



October 2004 – £3.80

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

**More than just
a Golf Club –**

Profile of Kenwick Park GC

There's nothing pedestrian about our new greens aerator.



Toro ProCore works faster than anything else in its class.

With Toro's new ProCore 648 greens aerator, 18 greens can be aerated in just seven hours, enabling play to resume faster than ever before.

The self-powered, pedestrian vertical corer boasts a large 48-inch working width - 50 to 100 per cent wider than competitors.

Fitted with the unique Toro TrueCore ground-following system, it automatically maintains tine depth to match ground undulations and give consistent coring depth.

Easy to operate and with wheels out in front of the tines so the machine never runs over the cores, the ProCore leads the field.

So for perfection, fast, just call 01480 226800 today.



HydroJect 3000

The HydroJect water-injection, pedestrian aerator complements conventional aeration methods by deeply aerating compacted, dry and hard turf without disturbing the surface, so play can continue virtually uninterrupted.

TORO Commercial, Irrigation and Consumer Products are distributed by Lely (UK) Limited, St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 1QH.
Tel: 01480 226800
Email: toro.info@lely.co.uk

TORO Commercial Products are distributed by Lely Ireland Limited Kilboggin, Nurney, Co. Kildare.
Tel: 00 353 (0)45 526170
Email: torosales@lely.ie

www.toro.com



TORO Count on it.



A guide to who's who at BIGGA

President
Sir Michael
Bonallack, OBE

BIGGA Board of Management
Chairman - Andy Campbell, MG CGCS
Vice Chairman - Kerran Daly, MG
Past Chairman - George Brown

Board Members
Ian Semple
Paul Jenkins
David Walden
Iain Macleod
Bert Cross

Chief Executive: John Pemberton
Email: john@bigga.co.uk

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

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

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

Membership Services Officer: Rachael Palmer
Email: rachael_p@bigga.co.uk

Contact us

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

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

Email: reception@bigga.co.uk

Internet: www.bigga.org.uk

Tel: 01347 833800

Fax: 01347 833801



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

Editorial

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

Assistant Editor: Gareth Jones
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801
Email: gareth@bigga.co.uk

Advertising

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

Advertising Sales Executive:

Amy Newport
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802
Email: amy@bigga.co.uk / sales@bigga.co.uk

Printing

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

The advertising copy deadline for inclusion in the November 2004 edition of Greenkeeper International is Friday 15 October 2004

Greenkeeper International:

Contents may not be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without written permission. Return postage must accompany all materials submitted if return is requested. No responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited materials. The right is reserved to edit submissions before publication.

Although every care will be taken, no responsibility is accepted for loss of manuscripts, photographs or artwork.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Association, and no responsibility is accepted for such content, advertising or product information that may appear.

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

ISSN: 0961-6977

© 2004 British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association



12 More than just a Golf Club.



22 STRI - A Rich History.



24 Ecology on a Shoestring



36 John Deere National Championship

October 2004

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by 3 November 2004

REGULARS

News

Pages 4, 5 & 7

6 Tip of the Month

Master Greenkeeper David Hannam MG launches the first of a new series of handy course management tips.

9 Education

Ken Richardson gears up for the busiest part of the education and training year.

10 GTC News

David Golding explains how the GTC's role in greenkeeper education and training influences the future of maintenance standards

11 Membership

18 Health and Safety

26 Continue to Learn:

Soil Aeration and the Rooting Environment

Martyn T. Jones delves into the complexities of soil aeration, its importance and how to preserve it.



35 Letters

40 News from the Chief Executive

John Pemberton keeps you up-to-date with the latest developments at BIGGA.

40-44 Around the Green

54 As I see it ...

BIGGA National Chairman, Andy Campbell, discusses the busy Autumn ahead.

FEATURES

12 More than just a Golf Club

Reigning BIGGA environment competition winners, Kenwick Park is more than 18 holes of golf as Scott McCallum found out.

19 The Ten Points to Top Dressing

Ian McClements, of STRI, highlights the ten important points to consider before starting top dressing.

22 STRI - A Rich History

Scott McCallum meets Gordon McKillop and Anne Wilson to discuss the Institute's 75th anniversary.

24 Ecology Management on a Shoestring

Will Bowden takes a look at the issue of ecology and how it can be managed at little cost.

29 Saltex Review

GI reviews the show, including new products launched.

36 John Deere National Team Championship

Steve Mitchell reports on a successful national final.

40 Nothing to Fear from Best Practice

The R&A's Steve Isaac explains the role of the Best Practice website.

45 Scotsturf Preview



Welcome

A WARM GLOW BUT NO MORE

Well, did you follow the Ryder Cup? After two days of listening to the excellent coverage on Radio 5 Live I succumbed and tracked down the Sky television coverage in my local health club for the final evening – for us poor terrestrial TV beings it does lose a little impact not seeing it live – and I thought it was wonderful.

A huge winning margin in the end but still just enough of doubt to keep us on the edges of our seats until Monty did what Monty does when he is representing Europe.

Almost as soon as Bernhard Langer raised the Cup aloft we got the same old question from the pundits and commentators. What will this mean for European golf? It was the same when we won curling gold in the Winter Olympics and when our mixed doubles did well at badminton in the Athens games.

What will this mean for curling and badminton? Would everyone be heading to the nearest ice rink, not with skates but with one smooth soled shoe and a broom, or badgering the local village hall to mark out a court and invest in a net?

It was the same when England won the Rugby World Cup. We were going to be getting more youngsters wearing rugby shirts bearing the number 10 practicing goal kicking than football shirts carrying the number seven honing their free kicks.

Well we're a year on from that triumph in Sydney but there are still far more Beckham shirts in the high streets of Middle England than the slightly thicker one's bearing the name of Wilkinson.

We all know that in the short term we get a nice warm glow from such wins but in the long term they mean very little indeed. In many ways rightly so.

If golf was going to receive a huge boost because Europe won the Ryder Cup at Oakland Hills, in Detroit, the reverse would have to be true as well. If we'd been hammered 18.5-9.5 would golf have gone into the doldrums for a while? Would people have stopped turning up at clubs? Would people be selling their Pings and Calloways and looking to take up curling, badminton or rugby union instead? Would the revenue streams at clubs begin to dry up and cutbacks become the order of the day? Would jobs go? To begin with those of greenkeepers but then that of the Editor of Greenkeeper International because without a strong profession there would be no funding to produce a greenkeeping magazine.

Thankfully, for you and me, the answer is no.

Having 12 players, or in the case of the US 11 players and Tiger Woods, battling it out for points over a magnificently presented course provides huge drama and no little excitement but having our own futures dependant on the outcome is another matter all together.

Let's just enjoy the fact that for the moment we are on top and can send emails to our American friends with the short but pithy message "Na, na, ni, na na!"

Scott MacCallum
Editor

DARREN AND SIMON WIN SURREY BOWL

The Surrey Bowl knockout final was held at Foxhills Golf Club on September 1.

The finalists were Darren Woodward and Simon Kirkham, of West Surrey Golf Club, both playing off 7 handicap, and John Mathis off 1 handicap, from Southwood Golf Club, and Brian Turner off 3 handicap, from Sunningdale Golf Club.

In a keenly fought final, on a lovely summer's day (at last), Darren and Simon eventually ran out the winners by 3 and 1.

Congratulations to Darren and Simon but also to the runners-up John and Brian because it takes two teams to make a final.

I would also like to thank Dave Langheim and Dave Wyborn the two Course Managers and all the staff at Foxhills for all their help with the event, and giving us a course in great condition considering the weather of late. Thanks also to Lee West for running the event, and good luck in the new job.

Lastly, and a very big thank you must go to Bob Norris of TYM Tractors who stepped in at the eleventh hour to sponsor this event, thanks very much Bob and I hope we will be able to continue with your sponsorship again for next year.

Anthony Freeman
Surrey Chairman



Winners of the 2004 Surrey Bowl Darren Woodward and Simon Kirkham (left) with runners-up Brian Turner and John Mathis.



Section Chairman Anthony Freeman (left) receives a cheque on behalf of the Section from Bob Morris of TYM, the Tournament's sponsors.

ADDING A NEW FACE TO HQ STAFF

September saw BIGGA welcome a new employee. Steve Coates has joined the Association in the position of Assistant Accountant, where he will work with Tony Cocker.

Steve, 25, has previously worked at both DuPontSA, in purchase ledger, and at Pearsons & Ward, where he was a legal cashier.

Between these two vocations Steve was employed by Pocklington Coachworks. The firm built coaches and support vehicles for major Formula 1 teams including McLaren, Williams and Toyota, and also for Foggy Petronas, home of four times World Champion Carl Foggaty.

Steve studied at the University of Sunderland, where he gained a 2:1 in Geography and Business Studies. Currently he is studying for his AAT, where he is at the technician stage. An ambitious individual, after passing his AAT Steve plans to go for his ACCA.

Steve is engaged to childhood sweetheart Emma, and they currently live together in Pickering.

It's been an exciting month for Steve and Emma, as well as his new job they have also celebrated a new arrival to the family. Their toy poodle, Kerry, has recently given birth to pup Betty.



RECYCLED GLASS 'PROVED' TO HELP

The Sports Turf Research Institute found that replacing traditional sand on the golf course with sand derived from recycled glass improves the chances of those drawn to the bunker.

The two-year project found that the recycled glass sand provides a better performance level with a firmer footing underneath. For golfers, it means less plugging of the ball, a steeper angle of repose and reduced slumping, say WRAP.

Laboratory tests carried out during the trial showed that the recycled glass conformed to all necessary performance requirements, it said, and is capable of complying with United States Golf Association specifications.

WRAP said the glass-sand also proves beneficial for greenkeepers when used as a top dressing around divots, as it can blend into the ground better than traditional sand.

Andy Dawe, WRAP's materials sector manager for glass, said, "The trial undertaken by the STRI has been successful, confirming recycled glass derived sand is a quality alternative to traditional sand."

"At the same time, it offers greenkeepers a sustainable quality product, as well as a way to demonstrate their environmental awareness and responsibility," he added.

WRAP – the Waste and Resources Action Programme – has targets to directly facilitate the recycling of an additional 150,000 tonnes of glass into higher value markets by 2006.



NEW SCOTTISH DEALER FOR RANSOMES JACOBSEN

Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd, the Ipswich based turf maintenance equipment manufacturer, has confirmed that Fairways (GM) Ltd will succeed Scottish Grass Machinery Ltd as the distributor for Ransomes Jacobsen products in Scotland with effect from 8 November 2004.

The Fairways Group is an established, family-owned business based at West Yonderton, close to Glasgow airport. Its major subsidiary companies are: Sportsgrounds Ltd, Sportsgrounds Machinery (a division of Sportsgrounds Ltd) and Wiedenmann (UK) Ltd.

David Withers, Sales and Marketing Director at Ransomes Jacobsen said, "We are delighted to confirm the appointment of Fairways GM as our new dealers for Scotland with effect from 8 November.

"The Fairways Group is a well-run and very professional business and I have great confidence that they will help us with the continued growth of the business here in the UK.

"The experience of the group and their commitment to the turf sector will ensure the delivery of outstanding service to our customer base in Scotland. We warmly welcome them to our dealer network."

Managing Director of the Fairways Group, David Rae added, "This appointment is a significant step for Fairways and we are equally delighted to be joining the dealer network of such a major player in the international turf care industry.

"To ensure the smooth transition of service for Ransomes Jacobsen customers we are currently sourcing and equipping additional depots in the west and east of Scotland and recruiting and training staff in readiness for 8 November.

"We bring a reputation for outstanding service and after sales support and look forward to building lasting relationships with existing customers and new prospects."



David Rae, Managing Director of Fairways (GM) Ltd.

NEW FUNGAL DISEASE DISCOVERED

The fungal disease known in the US as Rapid Blight has recently been identified on a golf course in the UK. Rapid Blight is a disease that was first observed in California in 1995 and has since been seen in 11 other States across the US.

Initial symptoms on affected turf include water soaking of the leaves in small, irregular shaped patches. As the disease progresses, the affected areas coalesce and the infected plants eventually die. The damaged turf has been described as looking like a cross between Take-All patch and Fusarium patch.

Initially, the causal agent of this disease could not be determined. However, in 2003, Dr Mary Olsen and her team at the University of Arizona, isolated a species of *Labyrinthula* from turfgrass plants showing symptoms of the disease and have since confirmed that this pathogen is the cause of Rapid Blight.

Until this identification, all known reported species of *Labyrinthula* have only caused damage to plants in marine environments and salt-water estuaries.

The *Labyrinthula* pathogen is unlike any other previously described turfgrass pathogen. It is not a fungus and shares few, if any, characteristics in

common with the fungi generally accepted as causing disease on cool-season turfgrasses.

In all cases to date, Rapid Blight has developed on swards that have been irrigated with water with high sodium and bicarbonate levels (high salinity). Bentgrass, meadowgrass and ryegrass all appear to be affected by this disease but so far, fescues have appeared to be tolerant.

Rapid Blight disease has now been identified as developing on several greens on one golf course in the UK, following receipt of turf samples for analysis by Dr Kate Entwistle at The Turf Disease Centre. Kate confesses that, "Identifying turfgrass diseases is always a challenge and sometimes, it can take a large amount of detective work to finally confirm the cause of any damage.

"With this disease, however, the challenge was much greater. I had identified the presence of this unusual organism in all of the infected plants removed from the turf sample, but I had never seen anything like it before, apart from in printed articles. I read more about this new disease when I had heard of it in the US.

"Subsequently, I contacted Dr Olsen for support and eventually confirmed that what I was looking at was in fact the causal agent of Rapid Blight. I would like to thank Dr Olsen for all of her help to date and look forward to working with her in the future to learn more about this new disease".

Kate, who is a visiting Fellow of Cranfield University (Silsoe), has contacted the University about this new disease and work is in progress to study the pathogen more closely.

Kate says, "Colleagues at Cranfield are as excited as I am about this new discovery and I would like to thank them for their support and encouragement in working on this new disease. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank the Course Manager for initially sending the sample to me for analysis and subsequently for his time and willing cooperation in providing maintenance details and information to support our studies. His help is very much appreciated".

Information is available on the internet about this disease and you can contact Kate on 01256 880246 or email her at Kate@theturf-diseasecentre.co.uk

Royal Inverdivot GC...

Strip Cartoonist of the Year www.tonyhusband.co.uk



NEW NAME FOR ETT

European Turf Technology Limited has become Environmental Turf Technology Limited.

Managing Director, Richard Lawrence commented, "We have seen massive growth throughout the world.

"We have become the largest supplier of specialist turf nutrients to the Middle East and the Caribbean, as well as a major supplier to mainland Europe.

"This coupled with our commitment to a proactive environmental policy made the choice of a new name obvious."

Tip of the Month

This month by
David Hannam MG



In this new feature BIGGA's Master Greenkeepers will be providing their tips to help you in your course management.

Attention to small detail should be high on a greenkeeper's list of priorities.

One particular tool which assists toward this end are hole trimming scissors.

The not so unusual scenario is you start out with a full set, then by-and-by you begin to notice pairs missing, normally because they have been lost, left somewhere or simply just dropped off a vehicle.

After finally 'getting round to it' this is my solution to the 'keep scissors in place so they don't migrate' thing.

Select a 15cm piece of 19mm rubber hosepipe. Cut out a small access hole near the top to put the fixing screw through. Shape the ends to suit your mood.

Attach to vehicle at ergonomic point, taking care that the 19mm No 10 self tapper doesn't touch anything behind the fixing bulkhead.

Scissors held captive; no vibration - job's a good'n!



Modern Golf Club Management requires full compliance with UK and EU Health and Safety. Haztek International® are one of the only companies specialising in supporting golf clubs and have over 25 years experience working for over 300 UK clubs.

We prepare your Health and Safety Policy, carry out ALL Risk Assessments and will ensure your club is fully compliant with Health and Safety legislation.

Our service will involve a **complimentary AUDIT** if you email audit@safegolf.co.uk or call 020 8905 7552

Register now to receive the information pack and Golf Health and Safety Disc

T: 020 8905 7552

E: plan@safegolf.co.uk

F: 020 8905 7550

W: www.safegolfplan.com



Health and Safety Advisors to the
Golf and Leisure Industry



NORTHERN HOST GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY EVENT FOR THE FIRST TIME

The Golf Management Trophy event is an invitation team event sponsored by Scotts UK Professional. It is open to golf clubs in the Midland and Northern Regions of BIGGA, and has been running successfully in the Midland Region since 1997; this is the first year the event has been staged in the Northern Region.

The format - which is a Fourball Stableford (best two to count) - is aimed at bringing together the various management elements of golf clubs with the opportunity to win equipment for the golf club plus individual prizes.

Teams comprise a greenkeeper, who must be a member of BIGGA; Golf Club Secretary or Manager; Club Captain or Vice Captain and Chairman of Green or a Member of the Club Committee.

This year's Midland Region events were held at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club on July 22, and Dunstable Downs Golf Club on August 12. 24 teams entered each event, with Chilwell Manor Golf Club victorious at Kirby Muxloe Golf Club, and Brickendon Grange Golf Club being the victors at Dunstable Downs Golf Club.



Childwall Golf Club; (L-R) David McAvoy, Head Greenkeeper, Alan Rawlinson, Chairman, Peter Bowen, Manager and Jeff Randles, Chairman of Green.

The inaugural events in the Northern Region were held at Teesside Golf Club on August 12, when 10 teams entered, and Carden Park Golf Club on August 23, when 16 teams played.

The winning team at Teesside Golf Club was Hornsea Golf Club, and Childwall Golf Club won the Carden Park event.

A big thank you from BIGGA to the four host clubs this year and also to all the golf

clubs that entered teams.

Our thanks also go to Scotts UK Professional for sponsoring these four events, and plans are underway to run similar events at different venues in 2005.

■ If your club would like an invitation next year, please contact Peter Larter, Midland & Northern Regional Administrator, telephone number: 01476 550115

UNIQUE CHANCE FOR STUDENTS

Garside Sands, part of Aggregate Industries plc, is offering Sports Surface Technology students the unique chance to compete for a new scholarship.

All potential full-time students wishing to enrol on the Cranfield MSc will be given the opportunity to gain a study scholarship provided by Garside Sands.

This offers an outstanding way for a student to develop their personal understanding of sports surfaces on this scientific course, as well as working closely with one of the leading suppliers of sports sands in the country.

The scholarship will cover student fees and contribute towards living expenses.

In return, the student will work with Garside and the University academics to develop a personal research project to further enhance existing research and development programmes already undertaken by the business.

Colin Parke, General Manager of Garside Sands, said, "We developed this initiative in order to better understand the specific needs of the different sports markets through closer liaison with key industry professionals.

"This will enable us to develop specialist product ranges that meet the exacting specifications of the sports industry as well as providing funding for the sectors future talent."

The scholarship will be open to any full time student accepted onto the MSc programme in Sports Surface Technology for the coming academic year - October 2004.



Barry Heaney, (right) receives his crystal rose bowl.

TOKEN OF GRATITUDE FOR BARRY

The Sheffield Section have presented Barry Heaney with a crystal rose bowl in appreciation of his commitment and service to the Section and BIGGA as a whole.

Barry was presented with the crystal rose bowl at the Section's Annual Tournament, which was held at Sickleholme Golf Club in July.

Barry's long and loyal service to the Section, BIGGA and greenkeeping in general has seen him take on almost every role possible.

These include Treasurer, Competition Secretary, Chairman, President and, of course, National Chairman in 1995.

Barry has always emphasised the importance of greenkeeper education and training and thus he has also sat on numerous BIGGA training and

education committees.

He has recently retired from his post of President in order to enjoy his other interests and spend more time with his family.

"As Barry takes a less active role in the Association to allow more time for his family, we send him and his wife Joan our very best wishes," said Gordon Brammah, Section Chairman.

"Barry has worked extremely hard on behalf of the Association at Section, Region and National level and we have all benefited from his advice and vast experience," stated John Pemberton, BIGGA Chief Executive.

"On behalf of the entire Association I wish him all the best for the future and hope he truly enjoys his well earned rest."



If your business is Turf Management, the Golf Industry
or Club House Management, make it your business to attend



&

ClubHouse

BE A PART OF THE GREATEST SHOW ON TURF!

250 Exhibitors showcasing the latest equipment,
technology and innovations

See it, Hear it, Touch it - BUY IT!

- Full educational seminar programme •
- Networking in a relaxed atmosphere •

18-20 JANUARY 2005
HARROGATE, ENGLAND

For more details visit: www.bigga.org.uk or call 01347 833800





Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

BIGGA GOLDEN KEY and SILVER KEY MEMBERSHIP

Unlock the doors to progress through BIGGA's Education and Development Fund - the key to a great future for greenkeepers, golf clubs and the game of golf.

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

Golden Key Supporters



Golden Key Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Gem Professional	01254 356611
John Deere Ltd	01949 860491
Kubota (UK) Ltd	01844 214500
PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 677777
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01480 226800
TurfTrax Group Ltd	01722 434000

Golden Key Individual Members

J H Fry; J H Greasley; WJ Rogers; David S Robinson; Stuart Townsend; Andrew Cornes; Andy Campbell MG; CGCS; Roger Barker; Chris Yeaman; Iain A MacLeod; Bruce Cruickshank; John Crawford; Stuart Cruickshank; Frank Newberry; Terence Welch

Silver Key Supporters



Silver Key Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Bernhard and Company Ltd	01788 811600
Ernest Doe & Sons	01245 380311
General Legal Protection Limited	01904 611600
Hayter Ltd	01279 723444
Heath Lambert Group	0113 246 1313
RainBird	01273 891326
Syngenta Professional Products	0041 613 233 028
Wolf Garten	01495 306600

Silver Key Individual Members

Clive A Archer; Douglas G Duguid; Robert Malbusch MG; Elliott R Small; Steven Tierney; Richard Lawrence; Clive Osgood; David Robinson; Richard Stillwell; Stephen Dixon; Ian Semple; Paul Jenkins; Robert Hogarth; R Steele; Lee Reif; Raymond Warrender; Nichollas Gray; Trevor Smith; Ian Barr; Richard McGlynn; Alex McCombie; Paul Murphy

Education Update

Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, gears up for the busiest part of the training and education year...

Competition final, courses start and a time to book

My latest holiday has faded into the distant past as we gear up for the busiest part of the year in the education and training department.

The Final of the TORO Student of the Year Competition has just taken place, the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition is nearing its final stages, Regional Training Courses have started and we expect bookings for Continue to Learn 2005 to start flooding in.

Added to these, are preparations for the British and

International Turf Managers Conference, the design and production of a training and development manual and visits to the National Turf Grass Foundation Conference, the South West Region Conference, the Midlands Region Conference and the Northern Region conference.

I think that I may need another holiday before long although I have to take some time out to have surgery on both of my feet, leaving you in the capable hands of Sami.

Golf Environment Competition

The STRI judges have completed their first round judging and are nearing the end of their golf course visits to determine the winners in this competition sponsored by WRAP, Scotts and Syngenta.

Clubs will be notified of the results during October and prizes will be awarded at BTME & ClubHouse. Watch out for full details in this magazine.

TORO Student of the Year

Always the highlight of the year for me as this competition identifies the people who are the future of our industry.

Full details of the prize winners will appear in next month's edition of Greenkeeper International, but it is time that you started to think about entering the 2005 competition, when it could be you who wins the TORO Scholarship to the US.

Regional Training Courses for under £50 a time

We have had some feedback saying that our Regional Training Course are too expensive.

Unfortunately, you cannot get quality training at no cost, someone has to pay.

Our courses receive a massive subsidy from the Education and Development Fund allowing us to keep the costs of a one day course to £49 + VAT, whereas the true cost is actually £80 +VAT per delegate.

Places are still available on the following courses.

Presentation Skills

Ross on Wye Golf Club
29 and 29 October

Essential Management Skills

Ross on Wye Golf Club
9 and 10 November

Continue to Learn 2005

You should find a Continue to Learn 2005 brochure in this copy of Greenkeeper International. If not, contact BIGGA House to request your copy. Remember that places on the Workshops are limited, so send your application back to BIGGA House as soon as possible.

Communication Skills

Cleethorpes Golf Club
17 and 18 November

Management Skills for HG and CM

Old Fold Manor Golf Club
22 and 23 November

Next Steps in Management Skills

Dunham Forest Golf Club
25 and 26 November

Negotiating Skills

Exeter Golf Club
30 November

Each one-day course costs £49 + VAT and each two-day course costs £99 +VAT
Contact BIGGA House to book your place.

BITMC

Plans are almost complete for the British and International Turf Managers Conference that takes place at Staverton Park Conference Centre on 19 and 20 March 2005. Watch out for more details in future editions of this magazine, at BTME & ClubHouse or ask Sami when she is in Southport for the NTF Conference next month.

David Golding explains how the GTC's role in greenkeeper education and training influences the future of maintenance standards on British golf courses.

Let me start by posing a few questions:-
Who do you think is ultimately responsible for the development and review of qualifications in the greenkeeping sector?
How can you influence the content of the greenkeeping qualifications?
How can you help to ensure that the education and training programmes, on offer by training providers, are to the standards set by the industry working together with the Awarding Bodies?

The answer to the first question is the GTC and the answer to the second and third questions is through the GTC that relies on a wide consultation network, which could include you.

Whether you are a golf club employer, golf course manager or apprentice greenkeeper, the GTC welcomes your input to help maintain the standards of greenkeeper education, training and qualifications.

The Government has established a group of organisations called Sector Skills Councils (SSC) that have been commissioned to represent the various UK industries on a range of issues, including the provision of qualifications for their particular sector.

I intend to try and keep simple the explanation of how the GTC, representing a relatively small specialist sector, in terms of employers and employees, can influence the Government.

The Lantra SSC is licensed by the Government to represent the land-based sector. This sector is vast and includes agriculture, horticulture and landscaping. Sportsturf (i.e. greenkeeping) is part of the landscaping group.

The GTC is represented on the standard setting group at Lantra and this is where it makes its presence felt when it comes to ensuring that qualifications and apprenticeship schemes are relevant for both employers and for greenkeepers in the UK.

Let me also give you a quick reminder as to why we have to work with the Government. For many years the greenkeeping sector has accepted the national framework of qualifications, as they attract a substantial amount of government subsidies. This makes formal training very cost effective to employers. The traditional City & Guilds pass/fail Phases, were replaced by the vocational (work-based) qualifications in the early nineties.

