look at this e-mail I received earlier this year.

'Dear Frank,

I came to see you at BTME with my work colleague for some advice on presenting our CV and about looking for jobs. At the time I had an advert for a "Head Greenkeeper" job.

So I took your advice and completely changed the format of my CV to how you said, and sent it off to 50 clubs. I also phoned and spoke to the guy who was doing the interviews and asked him if I could come down to meet him and have a look around.

I had six positive replies back about my CV, who were all very impressed with it. But most of all I got an interview, for the job I most wanted, which I was successful with and I start as Head Greenkeeper on Monday.

Yours sincerely, Paul'

In Paul's instance he had vacancies to chase but this is not essential. You can, and should, try applying for a job or a vacancy that does not exist. My brother used to go into the reception areas of organisations, pick up reports, accounts and any brochures about the firm.

He'd take them home, study them and then write a letter saying how he had always admired the company and it would be great one day to maybe work for them in some capacity.

He would indicate that he would love a visit and on that visit he would explain how they might save their money by contacting him when they have a suitable vacancy. They need then only advertise the position if they were not happy with him. Now my brother is a likeable fellow, and, of course, he usually gets the job he wants.

Many people maintain a standard CV and then use a cover letter to match the skills they have to those wanted by the employer. However, this approach is now somewhat out of date. Employers do not like to search through documents when they have 80 or more to read.

A customised CV with all the information about your suitability in the first paragraph increases your chances of being interviewed dramatically.

That said you have to write a covering letter, so consider reproducing the suitability paragraph in the letter itself. However, you cannot write a meaningful cover letter or a CV if you do not know what employers are

really looking for. If the advertisement doesn't tell you much then call the employer and ask for a copy of the job description and something called the employee specification.

The job description will tell you what the job is about and the employee specification will tell you what the employer thinks the ideal candidate is like. Armed with that information you can write a letter and CV that should fit the vacancy perfectly.

There is research that says that employers make quick decisions about who they will interview. This decision is usually based on getting a good early impression from a CV or job application.

This makes the first third of the first page of your CV a key area. I recommend candidates put their energy into getting a really positive career profile (suitability statement) at the top of their CV so that employers do not have to search for the information they want. Here is a real life 'before and after' I did for a Deputy Course Manager to guide you:

## Profile (before CV advice)

'Reliable, honest, qualified and experienced greenkeeper, capable of preparing and monitoring budgets. Competent in construction work, experienced in use of modern machinery, and knowledgeable in computerised irrigation system and up to date with health & safety law'.

## Profile (after CV advice)

"I am an accomplished and experienced Deputy Course Manager with first-rate leadership skills and a proven track record of success. I have a reputation for being positive, cheerful and highly resilient under pressure. I have been able to consistently develop excellent working relationships with fellow employees, members, guests and club committees. I have played a leading role in the planning and implementation of a number of construction projects and I am a skilled computerised irrigation system technician. I have at all times enjoyed being a key player in successful work teams; setting and maintaining high quality standards for daily play on the golf course."

Employers will read your entire CV as long as it is attractive and concise - two sides of A4 as the maximum, perhaps with a note at the bottom of the CV offering further information if required. I also recommend the following layout as logical and easy to read by employers:

- Your name, address, contact numbers and perhaps a flattering photo of you.
- Career Profile (a suitability statement/pen picture of you).
- Specific Work Achievements (linked to the requirements of the job vacancy).
- Career History with dates.
- Educational Qualifications including NVQ's.
- Relevant vocational and technical training.
- Licences, certificates and accreditations etc.
- Hobbies, pastimes and family details.

So good luck with writing your CV. Brin Bendon and I will be on hand at the Careers Fair at BTME 2005 (18 -20 January) if you need help to perfect your CV. If you have one please bring it with you. In the meantime if you want to see sample CV's etc. visit my website [www.franknewberry.com](http://www.franknewberry.com) and follow the 'Contact' link to the 'Request Information' page.

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# NEW PRODUCTS



## NEW BOBCAT MINI LOADER

The new MT52 mini track loader is now the smallest machine in the Bobcat range of skid-steers, compact tracked loaders and all-wheel steer loaders.

With an overall width, with bucket, of just 914 mm, length of 3031 mm - with standing platform - and height of 1235mm, the MT52 is ideal for digging, loading and clean-up applications - both indoor and outdoor - especially in confined areas where larger machines cannot go.

With a 15 kW liquid-cooled Kubota diesel engine and 45.4 l/min of auxiliary hydraulic flow, the MT52 has the power needed for optimum performance with more than 15 different types of attachment, most of which can also be used on the Bobcat 463 skid-steer loader.

Thanks to the wide variety of attachments available, the MT52 is an ideal machine for landscape contractors, eliminating much of the hand labour normally found in earthmoving and fencing applications.

The attachments for the MT52 allow contractors to move dirt, landscape, install fences, plant trees, drill post holes, install sprinkler systems and much more.

Changing attachments is fast and easy via the Bob-Tach attachment mounting system, which the MT52 shares with the rest of the Bobcat range of compact tracked and wheeled loaders.

In addition, the rubber-track undercarriage of the MT52 distributes the loader's operating weight of 1137 kg over a large area, which reduces ground pressure and minimises disturbance to landscapes and other established surfaces.

The tracks also provide superior traction and flotation. The MT52 has a maximum forward travel speed of 5.6 km/h and 2.3 km/h in reverse.

The MT52 has a rated operating capacity of 252 kg, a tipping load of 720 kg and a pushing force of 1130 kg. It has a height to hinge pin with the arms in the fully raised position of 1810 mm and a dump height of 1265 mm.

For further information Tel: 020 87230161

## REVOLUTION IN TURF MANAGEMENT

Supaturf Products launched their newest innovation in Turf Management, the Revolution marked the culmination of five years of the latest research and development undertaken by the Aquatrols Corporation of America.

This outstanding new product has patent pending and has been rigorously tested.

This new class of block copolymer chemistry has been carefully engineered to provide a solid foundation for successful turf management, and is an essential tool for protecting turf against damage caused by environmental and

## CUT-OFF SAW ADDED TO BRAND

JCB Branded Products, have launched a powerful new addition to their range of tools for professional use, the JCB-680 Cut-off Saw.

Considered as essential kit for landscaping and construction, the JCB-680 Cut-off Saw combines fast, high performance cutting with simplicity of use and operator comfort. It slices through concrete, brick, block, steel, asphalt and similar tough materials with minimum effort.

The JCB-680 Cut-off Saw is ergonomically designed and is built for durability and the utmost reliability and is designed to meet the exacting standards required by the construction, civil engineering, landscaping and gardening industries, and the emergency services. Power comes from the 66.7 cc two-stroke engine, producing up to 3.0KW of power and the saw weights only 11.5kg.

There is a large multi-stage filtration system for preventing dust entering the engine, even under the harshest conditions.

The saw has shock mountings designed to reduce the intensity of vibration received through the saw handle, and a mounting trolley allows the use of an optional water kit for lubrication and damping the dust produced when cutting.

The JCB-680 is designed for use with a JCB 355x4x20mm 14" abrasive wheel, or recommended diamond blade.

For further information Tel: 01889 590312



cultural stresses. Revolution is a safe, reliable way to comprehensively maintain quality turf conditions throughout the season. Revolution can be tank mixed with a broad spectrum of commonly applied chemicals for even greater convenience.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of Supaturf's association with the World leaders in turf surfactant technology.

Revolution provides control of rootzone conditions so that turf can perform to its greatest potential. It will withstand daily abuse better, use water more efficiently, and look spectacular even at the height of summer.

For further information Tel: 01440 715800

## LYNX FRONT LINKAGE AND PTO EXPERTISE

Recognised as one of the leading suppliers of front three-point linkage and PTO systems for agricultural tractors, Northamptonshire based Lynx Engineering is now able to offer kits that will fit small and compact tractor models.

Purposely developed to match specific tractors, each linkage system benefits from a robust cast frame and top link carrier for maximum durability.

The linkages are currently offered with lift capacities of 600 and 800kg and can be supplied with a choice of Cat 0 and Cat 1 arm widths to match the tractor and its applications.

All versions have advanced features that include linkage arms that fold up and out of the way for transport or when the linkage is not in use and double acting lift rams.

The linkage kits draw their hydraulic power from a spool valve, and are operated via a Lynx multi-valve system. This enables the operator to easily set the linkage to operate in float or locked modes, with the additional feature of also allowing the link arms to be powered down.

This can be of value when operating certain items of front mounted equipment, such as a dozer blade or front cultivator.

Developed to be easy to fit, each front linkage kit is purpose designed to fit specific tractor models. A key feature of all kits is the robust main frame, which



ensures the load on the front linkage is transferred correctly through the tractor. This is of critical importance as it prevents damage when heavy loads are carried on the front end.

Each linkage kit comprises of a main frame, lift rams, lift arms, cast base frame and cast top link carrier. All relevant bolts and hydraulic hoses are also included. A top link is provided as standard, with the option of quick coupling 'A' Frame.

Able to transmit full engine horse power, the front PTO systems developed by Lynx can be specified to operate with the majority of its

compact and small tractor front linkage kits. A key feature of the front PTO system is the Pro Link control system.

This automatically engages drive to the PTO, modulating the power to provide a 'Soft Start' to the implement. This can help prevent damage to drive shafts, and can also help ensure high inertia kit, such as heavy flail mowers, do not 'stall' the engine as power is taken up.

Lynx PTO systems are fully integrated with the tractor, and take drive directly from the engine crankshaft. As standard, the kits have 1000rpm output at rated engine speeds, have clockwise rotation and industry standard 1 3/8 inch six-spline output shaft. For tractors of under 20hp, a 540 rpm output can be specified, with counter clockwise rotation as an option for all models.

