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President  
Sir Michael  
Bonallack, OBE

BIGGA Board of Management  
Chairman - Andy Campbell, MG CGCS  
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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,  
Alne, York, YO61 1UF

Email: reception@bigga.co.uk

Internet: www.bigga.org.uk

Tel: 01347 833800

Fax: 01347 833801



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# Greenkeeper

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### 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

Freelance Production: AMS Design. Tel: 01347 811167

### Advertising

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

Advertising Sales Executive: Sarah Craven

Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802

Email: sarah.c@bigga.co.uk / sales@bigga.co.uk

### Buyers' Guide

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

### Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings,  
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## Welcome

### RYDER CUP TIME AGAIN

Here we are in September already and the vast majority of the golf season is now behind us. We've had the Majors, although, as I write, the USPGA, on that brute of a course in Wisconsin, has only just begun.

Whistling Straits is over 7500 yards long. Two par-4s are reputed to be over 500 yards long and there are, count them, 1400 bunkers. Yes, that's 1400. We gather Bunker stats each year at The Open, and Royal Lytham & St Annes is the course with the most bunkers on the Open rota with a mere 197.

Collectively they trapped 1585 balls at The Open in 2001. The mind boggles about what might happen at Whistling Straits. If you divide 1400 by 18 you get an average of 78 bunkers per hole. How would you fancy being sent out to rake those at the beginning of a day? All in all it's a typically brutal Pete Dye golf course and one which, I for one, would feel I'd been sent to Hell if I had to play every day in life.

But while the Majors will be finished by the time you read this the most significant golfing event of the year is just around the corner. The Ryder Cup at Oakland Hills, Michigan, will again dominate the sports pages at a time when everyone has just come up for air after the Olympics.

The Superintendent at Oakland Hills is Steven Cook MG, CGCS. Many of you will know him from 2003 when he came over to Harrogate and I'm sure everyone on this side of the pond will wish him well at this particularly stressful and high profile time.

It is a tough old job being in charge of a Ryder Cup venue. I remember talking with the guys at the De Vere Belfry before the last Ryder Cup and they were saying how closely they had worked with Europe's Captain, Sam Torrance, on ensuring that the fairways were narrowed just about at the driving distance of the longer hitting Americans and the greens slowed to regular European pace. I know Bevan Tattersall recalls proudly being publicly acclaimed by Sam during the victory celebrations.

Giving the home side an advantage without appearing to be underhand or unfair is a delicate balancing act and I'm sure I can speak for all on this side of the Atlantic when I say we'll forgive Steven if he's set the course up in USA's favour... but only if we win!

Seriously the Ryder Cup is a truly great event. There hasn't been a dull one since I don't know when and the last one which was anything other than in the balance well into the Sunday was in 1981 at Walton Heath, when the Americans had what was generally recognised to be the greatest team ever assembled.

So good luck for this year's Cup match, Steven, and good luck to Europe.

**Scott MacCallum**  
Editor

### SPORTSTURF DRAINAGE

The next in a popular series of LDCA Sportsturf Drainage Days will be held on Thursday October 28 at the Yorkshire Event Centre in Harrogate.

Now in its seventh year these Sportsturf Drainage Days, organised by the Land Drainage Contractors Association, are the UK and Europe's only specialist Sportsturf drainage events.

The days combines a morning of presentations from well known leading figures in the sportsturf world, with an afternoon of working demonstrations from sportsturf drainage contractors.

The morning presentations cover the principles of sportsturf drainage, drainage systems, installation methods, as well as turf establishment, aftercare and maintenance. The live demonstrations will show a wide variety of different types of equipment, installing piped drainage systems with porous backfill, secondary treatments of sand slitting and gravel banding, decompaction, renovation and overseeding of turf, together with static displays of turf related equipment and materials.

The purpose of the event is to raise awareness and highlight the importance of drainage in sportsturf, to provide information on drainage systems and techniques, and to demonstrate good current practice. BIGGA Members will also be eligible for BASIS points and BIGGA credits.

Further information can be found at the LDCA website, [www.ldca.org](http://www.ldca.org), or Tel: 01327 263264.



### TURF CONSULTANT IS REAPPOINTED



Leading independent turf consultant Robert Lycock has been appointed to provide agronomic support for a fourth consecutive year to the 11 Course Managers responsible for 16 golf courses at Marriott Hotel and Country Clubs throughout the UK.

In addition to providing technical advice and assistance on all aspects of turf and soil management, Robert's role also involves the provision of detailed soil and plant analyses as required by the individual Course Managers.

Announcing the reappointment David McLaren director of golf operations for Marriott UK commented, "We have seen a sustained rise in the year round standard of all 16 Marriott golf courses over the past three years. Much of the improvement is down to Robert who has provided us with first-class technical and practical support, working in harmony with our course managers and their staff, all of whom do a superb job.

Kenny MacKay, Senior Course Manager said, "We regard Robert both as a partner and a great help to the individual course managers. His regular targeted assessments of course quality enable us to keep a close eye on progress year on year."