Whether you personally favoured the old system or not, the GTC has adopted and taken "ownership" of the VQ's as they have been designed to

include the skills required by employers. The apprenticeship schemes – which lead to N/SVQ's - have all been developed to meet employers' needs.

I get very upset when I hear criticism of the work-based system by people who owe so much to the way they were trained informally on the job by their Head Greenkeeper, as today's qualifications are only a more formal style of that tried and tested system. The GTC does acknowledge there is a need for more academic qualifications, hence the options of National Awards, Diploma's and Degrees.

The GTC has an excellent relationship with the Lantra SSC and it is invited to contribute to all matters relating to qualifications and training schemes.

A Sports Turf Review Group, which includes Course Managers, Training Provider representatives and specialist advisors helps to set standards for the greenkeeping sector.

This is where you can contribute and influence the content of the various qualifications and schemes. Whether you have just completed an N/SVQ Level 2 Sportsturf, an HNC or a Degree, the GTC really values your comments, whether you think changes could or should not be considered to improve the awards. Please let the GTC know your ideas.

Once qualifications have been developed, Lantra submits them to the accreditation bodies, and the Awarding Bodies e.g. City & Guilds and the Scottish Qualifications Authority take over.

The Awarding Bodies then appoint centres, often colleges, which offer the various qualifications. It is also the AB's role to "police" the Centres and again this is where the GTC has an excellent relationship with both the AB's and the Centres.

You too can help the GTC to help others by informing us of your experience on a particular course or how a centre is performing. This is all part of the GTC's role to help monitor education provision.

I will discuss the various learning options and training methods for greenkeepers in next months' article but for now I hope that you have a better understanding of one of the most important roles of the GTC.

In summary, if you feel that the content of a particular qualification could be improved

or that training provision at a particular Centre is either excellent or not up to standard and needs checking then let the GTC know!

The GTC can be contacted on Tel 01347 838640 or E-mail golf@the-gtc.co.uk

'The GTC has adopted and taken "ownership" of the VQ's as they have been designed to include the skills required by employers'

'I get very upset when I hear criticism of the work-based system by people who owe so much to the way they were trained informally on the job by their Head Greenkeeper'

'You too can help the GTC to help others by informing us of your experience on a particular course or how a centre is performing'

Rachael and Gemma from Membership Services would like to welcome 59 new members to the Association.

Membership Update

Read all about it...

With the days getting shorter and the nights drawing in there is no better excuse to catch up on your reading.

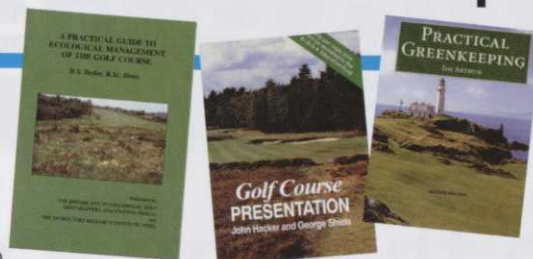
BIGGA's lending library is available to all members and stocks over 800 titles on anything from turf management to IT skills and even interview techniques.

You can borrow up to two titles from the library at any one time for a period of six weeks. The only cost to you is the return postage of the books. Search for a book in the members area of the website www.bigga.org.uk or ring Brad on 01347 833800 for further details.

In addition to the lending library we also stock three titles that are available to purchase at discounted prices.

A Practical Guide to Ecological Management of the Golf Course

Published jointly by BIGGA and the Sports Turf Research Institute and written by STRI ecologist R S Taylor, this book is a must for all those Head



Greenkeepers/Course Managers who wish to manage their golf

course ecologically. The book looks at the reasons for managing ecologically, habitat management and specific ecological problems. *Paperback, £3*

Golf Course Presentation

First published in 1992 and written by John Hacker and George Shiels, this book shows how good presentation and good agronomic practice should be complimentary. *Paperback, £4.95*

Practical Greenkeeping 2nd Edition

Published by the R&A and written by Jim Arthur, this is the only text book available on British greenkeeping techniques. Covering all aspects of greenkeeping, this book is a must for all greenkeepers of all ages. *Hardback, £29.95 plus £3 P&P.*

DESIGN A SLOGAN

In the past year the membership department has received a number of requests to issue a new BIGGA car sticker. We are hoping to launch one in time for BTME and Clubhouse 2005 and are appealing to you for help.

Can you come up with a catchy slogan for the sticker? It doesn't have to be too long as the sticker is only going to be 10 cm wide/diameter.

The competition is open to all members and the winner gets to see his or her slogan on the sticker and will also win a 'Highlander' waterproof suit. The closing date for entries is the 31st October and the winner will be announced in the December issue of Greenkeeper International.

Please send all entries to The Membership Department, BIGGA, BIGGA House, Aldwark, Alne, York, North Yorkshire, YO61 1UF.

Message of the Month Winner

Our congratulations go to October's winner, David Edmondson, from Penwortham Golf Club, who's message was posted on the 5th September 2004 under the 'Talk about Turf' section. David receives an 18 litre Gelert Rucksack.

BIGGA welcomes...

SCOTTISH REGION

Victoria Cavinue, West
Haydn Chambers, Central
Calum Fraser, North
Scott McCormick, Ayrshire
Stuart McSparran, West
John Muir, Ayrshire
Darryl Munro, West
Michael Nicol, North
Andrew Ramsey, West

NORTHERN REGION

Thomas Bradford, Northern
Mark Davidson, North Wales
Stuart Earnshaw, Cleveland
David Finnegan, North Wales
Adam Gaze, North West
Paul Gray, North Wales
Neville Hayden, Northern
Alex Knox, North East
Steven Murphy, North Wales
David Roberts, North Wales

MIDLAND REGION

Christopher Baugh, Midland
John Fenn, BB&O
Matthew Hartley, East Midland
Jonathan Horton, East Midland
Christopher Howes, Midland
Ian Hurst, East Midland
Bledwyn Jones, Midland
Scott Krokoszynski, East Midland
Mick May, Midland
Craig Nelson, East Midland
Nick Nottingham, East Midland
Lawrence Rawlings, BB&O
Christopher Richards, BB&O
John Walshaw, Midland

SOUTH EAST REGION

Simon Brown, Sussex
Edd Bullock, London
Mark Byron, Essex
Jamie Goldrick, Surrey
Andrew Greedy, Surrey
Andy Hall, London
Trevor Hammond, East Anglia

Ian Hughes, Kent
Andrew Jeakings, East Anglia
Patrick Johnson, London
Matthew Mansfield, Sussex
Freddie Murray, London
Wayne Thrower, East Anglia

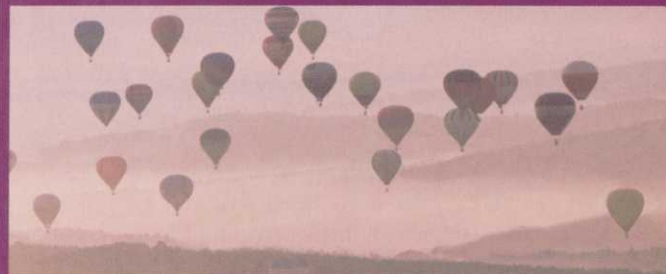
SOUTH WEST/SOUTH WALES

George Cooper, South Coast
John Cox, South West
Abi Crosswood Devon & Cornwall
Ramsden Daniel, South Coast
Paul Foot, South Coast
Rhys Morris, South Wales

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

William Bradley, West Scotland
John Bragger, Sheffield
Shaun Chapman, Sheffield
Charles Johnson, West Scotland
Geoffrey Mawer, East Midland
William Myers, USA
Peter Phillips, London

WIN A CHAMPAGNE BALLOON FLIGHT



To be in with a chance of winning a balloon flight at one of over 50 locations UK wide just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA. Make sure you write your name on the application form as the person who referred them and we will enter you into the prize draw.

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

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

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 Michael Frappell from Lamerwood Golf Club.

Course Feature

More than just a Golf Club

Reigning BIGGA Golf Environment Competition winners, Kenwick Park, is much more than 18 holes of golf as Scott MacCallum found out.

Members of Kenwick Park Golf Club, in Louth, Lincolnshire, have options not always available to those at other golf clubs.

They can stick the clubs in the back of the car and hook up with a few fellow members for a friendly fourball or leave the clubs in the garage whip out the walking shoes and binoculars and spend a few hours strolling along the club's nature trail or watching wildlife from one of the two hides within the confines of the club.

Kenwick Park is more than just a golf club and it was this fact that was recognised by the judges in the R&A supported BIGGA Golf Environment Competition sponsored by Scotts, Symbio and now WRAP, when they voted the club the 2003 National winner.

The success came following a concerted campaign over the last five years which had seen the club winning runners-up awards and regularly being mentioned in dispatches by the judges and also becoming the second English club, behind the De Vere Belfry, to attain Committed to Green status.

"It meant a lot to an awful lot of people," said Ian Shepherd, Chairman of the club's Environment Panel.

"Clearly not every member is interested but the level of enthusiasm within members and staff really made it all worthwhile and generated a lot of excitement. As a result the work of the Environment Panel has received a lot of support."

The Panel had been the brainchild of club Secretary, Paddy Shillington, who had experience of moorland and heather management from a previous role. He passed the Chairmanship of the Panel over to Ian after being advised by the taxman that people who work for the club shouldn't be involved in the actual management of it.

"When Ian took over and was able to formalise what we had been doing and apply his considerable skills to it, it really took off," said Paddy.

He is equally sure that it was the club's overall involvement and interest in the environment, as well as their previous track record in the competition, which led Kenwick Park to winning a competition for which the roll of honour carries some prestigious names – Hankley Common, Lindrick, Temple, The Dyke, Broadstone and Ipswich.

"Every year we've moved forward and each time the judges have returned we've done what has been asked of us



and what we promised we would do. If they hadn't given it to us it would have been a travesty of justice," he laughed.

And perhaps it would have been, as a look at what has been carried out at Kenwick, a club which as only formed in 1992, shows the height at which the bar has been set for future winners.

The catalyst for all the good work was indeed the Environment Panel which, in addition to Ian, comprises an ornithologist; an expert on butterflies and moths; a botanist; a bat expert and two foresters, as well as, in a non-voting capacity, Course Manager, Geoff Henderson, who was a farm manager at the Kenwick Estate before becoming involved with the golf course when it was under construction.

"We started with two principals. The first being that the golf must come first as, if we didn't have a golf course the Panel wouldn't exist to do the work. Secondly, the activities of the Panel mustn't be seen as a drain on the club's resources. We didn't want members to feel that their subscription money was being used for something that perhaps they weren't interested in," explained Ian.

With that in mind the first objective was to raise some funds and this was done initially with a successful quiz night run in the clubhouse. Since then there has been regular golf events including night golf with luminous equipment and a barbecue while there is now two regular Environment Panel events on the calendar - a Texas Scramble and barbecue over a spring Bank Holiday and a Fur and Feathers Stableford competition in the first weekend in December with vouchers for a local farm shop as prizes.

"With an income you can then get more funding by applying for grants and we've been successful in our applications for money for wild flower planting, hedgerow planting, planting reeds, and constructing an island. We're also hoping to be successful in gaining grant aid for our major composting project," said Ian.

Paddy is quick to praise Ian for his ability to secure additional funding.

"This is where Ian is brilliant. It is all in the application and locating the potential grants because all the people with the funding want to do is spend it on something which can't be criticised. It's a great opportunity for golf," said Paddy.

Ian reinforced the view adding that the funding bodies usually have an objective in mind which must be satisfied.

"For example our wildflower project was alongside the public footpath because it had to have a public amenity element to it," said Ian, who did say that Kenwick's position in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty helped when it came to attracting grant aid.

When the club began down the environmental path the first job was to audit the flora and fauna already on site and since then they have introduced a card system which means that if any member sees anything he or she feels might be of environmental interest it can be logged.

"That way we've got a record year-on-year of the species which are thriving or which might be distressed. Our ornithologist also gives us a quarterly report on what he's seen and his view on how things are progressing. We use the information to assess whether our habitat management is making a positive impact," explained Ian, who added that the club database currently contains well over 1200 different species of flora and fauna with the biggest increase coming on the moth record as a result of the moth expert using his moth trap to collect and identify more varieties.

"We've also had help from Bob Taylor, of the STRI, in identifying fungi found on the course."

The club also boasts three extremely fine black swans and while they are, in themselves, quite splendid they also have a more practical benefit to the golf course.





The Kenwick Park team.



Geoff Henderson, Ian Shepherd and Paddy Shillington.



The reservoir

"They were donated by the Club Chairman and as they are particularly territorial they have been extremely beneficial in keeping away Canada geese and coots which had been making a mess of our fairways," said Ian.

The club's environmental work spreads further than merely the golf course with the clubhouse and surrounds also coming under the Environmental Panel's spotlight.

"We've got bottle banks and recycle newspapers while we also have low energy light bulbs throughout the clubhouse and signs on all the light switches telling people to switch off when not required.

The man responsible for co-ordinating the environmental work with that of the regular course maintenance is Geoff, who has a team of six to manage the 200 acre site which contains areas of woodland, parkland, grassland and lakeland.

"It is a very diverse variety of areas we've got to maintain," agreed Geoff, who is proud of the club's reputation as having one of the finest courses in the area and one which can provide a test for all levels of golfer from the holiday golfer to the category one player and PGA pro.

"We clear areas within the trees to keep the golfers happy and cut the long rough on a regular basis while the areas not regarded as in play are maintained with a view to protecting and encouraging wildlife. We also have a lot of lake banks and dykes to maintain," said Geoff, adding that virtually every project is carried out in-house.

The most recent member of the greenkeeping team was employed because the new composting project requires extra labour – there are sacks placed strategically around the course for the dumping of clippings which will hopefully be replaced with bins which can be accessed by machinery rather than emptied by hand.

It is envisaged that the compost produced in the scheme will be put back onto the course, thus reducing the amount of fertiliser required.

"The environmental element has added a certain amount to the workload but it means we have also altered some of the ways we've done things as opposed to making extra work. For instance there are some areas we haven't cut back as much as we have in the past and some areas we've cut differently to encourage different types of wildlife.

"You do get a 'feel good' factor from the work and it is a super place to work in any case," said Geoff, who added that his team enjoyed on-going education through Myerscough College and locally sourced training courses.

Paddy is quick to point out that having such a comparatively young golf course creates a lot more work that would normally be found on one which is more mature.



Scotsturf

10th & 11th November 2004

Wednesday, 10am - 4.30pm

Thursday, 10am - 3.30pm

Scotland's premier event for those involved in the management and maintenance of sportsgrounds, golf courses, amenity areas, leisure facilities, landscape contractors and for many more in the land based industries.

for further info tel: 028 9042 2274
or email: nicky.mcgarra@scotsturf.com

The Highland Hall,
Royal Highland Showground,
Ingliston, Edinburgh

*Refreshingly different
- see what's new!*



Activate R

THE ULTIMATE BIOSTIMULANT

Now with
Enhanced Root
Developer

The benefits of the multi-component Activate R formulation have now been further advanced by the addition of an **Enhanced Root Developer (ERD)** system to both the granular and liquid products.

- Now with Enhanced Root Developer. Independent trials have proved Activate R dramatically increases key plant growth activities
- Leonardite humic acid improves soil structure and nutrient retention in the rootzone
- Plant growth hormones improve root and shoot development
- Chelated trace elements improve turf colour and general plant health
- Soil penetrant ensures components are moved to the rootzone for maximum effect



Source: IGER independent trials



Rigby Taylor Ltd, Rigby Taylor House, Crown Lane, Horwich, Bolton, Lancs BL6 5HP. Tel: 01204 677777. www.rigbytaylor.com



See us at Scotsturf
Stand G33



Drain It, Don't Dry It

- A revolutionary new concept in drainage.
- It's cost effective
- Quick and clean to use.
- Is easily handled with no heavy machinery required.
- Provides efficient rapid removal of surface water.
- Drainage of problem areas.
- Can be installed in-season, in non-continuous batches.
- Has a reduced heavy aggregate requirement.
- Is lightweight, robust and resilient.
- Environmentally friendly

Unit 5a, Plaxton Park Industrial Estate,
Cayton Low Road, Eastfield,
Scarborough, North Yorkshire,
YO11 3BY

Econoplas Ltd

Tel: 01723 586611.

Fax: 01723 586543

e-mail:

econoplas@tiscali.co.uk

"In the time I've been here we've built 11 tees; altered 11 fairways; built a reservoir and added to the clubhouse. We're not standing still on any front and we always feel we are better this year than last year and better last year than the year before in terms of presentation and definition of the course. We're not there yet, but we're not far off."

The prize for winning the Environment Competition was £2000 and a weather station which has proven to be a big hit with the club not least in its ability to predict disease.

"On one occasion we had a prediction that conditions were absolutely right for fusarium and within three or four days we had it, but we had been able to put preventative measures in place," said Geoff.

The money has been put away towards the cost of a composting machine together with that won at the local Lincolnshire Environmental Awards which were chaired by the botanist David Belamy.

"He made a few comments at the presentation and was really singing the praises of golf and golf courses. He thought, and has thought for sometime, that they are wonderful places for wildlife," said Ian.

Ian is also quick to point out how successful the Environmental Panel has been in influencing some of the club's decision making,

"The reservoir project, at around £24,000 is the biggest the club has undertaken since it opened, and was done with a long term aim of guarding the club against water shortages in the future as well as the obvious short term benefits.

"The Panel contributed around £1500 to the project and also planted the hedgerow behind it to finish it off. The original design was the most economical way of storing water and was a rectangular shape but because of advice we'd received we were able to influence the design to incorporate attractive bays and a shallow area designed to encourage bird life."

That has proven to be so successful that one of the two hides owned by the club is about to be erected overlooking the reservoir. The other hide is deep in the natural trail and displays the evidence of one of the more mischievous of species.

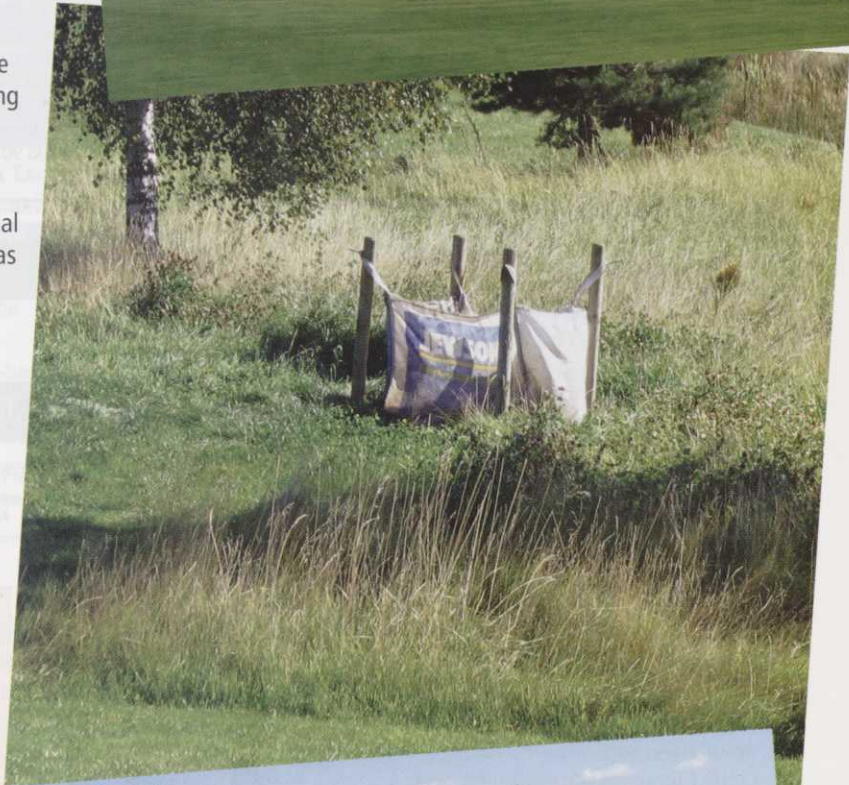
"Squirrels have damaged the door to allow them access and then gnawed their way through the plastic bins in which we stored the bird food. We've had to move it to a metal container," revealed Geoff.

Overall the environmental work has added a great deal to Kenwick Park Golf Club.

"People who may not be the greatest golfers but are perhaps experts in other fields can contribute and they feel that the club is as much theirs as the low handicappers. I know of one chap who comes up nearly every week and wanders around in the evenings. He really enjoys it and gets value out of his membership," said Paddy.

So what would he say to other clubs thinking about perhaps entering the competition?

"It's the best way of getting free advice you could ever have. There is so much benefit in the early days from the judges visit and even if you don't win you still get so much out of it," said Paddy, who can't wait until the three year non-entry period imposed on winners is over so the club can have another go.



Training

Tutorial Five

Management of training needs

Golf clubs often fail to plan properly and manage their training needs. Good training will lead to improved awareness of the hazards of working and operating in a golf club environment.

The golf club must ensure it has in place a simple to use training needs matrix that clearly identifies all of the personnel in the organisation, their roles and their existing qualifications.

The training needs should have dates put on it and be able to demonstrate the training has been completed. The Greenkeepers Training Committee provide a very useful guide for greenstaff. The training needs matrix should be kept up to date at all times and ultimately be controlled in the club's health and safety management system.

Training Requirements

The training courses the clubs should have completed are as follows and a brief description follows;

General Health and Safety Management, First-Aid, Fire Fighting, Manual Handling, COSHH, Pesticide Spraying, Chain Saws, Welding, Hygiene.

General Health and Safety management

All Head Greenkeepers should have a knowledge of the current UK and EU Health and Safety laws and how these laws relate to golf clubs. The head greenstaff should gain certification in Health and Safety as a good understanding of the laws will allow much better implementation.

It would also be beneficial, once the Head Greenkeeper has gained this training, to systematically pass his knowledge on to all staff.

First-Aid

It is essential as a minimum that the Head Greenkeeper is First-Aid trained by a recognised industry training board such as St John's ambulance or equivalent.

The first-aid training should also be given to a deputy and other members of the club staff such as the Club Manager and, in some cases, the club steward. The important aspect is to ensure that full training is obtained and kept up to date.

Fire Fighting

Fire fighting training is essential for greenstaff to aid in the understanding of fire causes and also to enable them, should a fire start, to understand the correct method of controlling the fire. Fire fighting training can be carried out by the club's contract maintenance company. The Head Greenkeeper and all greenstaff should be fire fighting trained and so should the key members of the clubs' staff.

Manual Handling

This training is often overlooked by club management and is essential to ensure members of the club staff do not get back and body injuries from poor lifting techniques.

The manual handling courses would cover lifting methods, risk assessments and useful mechanical devices to assist in hazardous tasks. It is essential again that the Head Greenkeeper receives this training and also the bar steward and key members of the catering staff.

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)

Handling of chemicals is a hazardous activity and must be understood properly and controlled. COSHH is about ensuring that the greenstaff and club staff controls the use of hazardous chemicals. COSHH training courses would allow greenstaff to better understand the fundamentals of a COSHH system and ensure that in the future chemical's do not present a risk.

Summary

Training at golf clubs plays a major part in the understanding and management of good Health and Safety and Haztek International will be happy to advise on the club's training needs and prepare the training needs matrix. Please contact Jerrard Winter on 0208 905 7552 email: info@safegolf.co.uk

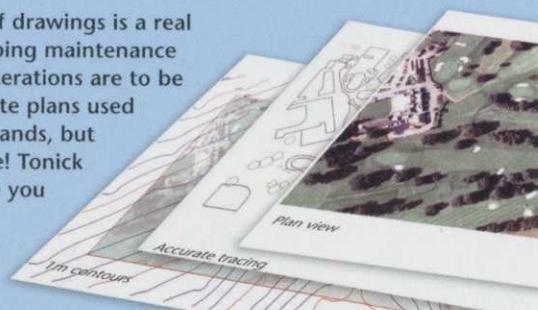
PLANS OF YOUR GOLF COURSE FOR THE SAME COST AS 12 DECODERS

A novel approach to scale drawings and colour photography of the golf course based on aerial data provides a wealth of detail for a fraction of the normal cost.

A good set of drawings is a real asset for helping maintenance and when alterations are to be done. Accurate plans used to cost thousands, but not any more! Tonick can now give you large scale drawings containing a wealth

of detail derived from the latest in aerial photography and radar. You get a poster-sized colour photo too!

- The plans are derived from stereo photography and radar elevation measurement
- Optionally, augment plans with accurate positions of sprinklers, valves, drain points, cable & pipe runs via a simple GPS ground survey conducted with the greenkeeper in just one day.



Tonick Watering

Tel: +44(0)1269 832325 Fax: +44(0)1269 832326
email: info@tonick.co.uk www.tonick.co.uk



Sherriff Amenity

Turf Vigor 5.2.12. Organic Microbial Fertiliser


Turf Vigor 5.2.12. Organic Microbial Fertiliser is a natural based nutrient delivery system designed to enhance the biological balance of the soil and turf ecosystem. Turf Vigor 5.2.12. Organic Microbial Fertiliser feeds and enhances soil microbial activity; adds "beneficial microbes" back to the soil environment; "conditions" the turf grass plant with stress reducing compounds and provides a balanced fertility base for turf nutrition.



Application Rates

Fine Turf

Bag Size	22.7kg
Grams per M2	20g - 30g M2
Bag Coverage	756M2 - 1135
Bags Per Hectare	9 - 14

These are the microbes in Turf Vigor Organic Microbial Fertiliser 

Bacillus amyloliquifaciens SB3002	Produces hydrolytic enzymes that release nutrients in soil
Bacillus pasteurii SB3003	Effective at low soil oxygen levels, produces hydrolytic enzymes that release nutrients in soil
Bacillus cereus SB3124	Produces natural chelate that enhances nutrient uptake
Bacillus laevolacticus SB3006	Breaks down organic matter to release nutrients
Bacillus licheniformis DA-33	Phytohormone producer, effective at higher soil temperatures
Paenibacillus azotofixans SB3154	Converts atmospheric nitrogen into a form useable plants

The Pines, Fordham Road, Newmarket, Suffolk. CB8 7LG. Tel. 01638 721888 Fax. 01638 721815
www.sherriff-amenity.com



1. When using a pesticide always follow the label instructions and ensure that application is carried out by an NPTC qualified operator. 2. Take care to avoid water pollution when mixing, filling, during application and disposal. 3. Check and calibrate your sprayer before use. 4. If you have any queries contact your BASIS qualified advisor.