For further information Tel: 01327 843215

## GOODBYE TO OLD RAKES

The good old faithful rake may serve you well, but occasionally they can be a real pain.

Fed up of wasting time by having to move rakes when mowing or grooming, or removing fiberglass slivers and broken handles, are they a hazard on the course or do they simply just interfere in play?

Whatever the reason for falling out with your conventional rake, the new Rake Caddie is here to help.

This revolutionary system actually stores the rake in an underground shaft next to the bunker.

Thus the rake is hidden away out of sight and harms way and makes sure only the sand is responsible for stopping a golfer's ball.

To retrieve the rake you simply open the lid with the club handle. To return the rake the golfer pushes the rake back down with his club handle, and the rake automatically locks into the unit.

With the rake stored in an underground unit it also ensures that rakes are always clean and dry, and you always know exactly where the rake is.



## DEEPER AERATION

Wiedenmann is one of the world leaders in deep aeration and turf decompaction technology with over 40 years experience in the turf maintenance sector.

Now they have taken this in-depth knowledge and combined it with three years of research and development to produce a new tractor mounted deep aerator, the Terra Spike XF, which is claimed to be three times faster than competitor machines.

The Terra Spike XF features a new, unique TwinDrive concept with a continuous crankshaft driven from both sides of the machine by maintenance-free pulleys and a ribbed Kevlar V-belt in a dust and dirt free housing. These TwinDrives are connected by two drive shafts from a centrally located gearbox driven by the tractor's pto.

The continuous crankshaft is another innovation, which for the first time, allows a machine to be constructed with an uneven number of crankshaft legs, which in turn results in a machine with a unique working width. This is the XF20/7 with seven crankshaft legs and a working width of 1.85m, which complements the XF20/6 with a working width of 1.6m and the largest machine in the range, the XF20/8 with a working width of 2.1m. The crankshaft is also computer balanced and uses large and robust bearings together with precision counterweights that results in an extremely smooth running machine.

Utilising a centrally positioned crank located within the anti-vibration PowerPack system, the angle of entry of the tines can be adjusted by 25°, from 90° to 65°.

For further information Tel: 0141 8143366





## CLAAS INTRODUCE NEW TRACTOR RANGE

The new CLAAS tractor range for the UK amenity market will consist of a total of 22 models ranging in power output from 75hp up to 335hp.

CLAAS will be marketing four distinct ranges of tractor. Topping the CLAAS range is the new 335hp XERION, launched in Europe at Agritechnica last November and available in the UK for this autumn. In the 200hp to 250hp power sector, CLAAS has the two-model ATLES range, followed by the nine model ARES in the 90hp to 200hp sector, and finally the sub-100hp eight model CELTIS range.

A total of eight Celtis models will be available in the UK with maximum power outputs of 75hp, 84hp, 92hp and 102hp and in two specification levels - RC or RX.

Power for all Celtis models comes from a TIER II compliant, high torque DPS engine driving through a 20 forward/20 reverse speed transmission, with 11 gears in the 4kph to 12 kph working range.

As standard, all RC models are fitted with a mechanical doubler and mechanical reverser, giving a total of 20 forward and 20 reverse speeds, with the option of a mechanical reverser and the TWINSHIFT clutchless electro-hydraulic doubler. The higher specification RX models come as standard with both TWINSHIFT and the REVERSHIFT electro-hydraulic reverser. In addition, a creep speed is also available on all models, giving a total of 30 forward and 30 reverse speeds.

One of the greatest strengths of the Celtis range is its cab, which, with a forward vision range of 1220mm, is the widest cab in this power sector.



The cab also features forward-opening doors and a ventilation system housed behind the dashboard to keep overall height to a minimum.

Standard specification on RC models includes through bonnet exhaust and mechanically operated PTO, whilst the higher specification RX features a side mounted exhaust, adjustable steering column, hydraulically assisted PTO engagement, telescopic mirrors and an opening roof.

For further information Tel: 01284 763100



Stephen Fell (left) and Jo Saunders of Lindum celebrate the launch of Grassfelt.

## LOOKING AT GROWTH

Lindum officially launched Grassfelt in the Instant Stadium at Saltex, where 230 sq metres of their revolutionary new turf covered half the playing surface.

Stephen Fell, Lindum's MD, explained the concept behind the product - a living grass sward grown into a soil-less, biodegradable felt rootzone - and the applications to which it can be put.

"We had felt the need for a strong, instant grass product, especially to combat erosion on civil engineering projects, for some time," he explained, "And were already experimenting with different materials."

Grassfelt can provide a living grass "carpet" over almost any surface including tarmac and concrete. Outdoor events such as weddings and trade shows, are alternative markets for Grassfelt which is currently subject to a patent application.

When used in a permanent landscaping, greenkeeping or civil engineering situation, Grassfelt is laid on the soil, and the roots grow through the felt and into the medium below within days.

For further information Tel: 01904 448675



## HOVERMOWER FLIES IN

Saltex was the first showing of the worldwide selling Hover Mower, generally considered to be one of the best in its class. Lloyds and Company now provide a major alternative to the limited number of existing options within this product sector.

The Hover Mower is designed and built to be the toughest and best performing commercial duty hover mower in the market.

Some of the features make them the best in their class. It has become known as the best selling hover mower within the USA and used as the preferred choice at many prestigious golf courses. Its users demand a reasonably priced, high quality product.

Hover Mowers weigh less and therefore hover more efficiently. They are equipped with larger impellers, which generate more CFA (cubic feet air) per minute. This allows the mowers to float with ease over difficult terrain, with minimal scalping and requiring appreciably less effort to operate.

With regard to cutting, Hover Mowers have a 12mm (1/2") - 76mm (3") adjustable cutting height. The mowers can be equipped with an aluminium cutter disc and reversible stainless steel cutting blades. The steel cutting blades offer a clean, sharp cut, last significantly longer and are more economical. An optional lift kit is available to increase the cut height to 100mm (4").

One of the important features of the hover mower is the deck. Hover Mowers have the deepest deck design in the industry to allow for a higher cut. The design also eliminates torquing which results from the air circulating under the deck.

In a conventional design, the mower has a tendency to move constantly to the left. This would require extra effort by the operator to move the mower from side to side or to keep it on a steady track. The tripod deck design eliminates torquing giving the mower a more neutral stance.

With regard to the handles, Hover Mower have extra long 1.32 Metre (52") handles. These handles are connected to the deck using metal connecting plates. This eliminates premature fracture and failure of the deck, which can be an expensive and chronic problem.

For further information Tel: 01462 683031



# Pipe Dreams

Jim Crabbe looks at the world of drainage through the eyes of a Contracts Manager and offers some advice to clubs seeking to improve their courses.

I was asked the other day how I could glamorise drainage contracting. Needless to say this was during a period prior to a dry lull in the weather. Much thought was given to the idea (I kid you not) and various ideas surfaced only to fade almost immediately. The truth is we are the necessity underpinning of the turf industry.



To most clubs we are the last resort. Once the "Course Closed" sign has been up for a sufficient period of time to allow the Club Secretary to lose his ability to be polite to the telephone enquires as to, "Are you open today?" or the club pro has decided that he has seen enough profits being pushed in to the mud of his driving range, the call goes out to the drainage contractors.

The discussions then go along the lines of, "We have this problem, what can you do about it? We have little money. Do you really have to take the machinery over the fairway? We won't see the marks for long will we? Can you start on Monday the 16th of October at 10:30 am after the Lady Captain has played off? Oh and you can't work here on Tuesdays due to the medal."

An exaggeration perhaps, but not far off in some cases. Drainage or, more precisely, the retrospective installation of drainage, is in most cases left as the last resort, where as it should be given a higher profile in the development plan of most courses.

The lucky few situated on good free draining soils can afford to play down the requirement to drain but even here there are trouble areas. How many clay based greens have been built on free draining golf courses and have been showing their inability to cope with the increased traffic that we now have during the winter period?

Retrospective drainage of these greens has increased year on year from the installation of gravel band to full herring bone pipe drainage systems.

In some cases the well planned installation of retrospective drainage has prevented the full reconstruction of the green and minimised time out of play.

It is much more common place now to find that the Course

Managers are formulating long and medium term development plans for their courses, encompassing all aspects of the land under their stewardship.

Where the professionals have been allowed to do this the results have been impressive. From the drainage contractors point of view this can lead to the establishing of a relationship with the club over the life, or part of the life, of the development plan.

Issues of programming, working method, specification, after care, etc can be fully discussed and form part of the development plan. The contractors can advise of their preferred time to undertake work, their availability, and their limits (drainage machinery does not have the ability to float over water).

Time is then in hand to inform the club members, rearrange fixtures and, hopefully, inconvenience as few people as possible for as short a period of time as possible.

White Horse Contractors have carried out work on a number of courses over three and five year periods and, in general, found that the mutual understanding formed allows for a better end result.

The usual request is, "Can we have the foreman and crew we had last year again? We know them and they know the course." This relationship allows the course management to realise and argue the case for work to be undertaken at a time that will ensure minimum impact on the course.

Ideally drainage installation should be undertaken between April and

***'It is much more common place now to find that the Course Managers are formulating long and medium term development plans for their courses, encompassing all aspects of the land under their stewardship'...***



September, a time of high demand for the use of the course, but a time that allows the contractor to progress at a good pace and inflict little damage to the fine turf areas.

Drainage installation machinery is now very light of foot, trenchers are fitted with wide pads and tractors/dumpers have LGP tyres fitted.

It is, of course, the supply of back fill materials to the pipe layer that causes the wear to the course. It is most usual to have only one materials storage site and this at the furthest point away from the work area.

In the early part of the year, and late in the season, when soil moisture content is high this constant traffic to the same spot is where the damage is done.