### RANSOMES JACOBSEN DISTRIBUTION

Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd has confirmed that its distribution agreement with Scottish Grass Machinery Ltd (SGM), for the sale of Ransomes Jacobsen products in Scotland, will come to an end on November 7 this year.

An announcement will be made shortly regarding future arrangements for the sale of Ransomes Jacobsen products in Scotland, but SGM will remain an authorised distributor until 7 November.





Terry Lord (right) receives his valuable certificate from David Blackmur, Head of Horticulture and Sportsturf at Plumpton College.

## LORD OF THE GREENS

Terry Lord, of Westerham Golf Club, has received a Highly Commended certificate from the City and Guilds in their Medals for Excellence scheme.

Terry, a mature student who studied at Plumpton College, commenced formal studying as he approached 50 years of age, as he wanted more commitment and a more challenging post. A passion for greenkeeping and personal recommendation meant he approached Plumpton College.

Plumpton College is set in a 600 hectare estate at the foot of the picturesque South Downs, near to Brighton and provides full and part time education and training in a wide range of land based

subjects. The College has been awarded status as a Centre for Rural Business Education (CoVE).

Terry proved a model student, finishing his Level 2 course in just eight months, then he started his training in Level 3 Horticulture, specialising in Sportsturf.

He showed to be ideal at his subject, as he was awarded a prize as top student at the graduation ceremony.

Since Terry has been employed at Westerham GC he has been promoted to the post of Head Greenkeeper and he immediately set about vastly improving the course, which opened in 1977 and which now offers superb playing conditions.

## EUROPEAN PESTICIDE REVIEW

The R&A have funded STRI to carry out a review of the main European pests and diseases and how they are controlled, in order to establish knowledge gaps to prioritise future research.

The availability of plant protection products in different EU states has also been investigated.

Dr Ruth Mann, Turfgrass Pathologist for STRI, is conducting the research.

The Pesticide Review, listing current protection products used on golf courses in different EU states, is now available on-line at [www.stri.co.uk/currentresearch](http://www.stri.co.uk/currentresearch).

Details of the European Pests and Disease Review is available on-line from The R&A website, access via the 'Links' page or go to <https://www.bestcourseforgolf.org/>.

## INDUSTRY AWARDS SCHEME LAUNCHED

Several Associations within the turfgrass industry have been working together to introduce a scheme which will give recognition to individuals and companies that have promoted and advanced the standing and image of the British turfgrass industry.

The BRITIR Awards - BRITish Turfgrass Industry Recognition Awards - will be accorded to those who have demonstrated a dedication to and support of the Industry, beyond the parameters of their normal work-related duties and responsibilities. It will be particularly relevant where their talents have significantly raised the standards and perceptions of the British Turfgrass Industry.

Presently, the Institute of Groundsmanship, British Association of Golf Course Constructors, the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association, the Turfgrass Growers Association, the British Rootzone and Topdressing Manufacturer's Association and the National Turfgrass Foundation have joined in the initiative and it is hoped that others will also wish to participate.

The BRITIR Awards Reception and Gala Evening will be held at the Southport Floral Hall, in December, during which a variety of trophies will be presented to the winners of the awards.

While the purpose of the evening is to recognise the contribution to our industry by the nominees, the event will have a fun element with a dinner and entertainment.

Presentations will be given in three categories: The Media Awards will consist of two sub-categories, the Technical Article Award which goes to the author of the best technical article in a UK printed or electronic magazine. The Non-Technical Article Award, which is received by the author of the best non-technical article in a UK printed or electronic magazine.

The Corporate Awards. The Innovation of the Year Award is given to the company or Association who produces the most innovative introduction of the year. The Corporate Care Award is awarded to a company that excels in promoting the British Turfgrass Industry, its image, education, and opportunities.

The Individual Awards. The Celebrity of the Year goes to an individual who has been outstanding in promoting the turfgrass industry, professionalism, education, etc., and is an example to his/her peers and a role model for young people entering the industry. The International Celebrity Award is presented to an individual or individuals from outside the UK who have unselfishly assisted the development of the British Turfgrass Industry. Finally, the Industry Achievement Award is received by the individuals who have unceasingly dedicated themselves to the further development of the British Turfgrass Industry.

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▲ The Show team: L-R Chard Spicer, Phil Sharples, Ian Benison, John Hall, Mark Price and Richard Murray.

## REASEHEATH HITS THE SPOT

The Reaseheath Sports Turf Machinery Show has received wholehearted praise from its exhibitors, who were impressed by its interactive formula and voted that the Show should become a permanent event in the turf professionals' calendar.

The demonstrative event, held in the realistic setting of Reaseheath College in Nantwich, Cheshire, attracted 57 national manufacturers and suppliers with several choosing the venue as a national launch pad for new machinery.

This year's show was almost three times as successful as the 2003 inaugural event, with demand for demonstration areas exceeding expectations. Millions of pounds worth of cutting edge equipment was demonstrated in the real working environment of the college's varied sports turf facilities, attracting potential buyers from across the North West, Wales and the Midlands.