Ten Point Plan to Top Dressing

Ian McClements, STRI Turfgrass agronomist for Ireland, highlights the ten important points to consider before starting top dressing.

Many head greenkeepers and course superintendents have seen and realised the benefits of a greens top dressing programme, using sandy materials to improve the quality of the rootzone both from a drainage and growing environment perspective.

A story is often told of Old Tom Morris when asked what made his greens so good, he would reply "sand, more sand and the Sabbath".

Old Tom Morris was blessed with good drainage on a links site but many courses since have been built on less than ideal land.



▲ Excessive thatch accumulations can contribute to persistent waterlogging on fairways.

Today some clubs have even used this top dressing strategy to create a "USGA rootzone" above their existing sub-bases rather than endure the costly and disruptive processes of reconstruction.

Indeed it would not be unrealistic to suggest that many older clay-based greens have been transformed through such practices and now support year-round play, a policy that would have been unthinkable in the not so distant past. Success has only been possible when suitable materials have been used with sufficient frequency - and, of course, complemented by other management treatments, particularly aeration.

The evidence to date indicates that suitable green top dressing programmes have generally been beneficial. It may be that sand top dressings could be of value in improving the intrinsic drainage characteristics of some of the poorer soils/sites to improve year-round playability, after all sand has been used as a tonic for wet conditions for centuries. Some of the high profile clubs, with the resources to match, have been top dressing fairways for a number of years now with good results. Right?

However, before committing considerable resources to an extensive programme, consider the following ten point plan. Hopefully this might help you decide if such a strategy is likely to be beneficial or, more importantly, help you decide where best to direct resources to achieve the most cost-effective solution to your problems.

Soil Type

Perhaps the most obvious assessment to make, but one that is nearly always overlooked. Some courses may be blessed with soils that possess good intrinsic drainage characteristics or are to be found over free draining sub-strata such as gravel or fractured limestone.

Finer textured soils, particularly silts and clays, will have drainage rates that are poorer than coarser textured sands or sandy loams. The

classification of the soils can either be completed in situ on the basis of a hand textural analysis or by sending representative samples to a soil-testing laboratory for a mechanical analysis. Soil types can vary significantly across a golf course and even within a single fairway.

The mechanical analysis will give some useful information as to how the soil may perform, but it is also important to evaluate the structure of the soil as well as its texture. A top dressing programme is not primarily concerned with the modification of soil texture to depth although changes will occur at the immediate surface as the sand becomes integrated with the soil.

Compaction and Traffic

Good structure relies upon having a satisfactory blend of aggregates or crumbs as well as macro pores to allow water to move freely through the soil profile. Loamy soils tend to form good structure relatively easily, having a satisfactory range of both large and small pores.

A small test hole excavated to a depth of 300-450 mm will provide some useful information on the degree of compaction, structure and intrinsic drainage characteristics of the soil.

Soil that is easily dug is less compacted, will tend to be better structured and, as a consequence, show better drainage characteristics. Hard, compacted, fine soils will invariably have poor structure.

Under traffic and particularly in wet conditions, soils are easily compressed and destructured. These compactive forces lead to a reduction in natural drainage and poorer growth.

Soils that appear consolidated but which are easily broken up and loosened will respond very well to mechanical aeration treatments, particularly Verti-Draining. The timing of the Verti-Draining operation is however crucial to success.

Thereafter, top dressing certain soils with sand can help to form a

protective layer over the indigenous material, thus helping to reduce the direct effects of compaction on the underlying soil.

Topography and Contours

Contouring determines how surface water will travel across the ground. On fairway turf, a greater fall is usually required to effect satisfactory water movement in comparison to close mown greens turf.

It is always useful to evaluate your problem fairways in the wettest of conditions. How much rainfall impacts directly upon the surface and how much additional water is collected from other areas of the course? It is not uncommon to find one low-lying fairway that is responsible for the collection of water from three or four higher fairways and roughs.

Mounding between fairways can deflect water and could be advantageous but equally could increase water flow and movement across localised sections of the site.

Catchwater drainage can be crucial in reducing the quantities of water that can impact upon an area below mounds or higher ground and should be used where practical. The least expensive option is to construct shallow swales to deflect surface water to less obtrusive sections of the course.

Contouring can be used to good advantage but flat sites are heavily dependent upon good internal drainage to move surface water quickly in to the soil and on to depth.

Existing Drainage

Many drainage systems are installed and expected to last indefinitely, yet the longevity and performance of a pipe drainage system is strongly influenced by the quality of construction. Poor drainage can arise from the failure of such systems.

Outlets, particularly open ditches, must be checked regularly and kept clear of debris and silt. Water backing up a ditch line will hinder water movement from adjacent ground, particularly if significant ground is drained to the ditch!

Old stone drains still form the backbone of many drainage systems on old courses today but these can collapse leading to localised problems. Dealing with such sub-surface problems in an appropriate manner will be a priority.

Top dressing in areas with a high winter water table will have little positive impact on drainage but could be a useful mechanism to assist surface water movement to a functional underlying drainage system. The regular maintenance of slit drainage systems will necessitate the frequent application of sand, particularly during installation and in the early years of establishment.

Environmental Conditions

Many of the poorer draining soils in the British Isles tend to be in the wettest parts of the west. The adjacent graph illustrates the changes that have occurred in our weather patterns over the past 10 years when compared with a 30 year mean. It is apparent that there is a trend towards wetter autumns!

The climate may be getting wetter but small microclimatic conditions on courses may influence fairway performance. South-facing slopes tend to be warmer and will lose more moisture through evapotranspiration.

Trees close to fine turf areas are never a good idea but how can they influence fairway performance? Reduced air movement will lessen the opportunities for drying and shade will again affect evapotranspiration rates. In my experience, I have yet to find a tree-planting scheme that has improved drainage, the converse is often true, particularly regarding alders, willows and poplars.

Ten Point Plan to Top Dressing



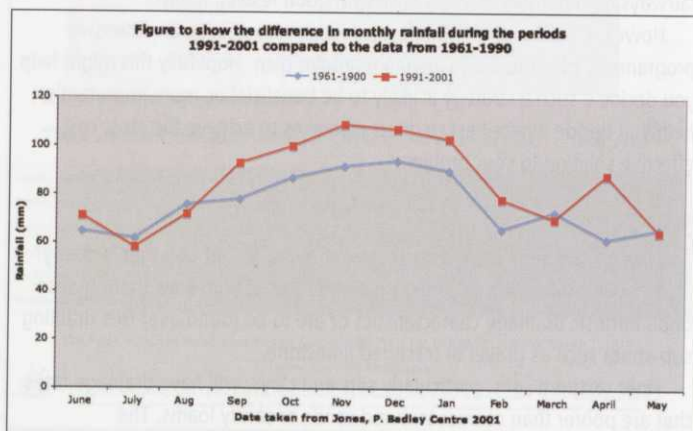
▲ Old fairway drains may need replacing with more appropriate and effective modern drainage systems.

Thatch

Fairways, like all turf areas, have the potential to produce thatch. Whether it arises through excessive growth production or inadequate decomposition due to low soil pH and depressed microbial activity, it is a real phenomenon that would appear to be an increasing concern on many courses.

A scarification programme will help to physically remove accumulations of organic matter thus enabling water to penetrate to the underlying soil more freely. Modern tractor-mounted scarifiers can impact on a significant surface area. Only scarify when there is active grass growth to promote recovery and be prepared to lift or sweep up the debris.

Such a programme is best combined with an appropriate schedule of aeration work to encourage better water penetration and thatch decomposition. Only when the thatch levels are satisfactory should you consider top dressing. Burying thatch under a sand layer will do little to improve playing conditions in the long term.



Worm Casting

Worms are often regarded as being essential for good drainage and certainly soils with a high worm activity will have a greater overall capacity to absorb water, but under traffic the casts become smeared leaving a fine silty layer of surface material that is capable of holding water for long periods close to saturation. In these circumstances the drainage of worm-worked areas is significantly impaired.

It is not uncommon to achieve improvements in playability and surface conditions when worm control measures have been adopted, thus negating the need for sand top dressings - which no doubt take "the sting" out of heavy worm casting problems.

Some initial results from an American research programme suggest that heavy sand top dressings, applying a 37 mm depth over a single season, have reduced earthworm casting by 58% the following season. Further work is required to determine the longer term effects of sand top dressing on worm casting.

Worm activity is variable throughout the golf course and casting tends to be most prolific on compacted areas of ground. A localised approach to the control of casting will be the most economical to apply.

Member Expectations

At most golf clubs, the expectation of the club membership hopefully ultimately drives the maintenance programme forward. If the course is expected to be playable and presentable through ten to twelve months of the year then the putting surfaces, approaches, tees and fairways must be firm and dry in all but the most extreme conditions.

Whilst drainage systems can be designed to cope with designated rainfall periods, the maintenance of the soil profile and transfer of water to the drainage system is crucial to the provision of satisfactory surfaces.

Sand top dressing may well play an important part in this process, particularly where high drainage design rates are required.

Members will always demand higher standards than those currently provided but reconciling member expectations with the resources and budgets available is the greatest challenge facing most course managers.

Resources and Budgets

It is important to prioritise where resources should be directed. Many clubs would be better served if greater attention were given to the development of better playing conditions within the green complexes, and particularly approaches, rather than embarking upon a fairway top dressing programme.

After all, at least 50% of shots are played on the green, or close by, and it would make little sense to spend a disproportionate percentage of the maintenance budget on areas of the course which, in reality, receive the least amount of play or where traffic may be easily redirected.

If a fairway top dressing programme is deemed appropriate then concentrate on the weakest areas first, such as landing zones, key traffic routes or the wettest fairways.

Availability of Materials

The selection of appropriate materials will be primarily based upon local availability and cost. Representative samples of materials for consideration should be available together with sieve test analyses so that an informed decision can be made based on sound agronomics rather than cost alone. The quality and consistency of supply are important, particularly when large quantities of sand are likely to be used.

Conclusions

So you've been through the assessment process and are satisfied that adequate surface and sub-surface drainage is in place, thatch is under control, compaction is not an issue and worms represent no threat to the playability of the course yet problems remain over surface moisture retention during wet conditions then your fairways are likely to be a candidate for a fairway top dressing programme.

PERFECT RELIEF NO CONTACT EXPRESS DUAL



Greener Grass Faster Greens

**TEST DRIVE A DUAL
CALL 01788 811600**



SHARPER SOLUTIONS...with BERNHARD
www.bernhard.co.uk

A Rich History

STRI

75 YEARS
1929-2004

Scott MacCallum meets Gordon McKillop and Anne Wilson, of the STRI, to discuss the Institute's 75th anniversary celebrations.

I've always thought that golf history is great. The game is steeped in it, but it's not so old that we have to rely on archaeological digs and programmes like Time Team turning up an Allan Robertson niblick to make it real.

We can still talk to people who actually saw historic figures like Bobby Jones and Ben Hogan play the game. I'm not that old but even I've seen Bobby Locke and Sam Snead hit a golf ball. I once even shook hands with someone who knew James Braid for heaven's sake. You're not that likely to get that close to a legendary figure in your field if you're a Roman or ancient Greek scholar.

Golf is so much more accessible.

Take 1929 for example. It may have seen the Wall Street Crash but it was a fine year for the game of golf.

The great Walter Hagen won The Open Championship at Muirfield and Bobby Jones, warmed up for his stellar Grand Slam year, by winning the US Open at Winged Foot. There was no Masters in 1929 and it saw only the second ever official Ryder Cup match, at Moortown Golf Club, in Leeds. Great Britain and Ireland won the Cup 7-5.

But it was another event in the north of England, not far from Moortown, that perhaps holds the greatest significance for most of you reading this article. The reason is that in 1929 the STRI, or to be more correct the forerunner to the STRI, the Board of Greenkeeping Research, was founded and began its work at Bingley.

This month the STRI is celebrating its 75th anniversary and doing so in style with an interactive activity day where the staff will demonstrate to guests what they have been up to for the last 75 years and what can be expected in the future. Guests can also get "hands on" with some of the experiments.

Again it highlights how rich, but relatively short, the history is, that current Chief Executive, Dr Gordon McKillop, is only the fifth man to hold the post since 1929. The others being RB Dawson, John Escritt, Peter Hayes and Mike Canaway.

"We are looking forward to welcoming many of the people and organisations who have worked for and been helped by the Institute over the years. In particular we are delighted that our President Lord Griffiths and R&A Chief Executive Peter Dawson will be attending," said Gordon.

The quietly spoken Scot presides over an organisation much different from the one which first open its doors all those years ago.

There was initially a staff of five – two years later it had already gone up to 12 - led by the legendary RB Dawson, whose zeal and enthusiasm laid the foundations for the Institute's success, but the formation of the then Board was the brainchild of two R&A members, Norman Hackett and Percy Clough, who had seen the benefits and improvements to America's golf courses from the recently launched USGA Green Section and who wanted to see something similar in the UK.

"Bingley was chosen as the site of the new Board as both Norman Hackett and Percy Clough lived locally and knew people who offered accommodation and trial sites on the St Ives Estate. The Board was funded by the R&A and the Four Home Unions and the first office was in the original Mansion House of the Estate," explained Anne Wilson, Head of External Affairs, who has studied the Institute's history in preparing a commemorative Bulletin for the 75th Anniversary.

In the early days, while the Board was primarily concerned with work on golf courses it did undertake work for other sports and the Croquet Association was the first non-golfing body to subscribe in 1929, followed by Arsenal Football Club and Skipton Tennis Club the following year. By 1931 the



▲ Above, left: STRI Chief Executive Dr Gordon McKillop.

Bingley was conducting 181 visits a year and 1641 letters were being sent out while that same decade 1400 samples were being sent to the laboratory for testing every year.

It was in 1951 that the Board changed its name to become the Sports Turf Research Institute a move which recognised officially that many more sports than just golf were benefiting for its work.

The main means of communication in the early days was the 'Journal of the Board of Greenkeeping Research' which was also launched in 1929 and that very first issue holds pride of place in the Institute's Library. Priced at five shillings the Journal lists the founding subscribers and also gives an insight into the problems being experienced on golf courses at the time.

"Believed you me nothing changes in terms of what issues were being discussed and it's interesting to read the letters from golf clubs describing the problems they are experiencing," explained Anne, who was also delighted to discover how many of the original subscribers are still involved with the Institute today.

"However, one of the earliest problems was that there was no fertilisers as such and no dedicated pesticides or weed killers so the mass destruction of



▲ Centre: Anne Wilson, Head of External Affairs. Left: The STRI Trial Fields. Top: The entrance to the STRI offices in Bingley.

weeds and pests was just not possible, while there was only manual or horse drawn machinery. Another issue was that back then there were no grasses bred purely for amenity use and the grasses on golf courses tended to be from agriculture."

Indeed, part of that latter problem was addressed by RB Dawson himself, as he was heavily involved in the development of new grasses. There is actually a grass named after him – the Dawson Red Fescue. The STRI has long since stopped breeding its own grasses preferring to leave that to the seed companies.

The early success of "Bingley" can be judged by the fact that staff numbers grew year on year as the quality of the services offered grew and they became known to an increasing number of golf clubs and sporting bodies. That now stands at 70, including a large team of people who look after the extensive trial sites.

High on that list of services offered by STRI is the agronomy which was based solely out of Bingley, with agronomists making tours of the country before returning to base, until 1992 when Andy Cole became the first regionally based STRI agronomist.

"The main benefit of the original method was that the agronomists all saw each other regularly and were able to share experiences and issues, but now we have the benefit of an agronomist being based in a local area, getting to know the local people and building up relationships and knowledge of the area. It also cuts down on travelling expenses," said Gordon.

There are now 17 agronomists, each of whom operates under the agreed policies of the STRI under the control of Jeff Perris, and they all meet twice a year to discuss agronomic issues as well as more regular meeting with colleagues in their area.

"They also go on joint visits to see how each other works and studies the reports that each other writes," explained Gordon.

The Institute also has its own golf course architecture department led by Jonathan Tucker; a construction division and an ecology department comprising Bob Taylor and Lee Penrose.

"The increasing importance placed on golf course ecology has been one of the most significant changes in recent years. Bob and Lee judge the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition sponsored by Scotts, Symbio and now WRAP," said Gordon.

The STRI enjoys a close relationship with the USGA Green Section and their other sister organisation, the New Zealand Sports Turf Institute, and there is a regular exchange of staff and knowledge with each.

"On the advisory side we have an annual exchange with the USGA and Steve Baker has sat on a number of the USGA committees including the one looking at the USGA specification. We also have a research and a construction departmental exchange every other year.

"With the NZSTRI we regularly send speakers to their biannual conference. There is a whole raft of benefits to be had from such arrangements including seeing how different people and organisations tackle problems in different climatic conditions to how different organisations manage and run themselves and how they interact with their governing bodies," explained Gordon.

For instance the USGA Green Section is purely golf and is funded for by the USGA and it means agronomists can visit golf clubs throughout the county and offer heavily subsidised advice. In New Zealand, the New Zealand Golf Association or the Cricket of Bowls Association give the Institute a sum of money to visit all the golf, cricket or bowls clubs.

"Neither, as we do, relies on individual subscriptions. It's swings and roundabout really. It would be nice to have that sort of income but having to depend on ourselves keeps us on our toes," smiled Gordon.

Among the research work which is being carried out at Bingley at the moment is glass sand testing for WRAP; composting trials on behalf of the R&A and Stephen Baker's work on the European green specification.

One area which has had a significant impact on the Institute is in the area of professional indemnity insurance which has become increasingly hard to get and, particularly after 9/11, become much more expensive.

"When I started we were paying £15,000 a year for it but it has escalated to the stage where we now pay £65,000," said Gordon, who added that living in such an increasingly litigious society was one of the reasons behind the STRI splitting into two with STRI and STRI Ltd.

"That way we can protect the assets of the main organisation by grouping everything we do which isn't liable to come under the professional indemnity into STRI Ltd. Unfortunately we have to pass on the added cost of insurances to our customers but some companies must have gone out of business because they couldn't get insurance or it was too expensive," explained Gordon.

Both Anne and Gordon are relieved, not to say adamant, that it will be someone else who is involved in organising the Institute's Centenary as the 75th celebrations have taken up considerable time and effort.

You can be sure that their work will be rewarded on the day and that staff and invited guests will be toasting 1929 and wishing the STRI every success for the next 75 years and beyond.

Ecological Management on a "Shoestring"

The issue of Ecology has become a major factor in golfing circles, so Conservation Manager Will Bowden has taken a look at how this can be managed at little cost.

The objective of this article is to highlight the common misconception that any worthwhile ecological management programme requires large expenditure and an unrealistic strain on human resources and materials. In truth environmental enhancements rely on four basic principles:

- Understanding the nature of your golf course.
- Imagination/visualising the potential to improve an area of natural value.
- Organising and planning.
- Commitment and seeing the work through to its completion.

As with any form of project management the primary concerns are of limiting factors such as staff shortages, time and money constraints therefore you must ensure your objectives are realistic, 'SMART' - Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timed. We can soon lose control of the situation if targets are not sustainable.

The best advice is to prioritise areas on your site that would most benefit from improvements. List these areas and research how best they can be enhanced with regard to their ecological value. It is imperative to involve the whole team, as these are the people who will be at the sharp end of what you are trying to achieve and in order to make it a success you must enlist their support and all agree upon what is both realistic and worthwhile.

In this article I shall refer to examples from previous experience to illustrate how, with a clear goal and relatively small investments in time and money, significant improvements to your golf course can be made.

Planning and Communication

As golf course managers we are accustomed to planning. We plan at the start of every year. These plans involve revising fertilizer regimes, pesticide treatments, cultural operations through to in-house construction projects. If you are serious about embarking upon a long-term commitment of ecological management, then planning for such work must also become an integral part of this annual thought process.

Communication on all levels is critical, especially when dealing with the potentially emotive subject of the environment. As well as the involvement of the greenkeeping team, make every effort to inform members and clubhouse staff. This can often be a thankless and unappreciated task, however it will help to reduce the likely hood of future conflict if all parties are kept informed.

As well as relatively cheap ways of improving the appeal of your golf course, environmental work can be used as a method of breaching the widespread void of communication that exists within many golf clubs between the clubhouse and the maintenance staff. If adopted as a more 'global' theme throughout the club such work can be the focus of raising our professional profiles and increasing the respect and appreciation we are



Before clearance work.

afforded. This is where planning and communication play a pivotal role in establishing a viable and legitimate environmental work programme.

Focus on habitat restoration

You must adopt a long-term perspective when considering any ecological work. The key to a successful and worthwhile environmental management plan (EMP) is habitat restoration as opposed to quick fix gimmicks or PR exercises. Your time is far better invested in fieldwork, be it; scrub clearance, tree transplanting, grassland management etc. Rather than constructing bird and bat boxes, or putting up feeders!

Although these measures may benefit from short term success and spark initial enthusiasm and appreciation from the membership, it is the time you invest in broader scale, long-term improvements that will have a further reaching impact on both the enhancement of the course and its appeal to wildlife. The key to this is understanding your 'target species'.

What are the specific species of flora or fauna that you are aiming to encourage? How can this best be achieved? This initial work may involve studying historical records to form an understanding of how the site has been managed historically and perhaps reestablishment of some of these methods.

One such project I've been involved in was the restoration of bluebell woodlands. It was established that the original nature of the site was coppiced/managed woodland allowing light and air to reach the under storey and encouraging the spring bloom of bluebells once commonplace. What had happened through decades of neglect was the development of a degenerate woodland scrub.

Invasive bramble and bracken had over run the previously open woodland floor, effectively suffocating local flora and in so doing reducing both the areas aesthetical appeal and ecological value.

The initial step was to divide the general area in to manageable sections (i.e. zone A, B, C etc.) and deal with each zone over the next five years. This division was based upon a list of priorities and we decided to tackle the worst effected areas first.

Step 1. Assessment

The woodland had become infested with thick under storey, bramble, bracken and ivy, all effectively starved the environment of light and air. Many young trees had been inhibited and numerous saplings died.

Swathes of golden grass can add character and definition to an otherwise monotone open area of a golf course.





During clearance.



An orchid in the rough – its establishment was encouraged by the development of natural roughs.



A cleared woodland floor in spring – the bluebell 'carpet' is reinstated.

Step 2. Clearance

This is where dividing an area up in to a manageable zone is essential. The work involved, brush cutting, burning and root digging, in order to open up the woodland floor. It was also necessary to remove many young dead trees - these would later be replaced with appropriate local transplants.

Step 3. Regular management

On going - the area must be observed and appraised each year. In this instance the onus was on constant bracken and bramble removal for years one - two and the gradual replanting of indigenous deciduous and evergreen tree and shrub species. The end result - 18 months on - pays tribute to the work carried out and the time invested in to such a project. In all, approximately 32 man-hours were spent on this area, with no external costs incurred.

Another low cost management project I've been involved with is the reestablishment of grassland areas in the meadowland habitats of a golf course. As with many modern pay and play establishments the commercial objectives centre around volume of play and specifically throughput of golf. The general impression within the club hierarchy was that this could only be achieved through the wall-to-wall mowing of the course with the rough never exceeding four inches in height.

The expansive nature of the site meant that certain areas of the course were being unnecessarily maintained at a high frequency of mowing and as a net result elements of character and definition were suffering. The objective was therefore to establish swathes of native grassland habitat in between appropriate holes, these had to be carefully considered so as not to intrude along the lines of play or create an unfair challenge.

As the photo illustrates (see opposite, bottom left) these areas of native grass added definition and colour to these previously open parts of the site. That year I undertook a small-scale butterfly survey of these enhanced areas.

The results indicated an increase of over 55% in species diversity from the previous year, an impressive "bio indicator" as to the success of this project.

This was coupled with a significant increase in species variety with regard to local flora, species as diverse as ragged robin, wild pansy and orchid (pictured above, right) were flourishing within the sanctuary of these grassland habitats.

All this had been achieved with no extra costs and in fact a reduction in man-hours required to mow the roughs! Throughput of golf had not suffered and we constantly reviewed specific areas to ensure these were not causing a slowing up of play.

Proving the fact that through a clear vision, open communication and understanding of what needs to be achieved, significant ecological improvements can be made to your course on a shoestring budget.

We spend a considerable amount of our time planning improvements to the golf course. Understandably the majority of these plans are focussed on playing areas, however if you can discipline yourself and your team to consider the wider picture and incorporate these natural areas in to an overall management objective for the course then great achievements can be made. Not to mention other issues such as staff morale and job satisfaction.

Our profession should be so much more than just grass maintenance, our feeling of self worth and the respect of others can be fulfilled if we look beyond the cutting of grass.

I hope this article has shown how, with a little imagination and enthusiasm, we can all improve our golf courses, both for the good of the golfer and above all the environment and all of this at little financial cost!

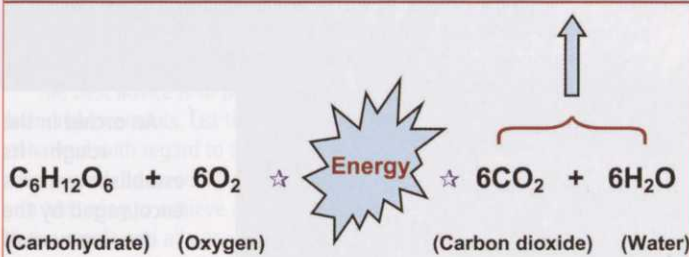
Exploring the hidden mysteries beneath our feet –

Soil Aeration and the Rooting Environment

Adequate soil aeration is an essential component of any healthy turfgrass stand and is influenced by the physical and biological characteristics of the soil. 'Aeration' as a maintenance practice receives a lot of media attention, while 'aeration' as a soil condition and the phenomena involved are rarely discussed.

Turfgrass roots and the vast majority of heterotrophic soil microbes, that is micro-organisms that need preformed carbon compounds such as carbohydrates for energy, require oxygen for respiration. In a process similar to our own respiration needs, carbohydrates ($C_6H_{12}O_6$) and oxygen (O_2) are utilised to provide energy for growth and development, giving off carbon dioxide (CO_2) and water (H_2O) as by-products of the chemical reaction.