Haul roads soon become impassable and in some cases, if the course is heavily contoured, dangerous. Output drops, progress becomes painful and an unsightly mess is made, leaving the

greenkeeping staff with a problem that they may not be able to deal with till the spring.

Long term planning can work round this problem, an informed membership will hopefully respond more positively once the case is made and a period allowed to consider the benefits of timely work.

Of concern to the Course Manager is the reinstatement of drains, in particular across fairway areas. Drain lines will take time to grow over and will be seen for some years after installation, particularly during periods of low rain fall in the summer.

The application of ceramics on top of drains or mixed in to the topping layer to improve the moisture retention of the "root zone", with out adversely affecting its drainage characteristics, has been tried. This has an improving effect, but can increase costs markedly.

Time is the only healer and some courses will recover quicker than others. The positive removal of water from the play area by a properly designed and installed pipe drainage system is the best long term solution to problem areas of the course that will cause closure during the wet winter period.

Verti draining, sand slitting and gravel banding will enhance the pipe system but not replace it. Soil character will determine the intensity of the drainage and so in turn the amount of scarring inflicted.

After care, in the form of overseeding, and keeping the drains topped

to the surface is critical in keeping the level of scarring to a minimum. Should the trench back fill settle, which it will to varying degrees, without further topping up being undertaken scarring will take much longer to heal.

Care must also be taken to ensure that worm action does not lead to capping over of the trench fill, as this will rapidly reduce the effectiveness of the system. Deep spiking is a must.

I mentioned that the course development plans look at all aspects of the management of the land.

Trees will figure significantly in the drawing up of the document. From the land drainage point of view one species stands out, the Poplar. Nothing can render a pipe drainage system ineffective faster than the roots of the Poplar tree and I have seen systems, six months after installation, jammed solid with roots.

Course Managers are keen to re-establish native habitat and removal of the poplar will help all concerned.

Should felling not be an option, then existing pipes must be protected, either with sheeting installed between the tree and the pipe or annual root pruning. New installation should use sealed pipe next to trees.

Drainage is not glamorous but it will allow the course to be brought to presentation standards earlier in the year and help maintain these standards for longer, going in to winter. In some cases it will help save the business if closures can be minimised over winter and increasingly, we are told, during wetter summers.

Planning is the key and informed decision making critical to overall success. Ask questions of your contractor but ensure that you heed the answers, get the pipe in the ground at the right time and in the right way and you may have sweeter dreams.

**Jim Crabbe is Contracts Manager for White Horse Contractors Northern Ltd Tel: 01845 587800**

*'Long term planning can work round this problem, an informed membership will hopefully respond more positively once the case is made and a period allowed to consider the benefits of timely work'*

# Your Letters...

## Mower Cabs as Standard

While reading the article 'Cutting It' in the July edition of Greenkeeper International I got to wondering why so few cabs are fitted to dedicated fairway and rough mowers. The machinery representatives that I speak to all say that they sell the odd cab now and then. From a Health and Safety aspect, where a machinery manufacturer can offer a cab should they be fitted?

There are times of the year when the grass grows faster than we can cut it, especially in the spring, and if you happen to be blessed with meadow type species of grass, and it is pouring with rain, there is a need to keep cutting for as long as possible, a cab will provide the protection required.

I can remember when the last cut on the fairway would be November/December and then you would get them back out in March.

It is now however more common to have to give the fairways a trim at anytime of the year and therefore to sit on a mower out in the elements should be a thing of the past. With cancer being a major killer today a cab would also keep the sun off the user, which would help protect against skin cancer.

Many times I have heard old farm workers complaining about the aches and pains, commonly know as the "screws", because of working in such weather conditions in a time before tractor cabs were fitted as standard.

I do wonder about the legal implications, for if a machinery manufacturer can supply a safety cab from new and we choose not to fit it, have we done enough to satisfy the Health and Safety inspectorate or indeed the court; should litigation take place in respect of serious injury.

When I worked at Hainault Forest, one of my colleagues was cutting rough with the old grey T.30 Massey Ferguson that had no cab and was towing a set of gang mowers. He was hit by a golf ball that came from an unexpected direction, he was momentarily knocked unconscious and on coming to he found himself slumped over the wheel, with the tractor still moving forward cutting grass, can you imagine the consequences if he had fallen off.

To me it makes sense to fit safety cabs to these larger course maintenance machines, inspite of the cost, in order to provide greater protection from the elements, improve efficiency and safety.

**Richard Heaslip**

**Woolston Hall Golf Limited**

## 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**

## Contribution to Help

### Dear Friends

Thank you, on behalf of all at Saint Michael's Hospice, for your wonderful gift of £1918.06, which you raised by holding a golf day in memory of Neil Thomas. Your contribution will help our patients to benefit from the love, care and skilled medical attention provided to people suffering from life-threatening illnesses, at no cost to them. Every year we must raise over one million pounds to meet our running costs, and every donation makes a difference to our future. You can be assured that your contribution is appreciated and will be put to good use.

Thank you so much for thinking of Saint Michael's and supporting us in this way. If you would like further information on the Hospice, or if we can help you in any way, you have only to ask.

**Yours sincerely**

**Lucy Gill**

**Fundraising Secretary**  
**Saint Michael's Hospice,**  
**Crimple House,**  
**Hornbeam Park Avenue,**  
**Harrogate,**  
**HG2 8QL**

## Training

### Tutorial Six

#### Manual Handling

**Manual handling** is an activity that can lead to very serious if not life changing injuries. The legislation in UK and EU law is the "The Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 (MHO)."

The Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 require employers to avoid hazardous manual handling operations where it is reasonable to do so. These operations will include supporting or moving a load by lifting, lowering, carrying, pushing or pulling.

Green staff do get involved in many day to day manual handling operations which may include, for example, lifting fertiliser bags, lifting chemicals, moving tee markers - stone, lifting winter tees, moving sleepers, lifting machinery for maintenance, hooking up trailers etc.

When you're lifting, or stacking, or moving things about, you're not just using your hands. You're using all the tools at your disposal, all the muscles, joints and ligaments in your body. People with manual handling tasks use these tools every day. But like anything used frequently, these tools - these muscles, joints and ligaments - get taken for granted. That's when accidents happen.

Many of these accidents can be prevented. They should be prevented, in fact, because employers have the legal duty to; "So far as is reasonably practical, avoid the need for their employees to undertake any manual handling operation at work which involve a risk to them being injured".

To minimise the risks from manual handling the employer should carry out a "Manual Handling Task assessment" per lift or activity. The manual handling task assessment should be systemised, recorded and the following should be sensibly considered:

- The weight of the load.

- The size of the load.
- The shape of the load.
- The centre of the gravity of the load.
- The nature of the task.
- The individual capability of those undertaking it.
- Conditions in the lifting environment.

When the full extent of the risk has been identified, action should be taken to reduce it to the lowest reasonable level. This will include giving employees an indication of the weight of each load, providing precise information where it is reasonable to do so, and indicating the heaviest side of an irregular load. In many cases the risk can be lowered by;

- Eliminating the activity.
- Improving the lift method by using two persons instead of one.
- Using mechanical aids.
- Improving the design of facilities.
- Checking weights before lifting.

Further detailed guidance, including an example of an assessment checklist, is included in the HSE's guidance Manual Handling, Handling Operations 1992 - Guidance on Regulations (code no. L23). The booklet is available from HSE Books. Haztek International will advise on manual handling on 0208 905 7552 or email: [info@safegolf.co.uk](mailto:info@safegolf.co.uk)



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# News from the Chief Executive

Early in October we interviewed for the Regional Administrator post for the South West and South Wales Region following which I am pleased to confirm the appointment of Mrs Jane Jones.

Jane officially starts on November 1st and lives in Bristol, making her ideally placed for travel around the Region. Her first tasks will be the marketing of the Regional conference at Cannington on 25 November and also the travel arrangements for members wishing to go to Harrogate as a party.

Plans for BTME and Clubhouse are now well advanced and bookings for the workshops and seminars are already starting to come in to Headquarters.

If you are contemplating attending one of the workshops then I would suggest that you secure your place as quickly as possible, numbers are limited and demand is likely to be high.

It is proposed to have a section on the members' bulletin board of the BIGGA web site for those who can either offer someone a lift to Harrogate or for those seeking a lift.

The recommended pay scales for greenkeepers, that have been set by an independent committee since 1997, still seem to be misunderstood by some people.

All too often I still hear them referred to as the BIGGA rates, which they are not. Prior to 1997 BIGGA did publish a set of guideline rates that were used by many employers as the basis for setting pay scales.

Quite rightly many clubs considered it to be wrong for greenkeepers to set their own salaries and so the Standing Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries and Conditions of Employment was born.

The committee is made up of eight representatives from most aspects of the golf world, including the R&A, the ACGS, Secretaries, Owners, Managers and Greenkeepers.

The eight page booklet for 2005 defines legislation and tables recommendations based on age, experience, qualification and location, together with a flow chart on a typical career structure.

These annual recommendations are being used more and more by golf clubs as the basis of their payroll and a copy of the publication can be obtained through BIGGA or the Association of Golf Club Secretaries.

The format of the committee has been so successful that in future not only will it publish scales for greenkeepers but also scales for golf club secretaries.

At the Board of Management meeting in October it was agreed that the library at Headquarters be expanded by utilising a \$2,500 donation from the GCSAA in memory of the late Neil Thomas.

We have a shortage of shelf space and the funds will be used to buy another oak book-case. The library is well used by members and we are always grateful for the donation of books, catalogues etc.

Finally a reminder of how to save money and help BIGGA at the same time! I was pleased to be handed a cheque by Arco for just over £6,000 last week in respect of commission from sales to BIGGA members and their clubs over the last two years.

Until recently all sales were conducted by mail order through their Humberside depot, however they have now completed the installation of a new national computer system and members can enjoy the same significant discount when shopping at their local Arco branch.

For further details on this scheme either contact Rachael or Gemma in the membership department at Headquarters or see the membership page in this month's Greenkeeper International.

**John Pemberton**



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

## SCOTTISH REGION

### Ayrshire

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! I know the last paragraph I wrote for the last edition was a bit facetious, but I did get some feedback, unfortunately none of it would pass the Editor's censor for print!

The Norrie Whittock Trophy was contested at Auchterarder Golf Club on August 23. Brian Aitken, Martin Lothian, Derek Wilson and Stephen Higgins made up the Ayrshire Team, finishing a commendable second to the North Section.

Loch Lomond's Dundonald Links was the venue for our autumn outing, played on October 7. The sun shone and close to 50 players enjoyed an outstanding course, first class service and superb meals. Thanks go to Ken Siems and Loch Lomond Golf Club for their generosity in allowing us to have such a memorable day. The results were as follows:

Harry Diamond Jug. S. Higgins, Ardeer, 70 pts.

Scratch Prize - S. McBlain, Prestwick St. Nicholas, 36 pts.

1<sup>st</sup> Class. 1. S. Higgins, Ardeer, 35 pts; 2. B. Aitken, Turnberry, 33 pts; 3. G. Brown, Turnberry, 32 pts; 4. R. Fulton, St. Nicholas, 30 pts; 5. S. Kelly, Lockerbie, 29.

2<sup>nd</sup> Class. 1. S. Mercer, Skelmorlie, 33 pts; 2. D. Norquoy, Bogside, 33 pts; 3. J. Paton, W. Kilbride, 30 pts. 4. C. Murray, C. Douglas, 29 pts; 5. D. Gray, Pines, 29 pts. Best Visitor. G. Clarke, North Ayrshire Council, 40 pts. New Member. I. McDonald, Largs, 24 pts.

Any news or suggestions then please call me on 07939 104701.

**Dennis Tweddell**

### Central

The final golf tournament of the year was held in late September by courtesy of the committee and members of Downfield Golf Club, in Dundee, when 52 members competed for the trophies in the Autumn Tournament. With entries of nearly 70 a good number had to be balloted out, so beware for future tournaments, get your entry in early!

The course was in excellent condition, despite the weeks of rain before the tournament, and credit goes to Paul Murphy and his staff for this, thanks for all your hard work Paul!

Prize winners on the day were as follows:

Best Scratch. David Leith, Downfield GC, 71pts.

Best Nett. Kenny Stirling, Kingsbarns, 76-2-74 bih.

1<sup>st</sup> Class H/cap. 1. Stuart Pearson, Aberdour GC, 81-7-74 bih; 2. Brian Heggie, Auchterarder GC, 74-Scr-74 bih.

2<sup>nd</sup> Class H/cap. 1. Mark Graham, Green Hotel, 88-14-74; 2. Derek Scott, Scoonie GC, 89-13-76.

3<sup>rd</sup> Class H/cap. 1. Stuart Cruickshank, Deer Park G&CC, 101-18-83; 2. Tom Comerford, Grangemouth GC, 107-20-87.

Best Nett Aggregate for Spring and Autumn Tournaments. Stuart Pearson, Aberdour GC, 77 & 74 - 151.

Patrons. Patrick Benneryd, McNabs, 83-8-75.

Guests. Richard Brown, St Andrews Bay, 78-5-73.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone at Downfield Golf Club for the courtesy extended to us on the day, especially Paul and his staff. Secretary, Margaret Stewart, all the catering and bar staff for keeping us fed and "watered" throughout the day and to Vice Captain, Ian McMurray, who joined us for the day and also presented the prizes in the evening.

Thanks also to all our Patrons for their continued support, everyone who donated to the raffle table, to Peter Boyd for his usual excellent work on the cards, Phil Langdon and Pat (I only buy one drink and that's for myself) Alien for selling the raffle tickets.

There was a slight hiccup with the prizes, but if anyone was omitted from the group photo (taken by our visiting Communications Manager, Scott) I'm sure he will only be too delighted to come back up and take another one!

We welcome two new members to the Section this month and they are Shaun Anderson, from the Dukes Course in St. Andrews, and Hayden Chambers, from St. Andrews Links, I'll let you know next month if they attended the AGM, on second thoughts I won't have to, you would all see them when you were there! Dreamin', I'm always Dreamin'!

Anyway next month's news should contain all the details of this year's AGM, with the names of all the new committee members, or perhaps it will just be a repeat of the previous 10 years.

Two members on the move recently were Craig Pollock, who has left St Andrews



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



**Clive Osgood**  
**SOUTH EAST**  
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and taken over at Cleveland Golf Club in Redcar as Head Greenkeeper, and Andrew Crawford, who has left The Green Hotel Golf Courses in Kinross and is now Assistant at Bruntsfield Links in Edinburgh, best wishes for the future go to them both from everyone in the Section.

**John Crawford**

**North**

Two new members to report this month, and they are Ross and Craig Watson, both from Tain Golf Club. They are both apprentices, and make a full compliment of members from Tain.

The autumn outing at Westhill GC took place on Thursday September 9 and it was well attended and the weather held up really well.

I would like to thank Dougal and his staff for a really well presented golf course, which deservedly received a lot of praise. The food was first class and the buffet style went down a treat, especially for the very hungry amongst you, no names mentioned.

There was also a presentation for Dougal at the end of the prize giving as thanks to all the years as secretary and committee member of the North Section. On behalf of the Section Dougal, all the best.

The prize winners were as follows;

Longest Drives; Class 3. George Asher, Kemnay GC. Class 2. Stuart Mackenzie, Royal Aberdeen GC. Class 1. Gary Tough, Letham Grange GC.

Nearest the Pin. Brian Hunter, Macdonald GC.

Sweep. 1. Iain Gunn, Strathpeffer GC (good golfer); 2. Ben Brooks, Newmachar GC; 3. Bradley Wood, Westhill GC; 4. Neil Kidd, Keith GC.

Guest Winner. Philip Watson, Westhill GC, 79-7-72.

Trade Winner. Patrick (proper name), Allan Stewarts 76-4-72.

Committee Trophy. Iain Gunn, 71-5-66.

Veterans. 1. Hugh Mclatchie, Peterhead GC, 96-21-75; 2. Donald Patience, Tarbet GC, 89-12-77.

Best Veteran, 36 Holes. Hugh Mclatchie, Peterhead GC, 96-21-75.

Apprentice Trophy. 1. Marc Miller, Moray GC, 75-5-70; 2. Craig Watson Tain GC, 95-14-81.

Best Nett Trophy, 36 Holes. Mark Main, Moray, 142.

Class 3. 1. Mark Main, Moray, 87-16-71; 2. David Duggan, Fortrose GC98-23-75; 3. Neil Bruce, Montrose GC, 94-17-77.

Class 2. 1. Ben Brooks, Newmachar GC, 80-11-69; 2. Craig Ogilvie, Ballindalloch GC, 79-9-72; 3. Andrew Shade, Spey Bay, 80-8-72.

Class 1. 1. Iain Gunn, Royal Strathpeffer GC, 71-5-66; 2. Bradley Wood, Westhill GC, 72-2-70, 2. Bradley Wood, Westhill GC, 72-2-70; 3. Neil Kidd, Keith GC, 75-5-70.

Scratch and Hampton Trophy. 1. Gary Tough, Letham Grange GC; 2. Graham Lornie, 71. Thanks again to Westhill GC for their hospitality.

The AGM was on October 14, at the Caley GC at Kings Links in Aberdeen. It took the form of an outing just like last year, and details will follow shortly.

The North Section seminar is at Macdonald GC in Ellon, and is on November 19, it is usually well attended and a good social night.

The Norrie Whytock Trophy was won by the North Section again and if it is won again next year the North get to keep the trophy, as they will have won three times in a row. Well done to the boys playing for the North Section.

That is all to report just now, have a good month and hopefully the weather will hold up.

**Iain Gunn**

**West**

Our autumn outing was held over Ralston Golf Club and it turned out to be a fantastic day with the sun splitting the sky.

This year is Ralston's Centenary year and I would like to thank the captain and committee for allowing us courtesy of the course. The weather on the build up to the tournament was horrendous and many thanks go out to Derek McMillan and his team for the condition of the course.

The results on the day were; Scratch. Stuart Taylor, 71. First Class. 1. Douglas McIntosh, 75-2-73; 2. Andrew Clark, 83-7-76; 3. Chris Kerr, 79-2-77. Second Class. 1. Jack Stedward, 85-12-73; 2. Craig Wylie, 83-10-73; 3. Sandy Brawley, 87-14-73. Third Class. 1. Colin Scott, 95-20-75; 2. David Mowatt, 107-21-86; 3. Gerry Broadley, 112-26-86. Well done to all the winners. Thanks to Joe Pearson for presenting the prizes.

John Robertson, our West Section educational officer, recently took part in a charity event to raise money for Cancer Care, this was for the Maggie's Centre. John and his team, the Milngavie Marauders, set out on the Great Glen Way which is a 73 mile trek. I understand John had a slight detour but he still made it over the finishing line in time. There were 10 teams taking part and between them they

raised £10,000 pounds. The Bank of Scotland's charity foundation helped raise an all round sum of £124,000. Well done to everyone involved.

The tickets for our annual night out at madness are now sold out.

The Clubmasters/Greenkeepers Match has been suspended to a later date due to the recent bad weather.

On another note Ronnie Bunting, of Kilmacollm Golf Club, is leaving after many years service and is going back to Balloch Mile Golf Club where he originally came from.