Figure 1. The Chemical Reactions in Aerobic Respiration



Respiration will accelerate with rising temperatures, provided that there is no restriction in the input of carbohydrates or oxygen. For efficient respiration by roots and microbes, oxygen must be supplied into the soil atmosphere in adequate amounts, while excess carbon dioxide and other potentially harmful gases must be removed.

The Phenomenon of Diffusion

An exchange of these gases between the soil atmosphere and the outside atmosphere occurs by the phenomenon of diffusion and the aeration status of a soil can be measured by the **Oxygen Diffusion Rate (ODR)**. The ODR indicates the rate at which oxygen can be replenished when it is used by respiring roots or micro-organisms. Fortunately, the diffusion rate will also increase as the temperature rises, thereby compensating to some extent for the increased demands by roots and microbes during warmer weather.

Diffusion occurs primarily through soil 'macropores', defined as soil pores that are greater than 75 micrometres (expressed as ' μm ', and $1000 \mu m = 1 mm$) in diameter. As can be seen in Figure 2 below, water will drain from macropores to allow entry of air. Smaller pores will remain full of water because the water is held at tensions greater than gravitational pull. The smaller the diameter of the pore, the greater is the tension at which the water is held.

The efficiency of diffusion is largely reliant on an extensive and continuous network of macropores from the surface and down through the soil. It is essential that the macropore system extends well beyond the rooting depth of the grasses.

The outside atmosphere contains about 79 per cent Nitrogen (N_2), 21 per cent Oxygen (O_2), and 0.035 per cent Carbon dioxide (CO_2). Concentrations of CO_2 can commonly be 10- to 100-times greater in soil air as a result of respiration of roots

Figure 2. Size Classification of Soil Pores and Some Functions of Each Size Class (from Brewer, 1964)

Simplified class	Class	Diameter range (μm)	Characteristics and Functions
Macropores	Macropores	> 75	Water drains by gravity, accommodates roots, habitat for certain soil animals.
Micropores	Mesopores	30 - 75	Retain water after drainage, transmit water by capillarity, accommodate fungi and root hairs.
	Micropores	5 - 30	Retain available water, accommodate most bacteria.
	Ultramicropores	0.1 - 5	Retain unavailable water, exclude most micro-organisms.
	Cryptopores	< 0.1	Exclude all micro-organisms, too small for large molecules.

Continue to learn

and organisms. While the N_2 concentrations in soil air remains much as it is in the outside atmosphere, the O_2 content can vary considerably. It may be only slightly below 20 per cent in the upper layers of a well structured soil but can drop to less than five per cent or even to near-zero in the lower horizons of a poorly drained soil with few macropores.

In well-drained, well-aerated soils in a cool, temperate climate such as Britain, the exchange of gases is normally rapid enough to maintain adequate oxygen levels for plant growth.

Sufficient oxygen can diffuse into the soil, provided the air-filled porosity of the soil exceeds about 10 per cent of the soil volume, for most plants to survive. Generally, turfgrass species are more tolerant of lower oxygen concentrations than the majority of arable crops and decorative plants.

If a soil becomes saturated, diffusion of oxygen virtually ceases and the concentrations can decline to levels that cannot support aerobic metabolism. The soil can become anaerobic (without oxygen) within around 24 hours of saturation.

When anaerobic conditions prevail, organisms that can use alternatives to oxygen become highly activated. The first groups of bacteria to have a major influence are those capable of using nitrate (NO_3^-) and denitrification commences (Figure 3 below).

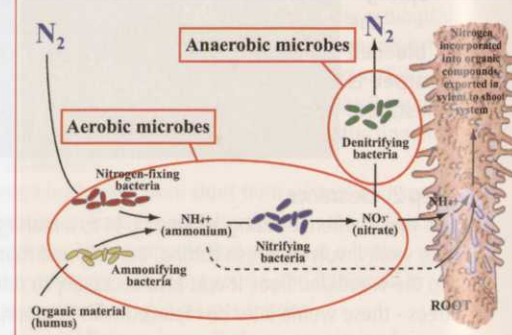
The organisms that carry out this process are commonly present in large numbers and are mostly facultative anaerobic bacteria in genera such as *Pseudomonas*, *Bacillus*, *Micrococcus* and *Achromobacter*. These organisms are all heterotrophs but some autotrophs (organisms that obtain their energy from sources other than the oxidation of organic compounds) such as *Thiobacillus denitrificans*, can be involved.

In a series of steps, Nitrates (NO_3^-) that would have been available for plant uptake in an aerobic soil become reduced to Nitrites (NO_2^-), and then to nitrogen gases that include Nitric oxide (NO), Nitrous oxide (N_2O) and Dinitrogen gas (N_2). This is why grasses turn to a pale, sickly green in waterlogged conditions. Contrary to popular belief, nitrites can be taken up by the plants, but cannot be utilised as a source of nitrogen for growth. In fact, the nitrite ion is toxic to plants.

In the presence of organic matter as a food source, other oxidised constituents of a soil will be used and the soil environment will become chemically reduced, as well as anaerobic. As anaerobic conditions continue, oxidised reserves of manganese and iron will be reduced and levels of soluble manganese and iron will increase. Manganese may even reach levels that become toxic. With continuing anaerobiosis, sulphur-reducing bacteria will produce hydrogen sulphide (which is toxic to turfgrass roots) and this will react with the reduced forms of iron to form black ferrous sulphide, the familiar black layer phenomenon of poorly drained golf greens and other sports areas.

Anaerobic conditions will also cause anatomical and morphological adaptations in turfgrasses. Ethylene production in anaerobic soils initiates shallow, adventitious rooting to the detriment of deep, explorative rooting. However, some species display an anatomical response to oxygen deprivation by which the ethylene causes some of the cells in the root cortex to age and die. Enzymatic destruction of the cell walls

Figure 3. The Role of Soil Bacteria in the Nitrogen Nutrition of Plants



Martyn T. Jones, National Turfgrass Foundation, delves into the complexities of soil aeration, its importance, how it occurs and how to preserve it.

TORO Count on it.



▲ The Toro HydroJet water-injection aerator is ideal for summer aeration with minimal surface disruption.

creates air tubes (aerenchyma), thereby increasing root porosity and providing oxygen to the roots. Signs of oxidation in the rhizosphere around some roots can provide visual confirmation of this phenomenon in poorly drained soils.

In well-aerated soils, roots will produce cytokinins and gibberellins but low O_2 levels will inhibit their production and movement through the plant. In contrast, abscisic acid production will increase. The net result is that shoot initiation and growth is suppressed, leaf senescence is accelerated and shallow rooting is encouraged.

What are the causes of poor soil aeration?

Inadequate soil aeration can occur in a number of circumstances. Some, such as severely-compacted, fine-textured soils or flooded environments, are obvious problems. But other occurrences of low aeration status can be less obvious.

There are numerous occasions, even when sufficient total air space is available in the soil, when the exchange of gases between the soil and the outside atmosphere is so slow that an adequate concentration of soil oxygen cannot be maintained.

When things heat up

During hot weather, the demand for soil oxygen by roots and microbes may be greater than the rate at which it can diffuse into the soil. While this most commonly occurs in fine-textured soils or compacted soils, it can occur in non-compacted, coarse-textured soils during periods of very high temperatures.

Traffic, be it pedestrians or vehicles, will compact the surface, reducing the majority of macropores to micropores and, consequently, diminishing oxygen diffusion rates. And the compaction does not need to be to a great depth. Even a relatively thin surface layer of compacted soil can significantly reduce oxygen diffusion rates to the detriment of turfgrass root survival. Indeed, it is frequently a restricted soil aeration condition stemming from a compacted surface, and not a soil drought, which results in turfgrass wilting during periods of high temperatures in the summer months.

The accumulation of organic residues within the soil pores further creates a rootzone dominated by water-filled micropores. Oxygen diffusion through water is ten thousand times slower than it is through air and, therefore, it is little wonder that restricted soil aeration is a common problem of sports soils in the rather wet climate of the UK.

Additionally, under conditions of restricted aeration the organic residues will provide an ideal environment for anaerobic micro-organism activity. Hence the occurrence of black-layer formation within the organic zone or at the interface between the organic zone and the mineral zone beneath.

The surface organic-rich layer, ranging in depth from 80mm to 150mm, depending on the turfgrass species, rootzone material used in the green's

construction and maintenance regime is the zone in which there is the greatest demand for oxygen. The highest population of soil organisms occupies this zone and it is the main rooting layer for closely mown turfgrasses.

As a consequence, it is the area in which most respiration occurs and the need for gaseous exchange is greatest. As temperatures rise, and as long as drought does not become a limiting factor, the demand for oxygen by turfgrass roots and soil microbes increases. Therefore it is important that this zone is maintained in an open state throughout the growing season when the demand for oxygen is at its highest. It is far less important during the dormant season when respiration rates are minimal.

The moral to this story is that we must undertake summertime aeration operations when the demand for soil oxygen is at its greatest. It is at this time that the grass roots and the soil microbes are respiring most rapidly and when a good supply of soil oxygen will be most beneficial.

Piercing the organic-rich layer and increasing ODRs will accelerate water infiltration and minimise run-off. It will encourage microbe activity and organic matter decomposition, slowly releasing nutrients (Figure 3 above), improving soil structure and reducing potential disease problems. Keeping the surface open during warm weather is vital in preserving diffusion rates between soil- and outside-atmospheres.

Mechanical aeration versus soil aeration

To ensure adequate soil aeration, it is essential that the number and distribution of macropores are preserved or increased and that there is an uninterrupted network from the surface, down to the full rooting depth. It is the macropore system that provides the means for gaseous exchange between the soil and the outside atmosphere. As an extensive and continuous matrix of macropores is fundamental to efficient soil aeration, any mechanical aeration technique should be directed at preserving the existing macropores and, preferably, creating additional ones.

Selection of the most appropriate and effective mechanical aeration technique must be determined by the soil type, the moisture content of the soil, the extent of the problem, and the mode of action of the equipment. Each piece of equipment has some potential benefits but, equally, each can have detrimental effects if incorrectly applied.

Maintaining an open surface with high water infiltration and oxygen diffusion rates is a prerequisite to good soil aeration but, all too often, the influence of this zone is overlooked. The organic-rich zone in the upper horizons of a soil is where the greatest demand for oxygen occurs. And it is this zone that requires the greatest attention.

As already stated, the main seasons of the year in which there is a demand for oxygen are late spring, early summer and autumn when roots and microbes are most active. Also, there must be adequate aeration during the hot months of summer, provided that drought is not adversely affecting root and microbe metabolism. There is little to no demand for soil aeration during winter when soil temperatures are near freezing and/or when the soil is continuously saturated by daily rainfall. The vast majority of mechanical cultivation techniques will not assist soil drainage at such times.

Regular, light applications of a suitable sandy topdressing material will help preserve the macropore system at the surface and dilute the organic matter content. Timing and quantity is dependent on growth rate of the turfgrasses and extent of organic matter present.

Avoid frequent, heavy irrigation at any time of the year. A saturated soil will have greatly diminished oxygen diffusion rates and will be prone to further compaction.

Achieving effective soil aeration by mechanical means is one of the greatest challenges facing our industry and while we may not witness any major revolution in techniques, evolution in design will bring many improvements.



It's Turf at the Top



ETT
environmental turf technology

Whatever the budget -
we guarantee to improve
your turf

Northgate, White Lund Industrial
Estate, Morecambe LA3 3PA
Tel: 01524 381 999

THE Articulator

721XR
BY LASTEC



WIDE AREA MOWER

CUTS UNDULATIONS WITHOUT ANY SCALPING
SUPERIOR CUT QUALITY

For a World That Isn't Flat

01622 812103



LASTEC
UK

www.lastec.com

FAST AIR INJECTION AT CLOSE CENTRES

PATENTS PENDING

sisis
AER-AID
SYSTEM

AWARD WINNER
BEST NEW SPORTSTURF
PRODUCT:
IOG SALTEX 2004

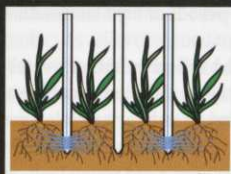


**Combats
surface compaction
with minimal
disruption**

Surface compaction can cause
loss of grass cover, hard, uneven
playing surfaces, waterlogging
and black layer.

Mechanical aerators reduce
compaction to provide improved
growing conditions.

The SISIS AER-AID SYSTEM
speeds up the the process by
blasting air into the root zone.
Used in conjunction with the SISIS
JAVELIN 1500, air is forced into
the root zone at a chosen depth,
at a fast working speed. Working at
150mm (6ins) spacing, air is
introduced at a rate of 88L per min.



*"The SISIS AER-AID SYSTEM
combines conventional solid
tine aeration with compressed
air to give lift and relieve
surface compaction without too
much disruption to surface
levels.*

*I see this as a significant
development in aeration
technology, as it is able to
provide greater gas exchange at
the roots of the plant.
Preliminary penetration and
hardness tests have been very
positive, showing greater
compaction relief combined with
a greater infiltration rate,
compared to conventional solid
tine aeration."*

Dave Moore,
Clerk of Works,
Sports Turf Research Institute

NOW BOOKING DEMONSTRATIONS

a breath of fresh air
sisis

SISIS EQUIPMENT (Macclesfield) LTD., Hurdfield, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 2LZ
Tel: +44 (0)1625 503030 Fax: 427426 E-mail: info@sisis.com Website: www.sisis.com

The Sunshine Show

Saltex 2004 enjoyed the sort of weather many UK-based holiday makers would have given their right eye for in July and August. Temperatures soared and the sun beat down on exhibitors and visitors alike and the ice cream stalls were doing a roaring trade.



Among the new features of the 2004 Windsor Show was the Instant Stadium, which showcased what is required for a modern day sports facility. It also hosted a number of events during the course of the three days.

Another noticeable feature of the 2004 show was the significant increase in machinery demonstrations with a large portion of land in the middle of the racecourse given over to companies to display their wares in action.

Among those to attract the galleries was the new remote controlled Spider mower from Ransomes Jacobsen which collected one of the major awards given over the week.

BIGGA had its usual strong representation at the Show and were on hand to meet with many existing and new members to update them on BIGGA events and services.

Woburn Golf & Country Club won the annual Blazon 'SprayWatch' promotion.

This year's promotion featured Blazon LoDrift-Xtra, a three-in-one combination spraying aid from GreenLink International.

From a high number of entries across mainland UK, Woburn's name was the first to be drawn and the club will receive a free state-of-the-art tractor mounted Gambetti Barre amenity sprayer.

Course Manager Chris Hunt was unable to attend the presentation ceremony so Barry McCloskey, of Avoncrop Amenity Products, the company from whom Woburn purchased the Blazon received the sprayer on Woburn's behalf.

The prize was presented by the current Chairman of BIGGA, Andy Campbell, together with John Pemberton, BIGGA's Chief Executive. In attendance also was Avoncrop Amenity's sales manager Chris Briggs and Richard from GreenLink International Ltd.

Blazon LoDrift-Xtra contains the industry's only washable spray pattern indicator plus anti drift and spray fast agents.

This unique combination ensure that the operator can target with great accuracy the placement of the spray, reduce the risk of drift and gain

▲ On behalf of the winners of annual Blazon 'SprayWatch' promotion, Woburn Golf & Country Club, Barry McCloskey (third from right), of Avoncrop Amenity Products, is presented with a Gambetti Barre amenity sprayer by BIGGA Chairman Andy Campbell.

improved chemical efficacy. And, with Blazon's non-staining formulation, any skin or clothing contamination is easily washed off with just soap and water.

Philip Helmn, Course Manager of Overstone Park Golf Club, Northampton, was one of three Vitax competition winners, taking home a magnum of champagne from Saltex.

P.G. Butler a bowling green contractor from Fornham, Cambridgeshire and John Kenton, of Knaphill Bowls Club, from Kenton in Surrey, also each won a bottle of bubbly for guessing the size of the area that could be treated with the entire contents of a large container filled with packs of Vitax's new fungicide Insignia.

The competition, which was held each day of Saltex prompted over 700 entries from all areas of the industry, and has been judged a great success by the company.

"As conditions for fusarium are usually right at this time of year, we wanted to promote the cost effectiveness of Insignia, as well as giving our customers a bit of fun," said Clive Williams, Vitax's Commercial Manager.



▲ Vitax Competition winner Philip Helmn, Course Manger of Overstone Park Golf Club, shows off his magnum of champagne.

Quality Granite Signage for
the Golf and Leisure
Industry from

GOLF TEE SIGNS

e: sales@golfteesigns.co.uk

w: www.golfteesigns.co.uk

t: 01422 345990

Granite Works,
158a Ovenden Road,
Ovenden, Halifax
HX3 5QG



NEW...NEW...NEW

AFT SANDBANDER



THE AFT SANDBANDER quickly installs 25mm wide drainage slits, filling them at the same time with consolidated sand up to a depth of 250mm.

The ideal tool to quickly drain excess surface water to free draining subsoil or existing drainage systems. Using sand rather than gravel ensures that essential moisture levels are retained in the root zones and that no harmful spills can damage mowers or players.

Designed for tractors from 20HP, it can safely work on sensitive areas like golf and bowling greens.



A.F.T. TRENCHERS LIMITED

16/17 Addison Road, Chilton Industrial Estate, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2YW

Tel: 01787 311811 Fax: 01787 310888

E-mail: info@trenchers.co.uk Website: www.trenchers.co.uk

Trilo now vacuum, sweep, scarify, cut, spread and blow!



The world's No1 in Vacuum Sweepers

With 35 years' experience and a range of quality machinery, it's easy to see why Trilo is the world-leader in vacuum sweepers.

Built to an extremely high standard, the wide choice of models and numerous options available ensures you can trust Trilo to make your job easier and more efficient.

Now incorporating a range of quality, high specification groundcare equipment which offers the complete solution for scarifying, cutting, spreading and blowing.



TRI502



SG400



FLEXISPREAD



BL400



HIRE, SALES, PARTS & SERVICE

MJT Contracts Ltd

Wadebridge Farm, Landwade, Exning, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7NE
Tel: (01638) 720123. Fax: (01638) 720128 www.mjt.co.uk

Call us today for a demo



Saltex - new products

THE WHOLE PACKAGE

It has been a busy summer for John Deere, as the company have been busy unveiling their new range of ground care products across Europe. Saltex was the official UK public launch, and the exhibition allowed the company to show off its new choice of ground care products.

The range comprises two new Gator utility vehicles, two zero turn mowers and the new 20 Series compact tractor, which consists of five models.

The CX Gator is intended for lighter capacity work in confined areas, while providing the same Gator performance. The HPX is especially designed for heavy duty haulage and for rough terrain.

Powered by a 20hp Yanmar diesel engine the HPX is available with two or four wheel drive, and is equipped with all wheel suspension as standard, front and rear hydraulic disc brakes and a two speed high-low continuously variable transmission.

The 20 Series compact tractor is the major focus for John Deere. Their slogan is 'The power to make it happen', and power is certainly what these tractors possess.



The horse power of the five models range from 31hp to 52hp, and the lower emissions engine features up to 30 percent more torque and lower fuel consumption, which all combine to provide an improved performance.

"We have designed the compact tractors with many of the features of our larger agricultural models, thus the operator gets the best of both worlds.

"The compacts are very user friendly and we have deliberately

designed them to make it easier for the user to get the maximum power out of the tractor," stated Howard Story, European Golf and Turf Market Manger.

Like the whole range, the 717 and 997 zero turn mowers made their public debut at the Saltex exhibition.

Zero turners mower have been slower to catch on in the UK than the major manufacturers expected, but times are changing.

"In the US zero turn mowers are

now used by the majority of superintendents. Their sale figures have soared, while other models have fallen.

"Once people are trained on zero turn mowers they realise just how easy they are to use, and because of that we are confident that we'll see similar sale increases in the UK as we did in the US," said David Hart, C&CE Divisions Sales Manager.

For further information Tel: 01949 860491.

RADIO CONTROLLED SLOPE MOWER

The new Ransomes Spider is a remotely controlled rotary mulching mower specifically designed for mowing slopes up to 40°.

It has four-wheel drive and four-wheel steering and can mow in any direction. The rotary unit has an 81cm (32") cutting width and can mow sloping ground with up to a 40° incline.

It is remotely controlled, using a radio frequency transmitter with a range of 50 metres and can offer up to six times greater productivity than a petrol driven string trimmer.

Safety features have been designed in. If the machine moves out of signal range or the signal becomes obstructed, the central STOP command is generated and it stops immediately. If another machine with the same frequency is working in the vicinity, again it stops immediately.

There are two emergency stop buttons, one on the transmitter and one on the body of the mower. Also it cannot be started if the mowing blade clutch is engaged; if the hydrostatic gear is not set to neutral or if the transmitter is more than 50 metres from the machine.



There are significant health and safety benefits to the operator. It is no longer necessary to stand with a string trimmer or walk with a mower on steep slopes putting excess pressure on hip, knee and ankle joints which can lead to joint stress in later life.

The potential danger of roll over associated with ride-on mowers in marginal areas can now be eliminated. Also, the operator is not subjected to any vibration, as there is no physical contact with the machine, and there is no exposure to the constant noise levels inherent with a pedestrian or ride-on machine.

For further information Tel: 01473 270000.

NEW TOTAL HERBICIDE

The non-selective, residual herbicide is designed for control of annual and perennial weeds on land not intended to bear vegetation and in amenity situations.

The first of the actives in the formulation works via a unique 'barrier activity' which inhibits the germination of weeds coming up to the surface. The second active controls weeds already at the surface.

The product will be capable of being applied via either knapsack or hydraulic sprayers, post-emergence of weeds, with the main period of control being from March through to September.

This will be the first new residual total herbicide on the Amenity Marketplace for a number of years.

Saltex - new products

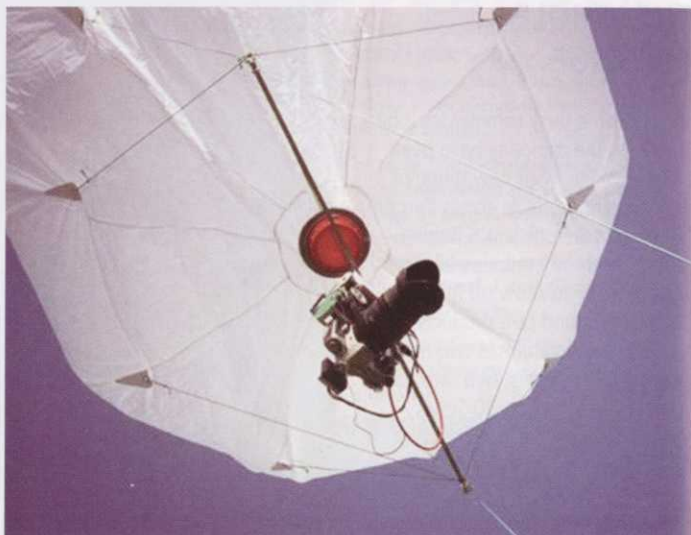
NEW AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY SYSTEM

Tonick Watering have announced a new, unique aerial photography camera system to augment the comprehensive range of services for golf course mapping.

The new system, the only one of its kind in the UK and Ireland, provides a "birds eye view" for photography missions; this technique is complementary to traditional, costlier aerial photography methods using helicopters and light aircraft.

A professional, remotely controlled captive balloon system, the S30 provides an aerial platform for high resolution cameras and offers an unparalleled capability in ecologically or environmentally sensitive sites. Non polluting, and totally silent, the S30 can be manoeuvred into position by a pedestrian operator, providing non-intrusive access in difficult locations.

One very key advantage of this exciting new system is the ability to produce high quality digital photographs immediately on site. This provides the clients with the opportunity to acquire 'exactly' the images they want, and for them to have a direct and immediate input to the photography session. This eliminates the frustration of discovering at the end of a very expensive helicopter photography detail that the final results



are less than perfect. The S30 system allows a re-shoot of the subject almost immediately and with minimal expense.

For further information Tel: 01269 832325



BE SET TO BE BLOWN AWAY

This Tirlo BL960 three-point linkage mounted blower unit is designed to exceed expectations, making it one of the most powerful available.

The size and design of the fanhouse, along with the unique nine-bladed 960mm fan, gives a maximum airflow and optimum airspeed.

The result is impressive and combined with the 4" antiscalping roller and the low-pressure, line-profiled front castor wheels gives good flotation not only on sport fields, but also on undulating areas.

The blower BL 960 is easily operated behind a tractor of a minimum of 45hp and has low maintenance.

The air outlet is on the left hand side, with an adjustable flap to arrange your optimum airflow and airspeed.

Being a TRILO product, it is of course, built to their usual high standard, making the BL960 durable with years of reliable service.

For further information Tel: 01638 720123

THE NEW PROFESSIONAL BRUSHCUTTERS

Joining the respected range of outdoor power tools from STIHL, the new STIHL FS 480 brushcutter is a powerful yet light weight professional.

The engine produces an impressive 2.2 kW power and its 2.8 Nm torque effortlessly drives the range of cutting heads available through tough grass, weeds or brambles, even gnarled bushes and thin tree trunks.

The new models STIHL FS 480 and STIHL FS 480 K have a powerful 48.7 cc engine fitted with electronic ignition and a carburettor compensator for easy starting, plus smooth and consistent performance.

The long-term air filter system and robust construction ensure long service life, and from start-up to switch-off the machines are designed to be pleasant, comfortable and easy to use.

The STIHL decompression system and ElastoStart grip for example, considerably reduce the effort needed to pull the starter rope and the four point anti-vibration system further promotes comfortable use.