On a personal note I have known Ronnie for many years, we have attended many educational and social events. It's been a pleasure for myself and many others to be part of his company (also for helping me with my college work). He has been a great servant to the West Section, being on the committee for many years, mostly on education, and also as Chairman. So from the Section and myself we wish you many happy years at your new post.

Anyone interested in playing football please get in touch as the West Section are always up for a challenge. Email- karen.ross@tesco.net, mobile 07970 366 355  
**Fraser Ross**



**BIGGA NORTHERN REGION – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SEMINAR 2004**

A Northern Region Seminar on Environmental Issues is planned for Thursday November 25 at Penrith Golf Club. For full details check the News section of the BIGGA website or contact Peter Larter on 01476 550115.

**North East**

On September 30 we played our autumn competition at Morpeth GC, our thanks to the committee for giving us courtesy and to the Head Greenkeeper and his staff for the good condition of the course. Thanks to the following sponsors as well, Shorts of Whitburn, Aitkens, Greenlay, Hunters Grinders, Turf Care Specialists, Stocksfield GC and Alnmouth GC.

Playing off the yellow markers still provided a tough challenge, but there were a few good scores all the same.

Best Gross. S.Quince, 70, Parklands GC. Best Nett. A.Dalby, 74-7-67, Warkworth. Greenlay Cup. J.Storey, 75-6-69, Alnmouth GC.

Fewsters Shield. 1. B.Wilson, 81-10-71, Stocksfield GC; 2. J.Gibson, 72-2-70, Northumberland GC; 3. K.Dinsdale, 91-20-71, Northumberland GC; 4. A.Lund, 84-13-71, Heworth GC. A pity that we only had 20 people playing, considering the turnout for the spring competition was greater, but perhaps it will be better next year.

**Jimmy Richardson**

**North West**

How about the Ryder Cup? As we say in Liverpool, we thrashed them on their own midden, and I was delighted to see Monty slot in the winning putt after playing so well. Now we will have the N/W news that is not so exciting. September was a busy month for the Section with three golf events all fairly close together. We started with the annual match against the Golf Club Stewards at Birchwood GC on September 6. We were lucky weather wise but unlucky result wise, being beaten four games to three. The stewards brought along, for the first time, Trevor Foster who changed his greenkeepers blazer for a stewards blazer, and playing off plus 2 was responsible for bringing in their first win. Even in defeat we all had an excellent day, and thanks goes to Aidrien Holt and his staff for a great course, and thanks to Birchwood GC for allowing us courtesy of the course.

On Tuesday September 14 we had the Autumn Tournament at Hurlston Hall GC and what a day. I think we caught the end of Hurricane Ivor. The wind and rain came at us sideways but we did brave the storm. Tee off time saw the rain ease off, but the wind became even stronger and, with there being plenty of lakes on the course, there must be plenty off fish with sore heads caused by drifting golf balls. Even though the weather was dreadful, the course was in great condition, thanks to Tony Smith and his crew. Unfortunately we had a poor turnout of 17, and even less sitting down to dinner, still we all enjoyed extra food.

The results were:

Nett winner. Paul Eddlestone; 2. Philip Ainscough; 3. Peter Simpson. Gross winner. Peter Hogan. Vets winner. Brian Turner. Guests prize. Andrew Acorn. Nearest the Pin. Kevin McGinty. Longest drive. J. Kyle.

We also held the Whitelaw Bowl on Wednesday September 8, at Penrith GC, and a full report on this event can be found in the News section of the magazine.

**Bret Cross**

## Sheffield

Many thanks to Gainsborough Golf Club for the courtesy of their Karsten Lakes course on September 6. The course is named after Karsten Solheim, founder of Ping golf clubs, and is owned by Ping Europe whose factory is only a mile away from the club.

The day wasn't as well attended as hoped but this was probably due to the 12pm start. Nevertheless a very good day was had by all with the winning score an excellent 42pts. The course was turned out in excellent condition and enjoyed by all. Well done to deputy head, Neil Vernon, ably overseen by Headman, John Evison, and their team of mortals Jarbo, Pauly, Harry Potter, the dangerous brothers John and Steve, Spike and last but not means least, Dude.

Gainsborough Captain, Bob Sly, and his Vice-Captain, Keith Collinson, welcomed everyone in the style we have become accustomed and said that they had enjoyed the day and the company of all.

The day's main sponsors were Palmer Groundcare, many thanks to them for their continued support of the Section and to Ping Europe who provided us with some excellent prizes from their range of golf products. Thanks must go to Bob Needham and Steve Curry for their organisation and collating of the scorecards. Our President, Neil Maltby, gave thanks to Wayne Banks and the catering staff for an enjoyable meal and to the bar staff for keeping us refreshed.

The winning scores on the day; 1. Colin 'I'm not playing well' Hopper, who said he struggled early on because his clubs were covered in cobwebs, come on Colin just admit to being a bandit! 42pts; 2. Dave Womack, 39pts; 3. Dave Turner, 37pts; 4. John Shaw, 35pts; 5. Geoff Wells, 35pts; 6. Steve Curry, 34pts. Trade prize. Russ Lathom, 38pts. Nine hole Putting Comp. Russ Lathom, 16. Well done Russ for donating this prize to someone less fortunate on the day. Nearest the Pin. 7<sup>th</sup>, Ian Stephens. Nearest the Pin. 17<sup>th</sup>, Les Vardell.

Peter Larter was on hand as usual to give advice, dates to forthcoming events and seminars. It's always nice to see Peter at Section golf days, etc keeping us abreast of all the up to date issues.

President Neil concluded the evening's proceedings by announcing that I would be resigning from the Section committee at November's AGM because I shall be taking on the role of Vice Captain at Gainsborough, this is a great honour for me and my family and I am really looking forward to the next couple of years.

I've enjoyed compiling these monthly newsletters and must give thanks to those who have given me encouragement.

Congratulations to Wortley's Head Greenkeeper, Alan Sampson, and his wife on the recent birth of their baby daughter, Holly.

It was sad to learn of the sudden death of Peter Holmes, 63, recently. He did a lot of work on many golf courses in our Section with his land drainage business and latterly contract verti-draining.

Don't forget that the lecture season is here once again to be held at Rotherham GC, the first Thursday of the month at the usual start time of 2.30pm. And finally, all our congratulations go to Our President, Neil, on reaching the grand old retirement age of 65. We hope he has very many happy years of retirement to enjoy life with his many friends and family.

**Geoff Wells**

## North Wales

Bromborough GC was the venue for our autumn tournament and we had a large entry of 74 players taking part – bacon butties, coffee and biscuits on arrival and a course presented in tip-top condition for October by Richard Littler and his greenkeeping team.

18 holes of Stableford golf awaited, with two Nearest the Pin prizes up for grabs. The weather forecast was not too clever, but we were blessed as the sun shone down all day. The course was a real test for most, Bromborough has hosted many championship tournaments over the years and it kept its reputation, as an 80 gross was recorded as the best card in on the par 72. One noticeable person missing from the day was Les Parry, of Arrowse Park GC. Les unfortunately had broken his leg in two places and unable to play with his usual playing partner Neil Oxtan – we wish Les a speedy recovery and hope to see him at Prestatyn in December.

The overall winners were; 1. James Cope, Henlle Park, 38pts; 2. Ian Murphy, 37pts; 3. Shaun Pritchard, 34pts. The Guests winner was Chris Garrets, 32pts, and the Trade Shield won by Terry Adamson. Nearest the Pin, sponsored by BATgolf, on Hole 10, was Don Rowland, from Chester Curzon Park GC, at 39" and, on Hole 16, by Jeff Evans, 12'4", (this was a tough hole playing up hill into the prevailing wind).

The prize presentation was by the captain of Bromborough, followed a steak and mash meal with a sponge and custard desert. Our thanks go to the caterers and to the club for the courtesy of the course.

We held our AGM after the main events. 18 persons were present and despite

the numbers it was very positive – the committee are all standing again en-bloc for a further year with the exception of our secretary, Andy Campbell, who will stand down.

As you will appreciate, Andy has had one of the busiest years of his career, along with managing three golf courses, being Chairman of BIGGA, clocking up all those air miles, attending conferences worldwide and putting North Wales truly on the map, he will be taking things a little less hectic in 2005 but I am sure he'll be close on hand to help out at most of our events, including the Mere Seminar planned as a joint venture between North West & North Wales for next spring.

Prestatyn GC Christmas tournament has had a change of date, originally scheduled for December 1, it will now take place on December 8.

This is so we do not clash with the National Turfgrass Conference, held in Southport, that week of which many members will be attending. Les Parry will also get an extra week to get match fit! Entry forms will be in the post shortly so please put a note in your diary.

The BIGGA National tournament was held at Alwoodley GC, in Leeds, and saw a turnout of 76 players from around the Regions – North Wales was represented by Andy Peel, from Bull Bay GC, and Phillip Watson, from Wallasey GC.

Looking ahead to next year's venues we are speaking with Upton-by-Chester GC, Sutton Hall GC and Eaton GC, these all being to the East of the Region. It would be nice if any clubs to the far South & West down to Aberdovey way would like to host a BIGGA Golf Day, this way we can get everyone included and not make it look like we favour the East, we are grateful for all clubs that put their course forward, anyone wishing to do so please contact myself or any of the committee, we are looking to fill up the next three years schedule of dates. Well that's about all – so as they say in Russia – Moscow

Any news views or comments give us a call.

**Mesen Cymru**

**Andrew Acorn – acorn@golf@supanet.com, 07778 162162**



## BIGGA MIDLAND REGION – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SEMINAR 2004

A Midland Region Seminar on Environmental Issues is planned for Wednesday November 10 at Moreton Hall - Warwickshire College. For full details go to the News section of the BIGGA website or contact Peter Larter on 01476 550115.

## East Midlands

Firstly this month we start with the same old problem, a lack of members to support another Section event. This time the autumn tournament, which only attracted 11 members. So once again this unfortunately had to be cancelled.

On a more positive note at The Market Harborough Open Am-Am on September 17 the two teams, supported by Banks Amenity Products, finished third and fourth, a thank you should go to Tim and Simon Banks for the invitation and hospitality that was given to our six Section members.

Onto the National Tournament where our Section was represented by five members who all fared very badly in the tough conditions of Alwoodly GC. The Region however was good enough to win the team prize with Richard Barker and myself part of the winning team. Finally I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Anthony Bindley**

## East of England

Double golfing success for the East of England Section. After the disappointment of the late cancellation of the match against the East Midland Section, the team mustered up all their passion and golfing ability to beat the Golf Club Secretaries.

The match was played at Beeston Fields Golf Club, in Nottingham, this was a home fixture for the secretaries which made the victory even sweeter. My thanks go to all the players that turned out to play, some at short notice and the sponsors for the day, Cannons Turf. The score for the match was 5-3.

The second success was Graeme MacDonald winning the BIGGA National Championship at Alwoodly. Well done Graeme, two good rounds of golf on a very tough golf course in very tough conditions. Graeme was that excited he bought the beers (first time for everything).

Planning is underway for an educational seminar some time through the winter,



if any one has got ideas on subjects please let me know ASAP.

Venues for next year's golf days are also needed, so please let me know if you are interested in us using your course.

**Les Howkins**

**BB&O**

October can be miserable with a bit of winter slowly creeping in, as the central heating fires up for the first time this year it reminds me of the good summer we had and makes me look forward to more days when I got frazzled in the sun, on the other hand this is the time of year when the strangest of species have gone into hibernation, "The Golfer", who can still sometimes be seen on Sunday mornings and is easily recognisable with colourful clothing, streaming nose, red cheeks and pale blue face.

Firstly there are a few new members to welcome to our Section. All the way from the land where scrumpy cider is the tippie of the day in Devon is Craig Earnshaw, from Dartmouth G&CC, who takes on a new position as deputy at Lambourne GC and a welcome to Claire Killmurray who is covering the BBO as Technical Sales Representative for Vitax.

Forthcoming events for 2005 are in motion as The Rigby Taylor Pairs Knockout Challenge is alive and positively looking for entrants for next year, under the guidance of Gareth Acteson who has taken control for organising the competition.

The report for the Clay Pigeon Shooting Day, Turkey Trot and Annual General Meeting will follow in next month's magazine. Other new events included for 2005 are a match play format England v Rest of the World and "Scotland" game for which the date and venue will be announced shortly.

Any member wishing to participate please contact the Secretary, John Scoones, on 07880 550 380.

**Mark Day**

**Mid Anglia**

Just a few things this month readers. Firstly, on behalf of the Section & the committee we must say a big thank you to John Wells, of Brocket Hall, for his many years of service on the committee. This year John is stepping down due to work & family commitments and also to just have a bit of time to himself. His contribution to the Section will be greatly missed, thanks John!

We have some dates for our meetings of 2005, they are as follows:

Spring: April 27, Royston GC. Summer: TBC. Autumn: Oct 6, Heydon Grange GC. Winter: Dec 8, Dunstable Downs. Watch this space for dates of next year's educational seminars on soil science & irrigation, which is pencilled in for Feb/Mar 2005. That's all for now, wrap up warm.

**Bob Butfoy**

**SOUTH EAST**

**Kent**

The next Kent Section event will be a golf day to be held at Birchwood Park Golf Club on Thursday November 25. An 18 hole competition will be followed by dinner. On this day we shall take the opportunity to have an EGM to reform the Section and an AGM to elect a committee and discuss the future of the Section. Members will be notified with full details in due course.

**London**

Welcome to another edition of Around the Green. News seems to be very scarce at the moment so you may end up reading quite a lot of waffle, though that may not be any different to any previous edition.

Obviously we had Saltex in September, which is always a good day to catch up with other greenkeepers in our industry at the present time. Also in September, we had the Ryder Cup, which for me is the best sporting event in the world. I may be unique here, but I actually had butterflies waiting for the Europeans to tee off. So god only knows how the players themselves felt. Anyway it was a great spectacle and a great victory, so roll on the K Club.

I also have news of one of our members, Tony Kyle, whom although based in Surrey, has remained loyal to London. His club, Surrey Downs, have just completed the brand new clubhouse to go with the relatively new course that Tony has been at for the past 18 months. I have visited Tony a number of times and he has produced a great course for his employers who seem hell bent on beating off all local competition.

As well as the course, Tony and his staff have built a large practice tee for the Pro and they undertook all the landscaping for the clubhouse, which looks terrific, so fair play to Tony and his staff, whom I bet can't wait for a slow down this winter.

I am just in the middle of trying to purchase a whole new fleet of equipment, which will be of huge benefit if successful, but as we know, it is a lot easier to come up with all the logistics and figures when it's not actually our money Still I will keep trying and see what happens.

Lastly I hope people have been sending in their cheques for the London BIGGA education day and we see a good response, as a lot of effort has been made to make it a success.

**Alec Macindoe 07780 95581**

**SOUTH WEST  
& SOUTH WALES**

**South West**

Here we are in November, the start of another winter, lets hope it is a nice dry one and everybody can complete their winter programmes.

You will be glad to hear the Region has interviewed people for the vacant position of Regional Administrator. The interviews took place at Long Aston GC on October 7. On the interview panel was Chris Sealy, Regional Chairperson, Jeff Mills, from Devon & Cornwall, and John Pemberton, from HQ.

I understand that the Region had some very fine candidates for the job, so hopefully we will all soon meet the successful applicant.

Please support the Regional seminar at Cannington College, on November 17, I bet you will learn something new! Thanks to the seminar event sponsors.

The South West Section tried to play a match against the South Coast Section, at Ogtourne Down, on September 30, but our opponents failed to field a team.

Next month you will be able to read a report on our AGM, held at Chipping Sodbury, on October 11. In anticipation the committee wants to say congratulations to all the members who put themselves forward for the very important jobs on the Section committee.

**Robin Greaves**

**South Coast**

Autumn is here and the cold mornings are not quite as appealing when you're sat on a triple mower. No doubt those hardened men at Came Down are still working in their shorts and t-shirts (Dorchester men are made of stern stuff!) but for us softies, we're looking for the thermals already, it must be my age!

For those of us blessed with trees it's a constant battle keeping up with the endless amount of falling needles and leaves, so our blowers and collectors are working overtime. Aeration programmes are stepped up as we prepare for the winter and as usual our old 'friend' Fusarium pays us a visit or two. Ahh the life of a greenkeeper! We wouldn't want it any other way would we?

Unfortunately our annual match against the South West Section had to be postponed but another date will be arranged shortly so I will pass on the results when I get them.

The South Coast Section 2004 tour arrived at Dudsbury Golf Club for the autumn tournament, kindly sponsored by Rigby Taylor and Banks Amenity Products. It has been a while since I last played Dudsbury and how the course has changed and matured.

My golf has always been erratic at the best of times and I do remember when playing there several years ago that my ball was strangely attracted to the many water hazards, so you can imagine my delight to find out they had added a few more! Needless to say my golf bag was considerably lighter by the end of my round.

The weather on the day was excellent and the very testing course was in excellent condition thanks to the hard work of Bob Walker and his team.

It was great to see Matt Smith back on his old track for the day and it was inevitable Matt would win the longest drive. It's good to hear he has settled in well in his new position at Sonning and we wish him well.

The greenkeeping team may not have known Matt was playing as they had only placed the marker some 270 yards from the 18<sup>th</sup> tee. I didn't see where his drive finished but lets just say Matt said it was a 'good hit' so I assume it was around the 300 yards mark. Winners on the day were:

Division 1 Roffey Trophy. 1. Matt Smith, 39pts; 2. Stuart Hooker, 36pts. Division 2 Huxley Shield. 1. Dave Hewitt, 43pts; 2. Phil Wentworth, 34pts.

Division 1 Rigby Taylor Shield. 1. Chris Sherrington, 38pts; 2. Wayne Norris,

35pts. Vets Cup. Colin Pardey, 35pts. Denyer Cup. Shaun Whittle, 33pts. Longest Drive. Matt Smith. Nearest the Pin. Tim Rocky.

An excellent day was had by all and Dave Hewitt is getting a reputation as the Section bandit, beware Dave your handicap is being revised as we speak!

Thanks on the day go to our sponsors, Rigby Taylor and Banks Amenity Products, for their much valued support. It was a shame Simon Banks was unable to attend but work commitments prevented it, well he is married now and needs those extra pennies as us married men know all too well!

Many thanks to Dudsbury Golf Club for their hospitality, the catering staff for an excellent meal and to Bob Walker and his team for all their hard work in preparing the course so well for us.

Lastly, but by no means, thanks to our tournament organiser Chris Sturgess for all his hard work in organising the day for us and to Bob Williams for kindly doing the scorecards. The Section AGM was held after the golf and ran very smoothly again and I will report in full next month.

Two well known faces in our Section are not in the best of health at the moment, keeping them away from work, and we wish both Mike Buckle and Colin 'chalky' White quick and speedy recoveries. A belated happy 80th birthday to our Section President, Jim Fry. Jim is a great supporter of our Section and has again given Section funds a very generous donation, thank you Jim and we do hope to see you at our Christmas meeting at Barton-on-Sea.

Another couple of movements in the Section, good luck to Mark Zealander in his new position at Dudsbury Golf Club. Broadstone Golf Club said farewell to Terry Elborn as he moved into the conservation field with the local council. Terry's knowledge and love of the environment and its management has seen him change direction and I'm sure it will be highly rewarding and successful for him, good luck Terry!