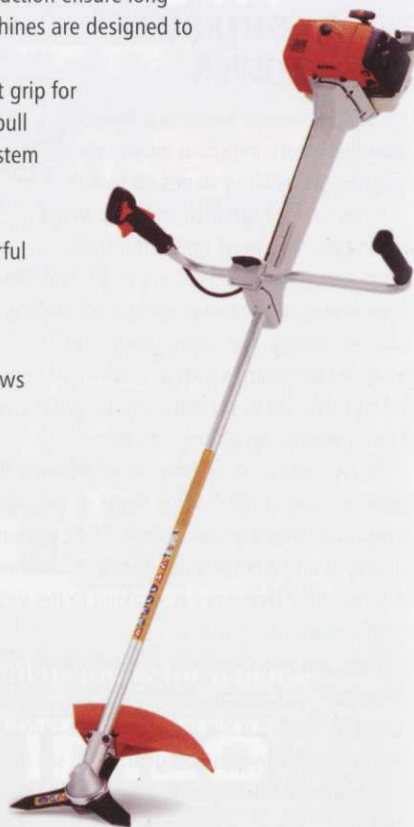
Equally significant in the contribution to user comfort, the new STIHL FS 480 may deliver a powerful 2.2kW performance, but it weighs only 8 kilos - making it one of the lightest machines in its displacement class.

STIHL's professional brushcutters and clearing saws are versatile machines and the choice of shaft-mounted cutting tools available enables a range of clearance tasks in both expansive and hard-to-reach areas.

The new STIHL FS 480 for example, is supplied with an AutoCut line head as standard and with its special contoured handlebars is ideal for continuous mowing operations.

Its small brother, the new STIHL FS 480 K has an identical engine and power unit; the primary difference being its shaft length, which is reduced to ensure comfortable operation by shorter users.

For further information Tel: 0800 137574



Saltex - new products

NEW HEIGHTS REACHED

The new JCB HI-TIP Dumpster will feature all the class leading benefits of the existing tracked dumper range with the added capability of tipping to a height of 1.65 metres, ideal for unloading into a high-sided skip or drop-sided truck.

It also has the option of a variable width undercarriage, which retracts to allow access to narrow or restricted areas, but widens to give greater stability when working.

Ideal for transporting earth, debris, building or landscaping materials, the new model - as with the existing TDIOSL Dumpster - can reduce the physical effort required for landscaping and earthmoving projects with the added benefit of a self-loading shovel.

The JCB Groundcare Dumpsters can also be used to stockpile excavated material ready for an excavator to dump what has been collected into a skip.

Alternatively, they can be used to transport materials such as ready mixed concrete to its destination before releasing it into place.

The optional self-loading shovel has a specially constructed scoop on the front, which can be controlled by the operator to gather material directly into the skip.

This eliminates the need for the operator to leave the controls and manually fill the machine, increasing productivity and reducing operator fatigue.

With low ground bearing pressures of 0.19kg/cm², JCB Groundcare Dumpsters can work in wet ground conditions where wheeled machines could not.

The new HI-TIP Dumpster features a powerful 13HP engine and a load capacity of 400Kg, while the TD10SL has a load capacity of 750kg.

For further information Tel: 01889 590312.



ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY HAYTER MOWER

Being shown for the first time at Saltex was the LT324G four wheel drive triple mower. Developed from the highly successful diesel powered LT324, the new machine uses LPG and will satisfy the current demand for environmentally friendly grass cutting machinery.

Outwardly similar to the LT324, with the new engine cover redesign and other styling changes made to give the machine a more aesthetically pleasing appearance, the LT324G has all the benefits associated with Hayter ride on products.

These include a comfortable operating position, hinged or removable panels for easy access to all components for maintenance and common parts across the range wherever practical.

The obvious visible difference between the LT324 and the new machine is the two LPG tanks, one on either side of the engine behind the operator. These carry enough fuel to operate at full load for 10 hours of continuous cutting, more than will ever be required on the most demanding grass cutting rounds. The power unit fitted is a 4 cylinder 1600 cc engine built by General Motors. This develops 40 hp at normal operating speed and ensures the machine has more than enough power to cope with demanding applications and yet is quiet and smooth in operation.

For further information Tel: 01279 723444.

TURF RENOVATION

Completely renovating 18 golf greens in one day may sound like a tall order, but that is what can be achieved with the Koro Field Top Maker Unit, when fitted with a special scarifying reel.

The Koro Field Top Maker is available in 1.2m and 2m wide versions. Fitted with the scarifying reel, it can treat fine turf at spacings of 20mm or 40mm, using 1.5m or 3mm carbide tipped blades. Its integral conveyor simultaneously removes material directly into a trailer alongside for operational efficiency.

Depth of operation is easily adjusted via screw jacks on each roller, from 1-50mm. A mid-mounted anti-scalp roller allows the machine to float over undulations. The Koro Field Top Maker requires a tractor of 27hp or more to power it, with hydrostatic drive or a creep gearbox.

The Field Top Maker comes from a broad line-up of Koro attachments developed to maximise the playing potential of sports turf.

For further information Tel: 01260 224568



EXPANDED PESTICIDE RANGE

TANGENT, Headland's newest addition to their pesticide range, highlights an expanding portfolio of weed and pest control products for the UK amenity market.

The 450 g/l glyphosate formulation features "Envision Technology" - a unique surfactant system that increases reliability of total weed control as well as providing both user and environmental benefits.

The product is classified as non-hazardous, and may be used in aquatic situations.

TANGENT joins the selective herbicides BLASTER - used on woody and difficult-to-kill weeds in grassland, and RELAY TURF, the popular wide-spectrum, broad-leaved weed control for managed amenity turf.

TORDON 101 provides control of a wide range of deep-rooted perennial broad-leaved weeds and woody species including Japanese Knotweed, in amenity grassland such as roadsides, railway embankments and industrial sites etc.

Other products include CYREN, a soil insecticide for use in combating leatherjackets and Frit Fly, and SNARE, the recently launched turf fungicide active against a wide range of turf diseases.

Saltex - new products

THE S600 COMPACT LOADER

Vermeer has unveiled the new S600 Compact Mini Skid Steer Loader, which is a multifunctional machine.

Whether landscaping, utility work, fencing or materials handling, the compact skid steer loader offers excellent versatility and user friendly features. Its ride-on design coupled with high manoeuvrability provides a superior alternative to traditional methods, particularly when utilising the base unit with the wide range of attachments.

A universal mounting plate and auxiliary hydraulic connection powers various attachments including bucket, forks, land leveller, tiller, auger and trencher. High hydraulic flows – 45l/min – to the attachments allows the S600 to carry out its duties with power and efficiency.

The ride-on design with cushioned operator platform gives the operator excellent visibility and protects him/her from poor site conditions. The 25hp Kubota diesel engine is a proven unit and, coupled with a 60 litre tank capacity, offers long operating times.

Simple multi-function controls allow both machine and attachment operation with both hands whilst still holding onto the handlebars.

Safety features are always at the forefront of any Vermeer machine. The



S600 has excellent mounting plate visibility, boom and tilt lockout, operator presence including auxiliary hydraulics, neutral start interlocks, built-in lift-hook and tie-down locations and a parking brake.

The S600 has an oil cooler and offers easy battery access.

For further information Tel: 01933 274400.



SETTING A SHARPER STANDARD

Grinding specialist Bernhard and Company have introduced the new Express Dual 5000 cylinder grinder to the UK.

Renowned the world over for superb grind quality and lightening speed, the Express Dual range combines simplicity of use with tremendous reliability.

This 5000 model sets new standards in cylinder spin grinding. A unique auto-cut provides an accurate finish, which eliminates the need for lapping and relief grinding. This dramatically reduces maintenance costs and significantly improves turf health through a sharper cut.

Reducing labour costs, mowers are ground in-situ which completely eliminates the need to remove the bottom blade or rollers.

Greenkeepers will find the 5000 a real boon as the grind cycle can be completed unattended and finished in as little as five minutes for a greens unit and 12 minutes for a fairway unit.

Additional benefits of the new Express Dual 5000 grinder include: Up-rated control and feed system, grinding totally enclosed in a safety cabinet for environmental control and operator comfort, remote set-up, selectable automated grind cycles and manual operation via a remote handset.

COMPLETE INDUSTRIAL ENGINES RANGE

With more than 80 years engine production experience, Kubota is the global leader for industrial engines under 100hp, with well over 21 million units already supplied for an extensive range of industries and OEM applications, including the agricultural, construction, industrial and marine sectors.

Kubota now leads the way in industrial engines with a seamless range of high quality, light, compact and highly durable models from 6.5hp to 97hp, including the new V3 series and Super Mini series. All designed to provide maximum performance and fuel efficiency, minimal noise and vibration, together with enhanced working life and unbeatable reliability.

The two latest additions to the V3 series of liquid-cooled, low emission diesel models, the 3.8 litre V3800 DI-E and the V3800 DI-E (Turbo) versions, incorporate Kubota's unique Centre Direct Injection System (E-CDIS).

"We are already well established in the under-50hp range and these new engines will help us expand in the industrial sector up to 100hp; making us a one-stop engine source with a comprehensive range to match individual power requirements", said Kubota (UK) Ltd – Engine Division Sales & Marketing Manager, Ian Darler.

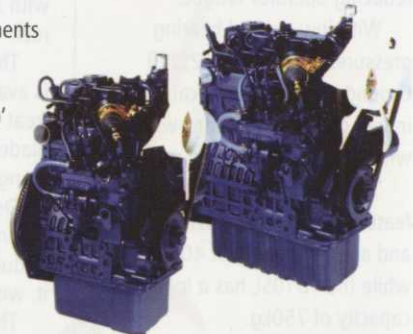
Two lightweight but powerful additions to its Super Mini series of diesel engines have also recently been introduced. Thanks to major design improvements, the new 2 cylinder .6 litre Z602 and the 3 cylinder .9 litre D902 models pack a big punch despite their compact size. This is due to their larger bore and stroke sizes, with a shallower, higher capacity oil pan also helping to reduce engine size.

The net intermittent power output of the Z602 at 3200 rpm is 13.5hp, and the D902 is 20.6hp.

They join the .48 litre Z482 and the .72 litre D722 in an extended Super Mini series of engines designed for an extremely wide range of applications.

With its technical improvements the new D902 has the same power as the far heavier D905 model in Kubota's 'next size up' 05 range, despite being 60.6mm lower in height and 30.7mm shorter in length.

Both new Super Minis share many of the features to be found in larger Kubota engines.



► More new products from Saltex 2004 will be featured in our November issue.

Your Letters...

Standing up for himself

I wish to express my thanks to Ian MacMillan MG, Course Manager Murrayshall Golf Course. Ian acted as my Paralegal consultant in my recent unfair dismissal. Thankfully we won handsomely, where Aberfoyle Golf Club settled out of court. I am sad not to be in the trade now after studying to Hnc Golf Course Management. I have began as a Landscape Contractor, taking over my Father's business. Hopefully I will get an opportunity to return to my chosen career. I would advise any greenkeeper having problems at their golf club, through no fault of their own, to seek legal advice and stand up for themselves as it seems to be getting more common.

Niall Gibb
Via email

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

Too fine by half

Your article 'Too fine by half' in July's edition raised some very interesting points regarding the problem of finding the right product for the right job. The author is right to have highlighted the problem, what the industry needs is a solution, which is where I believe WRAP can help.

WRAP (the Waste & Resources Action Programme) are proactively promoting the availability of recycled products, which are both competitively priced and, more importantly, fit for purpose.

For those greenkeepers wanting particular grades of sands, recycled glass derived sand can be processed and graded to any particle size required, as tested and reported on by the STRI.

Similarly, the author stated his preference for 'fen soil' due to its source of essentially needed organic matter. Good quality compost derived from organic matter, which is well decomposed and carefully screened has been found to yield excellent results.

These recycled products are on the market and suppliers are capable of providing a consistent and reliable supply.

Anyone who wants more information should visit the WRAP website, www.wrap.org.uk.

Andy Dawe

Market Sector Manager (Glass)

Waste and Resources Action Programme

A fond farewell

I am writing to your magazine as I thought it might be of interest to your readers that my father will be retiring this coming month. My father's name is Richard Neil Maltby (but everyone knows him as Neil!) and on September 13 he will have celebrated his 65th birthday and by the end of that same week his retirement. After 47 years of greenkeeping he's finally parking up his mower for the last time!

He began his long career at the age of 15 in 1954 when he became an apprentice at Woodhall Spa GC in Lincolnshire.

He stayed there until 1966, taking three years out to complete his national service in 1959. He then moved on to Sherwood Forest GC and spent seven years as an assistant greenkeeper.

His final move was to Doncaster and Wheatley GC as Head Greenkeeper in 1973, where he has been now for 31 years. As well as being a long serving member of BIGGA for many years he was also chairman of the Sheffield Section and has recently been voted in as President.

This past year though he stepped aside as Head Greenkeeper and has decided to take it easier as he works towards retirement. The world of greenkeeping is such a different place now compared to my father's day and now after 47 years it seems a perfect time to bow out in style.

My mother, brother, sister and I are very proud of what he has achieved during his long career.

Miss Alison K. Maltby

2004 John Deere National Team Championship Final

Steve Mitchell reports on a successful National Final and John Deere's contributions to BIGGA's educational funds.



Course Manager David Norton (seated front right) with Tony Jenkins of John Deere dealer Adamsons, and the club's greenkeeping team, pictured at the 16th hole.

Worfield Golf Club, from Shropshire, has won the Great Britain and Ireland National Final of the 2004 John Deere Team Championship, held for the first time at Forest Pines Golf Club, Brigg, North Humberside.

Worfield's net score of 56 - 17 under par - in the modified scramble event was two shots ahead of Bingley St Ives Golf Club, from Yorkshire, in the GB field. Downpatrick Golf Club, of County Down in Northern Ireland, carded 60, beating Kanturk Golf Club, of Co Cork, on countback to become the Irish champions.

As overall winners, the team from Worfield - made up of club chairman Trevor Williams, secretary William Weaver, professional Steve Russell, greenkeeper Mike Fowkes and John Deere dealer salesman Pete Worthy of John Osman Groundcare, Oswestry, Shropshire - will be travelling to America in November to play in the World Team Championships at

Grayhawk Golf Club, Scottsdale, Arizona, against teams from North America, Canada, Australia, Germany and Sweden.

"We are naturally delighted to be representing Great Britain and Ireland in the USA in November," said Trevor Williams. "Everything just gelled on the day, we always thought we were playing very steadily, and just tried not to give a shot away to the card at any point. I think the key to our success was that everyone played their part. We all got our drives away, so we weren't putting ourselves under pressure at the back end.

"We also had a very good professional in Steve Russell, and with him playing well it gave us all confidence. Mind you, we did cheekily suggest to our dealer player Pete Worthy that if we won, Steve had to give him some free lessons!

"I first played Forest Pines about five years ago, and I have to say that the course is a credit to the owners and to Course Manager David Norton and his greenkeeping team. For a young course like this to present such good quality in its layout and finish is exceptional.

"The attitude and friendliness of all the hotel staff was excellent, and the club's head professional David Edwards made the day go extremely well. I'd also like to pay tribute to John Deere for its support, particularly through the financial contributions it makes to BIGGA and GCSAI," added a delighted Trevor.

Like Worfield, Downpatrick's team - club captain Fred Hamilton, competitions convenor Gerard McStay, professional Robbie Hutton, golf course superintendent Emmett Curran and John Deere dealer salesman Ricky Neill of Johnston Gilpin & Co, Lisburn - thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

"We thought 13 under around Forest Pines was a great score. We played really well as a team. I think we really only left two shots out on the course, and with only two teams making better scores I think we did the best we could," said BIGGA member Emmett Curran.

"We could not have caught the winning team, their score was terrific and we wish them well in the Grand Final at Grayhawk. The John Deere Team Championship is a great format, and Forest Pines is a great course. We're certainly glad to be the top Irish team, and we'll definitely enter again."

Altogether 24 John Deere dealerships organised regional qualifiers for this year's tournament, with a total of 426 teams competing across Great Britain and Ireland. Donations are traditionally made to greenkeeping associations in all the countries which take part in the Team Championship, and this year John Deere Limited has contributed a total of £10,650 to support the educational activities of BIGGA and GCSAI.

In the battle of the Associations the GCSAI team, comprising Patrick Holohan, Terence McShea, Alan Mahon, Barry McElroy and John Deere Limited Managing Director Alec McKee, reversed last year's final placings



▲ The BIGGA Team, from left to right; John Pemberton, Iain McLeod, Ian Semple, Past Chairman George Brown and John Deere's Malcolm Jackson.



▲ What a Team! - The Worfield golfers receive their winners' prizes from MD Alec McKee (centre). They are, from left, William Weaver, Steve Russell, Trevor Williams, Mike Fowkes and Pete Worthy.

The Championship Course

Forest Pines Golf Club, near Brigg in north Lincolnshire, was established as a brand new championship course in 1996. It features three challenging loops of nine holes fashioned out of mature woodland by golf course architect John Morgan.

Course Manager David Norton and his greenkeeping team are now using a fleet of over 30 John Deere machines, supplied by Adamsons. This has almost doubled in size since the course first opened.

"With 27 holes plus a practice area, and very heavy usage of the course all year round, we need a big machinery fleet and a lot of staff to keep on top of the workload," said David Norton.

"All three nine hole loops start close to the clubhouse, so we also need to work quickly around the whole course.

"We cut the greens every day, and the fairways three times a week, depending on the time of year. Because there's so much tree cover, we also

do a lot of aeration to keep everything breathing and draining freely.

"This is why it's such a good winter course, as it doesn't get waterlogged or muddy. It's challenging to get all the holes in perfect condition all year round, though, and that's why the equipment is used to the maximum."

Forest Pines hosts a number of pro-ams, PGA and Euro Pro Tour events and other tournaments, some of which, because of its location, are open to both Midlands and Northern PGA sections, and many of which take place over the winter months – hence the heavy traffic on the course.

As a result, some of the playing areas have recently been overseeded with ryegrass, to maintain the presentation and improve wear, and several tees have been expanded. The club has also invested in a new machinery shed, fuel station and an eco-friendly self-contained wash-off system.

"Obviously we've been very happy with the John Deere equipment, which is why we've committed to an ongoing replacement scheme," said David.

"The machines are comfortable, manoeuvrable and easy to set up and operate. The range meets our specifications, and the parts and service back-up from the dealer is excellent."



▲ BIGGA Chief Executive John Pemberton is presented with John Deere's contribution to the Association's education programme by MD Alec McKee (left) and C&E Sales Manager David Hart (right).



▲ Iain McLeod with his award for winning the amateur Nearest the Pin competition.



▲ The Downpatrick Team from left to right; Gerard McStay, Ricky Neill, Robbie Hutton, Fred Hamilton and Emmett Curran.

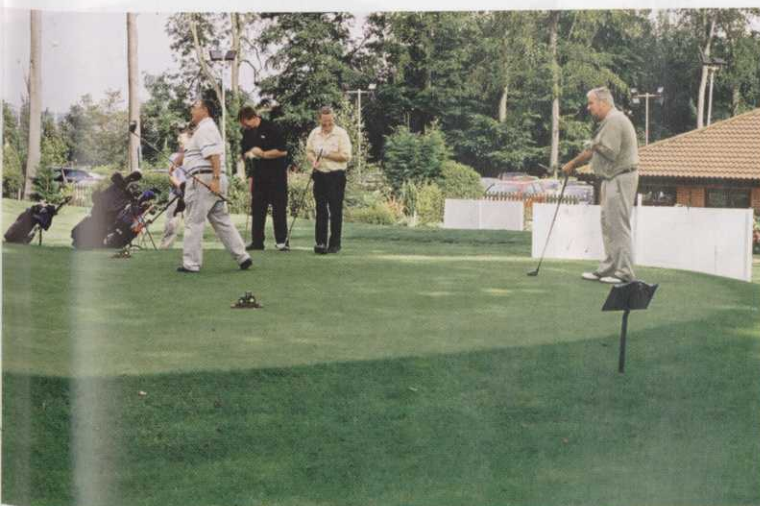
by beating the BIGGA team of John Pemberton, Ian Semple, Iain McLeod, George Brown and John Deere's finance & administration manager Malcolm Jackson by seven shots - 55 to 62.

The BIGGA team did have something to celebrate thanks to Iain McLeod winning the amateur prize for Nearest the Pin.

"The 2004 John Deere Championship has been a major success, and some magnificent golf has been played. Our congratulations go to both Worfield Golf Club and Downpatrick Golf Club on a wonderful

Championship, I am sure Worfield will represent us all very well in the US. Personally the BIGGA team had a good round, but we just couldn't pip the GCSAI this year," said BIGGA Chief Executive John Pemberton.

"On the business side of things BIGGA's educational activities are important to the development of greenkeeping and it is crucial this is supported. John Deere's support and financial contribution is very much appreciated and ensures we at BIGGA can elevate the level of greenkeeping through education," added John.



▲ Past Chairman George Brown shows how it's meant to be done, while his team looks on.



▲ The BIGGA Team look set for birdie.

Nothing to Fear from Best Practice

The R&A's Steve Isaac, Assistant Director of Golf Course Management, explains the role of the Best Practice website.



The R&A's Course Management Best Practice guidelines website, www.bestcourseforgolf.org, provides the opportunity for clubs across the world to compare their operations against the basic principles of best practice. Many will welcome this challenge, some will already match up to its checklists and a few may exceed the demands of this interactive site.

The benefits of operating to best practice cannot be overemphasised, for the greenkeeper and the golfer. The result of such is sustainability, in environmental and economic terms, which provides consistency and reliability of playing surface, budget and minimal impact on the environment.

The information on the site is available, free of charge, to anyone, anywhere – which should help enlighten golfers on the technical demands of course management. It is certainly a tool the Course Manager or responsible Committee can use to educate their members.

Convincing golfers that “green is not, necessarily, great” remains, probably, the greatest challenge we face in terms of promoting sustainable course management.

By registering to the site, golf clubs can work through the checklists which are found at the foot of many pages of text in five main sections; Management, Greenkeeping, Environment, Planning and Development, Advice and Research.

After registering, each club is given secure access to their management area. To date, over 670 clubs from 62 countries have registered.

Before setting out on the road to best practice, we strongly advise you read the User Guide to the site, which is available as a downloadable pdf file. This explains how the site works and how the most appropriate individuals within the club can be allocated the task of working through any given section.

Building the case for golf

There is a vast amount of material to work through and documentation to produce to complete the checklists. Some may balk at the size of the task, but this is the beauty of a website – you do this at your own pace and as your resources allow. It is not a race.

The R&A want to promote the sustainable management of golf courses and this requires planning and long-term commitment. We believe that many courses are already being run on these lines, though there is always room for improvement.

The down side is that relatively few will possess detailed documentation of their programmes and achievements. This is a weakness if we want to persuade environmental organisations of the positive credentials of golf – and a potential liability when it comes to health and



Naturalising the golf course – meadow rough at Temple Golf Club and (right) indigenous vegetation at Grey Bear in Slovakia.





The website guides greenkeepers through the elements of Best Practice step by step.

safety matters. It is in your own best interests to keep good records, not in your head but on paper and organised in such a way that everything is to hand.

The R&A's Best Practice website will help guide you through the paper mountain, highlighting vital documents and the process for their production and development. A vast array of useful contacts can be found in the 'Advice' section of the site, including many organisations that can give practical help in the information gathering exercise.

Clubs completing the checklists for all five sections on the site will receive official recognition of their achievement from The R&A. As for the weakness in the self-regulation of the checklist system, those who believe they can pull the wool over our eyes are only fooling themselves. Environmental legislation will be policed and those paying lip service will be caught out.

However, do not think that working to best practice is all about filling in forms and collecting data - the most vital aspect is in its implementation and for that basic reason it is the greenkeeping fraternity who are the key to promoting best practice. Hopefully, those already working hard to demonstrate the sustainability of golf will be more confident to express their views now they have the full, and very visible, backing of The R&A.

These days it is not enough to believe that golf, generally, operates in an environmentally friendly way – or at least as friendly as any form of land management will allow. Legislators and an increasingly discerning public demand facts and figures, not rhetoric and anecdotal evidence.

We are convinced golf can demonstrate it is a positive contributor to the natural and social environment. Working through the guidelines will help you make your contribution to this end and provide golf with the ammunition to shoot down its detractors and secure the future development of the game in a form that we would recognise.

Do not settle for second best!

Do not shy away from best practice, embrace the concept. It is not something to be afraid of. It is for the good of the environment, club economics, our courses, greenkeepers, golfers and the future of the game itself. Best practice, appropriately applied, is a win:win situation.

Register at www.bestcourseforgolf.org today.



- ▲ Good soil husbandry through compaction and thatch management is crucial.
- ▼ Good practice will result in strong roots and a healthy sward.





News from the Chief Executive

By the time you read this column news will have got around about the appointment of Clive Osgood as the Regional Administrator for the South East Region.

Clive was one of four candidates short-listed for interview in mid-September following a rather protracted recruitment process. Until earlier this year he was Course Manager at Walton Heath Golf Club in Surrey, a position he had held for many years.

He is also a past Chairman of BIGGA (2001) and is well known to many, both within the Region and elsewhere. I am sure his enthusiasm for BIGGA, his passion for greenkeeping and the respect that he commands will set him off to a good start in his newly chosen career.

He will be working from home and full contact details for Clive will be announced in next month's issue of Greenkeeper International once a business telephone line has been installed. Meanwhile should you need to contact him then this can be done through Headquarters.

The search for a Regional Administrator for South Wales and the South West Region continues at the time of writing although a few CVs have now been received and will be considered at the regional board meeting on September 20.

Hopefully this will result in an appointment in the not too distant future. In the interim period the affairs of both Regions have been administered through Headquarters with help from members in the respective Region. The fact that it has been 'business as usual' is a credit to those few unsung heroes who seem always ready to rally together. They know who they are!

The Association's financial year-end is September 30 and the management accounts to July 31 showed that we are ahead of budget, hopefully this trend will be carried through into August and September. In what has been a difficult year on many fronts I would like to thank everyone at Headquarters for their support and their determination to progress the Association.

During the month I was pleased to be able to send a cheque for £1,918.06 to St Michael's Hospice, Harrogate, in respect of the surplus from the golf day held in memory of Neil Thomas. It is proposed that this is an annual event in aid of this very worthy cause.

I would like to remind Sections that it is also their year-end at the end of September and that, in accordance with the Constitution, Section accounts should be submitted to the Regional Administrator by October 31 having been approved by an AGM.

Many Sections are looking for help on their committee or help running specific events. If you feel you can spare a few hours, even on an ad hoc basis, then I would ask you to give it serious consideration. It does not have to be too onerous and there is always plenty of assistance on offer from the Regional Administrator and Headquarters.

To avoid any doubt I would like to clarify that the position of Regional Administrator is that of a permanent member of the Headquarters staff and as such their salary and all employment and administrative costs are paid for out of central funds.

In talking with members there seems to be some confusion over the role of the Futures Committee and its powers. This committee was set up with the specific aim of looking at the future of BIGGA through the eyes of a cross section of members, with a view to making suggestions on development and improvement of the Association to the Board of Management.

The committee has no power to force issues or make policy or management decisions and is ably chaired by Elliott Small who was the Association's Chairman in the year 2000. Details of the current committee can be found in the recently distributed member's handbook and this group forms another medium through which you can express your own ideas.

I hope in any event all members feel able to approach Headquarters staff at any time, the Board of Management or their own Regional Board members.

Next month I will be able to report on the progress of BTME and Clubhouse and the outcome of the September steering committee meeting that includes exhibitor representatives.

Having spoken to several industry representatives at SALTEX there is still concern in some quarters about the number and frequency of trade shows in the UK. Our show is vital to the future of your Association and the future of greenkeeping, please give it your maximum support.

John Pemberton



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

SCOTTISH REGION

The Scottish Region is once again offering a subsidised package deal for BTME 2005. The package includes a coach to Harrogate, entry to all Seminars and three nights bed and breakfast in en-suite twin rooms in the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate, on 18, 19 and 20 January, 2005. The package costs £175. Partners are welcome at a cost of £150 for travel and accommodation. Banquet tickets cost an extra £35 per person.

For a booking form contact Peter J. Boyd, Scottish Regional Administrator, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6TA. Contact Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440

Peter J. Boyd
Regional Administrator

West

I hope every one has had an enjoyable summer even though the wet weather over the last few weeks has been disappointing.

Firstly there are a few new members to welcome to the Section. Steven Briody, Daziel Park GC, Kevin Cross, Whitecraigs, Graham Kirkpatrick, Clydebank Hargate, Niall McDonald, Drumpelieir, Stephen Duffy, Cochrane Castle, and Victoria Cavinue, Hamilton GC, a warm welcome to all new members.

Once again the Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich had a great turn out and this was played over Bellisle GC during July.

The Norrie Whytock Trophy was held at Auchterarder GC with Brian Bolan, Neil McLennan, Chris Kerr and Robert Phillips representing the West and they scored a commendable 90 points, finishing fourth. Well done lads.

The Stewards match against the greenkeepers will be held at Clydebank Hargate on October 4.

This year the annual night out will be held at Madness in Glasgow. It's a bit different from the norm so hopefully there will be something for everyone. We are limited to 40 tickets so it's first come first serve. Give me a phone nearer the time to find out starting time.

As I said in my last report the AGM will be held at Hampden on October 27 with a tour of the premises and a presentation from Scottish Grass Machinery who always put on a first class day. I hope there's a big turn out as I am taking over as Chairman.

During July I had the pleasure of going to the Drymsine Estates in the Ayr Gll Hills where I played golf over their nine hole course and I must say after preparing Renfrew for the Open pre-qualifier it was nice to see a lovely course situated in this fantastic setting and to play golf with Bryce Houston, the Head Greenkeeper, who does a fantastic job and who made it a terrific day for myself and Robert Bruce. We look forward to playing again in the near future.

You can contact me on 07970 366 355 for any info or ticket sales for the night out.

Fraser Ross

NORTHERN REGION

BIGGA NORTHERN REGION – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SEMINAR 2004

A Northern Region Seminar on Environmental Issues is planned for Thursday November 25 at Penrith Golf Club.

The subjects to be discussed will cover many aspects relating to the environmental management of golf courses and how new European Legislation will impact on the sustainable management of golf courses.

It will be a full day programme, with speakers including Bob Taylor, from the STRI; Bronia Allen, from the Government sponsored Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP); Tim Earley, from ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd; John Albutt, from John Albutt Associates, Steve Oultram, from Wilmslow Golf Club, and others.

If you would like to attend please contact Peter Larter (Northern Region Administrator) for an application form at "Tamarisk", High St, Corby Glen, Grantham,



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
 Tel: 01476 550115



Lincs, NG33 4LX or phone 01476 550115 office / 07866 366966 mobile or by email at petelarter972@aol.com.

North Wales

Our Autumn Tournament takes place this month on October 6, I hope to see as many of you there as possible. Following the golf will be the AGM and if any of you have issues to air or wish to serve on the committee please let us know. Any help from all corners of the Region will be appreciated - come on Andy Peel you've always got lots of constructive things to say. It's your Section so let us have your views.

Tournament results will be printed in next month's issue along with how greenkeepers from North Wales fared in the National Tournament at Alwoodley GC in Leeds.

There have been a few people moving from local courses, Simon Barbet has joined Alun Lewis's team at Llanynymech GC from Sandiway GC and Bryn Roberts has left Carden Park to pursue a career at Eaton GC. Don Pemberton, our Section treasurer, has left his post at Vale Royal Abbey GC and seeks pastures new and Colin, the first assistant from Romiley GC, has taken the Head Greenkeeper job at Anglesey (Rhosneiger) GC. We wish all four the best for the future.

The Kerry bros, from Royal St David's, have found a new method for clearing birds from the fairways (the feathered kind that is) it's top secret but has stopped a lot of damage being caused.

The Vale of Llangollen hosted the Welsh PGA in September along with Carden Park and a host of big names attended both venues.

Our Spring Seminar next February will be a combined one with the North West Section and held at The Mere G & CC, any thoughts on education talk themes or topics for this that would benefit yourselves and others, please give any of the committee a call and we will discuss its merits at our next meeting.

Wendy O'Brien is hoping to host a females in greenkeeping forum at the BTME show next January and would like to hear from other female greenkeeper, or male, with any points for discussion.

Which brings me to, have you booked your hotel accommodation in Harrogate yet? I managed to get some rooms by telephoning at the end of August and the hotel I first requested was already sold out of the number of rooms I required!

Try reservationshighway.com or look on 'Tinternet' for Hotels B&B and Guest Houses.

Dave Lewis, of Conwy (Caernarfonshire) GC, has just successfully hosted the British Boys Championship. This comes just over 18 months prior to the Open Championship Final Qualifying, Dave's son Mike, also a keen greenkeeper, helped out in the preparation for the tournament and looks forward to doing so again in 2006. In the meantime Mike's position in the Welsh Guards takes him over to Iraq for six months where he is to be based in 'Basra' transporting Tanks for the British Army.

Finally Terry Adamson has finished another successful season caddying for David Oakley on the European senior tour and has now got to get back to his proper job and get some sales done, and come to think of it, so have I.

Any news, views or comments give us a call. Mesen Cymru
Andrew Acorn acorn@golf@supanet.com

Northern

As I write it's now the start of September and finally we have a bit of sun! I hope you and your courses have survived the rain.

The Invitation Day Tournament was to be held at York Golf Club on August 19, but the bad weather got the better of us and the event was unfortunately cancelled. We are currently in the process of trying to rearrange the date for next year, so I will keep you informed of any developments. I would like to thank everybody at The York Golf Club for their help in setting up the day, hopefully we will see you there next year.

The Autumn Tournament is to be held at Low Laithes Golf club on October 13, and is to be followed by the AGM, so please let's see as many faces there as possible. If any members have suggestions about any non-golfing events that could be run through the Section then please do get in touch. We really don't want the Section to turn into a Golf Society!

Over the next couple of months myself and Chairman Andy Slingsby are planning to get the Northern Section Website up to date and running again, so if anyone has any news that they would like to share with the Section, my email is at the bottom of the report, and Andy's is andy.slingsby@blueyonder.co.uk.

If you have any ideas for features which you would like to see on the site then we would be more than happy to consider them, and let's not keep all suggestions clean!!

Congratulations to local Tacit rep, Darren Clewes, and his partner on the birth of baby daughter Lily. I hear mother and baby are doing well, and we wish all the family all the very best for the future.

With one new arrival done, it's time for three goodbyes. The first goes to Andy Clarke, of Hollins Hall Country Club. Andy is taking a bit of time away from greenkeeping but we hope to see him back sooner rather than later.

The second goes to Scott Atkinson, of Otley Golf Club, who is emigrating to sunny Albuquerque, New Mexico, to become a househusband while his wife Sarah starts work as a nurse. Some people have all the luck!

The third goes to Garforth Golf Club's Head Greenkeeper, Colin Garnitt. Colin is retiring this month after many years in the industry but we still hope to see him at future Section events. Good luck to Andy, Scott and Colin with their new lives away from greenkeeping.

Andy Slingsby has asked me to round off this month's article with a bit of advice from himself to Big Ben at Moor Allerton Golf Club. The advice is, the next time you are stuck in traffic, please remember to keep your feet on the clutch and brake, and not to let them off and end up hitting the back of a Jaguar. Especially if it belongs to a magistrate!

As usual, my contact details are; Adam Speight, 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford BD2 4EB. Tel: 01274 638366, Mobile: 07739 319060, Email: adam@speight1156.fslife.co.uk

Adam Speight

North East

Well not much news again this month, only that Steve Cram, formerly of Slaley Hall, has taken up a new position as course manager at Close House GC.

Steve, I believe, had worked at Slaley Hall for at least 15 years, starting off as an assistant greenkeeper then on to Head followed by Course Manager. He has also taken Brian Clark as his Deputy, also from Slaley Hall.

Close House has approx. 179 acres of land and I think they may buy more land for course improvements as the university will still use part of the course for football and other sports for the next 25 years. On behalf of the Section we wish them both well on their new appointments.

On a sadder note Ken Rutherford has left the City of Newcastle GC after 33 years of working there, and has started working for himself and doing very well.

Perhaps we will get the domino affect, should a person be appointed from the Section, information given to me is that there were 32 applicants in for the job, hopefully we will find out who has the job shortly.

Anybody got any news about anything let me know.

Jimmy Richardson

North West

Well, as I write, September is here and the long range weather forecast for the month looks very promising. I suspect most people are glad to see the back of August this year, with hardly a day going by without rain, and in many cases floods, which have caused many thousands of pounds in damage.

The rain, of course, has promoted plenty of growth on the fairways making it difficult to get a good cut, and several greenkeepers have been under stress from members complaining about wet grass lying on the fairways, after they have been cut. Will they ever learn?

On Monday September 6 we had the annual golf match against the Golf Club Stewards at Birchwood GC and on Wednesday September 8 we played for the Whitlaw Bowl at Penrith GC, this is sponsored by Rigby Taylor.

On Tuesday September 14 we had the Autumn Tournament at Hurlston Hall GC, as you can see quite a busy month, and I will report on them all in next month's Section notes.

The Northern Region seminar is planned for November 25 at Penrith Golf Club, starting at 10am. Several excellent speakers will be covering mainly Environment issues. This is a most important area in the greenkeeping industry, so to be up to date with keeping above the law be there.

The cost will be £10 and will include a buffet lunch. Contact Peter Larter or myself if you are interested. Peter's number is 01476 550115.

News has reached me that Harry Chapman, a greenkeeper at Swinton Park Golf Club, has been presented with a watch by the golf club after 25 years with them. This is a nice gesture by the club, and well deserved by Harry.

That is it for now, but you can contact me on 0151 724 5412 or 07761 583387 with any snippets of news, or complaints.

Bert Cross

MIDLAND REGION

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, near Warwick). The subjects to be discussed will cover many aspects relating to the environmental management of golf courses and how new European Legislation will impact on the sustainable management of golf courses.

It will be a full day programme, with speakers including Bob Taylor, from the STRI; Peter Skelton, from the Government sponsored Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP); Tim Earley, from ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd, and others.

If you would like to attend please contact Peter Larter (Midland Region Administrator) for an application form at "Tamarisk", High St, Corby Glen, Grantham, Lincs, NG33 4LX or phone 01476 550115 office / 07866 366966 mobile or by email at petelarler972@aol.com.

East Midlands

Firstly this month I would like to, on behalf of all Section members, wish Roger Willars well in his new role as a postman. Roger was employed by Birstall Golf Club for 26 years as Head Greenkeeper, and before then he had spells at the Leicestershire, Cosby and Nuneaton.

Roger also served as Section secretary for our Section for many years, before moving on to Regional Administrator for the Midland Region prior to the appointment of Pete Larter. Roger was a very well respected greenkeeper and the profession will sadly miss him.

We have once again had to cancel another Section event due to lack of interest once more, this was our annual golf match against the East of England Section. We could only muster two greenkeepers for the game on August 25 at Stoke Rochford.

Hopefully this will be better supported next year as a lot of hard work goes into organising these events, so please try to support your Section whenever possible.

Anthony Bindley

Midland

As I'm sure you recall from last month's notes, I was in Iceland visiting a friend. While there I was introduced to the Captain of Korpulfesstadir GC and was consequently invited to play. To which I obviously, graciously afforded him the win. Following this gentlemanly game, I was about ready for a little light refreshment - despite £6 a pint or £40 for a bottle of table red.

Due to the fact that I am a British greenkeeper and a member of BIGGA, I was introduced to the club's Pro, a number of members, and then after the ensuing three hours of advise / interrogation was promptly whisked off to two other courses.

By now my throat thinks a cork has been placed between my lips. What a wonderful country, of which is only enhanced by the genuineness of the people. See, I'm also promoting our Section abroad. God you're lucky. Stop laughing!

It is with great pleasure that I am able to welcome four new members to our illustrious Section. Such being: Peter Tomlinson, Cyril Millward, Ignatious Masvosva and Thomas Price. I would also like to welcome, and congratulate, James Gilchrist on his new appointment at Harborne GC as the Deputy, a roll I know only too well.

I hope that you shall use your membership to partake in our many events as run on your behalf. Such offers great opportunity to discuss differing considerations with learned, like minded friends. You shall find us all more than welcoming.

Now for something regarding three old hands. Firstly, congratulations from Great Barr GC, your fellow workers, and the Section, to our friends: Andrew Boffy and Raymond Wise for 25 years of great service to our fine profession. I hope that the next 20 years shall serve you well gentlemen.

Secondly, it is with great pleasure, and not before time, that congratulations are due to Clayton Lee on his engagement to Jan Curbishley. The deed, and hopefully on one knee, was performed on August 14. We all wish you both the greatest of happiness together. Scissors come to mind as a congratulatory present.

This year's 'Nigel Tyler Alpha Amenity Snooker Evening' is to be held on November 18. I hope that you shall similarly support this as last year.

The success of the event was due to the fine efforts and sponsorship from our good friend, no sorry mate Nigel. Also, and with similar respect, please don't forget

that our 'Allen Southam Hanson Aggregates Angling Competition' is on October 31. Both of the above are fully sponsored by our good friends of the supply industry. I hope that you shall give your support to these fine events. To give me an idea of numbers please call me on: 07816 410 552.

And to finish, I'm pleased to report that Mrs B. Richmond is making positive progress, and we all wish her a speedy recovery. Our thoughts are with you both, Peter and Bryda.

As we are talking about lovely lasses, I recently attended a Hunt Ball as hosted by Lord and Lady Middleton of Birdsall Hall, in North Yorkshire. During this somewhat decadent evening one was approached by two rather splendid lasses (showing my class here ay!).

Upon approach, these eloquent beauties kindly remarked on my height, and I upon their exquisite personal presentation. After a short while they were escorted to the dance floor, unfortunately they were unable to dance, I was without dance shoes, or indeed room to dance. What a waste of drinking time! Natasha, where fore art thou. One can dream, surely! Yet again, home alone.

Speak to you next month.

Sean McDade.

East Anglia

On August 3 we all gathered at The Royal Cromer Golf Club for a jolly up. That's the royal "we" of course. It was a lovely day and the course was excellent thanks to Roger and the lads. The golf was nearly as good as well - read on.

The 0 - 9 section was won by Robert Whitting, with 40pts. Second was Chris O'Dowd, with 38pts. Third was Andy Curson, with 34pts, and fourth was Mark Keysell, with 34pts.

10 - 18 category. 1. Jon Selwood, 38pts; 2. Richard Plummer, 38pts; 3. Mark Clements, 35pts; 4. Mark Browton, 34pts.

19 - 28 category. 1. Robert Ransome, 34pts; 2. John Kitchen, 32pts; 3. Wayne Throver, 32pts; 4. Martin Brightwell, 29pts.

The Longest Drive was Robert Whiting. Nearest the Pin was Mark Keysell.

It was Peter Knight's first visit so we gave him the coveted Loo Seat just to make him feel welcome.

Nearly forgot the Guests; 1. Stuart Patterson, 38pts; 2. Fred Marerouie, 38pts.

The prizes were presented by Fred Margrouie, Royal Cromer Captain. Our very loyal sponsors are Ben Burgess - main sponsors for the day, Bartram Mowers, Rigby Taylor, Sisis, Aventus, Toro, Aitkins, Sheriff Amenity, Textron, Tomlinson Ground Care, Atterton Bernard, Tacit, KB Leach, Vitax, Amenity Wise, Anolia Mowers and Consultant Clarkson.

Our thanks go to Royal Cromer for a great day, we trust the course is still in one piece.

And finally, Kevin Hodges is leaving Weston Park for pastures new, we wish him and his family all the best for the future.

Mick Lathrope

BB&O

The BBO held their Autumn Invitational Tournament at Caversham Heath GC on a day blessed with high winds and bleak rain clouds that covered most of Mapeldurham for the day.

A fine carpet awaited the 48 keen hopefuls who took to the course brandishing irons and woods in a hope to tame the heath land that the course provided.

In first place, with a Betterball score of 45, was Ian Upton and Tony McClelland, from Rye Hill GC, and in second place was Carl Small and Allan Green, from Ellesborough GC, with 44. Losing painfully on count back was Phil Plater and Chris Buswell, from Magnolia Park GC.

Ian Richardson, from Headland, and Jon Beck, from Sheriff Amenity, were the main sponsors and also the main cooks! After donning colourful aprons, the duo set up Beck's Barbie at the halfway point and served the finest Atkins friendly food to date with Angus beef quarter pounders and hot dogs with Beck's own chilli sauce, together with a glass of the finest golden nectar to wash to all down.

A steward's enquiry was to follow later as Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive both went to Lee Bishop, from Burnham Beeches GC.

Everyone wanted to know what active ingredient Jon Beck had put in Lee's burger at the halfway hut! Taking the Trade Prize was Clive Parnell and Gary Tait, from Gem, after hammering the Rigby Taylor duo with 45 points.

Thank you to Caversham Heath GC for the magnificent facilities that were provided and Henry, the Clubhouse Manager, for ensuring that all the dinner preparations went according to plan, not forgetting John Scoones, also known as the "keeper of fine carpet", for preparing the course with his staff for all our enjoyment.

Raffle prizes were donated by Vitax, Rigby Taylor, Gem, Tacit, TH White, Turner Groundcare, Headland, Sherriff Amenity and Caversham Heath GC.

Rob Jenkins has just joined the greenkeeping team at Aspect Park GC and it can now be declared that the BBO has got a true one armed bandit. Rob has recently competed in the One Arm Golf Championships in Scotland and has won the Bob Hughes Cup.

Starting to play golf three years ago with one arm was certainly a handicap that many could do without, but Rob now plays off 24 and has got a real chance of winning the One Arm English Open later this year and, to top it all off, Rob hopes to compete in the Australian Open in March next year to be held in Brisbane.

Also back to Greenkeeping at Aspect Park GC is the legendary Steph Bell after a short while with Greenthumb Lawn Treatment.

Colin Wilson - the hole in one man himself - Wycombe Height GC crashed his new Kubota into the canteen wall demolishing everything in its path. He is now re-taking driving lessons and has booked up for bricklaying classes.

On a final note the BBO Annual General Meeting and Turkey Trot takes place at Donnington Grove GC in Newbury on the Thursday November 4. For more details contact the Secretary, John Scoones, on 07880 550 380.

The London Section has arranged a one day education taster of available training which is relevant to our profession entitled "Being Successful – What we Really Need to Know", the details of which were included within last month's edition in the form of a flier, and members of the BBO Section are invited.

It will be held at Porters Park Golf Club, Hertfordshire, on Wednesday October 27 and immediate booking is recommended, as numbers are limited.

Please send a cheque for £15 payable to BIGGA to Peter Phillips, 11 Anderson Road, Shenley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9EQ

Mark Day

Mid Anglia

The London Section has arranged a one day education taster of available training which is relevant to our profession entitled "Being Successful – What we Really Need to Know", the details of which were included within last month's edition in the form of a flier, and the members of the Mid Anglia Section are invited.

It will be held at Porters Park Golf Club, Hertfordshire, on Wednesday October 27 and immediate booking is recommended, as numbers are limited.

Please send a cheque for £15 payable to BIGGA to Peter Phillips, 11 Anderson Road, Shenley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9EQ

SOUTH EAST

London

After a short absence, due to circumstances beyond my control, I am now back with news from around the London Section.

Last month we played our Summer meeting at Sandy Lodge. This was probably the greatest success we have had in a long time and even with a number of regular attendees missing we still managed a record number of 54 players.

The golf course was in superb condition, which was a great attribute to Rob Phillips, his team, his committee and his Dad who was always on hand to help out in all manner of ways.

A big thank you to them, despite them nicking most of the prizes! And with the good weather to match it was a very enjoyable day.

We had a slight change to the evening format where the chef and his catering team served up a huge feast of a BBQ which left everyone feeling sufficiently full, even Tony, from Wyke Green, whose eyes lit up when he saw the vast array of desserts on offer.

At dinner we had the pleasure of seeing not only Rob's Mum and Dad but also his two children, George and Jake – unusual in golf clubs I know but just shows the kind of club it is - wonderful stuff.

Following dinner we had the pleasure of listening to Rosie Hancher (Sales Manager for BIGGA), a purposeful and forward thinking move by HQ to get staff to visit Sections and just get to know some of our members and what makes them tick.

Duncan McGilvray also put in an appearance and let everyone know that the committee had completed the organisation for a taster event explaining the education and training opportunities available to our members at Section level of

which you should all now be aware. Many thanks to every one involved at Sandy Lodge for their great hospitality and warmth shown to all of us.

I must also say a very special thanks to the sponsors for the day, who provided very generously some lovely prizes. Phil Jones (Supergrass) once again provided the main prizes with other contributions from Banks, Amenity Technology, Gem and Headlands.

Our next golf outing is the Turkey Trot at Ashridge so hopefully we can match the numbers from Sandy Lodge, if not better them.

That is about all the news I have for now but I must tell you that I did meet a couple of the Hendon lads and they couldn't wait to tell me how their boss, Bobby McMillan, was giving up the dreaded cigarettes.

Apparently Bobby came into work, all excited at the thought of all those extra quids he would be saving, patch on the arm to aid him in his quest, and was spotted less than half an hour later patch still on the arm and fag hanging out of his mouth! Stressful job greenkeeping!

We at the London Section have arranged a one day education taster of available training which is relevant to our profession entitled "Being Successful – What we Really Need to Know", the details of which were included within last month's edition in the form of a flier, so please make an effort to attend this.

It will be held at Porters Park Golf Club, Hertfordshire, on Wednesday October 27 and immediate booking is recommended, as numbers are limited.

Please send a cheque for £15 payable to BIGGA to Peter Phillips, 11 Anderson Road, Shenley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9EQ

Alec MacIndoe

07780 955 817

Essex

The London Section has arranged a one day education taster of available training which is relevant to our profession entitled "Being Successful – What we Really Need to Know", the details of which were included within last month's edition in the form of a flier and members of the Essex Section are invited.

It will be held at Porters Park Golf Club, Hertfordshire, on Wednesday October 27 and immediate booking is recommended, as numbers are limited.

Please send a cheque for £15 payable to BIGGA to Peter Phillips, 11 Anderson Road, Shenley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9EQ

Surrey

The McMillan Tankard was won this year by Jason Hunt, Addington Palace GC, with an impressive 39 points off a handicap of three. Sunningdale GC was, as always, in excellent condition with the wear and tear from the Ladies Weetabix Championship on the old course disappearing under new growth.

We thank Brian Turner and Sunningdale GC for the courtesy, Grass Roots for sponsoring the event with quality prizes, and the Artisans for supplying an enjoyable Barbeque.

Darren Lee was runner up with 38 points, Eddy Oliver, 37 points, was third and Rob George was fourth on countback. Michael Sawicki was Nearest the Pin and Ron Christie had the Longest Drive.

The Surrey Bowl final was played at Foxhills GC on Wednesday September 1 between Simon Kirkham & Darren Woodward and Brain Turner & John Mathis. On the spot reporter, Anthony (Hack) Freeman, confirmed that the match was played to the highest standards of etiquette and sportsmanship and that after an extremely entertaining game, the winners were Simon and Darren from West Surrey GC. The sponsors were TYM Tractors and details and photos appear in the main news section.

Friday September 3 and the big one, Surrey v Sussex at the Addington GC. The weather was perfect, warm and sunny with little wind. John Hunnisett had the course groomed to perfection and both teams were in peak condition for the battle ahead. After a great deal of friendly gamesmanship, Surrey won four – one and retained the trophy.

The London Section has arranged a one day education taster of available training which is relevant to our profession entitled "Being Successful – What we Really Need to Know", the details of which were included within last month's edition in the form of a flier and members of the Surrey Section are invited.

It will be held at Porters Park Golf Club, Hertfordshire, on Wednesday October 27 and immediate booking is recommended, as numbers are limited.

Please send a cheque for £15 payable to BIGGA to Peter Phillips, 11 Anderson Road, Shenley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9EQ

Brain Willmott

Kent

The London Section has arranged a one day education taster of available training which is relevant to our profession entitled "Being Successful – What we Really Need to Know", the details of which were included within last month's edition in the form of a flier, and members of the Kent Section are invited.

It will be held at Porters Park Golf Club, Hertfordshire, on Wednesday October 27 and immediate booking is recommended, as numbers are limited.

Please send a cheque for £15 payable to BIGGA to Peter Phillips, 11 Anderson Road, Shenley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9EQ

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

South West

As regular readers of this report will have noticed, our Section has not had an entry for several months. One of our planes has gone missing, and we have not found the pilot yet.

I hope you all had a great summer, a bit wet towards the end but we had a dry one last year, swings and roundabouts boys!

We played the match against the South Wales lads at St. Pierre on August 19 and under the inspired captaincy of John Keenagan the South West won the encounter four games to two. The course was in grand condition considering it had been prepared in a monsoon! The Section would like to thank all the event sponsors.