At Parkstone we said farewell to Rob Wills who had been at the club 10 years man and boy. Again Rob has left the industry and taken a career change into the world of insurance and he will be sadly missed by us all. It seems a worrying trend that so many young greenkeepers are leaving the industry and Rob certainly had a great future in our industry, but fate has taken him down another path. One thing for sure, if Rob puts the same commitment and enthusiasm into his new job he will be very successful.

Our last port of call for the year is Barton-on-Sea Golf Club, on December 8, for our Turkey Trot. Could we possibly have the same weather as we had last time we played there two years ago? I hope so!

Please forward your entries and cheques made payable to BIGGA South Coast Section to Chris Sturgess, BIGGA Tournament Organiser, South Coast Section, 40 Kinsbourne Way, Thornhill, Southampton, SO19 6HB.

Well I think that's all for this month so until next month.

**Alex McCombie**

#### **Devon & Cornwall**

Wednesday October 13 the Section held its first meeting of the autumn at St Mellion International Golf Club, near Saltash in Cornwall, sponsored by Roffey Limited, and Don Hunt, playing for the D.O.Hunt Trophy. Driving to St Mellion at 6am, the heavens opened, the rain was so heavy that the roads were flooded in seconds. Suddenly I was beginning to panic, would the course be playable, if closed how would I re-arrange the day's programme? On arrival I was greeted by some very worried golfers' faces that were looking forward to playing the now famous Jack Nicklaus Course. I should have known better, thanks to Mike Bush, known to all as Bushy, the Golf Course Superintendent, he waved his magic wand, and at 7.45am as the players teed off and the sun broke through, and blue skies remained all day.

Our congratulations go to Bushy and all his staff for preparing the course in such good condition, especially as he was receiving 80 tons a day of Tarmac for the new Buggy paths, from Golf Course Head Greenkeeper to Highways engineer, life is certainly varied.

54 Golfers took part in the competition a Stableford off full handicaps, and playing off the yellow tees.

The Course Superintendent, Mike, treated some 30 non-golfers to a tour of the excellently presented course, and his workshops.

After lunch I presented the golfing prizes to; 1. Andy Parker, Downs Crediton Golf Club, 36pts; 2. Mark Evans, Royal North Devon GC, 34pts; 3. Adam Bridgewater, Yelverton GC, 34 pts.

Before the afternoon educational talk, I was delighted to introduce our new Regional Administrator, Jane Jones, who was given a very warm welcome by everyone. Officially Jane does not commence until November, but we were all delighted she spent the day with us, we all wish her well with her new appointment.

Richard Whyman, the Head Greenkeeper at the Bunham & Berrow Golf Course,

our old friend from Bude, gave us a superb talk and presentation on "The Learning Curve Continues, Until the world stops going around" which just goes to prove we are never to old to learn.

Members playing the Jack Nicklaus Course, and the Guest Speaker, were instrumental in producing the largest attendance for a very long time, 84 in total.

On behalf of the Section I would like to thank Mr John Granger, the General Manager at St Mellion International, for allowing us to use the facilities for the day, and to all of his staff for making us so welcome.

I hope to see you all at Wrangaton Golf Club, on November 10<sup>th</sup> for the AGM, and playing golf in the morning for the Toro Trophy sponsored by D.G.M.

**Donovan.O.Hunt.**

#### **South Wales**

A successful open day was held at Pencoed College on June 26, an excellent increase of 200% enrolment to the college course was achieved. Thanks go to Angus and Dave Ward for their efforts on the day, especially with the terrible weather they experienced.

A big well done must go to Angus Macload. Newport Golf Club, Peter "shank" Lacey and Marc Wilshire for passing their HNC Sportsturf Management, well done guys.

A seminar has been organised at Cannington College on November 17, titled 'The Environment', and many leading people are scheduled to talk, please make every effort to attend. It's priced at £15 for non-members and £17.50 for non-members, why not get a member of your committee involved.

A tractor driving training day has been booked at Royal Porthcawl Golf Club; contact Peter Lacey for dates and times.

Dennis Archer has decided to stand down as Vice President of the South Wales Section, may I, on behalf of the whole Section, thank Dennis for his long commitment to the greenkeeping profession and BIGGA. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

Next year's golfing fixtures are being organised, the secretary has sent out requests to clubs, so we will inform you when they are accepted.

Congratulations Lance Armstrong, of Porthcawl Golf Club, whom recently got married in Chicago during a joint wedding with his sister.

Emyr Nickels is recovering from some broken ribs, I am sure he would not mind me telling you the story. Emyr was enjoying some lunch in a restaurant, suddenly he had a piece of food stuck in his throat.

Not wanting to cause a fuss he went to the toilet to try and un-lodge it, however there was no joy so he ask a fellow scoffer to do the Heimlich Manoeuvre, the guy grabbed him and squeezed him dislodging the piece of food.

Excellent so we thought, but the guy had squeezed so hard that he snapped two of Emyr's ribs! Emyr I hope this does make you laugh a bit and cringe at pain.

**Kerry Jones**

#### **Northern Ireland**

Our final golf tournament of the year took place at Malone Golf Club, in Belfast, on September 16. The stroke play competition was a qualifier to the National Championship, which was held near Leeds in early October.

The afternoon's weather soon deteriorated by the second hole, so heavy rain and strong winds prevailed throughout the round. These conditions seem to suit the Royal Co. Down lads, and once again brothers Noel and Eamonn Crawford played fine rounds to book their places to Leeds.

Noel Crawford, playing off Scratch, had a gross round of 73 two over, while Eamonn, playing with a two handicap, had a gross round of 75. Excellent rounds of golf in very difficult conditions. The results of the Stableford competition were:

Paul Lappin, Kirkstown GC, 33pts; 2. Michael O'Neill, Fortwilliam GC, 32 pts; 3. Michael Norman, Malone GC, 31 pts. Longest Drive. Paul Lappin. Nearest the Pin. Michael Norman

We would like to thank Coburns of Banbridge for sponsoring the competitions as well as the air fares to the Championship. Many thanks to the Coburns representatives, William Cartmill and David Eager, who braved the conditions and were able to present the prizes later that evening.

Many thanks must go to Malone GC for giving us courtesy of the course. Very worthy praise must go to Course Manager Michael Norman and the greenkeeping staff for having the course in such outstanding condition, even with the recent wet weather. New members joining the Section recently are William Gilmore, Andrew Wray, Kevin Gates, John Taylor and Peter Jones.

Well that's about all my news for this month, let's hope for a dry autumn and winter period, at least till we get our new bunkers completed.

**Ken Henderson**

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The solution to the October Turftime Teaser was 'Bredy irrigation'.

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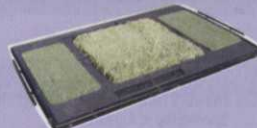
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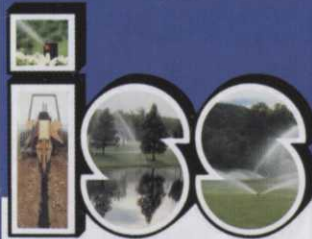
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## GARFORTH GOLF CLUB

Founded in 1913

Invites applications for:

### (1) DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will work closely with the Head Greenkeeper to manage and maintain the course on a day to day basis and deputise for him in his absence. Applicants should be enthusiastic and highly motivated, ideally have at least 5 years previous greenkeeping experience, be qualified to NVQ level 2 or similar (level 3 would be advantageous), possess relevant spraying/chainsaw qualifications, and have a good working knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems.

### (2) QUALIFIED MECHANIC/ GREENKEEPER

Must have a sound practical knowledge of all types of golf course machinery and equipment, to enable the successful candidate to carry out the service and repairs at this busy golf course. Typically winter months will be spent working on machinery overhauls and servicing, with summer months greenkeeping 4 days a week and 1 day in the workshop.

Good rates of pay  
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For either position please apply in writing with full CV to: The Head Greenkeeper, Garforth Golf Club, Long Lane, Garforth, Leeds LS25 2DS

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### EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPERS

The Club

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We are to host a major Ladies European Tour event in 2005, 2006 and 2007 and we seek high calibre persons to assist in the run-up and beyond.

Candidates

Must be capable and preferably accustomed to working to a very high standard. Experience of 'grow in' maintenance a distinct advantage, but not essential. You will be ambitious, self-motivated, and have a keen eye for detail.

We offer a salary of £16,000 pa. Please apply before 30<sup>th</sup> November 2004 to J Robinson, Course Manager, Machynys Peninsula Golf Club, c/o 175 Pentre Nicklaus Village, Llanelli. SA15 2DF



# Recruitment



## COOKRIDGE HALL GOLF CLUB

require a

# **GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT**

Applicants must have a proven track record to lead and work with a committed greens staff team and to help further develop and improve this challenging course. The successful applicant should have all the necessary experience and ability to maintain a private members club to a high standard.

Applicants for the position should have the following:

- NVQ3 or similar plus spraying qualifications
- A sound knowledge of irrigation systems & machinery
  - Health & Safety Awareness
- Excellent man management & leadership skills
- Ability to work within and understand budgets

**Salary by negotiation.**

**Apply in writing by 26th November, with full CV to:**

**Wayne Carr - General Manager**

**Cookridge Hall Golf Club**

**Cookridge Lane, Leeds**

**West Yorkshire N14 4UT**

## Davenport Golf Club

requires a

# Greenkeeper/Mechanic

To coincide with the provision of new maintenance facilities we are looking to employ a reliable and enthusiastic qualified Greenkeeper/Mechanic with N/SVQ level 2/3 and proven mechanical ability to maintain our mainly TORO fleet of mowers and other equipment. Also to be responsible, eventually, for ordering and stocking parts and keeping all service & repair records. The applicant will be effectively third in charge under the supervision of the Head Greenkeeper and the Deputy Head Greenkeeper. Salary will be linked to experience and qualifications.