Tuesday October 19 is our next meeting and it's at Chipping Sodbury GC. It's also the Section's AGM so please attend. We need people to stand for the Section Committee, and other vital jobs.

Don't forget the Regional Seminar in November at Cannington College.

Robin Greaves

Devon & Cornwall

From DRY SPOT to WET SPOT, it seems that hardly any time ago that I was visiting golf courses within the Devon and Cornwall area and Greenkeepers were all praying for rain, the fairways on many of the links courses and moorland courses were virtually void of any grass, and even the parkland courses were showing signs of stress. I would think that the manufacturers of wetting agents were jumping with joy.

August arrives, and yes the greenkeepers' prayers have at long last been answered, rain, rain, and more rain. So much rain that on many courses bunkers have been washed out, not once but twice, not to mention paths that have to be refurbished.

Many of the clubs are recording rainfall up to 200mm, the majority of the falling in a very short period, hence all the problems at Boscastle on the North Cornwall Coast.

A Head Greenkeeper from a course in Devon was telling me that he had been unable to mow the greens for some five days, and that the members were complaining that the greens were so slow, I will not print what he told the member to do, I will leave it to your own imagination!

At long last I now have confirmation for the forthcoming meetings within our Section and they are as follows:

The Lion International Golf Course on October 13 2004.

Wrangaton Golf Course, AGM, November 10 2004.

Okehampton Golf Course, December 7 2004.

Trevoise Golf course, January 12 2005.

Newquay Golf Course, February 16 2005.

Churston Golf Course, March 16 2005.

The mid-summer tournament - venue to be announced at a later date - will be at the end of June.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Section, to thank Scotts for agreeing to sponsor our fixture cards for the next two years, especially at such short notice.

Donovan O.Hunt

South Coast

As I write, it seems incredible that I am setting off to Saltex tomorrow. This year seems to have flown by and at last we seem to be getting some summer, even if it is rather late. I managed to miss two weeks of the bad weather whilst I holidayed in Spain.

As we flew back in over Baton-on-sea I could see just what we'd missed whilst we'd been away, as Tony Gadd's course was looking unseasonably green.

I suppose it was some small comfort after spending two weeks in the baking heat! It was nice to come home to cooler conditions even though my wife wanted me to put the central heating on when we got home. There's no pleasing some people!

Whilst I was away Moors Valley again hosted the Region's Scotts' Management Trophy. Ian, Shane and their team prepared the course magnificently for the field and the scoring reflected just how good the course was.

Winners on the day were Portsmouth Golf Club, much to the delight of Chris Sturgess. Those Blue and Red rivalries never go away! As always many thanks to Moors Valley for their superb hospitality and particularly to Desmond Meharg for all his help in ensuring the day ran so smoothly.

The Greenkeeping team ably led by Ian and Shane must be congratulated for all their hard work. To Scott's, a huge vote of thanks for their continued support. It was particularly nice to see Paula and Mike Humphries attending the day.

Paula was on hand to help out with the scoring and Mike was able to play without the handicap of me as a playing partner. I'm sure I showed him far too much of the course last year! Many thanks Paula and it was great to see you looking so well. We look forward to seeing you both again next year.

Belated congratulations to William McLachlan and his team for providing excellent conditions for another superb Open.

It was as enthralling as ever and I know the guys from our Section who were part of the BIGGA support team had a great time. Remember any member can apply to be a part of the team so why not apply next year. It's hard work but the reward of walking the great links courses behind the ropes makes it well worth it.

The finishing touches are being made to next year's Section seminar and don't forget to start planning your trip to BTME.

I cannot stress enough what a great week it is and it would be great to see some more faces from the Section there.

I'm looking forward to a weekend fest of golf watching the Ryder Cup and if it's anything like some of the golf seen this year it will be a great spectacle.

Next month I will have the annual match against the South West to report on and also the autumn tournament and AGM.

The usual contact details for me Tel: 01202 661106, Mobile: 07966 386232, Email: a.mccombie@ntlworld.com

Until next month

Alex McCombie

Clive takes over in the South East

Clive Osgood has been appointed Regional Administrator for the South East.

A well known figure within greenkeeping, Clive was Course Manager at Walton Heath GC, Surrey, for 24 years.

Indeed in just his second year in charge he prepared the course for the famous Ryder Cup match in 1981 at which the US team, generally regarded as the best ever, beat Europe by 18.5 - 9.5 – the same score as that which Europe defeated the US last month.

Clive was also BIGGA National Chairman in 2001 and at the time expressed views which will be perfect in his new role.

"There are so many wonderful services available to members but we must make people more aware of these," said Clive back in 2001. Now he is perfectly placed to spread the word and with the respect he holds within the profession and the industry will no doubt stand him in good stead.

■ Clive's details will be posted in the magazine when he is up and running.



Scotsturf Rings the Changes

There are more changes a foot at Scotsturf this year. Last year saw the show move to the newly built Highland Hall, Edinburgh, making it easier to navigate as well as providing much more comfortable facilities.

Building on this there are further changes in 2004.

Apart from a new colourful entrance foyer with information about the Institute of Groundsmanship and Scotsturf, there will be an array of computerized registration terminals.

This means that all visitors can be clearly identified, making for a much more effective show for everyone, as well as enabling future marketing to be carefully targeted.

The layout within the show has also been simplified and all stands are now named and numbered, making navigation of the show faster and easier for visitors.

The layout has also been designed to feel more open. This year there will also be a dedicated pressroom.

New chairman, Gary Mack said, "Having the show all under one roof in warm and pleasant conditions has made a great improvement to the show. This year will see the next stage of upgrading the show as we introduce computerized registration, along with many other developments, adding to the formula."

As always BIGGA will have a stand at the two day Exhibition and Headquarter staff will be available to meet both current and prospective members.

Newsletter

5th & 6th November 2003
Wed, 10am - 4.30pm Thurs, 10am - 3.30pm

Royal Highland Showground, Ingliston, Edinburgh



Scotsturf
A WHOLE NEW PITCH!

Davis Vantage Pro

At Scotsturf 2003, CSC Amenity are featuring the new Davis Vantage Pro weather station for monitoring barometric pressure, temperature, humidity, rainfall, and wind speed and direction.

The latest in weather technology, the Vantage Pro weather stations offer forecasting, on-screen graphing, and much more. Quick view icons show the forecast at a glance—sunny, partly sunny, cloudy, rain or snow—while a scrolling ticker-tape display gives more details.

The innovative integrated sensor suite combines our rain collector, temperature and humidity sensors, and anemometer into one package—making setup easier than ever and improving performance and reliability.

These speciality weather stations are specifically designed for use on golf courses, and can be easily be fitted with sensors for measuring humidity, leaf wetness, and solar and UV radiation.



Scotsturf moves to a brand new pitch



Scotsturf moves to its new location at the Royal Highland Centre, the brand new 6,000 m² purpose built exhibition hall to be known as The Highland Hall. This state of the art building will provide accommodation for the whole event under one roof rather than spread over three exhibition halls as in the past. Happily, the problems of heating and access will also be solved by the move. The new hall is on the site of the old Hall C and the entrance will be well signposted for visitors from the usual approach roads.

Ian Beane, Scotsturf Chairman, said that he was really looking forward to the exhibition. "All the logistical problems of the past should now be resolved, and visitors and exhibitors will enjoy a bright and uniformly heated hall. This is the start of a new era for Scotsturf!"

Toro Commercial Products

Toro is showing its new Groundsmaster 4T00-D at Scotsturf. The model features an out-front three-section cutting deck that makes it the only fully out-front mower in the 11ft rotary market segment.

The deck is designed to set higher standards for productivity and quality of cut and produces a beautiful aftercut appearance at high work rates on sports grounds and golf course roughs and semi-roughs.

The machine has a powerful 60hp Kubota turbo diesel engine and an overall cutting width of 10ft 4in.

Also being unveiled is the Workman 2100E. This electric version of Toro's popular Workman 2100 petrol utility vehicle is quieter and easier to maintain than its counterpart.

The new model also has Toro's unique 'twister' suspension system that provides for unrivalled traction.

Stands D4, D5, D8, D9

Free Admission
to trade visitors

No need to

Exhibitors' list

CSC Amenity, Etesia UK Ltd, Swan Plant Services Ltd, UAC Ltd, Midland Power Mcy. Dist.Ltd, David Ogilvie, IC Distributors, New Holland, Spray Techniques, Major Equipment, Fraser C Robb, Fleet (Line Markers) Ltd, Dennis, Links Leisure, Even Products, Rustons Engineering Co Ltd, Lloyds & Co Letchworth Ltd, Hunter Grinders, Overton UK Ltd, Euromec, Motakov UK Ltd, Growing Concern Scotland Ltd, Hags Play Ltd, Wiedenmann Uk Ltd, Henry Sheach, Otterbine, Toro Products, Simon Tullett Machinery Co Ltd, Scotbark, Trimax Mowing Systems Ltd, Eagle Promotions, McLays Supplies Ltd, Playground Supplies, SGM Hire Hayter Ltd, Kubota (UK) Ltd, Scottish Grass Machinery, Takeuchi Mfg Ltd, Groundsman Industries, Greenkeeping Magazine, Cheviot Trees, Scottish Amenity, Greenmech Ltd, Garfitts International Ltd, Irrigation Supplies Ltd, Scottish Golf Environment Group, Turff-it, STRI, Technical Surfaces Ltd, Totrax Ltd, Kuhn Farm Machinery Ltd, BIGGA, Wolf Garten Professional, Econoplas Ltd, BSG Teen Recreation Ltd, Record Play Equipment Ltd, Growforth Ltd, Myerscough College, Oatridge College, Elmwood College, Institute of Groundsmanship, TurfMech, Earthquake, The Double A Trading Company, Fairways Grass Machinery, Cleveland Sitesafe Ltd, Brian Young Machinery.

Buyers' GUIDE

The most cost effective way of reaching over 9,000 readers of Greenkeeper International every month.

Just call the Sales Team on 01347 833800 and ask about an alphabetical category listing. The cost starts from as little as £34.00 per month.

WIN A SUPER PRIZE

This month you can answer the following simple questions to win a superb prize to prepare you for the winter months.

We'll send you a pair of water proof socks and gloves along with some golf club covers, if you can decipher who this company is:

WHO ARE WE?

1. Have 'systems designed for your watering requirements'.
2. Will provide a 'free initial consultation'.
3. Website contains 'country'

Write down your name, address and answer on a postcard and send your entries to:

Turftime Teaser, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF.

Entries to arrive no later than 20th October 2004.

The solution to the September Turftime Teaser was 'Golf Finance'. The lucky winner of the Red Letter Day was Lewis Birch from Abbeydale Golf Club in Sheffield - WELL DONE!!

AERATION

HYDROJECT AERATION AND CHEMICAL INJECTION SERVICE

(WITH NO SURFACE DISTURBANCE)

KEITH DRIVER
(SPORTSTURF CONTRACTOR)

Tel: 01273 679994 Mobile: 07958 532008

124 Warren Road, Woodingdean, Brighton BN2 6DB



AERATION HIRE

PETER MANNINGTON

Vertidrain Contractor now offers

1 1/2 m & 2 m

EARTHQUAKING SERVICE

Tel/Fax Peter on 01580 861211
or Mobile 07850 612061

1 White Horse Cottages, Silverhill, Hurst Green, Etchingam, East Sussex TN19 7QA

AGGREGATES



Garside SportSand - Specialist graded silica sand and gravel for sports, turf maintenance, drainage and horticultural applications.

01525 237911

Garside Sands, Eastern Way, Heath and Reach, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 9LF
Fax: 01525 237991

An AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES PLC business

AGRONOMY

B Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd

Bruce Jamieson Golf Advisors Ltd, is an established company offering expert advice on:

- Golf Course maintenance
- Tournament preparation & presentation
- Machinery selection
- Budgeting
- Staff recruitment
- Soil & turf analysis
- Establishment of new golf courses

Contact: **Bruce Jamieson**
Brownlop, 17 Haywarden Place, Hartley Wintney, Hants, RG27 8UA Telephone: 01252 844847 www.bigga.co.uk

AMENITY SPRAYING

WEED FREE 'Home of The Spraying Mantis'

T: 07000 481011

F: 07000 481022

E: spraying@weedfree.co.uk

W: www.weedfree.co.uk

ARTIFICIAL GRASS

VERDE SPORTS LIMITED

Tel: 01254 831666 Fax: 01254 831066

- VERDE TEE FRAME
Steel platform, woven grass top
- VERDE WINTER TEE
Generous size, self-install kit
- VERDE DRIVING MATS
Top Quality - Long Life - Best Prices
Replacement inserts for ALL Tee-Mats any size - made to measure
- ARTIFICIAL GRASSES
Comprehensive range for pathways, winter tees and putting

Gabbotts Farm Barn, Bury Lane, Withnell, Chorley, Lancashire PR6 8SW
www.verdesports.com www.artificialgrass.org.uk
email: niki@verdesports.com

Please call for samples & information

Visit www.bigga.org.uk

and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry



FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS

BIO-TECHNOLOGY

Our 12th year supplying biotech solutions



Reduce Chemical Use
Improve Fine Grass Growth
Disease Management
Thatch Reduction

Tel: 01372 456101

www.symbio.co.uk

IMPACT GREEN 'Professional' MAKES QUALITY TURF

IMPROVED ROOT & TOP GROWTH, FINE GRASS GROWTH, DISEASE & STRESS RESISTANCE, RECOVERY, THATCH MANAGEMENT



Pitland Technology Ltd
Tel: 01780 783758
Fax: 01780 783818
Web: www.pitland.co.uk

BUILDINGS

Greenkeepers' Stores Driving Ranges

Machinery Storage
Maintenance Workshops
Fertiliser and Weedkiller Storage
Offices and Staff Mess Rooms
FREE initial designs and costings

THE COOPER GROUP

Industrial and Commercial Buildings

Tel: 01538 702282 Fax: 01538 702662
e-mail: ivanjcooper@fsbdial.co.uk

BUNKER RAKES

BUNKER RAKES from only £2.49 each DELIVERED FREE

Strong construction with replaceable threaded wooden handle.

Fewer than 50 £2.90 each DELIVERED FREE
50 or more £2.49 each DELIVERED FREE

HEAD GREENKEEPER/CHAIRMAN OF GREEN? Ask for a FREE SAMPLE

Prices are for complete rakes. Free delivery UK mainland. Rake support pegs 80 pence each.

Made in the UK by **MW Dyason Ltd**,
The Old Church, Brentingby, Melton Mowbray LE14 4RX
Tel: 01664 411911 Fax: 01664 569546
Email: MikeDyason@aol.com

BUNKER SANDS

Fife Silica Sands

a division of Patersons of Greenockhill Ltd

Burrowine Moor Quarry, By Alloa, Clackmannanshire FK10 3QD

Tel: 01259 731379
Fax: 01259 730686

PRODUCERS OF:

USGA Rootzone

Bunker Sand

(as supplied to Loch Lomond Golf Course)

Top Dressing Sand

CONSTRUCTION



Barrelfield undertake all types of course construction work from refurbishment and improvements through to total new course build

020 8390 6566

www.barrelfieldgolf.co.uk
email: melvin@barrelfield.co.uk

GRASSFORM LTD

Green Tee and Bunker Construction
Driving Ranges, Seeding and Preparation
Turfing, Buggy Paths and Tracks

FOR QUOTES / ADVICE OR ENQUIRIES

Grassform Ltd

Dunsteads Farm, Trueloves Lane
Ingatstone, Essex CM4 0NJ
Tel: 01277 355500 Fax: 01277 355504
email: enquiries@grassform.co.uk

INTERNATIONAL GOLF COURSE CONTRACTORS & CONSULTANTS

UK OFFICE: 00 44 (0)1327 879464
IRISH OFFICE: 00 353 (0)64 39965
e-mail: enquiries@contour-golf.com

Construction • Remodelling
Water Features

Tel: 01604 468908
Fax: 01604 474853
www.deltagolf2000.co.uk
180 Ruskin Road, Kingsthorpe, Northampton NN2 7TA

J & E ELY

GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION

Reading, Berks
Tel/Fax: 0118 9722257
E-mail: ely@btinternet.com

40th Anniversary 1961 - 2001

www.elygolfconstruction.com

Specialists in Golf Course Construction

JOHN GREASLEY LIMITED
"Ashfield House" • 1154 Melton Road
Syston • Leicester • LE7 2HB

Tel: 0116 269 6766
Mobile: 07836 553899
Fax: 0116 269 6866

CONSTRUCTION

LAND UNIT

CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

Sportsground and Golf Course Construction

Hanslope, Milton Keynes, MK19 7BX
Telephone: (01908) 510414
Fax: (01908) 511056
web: www.landunitconstruction.co.uk
e-mail: sales@landunitconstruction.co.uk

MJ ABBOTT LIMITED

SPECIALISTS IN:

- GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION
- REMODELLING & RENOVATION
- SPORTSGROUNDS
- MAINTENANCE

Dinton • Salisbury • Wiltshire SP3 5EB
Tel: 01722 716361 • Fax: 01722 716828
www.mjabbott.co.uk

NEW GROUND GUARDS

protect turf from damage by vehicles up to 50 tons



GreenTek 0113 267 6000
GUARANTEED TO DO WHAT IT SAYS OR YOUR MONEY BACK!

DRAINAGE

Duncan Ross LTD
Sportsturf Drainage Specialists

Piped Drainage Systems
Sand Slitting • Vertidrain
Topdressing • Overseeding
Design • Installation • Maintenance

Appley Bridge, Wigan, Lancashire WN6 9DT
t: 01257 255321
f: 01257 255327
e: duncanross.ltd@virgin.net

PHILIP DIXON LAND DRAINAGE

Golf Course • Sportsfield
Drainage • Construction
Renovation • Maintenance
Sand Slitting • Gravel Banding
Vertidrain • Overseeding
Top Dressing • Spraying
Water Supplies

Tel: 01772 877289
Fax: 01772 877479
Preston, Lancs

DRAINAGE

AFT COST EFFECTIVE TRENCHING



A.E.T. Trenchers Ltd
16-17 Addison Road, Chilton Industrial Estate,
Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2YW
Tel: 01787 311811 Fax: 01787 310888
Email: info@trenchers.co.uk www.trenchers.co.uk

Drainage Systems

Lyttag banding of greens & fairways plus traditional drainage

North Staffs Irrigation Ltd

Tel: 01785 812706
E: NSIrrigation@aol.com
www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk

SPEEDCUT CONTRACTORS LTD

SPORTSTURF

Construction
Drainage
Renovation
Sandslitting

Contact: Kevin Smith
OXFORD 01865 331479

White Horse Contractors Limited



SPORTS TURF CONTRACTORS

CONSTRUCTION
DRAINAGE
LAKES & RESERVOIRS
DESIGN & BUILD

Tel: 01865 736 272
Fax: 01865 326 176
www.whitehorsecontractors.co.uk

GRASSFORM LTD

Land Drainage Systems
Gravel Banding, Sand Slitting
Sand Spreading / Top Dressing

FOR QUOTES / ADVICE OR ENQUIRIES
Grassform Ltd
Dunsteads Farm, Trueloves Lane
Ingatstone, Essex CM4 0NJ
Tel: 01277 355500 Fax: 01277 355504
email: enquiries@grassform.co.uk

Turfdry

Golf Course Drainage Specialist

For fast and friendly UK service call:

Melvyn Taylor
on 01283 551417
or 07836 259133

DRIVING RANGE EQUIPMENT

European Golf Machinery



Range Ball UK Ltd

Manufacturers and suppliers of
Golf Range Machinery
Golf Course Practice Ground
Equipment and Accessories
Large stock of Range Balls
Mats and Winter Tee Platforms

Distributors for Kawasaki Mule and ATV



Bucklesham, Ipswich, Suffolk IP10 0DN
Tel: 44 (0) 1473 659815
Fax: 44 (0) 1473 659045
E Mail: sales@golfmachinery.com
www.golfmachinery.com

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Want to be a cut above the rest?

Study Sportsturf at Myerscough College, Preston

For more information please call course enquiries on 01995 642211

or visit the website www.myerscough.ac.uk

Myerscough College, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY



Myerscough College
Providing opportunities for all

EXHIBITIONS

THE GREATEST SHOW ON TURF



18-20 January 2005

www.bigga.co.uk

FINANCE & LEASING

FINANCE:

- Replacement machinery
- Course improvements
- Clubhouse redevelopment with a flexible package

Golf Finance

SPECIALISTS IN GOLF COURSE FINANCE

TEL: 01620 890200
sales@golffinance.co.uk

GOLF COURSE ACCESSORIES

BOYD GOLF COURSE ACCESSORIES 32 years in business

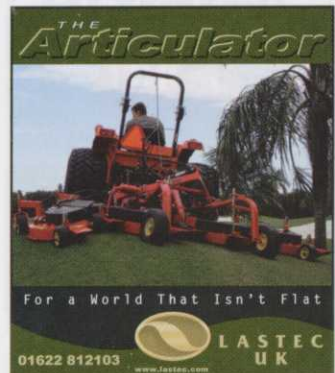


Ireland's no.1
For a free catalogue

Manufacturers of quality on course accessories

Tel: 02891 271163 Fax: 02891 471136
www.boydgolf.co.uk sales@boydgolf.co.uk

GRASS CUTTING



For a World That Isn't Flat

01622 812103 www.lastec.com LASTECC UK

IRRIGATION

Bredy IRRIGATION

Irrigation systems designed and installed for your watering requirements

Call us for a free initial consultation for your golf course

Tel: 01305 267151

www.bredycountry.co.uk
Louds Mill, St Georges Road, Dorchester

irritech limited

Independent Irrigation Consultants

Specialising in:-

- Existing system evaluation
- System design & upgrade
- Project management

Contact Roger Davey on:

01823 690216

www.irritechlimited.co.uk

IRRIGATION

20+ YEARS EXPERIENCE



YOURS FOR THE ASKING...

Irrigation systems, lakes and reservoirs, plus servicing, repairs, system updates and extensions a speciality.



IRRIGATION & SYSTEMS SERVICE
Unit 18, Downton Industrial Estate,
Batten Road, Downton,
Salisbury, Wilts SP5 3HU
TEL: 01725 513880 FAX: 01725 513003

TORO IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Whatever your needs, we have the solution.
Call Lely: 01480 226800 or email: toro.info@lely.co.uk
www.toro.com

Independent Professional Irrigation
Golf Courses, Bowling Greens, Sports, Racecourses, Gardens + + +

Design/Advice Servicing
New Installations Service Contracts
Contracting System Upgrades
Supply & Sales PC Systems

Telephone
01785 602175
01785 690598
Fax 01785 603488
Email: admin@par4.co.uk
www.par4.co.uk

T O R O B T L I A
Area Dealer

BTLIA 2001 CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD

Irrigation Systems

Professionally designed installed and serviced

North Staffs Irrigation Ltd

Tel: 01785 812706
E: NSIrrigation@aol.com
www.northstaffsirrigation.co.uk

IRRIGATION

OCMIS bringing water to life

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation & Service throughout the UK

Golf Courses
Sportsgrounds
Recreational
Landscape Areas

Tel: 0870 600 5131
Fax: 0870 600 5132
E-mail: info@ocmis.com
Website: www.ocmis.com

2ic consultants

For impartial advice on your irrigation system management, water supply, and for independent engineering design.

01529 300224 irrigation@2ic.co.uk
01432 263559 www.2ic.co.uk
Lincoln - Hereford - Surrey

MJ ABBOTT LIMITED

IRRIGATION SPECIALISTS

DESIGN SUPPLY
INSTALLATION MAINTENANCE

RAIN BIRD

Dinton • Salisbury • Wiltshire SP3 5EB
Tel: 01722 716361 • Fax: 01722 716828
www.mjabbott.co.uk

British Turf & Landscape Irrigation Association

"Quality by Association"

Our aim is to ensure you have the best possible irrigation system so we constantly monitor, maintain and raise the standards of our members.

For a full list of members contact Martyn Jones

Tel/Fax: 01995 670675
Website: www.btlia.org.uk

IRRIGATION

GlenFarrow

DESIGN SUPPLY INSTALL

For specialist irrigation advice call...

01775 722 327

e-mail: info@glenfarrow.co.uk
www.glenfarrow.co.uk

LAKE CONSTRUCTION/LINERS

LINERS

Liners for lakes, ponds and storage lagoons from the UK's leading contractor

Comprehensive advice regarding design and construction of water areas

Tel: 01206 262676 Fax: 01206 262998
E-mail: sales@geosynthetic.co.uk
www.geosynthetic.co.uk

LAKE & POND MANAGEMENT

clearwater pond & lake management

All the answers from Ponds to Reservoirs
Specialising in: Algae Control, Aquatic Maintenance and other Services
Please ring for brochure:
Tel: 01442 875616 / 07971 263588
16 Middle Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 3EQ
www.clearwaterpim.com

LAKE RENOVATION

BLUE BOAR CONTRACTS LIMITED

Lake Renovation Specialist

Watercourse De-Silting & Remodelling
Bank Protection & Ground Works
Long Reach & Floating Excavators
Low Ground Pressure Plant

For further details & brochure:
Tel: 01788 810854 Fax: 01788 817100
E-Mail: enquiries@bbfcontracts.com
Web Site: www.bbfcontracts.com

MACHINERY

order machinery or parts online any time of the day...

...it's enough to make you smile!

ggm.com groundscare
MACHINERY • PARTS • SERVICE

www.ggmgroundscare.com

Visit www.bigga.org.uk and check out the latest chat from the greenkeeping industry

TIME TO TALK
www.bigga.org.uk

FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS

MOLES

Phostoxin

Kills Rabbits & Moles Underground

Suppliers to the Trade

Pitland Technology Ltd
Tel: 01780 783758
Fax: 01780 783818
Web: www.pitland.co.uk

MOWERS

Mobile Mower Services Ltd
"giving you the cutting edge"

Experts in the quality repair and maintenance of all types of golf course machinery throughout the South East. We also provide a rapid turnaround for mower cylinder grinding.

☎ 01634 200248
Fax 01634 200400
www.mobilemowers.co.uk

NETTING

TILDENET

- Ball Stop Fencing
- Germination Sheets
- Practice Nets
- Bunker Membrane
- Driving Range Nets
- Target Nets
- Turf Reinforcement Mesh

Tel: 0117 9669684
Fax: 0117 9231251
Email: enquiries@tildenet.co.uk

LINKS LEISURE

*NETS
*BAYS
*MATS
*SIGNS
*BINS

CALL: 01948 663002
www.linksleisure.com

PEST CONTROL

SCRAPEAWAY

A New Organic Rabbit Deterrent
10 years in the making
Non-toxic
Biodegradable

AVAILABLE NOW

For further details, brochure & sample
Email: enquires@swigley.freereserve.co.uk
Website: www.scrapeaway.co.uk
Mobile 07881 782975 / 07766 686506

RAILWAY SLEEPERS

LANDSCAPING GRADE SLEEPERS

SELECTED HARDWOOD AND TELEGRAPH POLES
BEST QUALITY PRICES

ALSO
COCKLESHELL PATH MEDIA
BULK LOADS - DISCOUNTED PRICES

FINETURF PRODUCTS
Tel: 01702 714004

Railway Sleepers £6.50 each
New Untreated Oak £14 each
Sandstone Paving £12/m
Oak TGV Flooring

Why Pay More?

www.seahawes.com
Tel/Fax: 01869 253176
Mobile: 07976 955382

RAILWAY SLEEPERS

FULL RANGE OF NEW, USED, TREATED
UNTREATED, HARDWOOD OR SOFTWOOD
SLEEPERS AND CROSSING TIMBERS
TELEGRAPH POLES ALSO AVAILABLE
DELIVERY ANY AREA
BEST PRICES ON ALL GRADES & SIZES

Tel: 0845 230 8866 Fax: 0845 230 8877

Website: www.sleeper-supplies.co.uk
Email: sales@sleeper-supplies.co.uk

ROOT ZONE

National Suppliers of
USGA & ECONOMY ROOTZONES
FAIRWAY DRESSINGS • BUNKER SANDS

Banks Amenity Products Ltd.
01858 464346 / 433003
www.banksamenity.co.uk

RUBBER CRUMB

The use of RUBBER CRUMB on
grass as top dressing has been
granted a PATENT in the UK and
Ireland under Number EP0788301B1

TEBBUTT ASSO. ARE THE LICENSEES

with CROWN III rubber crumb Turf
Reinforcement, the licensed product

Contact Tebbutt Asso.
on 01253 342003 or Fax 01253 346644

SOIL CONDITIONERS



The Vital Link

The vital link to natural turfgrass
management and rootzone technology
"as nature intended"

Tel: 01543 450757
e-mail: earthtecltdinfo@yahoo.co.uk

TOP DRESSINGS

National Suppliers of
FENDRESS™ Original, FENDRESS™ GREENTOP
and SAND / LOAM DRESSINGS

Banks Amenity Products Ltd.
01858 464346 / 433003
www.banksamenity.co.uk

BOURNE Serving the South of England

Manufacturers of quality dressings,
inc. green compost, fensoil & loams,
for fairways, greens & tees,
in loads of all sizes

Tel: (01797) 252298 www.bourne.uk.com

LOVIE LTD
QUARRY & CONCRETE PRODUCTS

Producers of quality Top dressings,
Specialist sands, Rootzone soils,
Grit, Gravel and Pathway materials
for Golf Courses, Playing Fields
and Sports Pitches

Cowbog, New Pitsligo, Fraserburgh,
Aberdeenshire, AB43 6PR

Tel: 01771 653777
Fax: 01771 653527

Shirley Aldred & Co. Ltd

Suppliers of high quality
granular charcoal for over 200 years

- Use one of the oldest products known to man to treat black layer
- Prevent thatch build up
- Improve drainage and rootzone
- Totally organic product
- Large stock levels of all grades
- Delivery anywhere in mainland UK within 3-4 days

Tel: 01433 620003
Fax: 01433 620388



BATHGATE

LEISURE

Top Dressings

- Combined technology and quality
- All dressings are heat treated and mixed to specific requirement

Rootzones

- The perfect foundation for optimum growth
- Quality is assured through on-site laboratory testing.

Bathgate Silica Sand Ltd.
TEL: 01270 762825
Fax: 01270 760 557

TREES

FAST-GROWING TREES

Growth of 6-8 feet per year

For rapid improvement to new
and developing Golf Courses

Hybrid Poplars used for specimen and group plantings
to make handsome trees and perimeter windbreaks.

Hybrid Willows used for screens, hedges,
wind-breaks, and dense cover on course.

Both are tolerant of poor soils and sites
and require little post-planting care.

All sizes available from 12 inch slips to
8 foot well-rooted trees.

Prices including delivery to most areas from
£42 per 100, plus VAT or £380 per 1000, plus VAT

Free information pack and advice without obligation
Phone John or Monica Spanton-Coates on
01404 812229 or Fax on 01404 815800
Bowhayes Trees Ltd, Lowlands Farm, Toadpitt Lane,
Ottery, St Mary, Devon EX11 1LQ
or visit www.bowhayestrees.co.uk

TURF

Tillers Turf
growers of fine turf

SPECIALITY TURF FOR GOLF
(2004)

ROOTZONE TURF FOR GREENS
Grown on USGA rootzone
and mown at 6mm
Predominantly bent sward

TURF FOR TEES, SURROUNDS AND
APPROACHES

Top cultivars, including
Bargold, Barcrown, Aberimp

Tel: 01652 678 000
Email: info@tillersturf.co.uk

Visit www.bigga.org.uk

and check out the
latest chat
from the
greenkeeping
industry



FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS

Fineturf

Dedicated to Growing Quality Sportsturf
Custom Grown Root Zone Turf
Install n Playball Turf Tiles

Tel 01400 250796
Fax 01400 251606
www.fineturf.net

The Fastest Growing Name in Turf

VERTIDRAINING HIRE



Earth Quaking, hollow tining, core collection,
over seeding, stone burying, seeding,
top dressing, verti draining.

All sportsground renovation works undertaken

Tel/Fax: Alistair Moore 01283 210 456
or 07889 771341
email: mooresturf@btconnect.com
www.mooresturf.com

VERTIDRAIN HIRE COMPANY LTD



OFFERING A HIGH QUALITY SERVICE
FULLY TRAINED OPERATORS,
FULLY INSURED, COMPETITIVE QUOTES.

SPECIALISTS IN:
VERTIDRAINING * OVERSEEDING
GRANULAR FERTILIZER SPREADING
MICROTINING/CORING * HOLLOWCORING
ON GOLF COURSES AND ALL SPORTS SURFACES

CONTACT DAVE ON:
TEL/FAX 01427 613035
MOBILE 07747 153972
E-MAIL vertidrainhire@hotmail.com

Unit 6 Corringham Road Industrial Est.,
Gainsborough, Lincs, DN21 1QB

VERTIDRAINING HIRE

PETER MANNINGTON



Specialist Verti-Drain Contractor for the South
For greens, tees, fairways and sportsgrounds
Experienced operator, competitive prices and reliable service

Tel/Fax Peter on 01580 861211
or Mobile 07850 612061

1 White Horse Cottages, Silverhill, Hurst Green,
Etchingham, East Sussex TN19 7QA

WORTH DRAINING

VERTI-DRAIN HIRE 2.5 & 1.6M
SAND SPREADING & OVERSEEDING
2M BLEC GROUNDBREAKER FOR HIRE

Distance no object

Tel/Fax: 01476 550266
Mobile: 07855 431120
Email: bloodworth@onetel.net.uk

WASTE/WASH WATER TREATMENT

BYWATER
the wash water recovery specialists

Effective wash water
recovery systems for
remote washing and full
environmental compliance



- Competitively priced
- No drainage required
- Reduced water costs
- Low maintenance
- Clean recycled water
- Small footprint
- Indoor/outdoor option

The ENZYMATIC15 wash
water recycler. Designed &
built in the UK by ByWater

Tel: 01530 563388 Fax: 01530 563399
Email: sales@bywaterservices.co.uk
Web: www.bywaterservices.co.uk

HYDRO SCAPE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

The Latest in Biological
Wastewater Treatment

TEL: 01425 476261
FAX: 01425 472380

E-mail sales@hydroscape.co.uk

Visit Our Website:

www.hydroscape.co.uk

Waste2Water

BIOLOGICAL VEHICLE &
EQUIPMENT WASH-OFF SYSTEMS

ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd.

Tel: 01782 373 878

Fax: 01782 373 763

E-mail: info@waste2water.com

Web: www.waste2water.com

First Assistant Greenkeeper

Circa £19,000 + Benefits

Full time - 37 hours per week

Flexible according to the needs of the course

Brandon Wood Golf Course has been at the forefront of golf in Coventry since opening in 1977. Set on the banks of the River Avon with excellent views of the Warwickshire countryside, it is an 18-hole championship standard course with a par of 72.

Working closely with the Head Greenkeeper, you will be involved in a range of tasks both on and off the course. These will vary from delivering regular course maintenance to the highest standard, to managing and developing the green keeping team, and contributing towards the development of the course.

Ideally qualified to NVQ Level 2 in Sports Turf Maintenance, you will have excellent land management skills and a sound understanding of the maintenance requirements of specialist golf course machinery. Highly literate and numerate, with good communication skills, you will be committed to high standards of customer care.

In return we offer a range of generous benefits, which may include a final salary pension scheme, and free use of many of the Trusts facilities.

For further information and an application pack please email jobs@coventrysports.co.uk or call the JobsLine on 024 7625 2576.

Closing date: 27th October 2004.

Interview date: 10th November 2004.

COVENTRY



COODEN BEACH GOLF CLUB

Cooden Beach is a traditional members' club founded in 1912 and designed by Herbert Fowler. Whilst the clubhouse has recently undergone major internal developments it is the course that remains the prime asset and the stewardship of this crucial element of the facility is the most important role in the Club's operations.

Owing to the impending emigration of the present incumbent, Cooden Beach Golf Club is seeking to appoint a

COURSE MANAGER

The successful applicant, who will report to the General Manager, will work in conjunction with the Chairman of Green and is likely to have had a minimum of 10 years' experience as a Course Manager/ Head Greenkeeper. The ideal individual will have the following attributes:

1. A proven track record in all aspects of golf course management
2. The ability to prepare and work within an annual budgetary process
3. Be currently certificated in all appropriate disciplines
4. Have up to date knowledge of modern day machinery and equipment techniques
5. Have a sound understanding of the ramifications of operating a Site of Special Scientific Interest without the use of pesticides and chemicals
6. Be able to articulate regular in-depth course reports to the Green Committee
7. Supervise the management of the Club's Health and Safety policies
8. Demonstrate enthusiasm and excellent communication and motivational skills
9. Be able to work within and develop a strong team environment

A competitive salary is offered to the successful candidate and applicants are requested to apply in writing enclosing a full CV and salary expectations to:

**The General Manager
Cooden Beach Golf Club
Cooden Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East
Sussex, TN39 4TR**

FAIRWAYS

PROFESSIONAL GROUNDCARE

Sales Manager

Service Engineers
Workshop & Mobile

Parts Manager

Parts Sales Representatives

Service Manager

Field Sales Representatives

From 8th November 2004 Fairways (GM) will be the new **Ransomes Jacobsen** dealership and the new name for Professional Quality Groundcare in Scotland. With bases in both the West and East of Scotland we'll have the

whole Country covered, so if you're at the top of your field and believe you can make the team then please write (including your cv) to **David Rae** at the address below.

**RANSOMES
JACOBSEN**

Fairways (GM) Limited, West Yonderton,
Walkinshaw Road, Inchinnan, Renfrew, Scotland PA4 9LP
Tel : 0141 814 3350, Fax : 0141 814 3369

UPAVON GOLF CLUB - WILTSHIRE

Established before the first world war and expanded to 18 holes in 1997, this 6408 yard par 71 chalk downland course on the edge of Salisbury Plain seeks to appoint a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

to manage the continuing programme of course development and maintenance activities. Reporting to the Chair of Green the successful applicant will be an enthusiastic leader able to motivate and direct the existing team of 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 green keeping practices
- Thorough knowledge of turf machinery and computer controlled irrigation systems
- Conversant with Health and Safety legislation

The successful applicant may currently be in a senior position although not necessarily as head green keeper.

Salary is by negotiation and will be linked to experience and qualifications.

Closing date for applications is 1 November 2004

**Please apply in writing with full CV to:
The Secretary, Upavon Golf Club,
Douglas Avenue, Upavon, Pewsey, Wilts. SN9 6BQ**

ROYAL WIMBLEDON GOLF CLUB

Has an immediate vacancy for a QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

to play a major role in the Club's continuing development of its traditional; design Harry Colt course.

Requirements are:

- Minimum two years post qualifying greenkeeping experience
- Qualified to at least NVQ Level 2 with PA1, PA2 and PA6 (a)
- Understanding of current health and safety regulations
- To be enthusiastic, highly motivated and committed

This is an excellent opportunity for a determined career minded person. The Club will provide on going training, first class conditions and a highly competitive salary.

Applications in writing, or by email, with full CV to be sent to:
Mr N A Heasman, Head Greenkeeper, Royal Wimbledon Golf Club,
29 Camp Road, London SW19 4UW Email: NickH@rwgc.co.uk

TONBRIDGE SCHOOL

TONBRIDGE, KENT

HEAD GROUNDSMAN/MECHANIC

Deputy to the Director of Grounds in a team of 15.
Must be conversant with machine maintenance/repair and in-house cylinder re-grinding involving Toro, Kubota, Textron, Lloyds and Allett. A knowledge of quality sports surfaces, maintained to a high standard, and Health and Safety awareness is essential.

PA1, PA2 and PA6 certificates an advantage.

Salary range £20,000 to £27,500 pa depending on qualifications and experience.

Non contributory pension, 4 weeks holiday.
(accommodation not provided)

Please write enclosing a cv to: John Nash, Tonbridge School,
Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1JP. 01732 365555 (ext 4252)

jfn@tonbridge-school.org www.tonbridge-school.co.uk

HEAD GREENKEEPER

with TROPICAL EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

We are an international landscape consultancy and contracting company and are presently building, between other projects, an 18 hole, par 72, USGA specs golf course in Nigeria, West Africa.

We require a greenkeeper for the planting of the grasses, grow-in period and subsequent maintenance. Fairways construction is in progress and we are programmed to use Tifdwarf grass for the greens and Bermuda (or Bahama as its known here) for the tees, fairways and semi-rough areas.

The ideal candidate should have some 10 years experience in the field and preferably good knowledge of tropical conditions and ideally should have previously used Tifdwarf grass.

Contact us at jardin@jardin.com.ng

Jardin (Nig.) Ltd.

Office #01, Nicon Hilton Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria.

Tel + 234 9 413 1445 Fax + 234 9 413 2638



Amenity Sales Specialists Northern England/Borders Region

Farmway, a leading and innovative chemical and fertiliser supply company are, as part of their continuing expansion, seeking to appoint amenity sales specialists to join their team.

Working closely in a business partnership with Sherriff Amenity, Farmway are able to offer one of the most comprehensive amenity product portfolios to it's customers in North East England, Cumbria and the Scottish Borders.

Applicants should possess strong communication skills along with the initiative and self motivation required to develop this exciting opportunity.

A competitive salary and benefits package will be offered to the successful applicants.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Please apply with a full C.V. by post to:
Mrs A Stansfield, Personnel Department,
Farmway Limited, Cock Lane, Piercebridge, Co Durham. DL2 3TJ

WREXHAM GOLF CLUB

[Founded 1906]

Require a DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Wrexham Golf Club is located just off the A 534 Wrexham to Nantwich road just two miles from the town centre and is an undulating heathland type course designed in 1924 by James Braid. It hosts National and International events and is one of the premier courses in North Wales.

This is an opportunity for a committed and enthusiastic person to join a team of four staff to work towards the furtherance of this challenging and interesting golf course.

We are looking for an applicant who is qualified to NVQ3 with Pa 1,2, and 6 spraying certificates along with a basic mechanical knowledge of golf course machinery and an understanding of the principles of course irrigation. We are anxious to provide the opportunity for further training for the career minded applicant.

Salary is negotiable depending on experience and qualifications.

Written applications with full C.V. by October 18th 2004 to:

James Johnson, Secretary, Wrexham Golf Club, Holt Road,
Wrexham LL13 9 SB Telephone 01978 364268

EASINGWOLD GOLF CLUB

18 hole heath/parkland golf course in the vale of York

Due to impending retirements

Applications are invited for a

DEPUTY to the COURSE MANAGER

and a **GREENKEEPER**

to work under the direct control of the Course Manager.

The **Deputy to the Course Manager** must possess the relevant qualifications to NVQ level 3 with PA1, PA2 and PA6, have experience in maintaining golf course machinery and irrigation systems. Five years experience in green keeping is essential, with a sound knowledge of the game of golf or preferably be a player.

The successful applicant must be able to motivate other members of the team when deputising for the Course Manager.

Further training will be provided and encouraged.

The **Greenkeeper** should preferably possess NVQ level 2 with spraying Certificates, or currently be studying for similar qualifications.

Both applicants should be self motivated, committed and hard working.

Salaries negotiable, no accommodation available.

Written applications with full CV

by 31st October 2004 to:-

The Secretary, Easingwold Golf Club,
Stillington Road, Easingwold, York, YO61 3ET

Clwb Golff Aberteifi - Cardigan Golf Club

Founded in 1895, this is a well established private members club with 600 members.

Applications are invited for the post of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be technically qualified to level 3 in Sports Turf Maintenance with PA1, 2A & 6 and have the management skills to train, motivate and direct staff in all aspects of greenkeeping.

A proven ability to prepare and monitor budgets, inventories and work schedules, with a sound knowledge of Health & Safety regulations is essential.

Salary negotiable.

Written applications with full C.V. to:

The Honorary Secretary, Cardigan Golf Club,
Gwbert, Cardigan, Ceredigion SA43 1PR

Closing date for applications: 31st October 2004

Wyke Green Golf Club



require a

DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

Enthusiastic and committed person required to join our energetic and professional team.

Qualified to NVQ level 2/3, PA1, PA2 and PA6 would be an advantage.

Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

ALSO REQUIRED

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

Qualified to NVQ level 2, PA1, PA2 and PA6.

Experienced applicants without the above qualifications will be considered.

Applications in writing with CV to:

Secretary/Manager

Wyke Green Golf Club, Syon Lane, Isleworth, Middlesex, TW7 5PT

Recruitment

Ashby Decoy Golf Club

requires a

Deputy Head Green keeper

We are looking to strengthen our team, and this is a opportunity for a committed and enthusiastic individual to work on your own initiative.

Applicants should be suitably qualified with at least two years experience in a similar role. Spraying certificates and chainsaw certificates would be an advantage.

Apply in writing including CV to:

Mr G Chafer Head Greenkeeper

Ashby Decoy Golf Club, Burringham Road, Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire, DN17 2AB

Website www.ashbydecoy.co.uk



Llanishen Golf Club



Heol Hir Cardiff CF14 9UD

require an

Assistant Greenkeeper

The successful applicant will possess the following qualifications and abilities:

Minimum of two years post qualifying experience

Qualified to NVQ level 2 with PA1 and PA6

(PA2 an advantage)

Must be enthusiastic, highly motivated and committed

Applications in writing enclosing full CV to:

Mrs A Gregory, General Manager, Llanishen
Golf Club, Heol Hir, Cardiff CF14 9UD

Looking for a change from greenkeeping?

MJ ABBOTT LIMITED

The UK's leading golf course construction company

requires

IRRIGATION INSTALLERS and SKILLED TRACTOR DRIVERS, PLANT OPERATORS & LABOURERS

to work on its land drainage, irrigation and golf course construction contracts throughout the UK and Europe.

Excellent pay and conditions for these permanent positions.

Please apply by letter or email giving details of experience and any relevant qualifications to:

Mr Mick Regan, Operations Manager,
M J ABBOTT LTD,

Bratch Lane, Dinton, Salisbury SP3 5EB

Email: mick.regan@mjabbott.co.uk

www.mjabbott.co.uk

Wearside Golf Club (est. 1892) Sunderland

We wish to appoint a well qualified
and fully experienced working

HEAD GREENKEEPER /COURSE MANAGER

We are a private members club, par 71, 6400 yards in a very attractive parkland location extending to 92 acres. With 8 acres practice facility. The course has recently undergone much improvement and modernisation including upgraded irrigation system completed this year.

The club has an extensive modern equipment inventory and operates a detailed and established course operation and presentation document.

If you can professionally deliver our high standards and demonstrate good staff management budgetary control, organisational skills and can work with the minimum committee involvement then we would like to hear from you.

The salary and conditions will reflect the importance the club place on this unique opportunity for a top industry professional.

Please send a detailed UC (including day and evening phone number) addressed in the first instance to the secretary
Wearside Golf Club, Cox Green, Sunderland, SR4 9JT.

Closing date for all applications: Friday 22nd October 2004-09-22 All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Moor Park Golf Club

Mechanic and an Assistant Greenkeeper

We are currently seeking an experienced mechanic to join our team. The successful candidate will be responsible for the full maintenance of our fleet of predominantly Toro equipment. Good communication skills are necessary along with the ability to keep timely and accurate records.

We also require an Assistant Greenkeeper to help maintain and develop our two parkland courses to the highest standards for National Championships, Members and Visitors.

Applications in writing enclosing a C.V. to:

Stuart Bertram, Course Manager,
Moor Park Golf Club, Rickmansworth,
Hertfordshire, WD13 1QN.

Feature listing from August 2002

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

May 2003; Cardrona Golf & Country Club; Poa Annuua; 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; Tyntside 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.

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; The Greener Approach to Greenkeeping.

Chairman's Column

Autumn of Inactivity ?

As the busy summer days pass so the pace, if not the volume, of work lessens. After what, for most of us, will have been a hectic few months spent trying to please our employers, we could perhaps be forgiven for taking things easy.

The reality however is far different. I still, after many years in this job, become frustrated when people assume that the autumn and winter seasons are a time of inactivity for us.



As you all know the preparatory work undertaken now will have a direct impact on the condition of our courses come next spring.

Our problems start when pressure is applied to delay the important aeration and other remedial works. This is a crucial time in the greenkeeping year and any manager who shies away from stating the case for such work to be allowed will find himself under pressure when the spring comes.

This means having to communicate, particularly to exasperated golfers, why turf that may well be in very good order, needs to be disturbed.

For the fortunate, or the organised, this will be built into a course policy document, but it still needs to be communicated to the playing and paying customer.

While it may be uncomfortable, take time out to be visible - at least that way you get a face-to-face opportunity to explain the work being carried out. It will certainly do your credibility no harm to be seen, and you will probably end up making a few allies into the bargain.

Together with these issues of customer satisfaction comes the definition of our role within the game aside from our core duties.

It's my belief that if we are really to be taken seriously, we need to show a greater willingness to help grow the game. Maybe in the past this has not been seen as being part of our remit or responsibility, but I ask you this; if the game and business of golf stalls or goes into recession, who do you think stands to lose the most?

The ways in which we can show leadership and commitment to the game are many and range from simply being there for your membership, to taking an active role in promoting your facility, through to a wider commitment at regional or national level via the many Associations that share an interest in the growth and vitality of our business.

I know some of you may read this and think it's not for you - and I appreciate it may politically be very difficult - but if you don't have a stake in your future who does?

For those of us in commercial golf, this time may

well end one commercial year and be the start of another with all the reflection to the past and projections for the coming year that entails.

In order to complete this process successfully we need to get all of the above right, with equal emphasis placed on staffing issues, finance, needs of customers and of course agronomic issues.

While some of you no doubt think I've lost the plot, if you think a little more deeply this whole analytical process is no different than that used when you are deciding whether or not to apply fertilizer; what happened last time, should I do anything different this time and what will the impact be on the customer/finances/turf?

Put quite simply, we have to make a better job of making others aware of our ability and commitment to make sensible decisions, something greenkeepers have done for generations but perhaps have been slow to publicise, often in times of pressure and financial constraint, to their detriment.

As a greenkeepers' Association we can help arm our members with the tools and support to carry the message to the wider golfing public - your challenge is to go through the pain barrier and deliver it.

Your families, trade partners and, last but not least, your employer will eventually thank you for it. By the way you may even feel happier and less stressed - if not, just think about me trying to put this together on a computer that only speaks Swedish - doesn't make sense to me, but you may have already determined that for yourselves!

Andy Campbell MG CGCS
National Chairman

From tee to green, the only name you need to know for golf course equipment.



www.JohnDeere.co.uk

With John Deere, you get more than just equipment. It's true, we have a full line of equipment for your course: from fairway mowers to greens mowers, aerators to utility vehicles, collection systems, bunker rakes, etc. But that's just the beginning. Our product support is second to none. We have probably more parts depots worldwide than any other company, getting you the parts you need, when you need them. And our financing can fit any course's budget.

You know the name. Now see for yourself the difference John Deere can make on your course. Contact your local John Deere Dealer today.



JOHN DEERE
EVERYTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE



John Deere Ltd., Harby Road, Langar, Nottingham NG13 9HT, Telephone 01949 860491, www.johndeere.co.uk



It's **ONLY** Chipco® Green

The **ONLY** contact fungicide you can also apply with a **knapsack sprayer**
(unlike chlorothalonil based products)



The **ONLY**
contact
fungicide you
can also apply
with a knapsack
sprayer!

- The **ONLY** contact fungicide with such a broad spectrum of control (6 diseases) in all weathers.
- The **ONLY** contact turf fungicide with label approval for the curative control of fusarium.
- The **ONLY** contact fungicide that prevents the need for switching for two whole weeks.
- The **ONLY** contact fungicide with such excellent safety to fine turf and mycorrhiza.
- The **ONLY** contact fungicide turf professionals come back to - time after time.
- Chipco® Green - could it be the **ONLY** contact fungicide that fulfils all your needs?

THE UK AND IRELAND'S NO.1 TURF FUNGICIDE

Bayer Environmental Science
A Business Group of Bayer CropScience
Durkan House, 214-224 High Street,
Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire EN8 7DP
Tel: 01992 784260 Fax: 01992 784276

www.bayer-es-science.co.uk

CHIPCO® GREEN contains iprodione. ALWAYS READ THE LABEL : USE PESTICIDES SAFELY (MAPP 11211).
CHIPCO is a registered trademark of Bayer. © Bayer Environmental Science 2004



Bayer Environmental Science