**Please reply in writing with full CV to:**

**Frank Frost, Head Greenkeeper, Davenport Golf Club,  
Worth Hall, Middlewood Road, Poynton, Cheshire SK12 1TS**

## Redbourn Golf Club

This busy, friendly, propriety club in Hertfordshire invites applications for

# Head Greenkeeper/ Course Manager

Candidates require:

- Experience of Course Management: Strong team leadership skills
- The ability to control greenkeeping budgets
- A sound knowledge of greenkeeping including PA1 and PA2 spraying certificates
- HND or HNC preferable: Ability to manage Health & Safety on site

Salary negotiable

**Closing date: 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2004**

Applicants should apply in writing with full CV and current salary to Mr A Clarke,  
PO Box 376, Redbourn, St Albans, Herts AL3 7ZX  
Fax No: 01582 794208 Email: [enquiries@badixproperties.com](mailto:enquiries@badixproperties.com)

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Greenkeeper

required at busy Surrey driving range  
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The successful applicant should have a sound knowledge of basic turfcare, machinery maintenance and irrigation systems as well as PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates and an NVQ2 qualification.

Temporary accommodation may be available and a basic salary in the region of £16,000 - £17,000 is on offer subject to experience.

Applications including C.V. should be sent to: Mr Philip Fillary, Head Greenkeeper, Padesham Park Golf Centre, Oaklawn Road, Leatherhead, Surrey. KT22 0BT or for further details call 07905 895508

## Lee Park Golf Club – Liverpool

Applications are invited for the post of

# HEAD GREENKEEPER

to manage the continuing programme of parkland course development and maintenance activities. The successful applicant will be self motivated and an enthusiastic, committed leader able to direct the existing team of five green staff.

Applicants should possess the following qualifications:-  
HNC/HND or NVQ to Level 3 or nearing this level of academic qualification through current study

Sound understanding of modern greenkeeping practices  
Thorough knowledge of turf machinery and computer controlled irrigation systems  
Conversant with Health and Safety legislation and regulations

The successful applicant may currently be in a senior position although not necessarily as Head Greenkeeper.

The salary and conditions will reflect the importance the Club place on this appointment. Applicants are requested to apply in writing, or by e-mail, enclosing a full CV to:-

John Hughes, Green Chairman,  
Lee Park Golf Club,  
Childwall Valley Road,  
Gateacre,  
Liverpool, L27 3YA

[lee.park@virgin.net](mailto:lee.park@virgin.net) 0151-487-3882

Closing date for applications: 6<sup>th</sup> December.  
All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

## Haggs Castle Golf Club

has an immediate vacancy for a

# Qualified Greenkeeper

The following requirements for the post are:

- Minimum of five years experience
- Qualified to at least NVQ2 with PA1, 2 & 6
- Understanding of current Health & Safety regulations
- To be enthusiastic, highly motivated and committed.

**Salary and benefits package negotiable according to experience.**

Apply in writing with C.V. to :

The Secretary  
Haggs Castle, 70 Dumbreck Road  
Glasgow, G41 4SN

## PAXHILL PARK GOLF CLUB



Is seeking to appoint a

# Head Greenkeeper

**For a busy 18 hole Course (Parkland) in West Sussex.**

**The position would possibly suit a person looking for their first appointment.**

**Please call John on 01444 484467 for more details.**

## THE WILLIAMWOOD GOLF CLUB

requires a

# Deputy Course Manager

An enthusiastic and committed person is required to join our energetic and professional team.

**NVQ Level 2/3, PA1, PA2 and PA6 qualifications would be an advantage as would experience in maintaining Golf Course Machinery.**

Salary negotiable depending upon qualifications and experience.

**Applications in writing with CV to:**



**The Secretary  
The Williamwood Golf Club  
690 Clarkston Road  
GLASGOW  
G44 3YR**

**Before 26<sup>th</sup> November 2004**

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You will have a relevant degree or equivalent preferably with a teaching qualification and 3 years' relevant industrial experience.

Previous applicants need not apply.

For further information and an application form, please apply to:

The Personnel Unit, Oaklands College, St Albans Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 0JA. Tel: 01727 737748 (24 hour answerphone). Please quote corresponding reference number.

Closing date: 15th November 2004.



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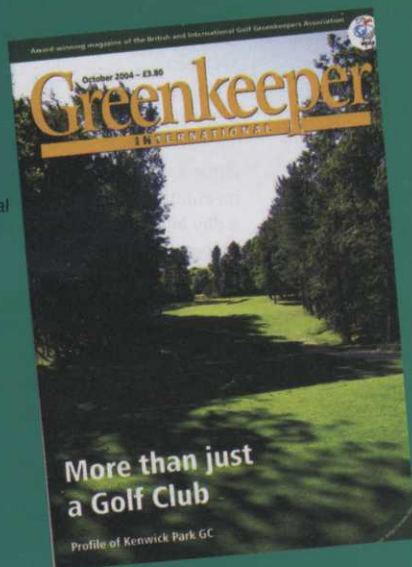
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## Feature listing from November 2002

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**July 2004;** Royal Troon Open Preview; Mowing; Disease Analysis; See Yourself as Others See You

**August 2004;** Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day; Open review; Royal Cinque Ports; Irrigation; Mowers (2); Saltex Preview; Best Practice; Top Dressing

**September 2004;** Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Preview; Ravensworth Golf Club; Turf Disease; Royal Holloway College; Tractors; The Greener Approach to Greenkeeping

**October 2004;** STRI 75th Anniversary; Kenwick Park GC; Ecology; John Deere National Team Championship; Best Practice; Top Dressing; Saltex Review; Aeration

# Chairman's Column



## Here, there, everywhere

As I again incur the wrath of our Editor and push the magazine deadline to its absolute limit, I can look back on a period that has possibly been the busiest yet in my time as Chairman.

On returning from the trip to Sweden and the SGA Conference in Helsingborg, a quick re-pack of the cases and it was back up to BIGGA House for the TORO Student Greenkeeper of the Year Finals. Both of these events proved inspiring. Sweden in the sense that some old friends like Stig Person and Rolf Lowgren, among others, have succeeded in their efforts in forming a strong Association. As ever their enthusiasm and the time they took out of their busy schedules was much appreciated.



The TOROS for me always gives a great boost with the enthusiasm and professionalism of the participants reaching ever higher levels each year. All of this year's finalists are to be congratulated on making the judges' job a very difficult one. I am sure Alex Shore will enjoy his time in the States and I know all at Woburn are very proud of his achievement.

Following the TOROS came a meeting of the BTME Steering Committee. With much talk continuing with regards to the number, location and frequency of exhibitions it is vitally important that we continue to work with our Trade partners in giving them best value for pounds spent, while at the same time securing sustainable levels of income for the Association.

Every member should be aware that BTME is absolutely vital to the future of BIGGA and our educational programmes. In these challenging times the Trade question every pound spent through their marketing.

You can help by attending BTME 2005 and bringing along the other key decision makers from your club. The staff at HQ are certainly doing their bit, with visitor analysis and the needs of those visitors being integral to future planning of Harrogate week.

A quick dash back down the M62 for a club committee meeting that night and I just about managed to stay awake - no reflection I assure you on the quality of the meeting!

The following week sees the old truck back on autopilot and heading North for the National Championship, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen at The Alwoodley Golf Club, near Leeds.

Phil Taylor easily succeeded in maintaining the course's reputation as one of the toughest in the UK. Several of our category one players received a severe bruising to their reputations in the 50 mph wind. Again congratulations to all the participants and winners.

The very next day and it's off to our Section autumn meeting and AGM. No surprises sadly, with good numbers playing golf and poor numbers attending the AGM. In a meeting that lasted 30 minutes there were no new volunteers for the committee and so the burden continues to fall on too few.

Surely this apathy cannot continue across the Sections if we want to see all levels of the Association flourish. Contrary to opinion, and despite the popular sport of HQ bashing, the problem lies with members at Section level and not at national level.

If you lose your Section and its activities through apathy you may well be grateful for HQ and its staff, for they will be the only voice you have left. I am amazed that a time investment of 30 minutes is beyond people who wish to be considered as professionals.

The STRI celebrated 75 years of work in our industry and I was delighted to be asked to contribute to their Turf Bulletin, which marked the occasion, as well as attending the open day at Bingley and the dinner that followed.

Many congratulations to Gordon McKillop and his team on a job well done, and I am sure that BIGGA and the STRI will continue to enjoy a strong relationship in the future.

The following day and the journey North continues, this time to Middlesbrough GC to address an EGU Seminar. It was good to see past Chairman George Malcolm again and enjoy some time on his course.

The attendance figures were respectable, and again the EGU proved how much they are behind BIGGA and its aims. If you haven't already attended one of these Road shows please make the time to do so, and take your Secretary, Green Chairman, etc with you. It WILL help you and your Golf Club.

After a great few days at Carden, spent with Bill Fach and Merlin Affleck, of the Canadian Superintendents Association, and Laurence and Sandra Pithie it was off North again for a Board of Management meeting, followed by the Futures Committee, and then a day and a half with Brin Bendon for advanced presentation skills training - a very enjoyable but tough few days.

It might appear that I am becoming like Michael Palin in terms of travel but there has been some time for my day job, which becomes increasingly busy, and I'm grateful to my team for all their efforts.

The important thing for me is that my time investment will pay off for me, my employer and the Association. Time is precious and we only come this way once - what are you doing with your time?

**Andy Campbell MG CGCS  
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