National exhibitors included Toro, Ransomes Jacobsen, Sisis, Fleet line marker, BLEC and many others.

Research and training bodies included the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), the National Turfgrass Foundation, Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG), BALI, The NPTC and the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI).

Event team member Ian Benison, a Reaseheath horticulture programme leader said: "We felt we could fill a void in the industry by offering a 'hands-on' opportunity for companies to display their equipment or materials in a real working environment, and judging from the positive comments we have been proved right.

"Feedback from exhibitors was that they had enjoyed a friendly event which had attracted quality buyers. Many said that they had developed positive contacts and new links.

"We intend to improve the show still further next year, ensuring it offers even better value to those attending. The show is still very much in its infancy and we are confident we can build on it."

## THE HARRY DIAMOND QUAICH

The Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich was played over Belleisle Golf Course on Sunday July 11.

This year the Quaich clashed with the Open at Troon and the Scottish Open at Loch Lomond. Harry would have been very proud to know this – being up there with the best.

Unfortunately, there were no Greenkeepers taking part in his competition. This was due to the fact that a good number of the Ayrshire courses were involved with the qualifying for the Open. Greenkeepers, being what they are, assisting "frae a' the airts o' Ayrshire", hence the exceptionally demanding week for the Ayrshire lads, where their personal pleasures were put aside to assist in these great events.

The players entering the Quaich were down from last year, 104 turned out. The numbers in no way deterred the enthusiasm of the golfers who, as usual were of all ages, were from courses all over Ayrshire. It was a pleasure to see them all standing in teams of 4 on their respected tees awaiting the shotgun start to the Stableford Competition.

The weather all over Scotland had not been very good but at Belleisle the sun was shining on a well presented course thanks to the special efforts of Billy Fulton and his Greenkeeping staff.

Everyone said what a fine day it was, quite a change from the usual slogging medals and serious competitions they normal take part in.

The prizes were presented by Harry's brothers Hugh and Neil, and Jessie, Harry's wife, who had the pleasure of handing the Quaich to the winning team of Donald Kemp, Andrew Thomson, Alison Thorburn and Ronnie Penman.

The organising committee, including family members, would like to thank South Ayrshire Council for allowing the course to be used for Harry's Quaich, also to all the sponsors, and a special thanks to Westin Turnberry Resort for their continued support.

## FORTY NOT OUT

Rob Mayers, Production Director of Bernhard, has been presented with a token of appreciation to celebrate 40 years of service to the company.

Rob joined the company, then called Atterton and Ellis, on August 4 1964 from school as an apprentice in general engineering under the guidance of Foreman Jim Chapman and Directors Jeff & Ken Boardman.

Rob's major duties were focused on the development of both lawnmowers and grinders. At this point this was only a small part of the business and he concentrated on lathe work, pipe work, general maintenance.

His work in the fitting shop was described as excellent, and he quickly moved over to the grinder side of the business as it developed.

Rob took an active part in production and development, and thus became instrumental in the increase in sales.

Rob, married with two children, has been with the company his entire working life and he is planning to continue his hard work as Production Director for years to come.



▲ Rob Mayes (left) is rewarded for 40 years service to Bernhard by Managing Director Stephen Bernhard.





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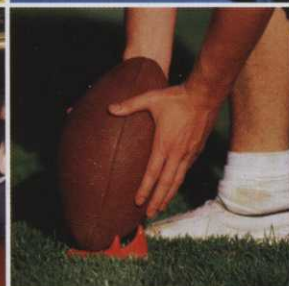
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# Education Update

Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, promised to provide more information on the free training being provided by the Learning and Skills Council at a number of locations around England. He is true to his word.

## Information on the Employer Training Pilots

From September businesses across more than a third of England will be able to benefit from the groundbreaking Employer Training Pilots (ETPs), which offer a flexible and managed route to training staff. Operated by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the pilots were launched in September 2002 initially in six local LSC areas. Due to the success of the approach, an additional 12 areas have been added.

Leicestershire LSC was one of the first of the 12 areas in the country to offer the ETP programme to employers.

Business advisors from Skills at Work, the Leicestershire ETP, are working with more than 600 companies in the County to encourage them to improve the skills of their workforce.

The pilots offer organisations sector specific free or subsidised training tailored to meet the needs of the business as well as improve the skills of the individual.

The training, which can be carried out on-site to suit the businesses operational needs, will also help improve essential skills such as literacy and numeracy and could even lead to a National Vocational

Qualification to Level 2 (equivalent to five good GCSEs).

The possibility of the pilots being made available nationally is being considered by Charles Clarke, the Secretary of State for Education and Skills. How do Employer Training Pilots work?

Step 1 Contact your local LSC to find out more about the ETP in your area.

Step 2 A business advisor will work with you to identify where low skills hamper productivity and performance.

Step 3 Low skilled or poorly qualified employees, eligible for support and training, will be identified.

Step 4 The advisor will help assess individual skills needs and develop a training plan.

Step 5 A training provider will be funded to deliver the training in the workplace.

Step 6 Employees are trained during normal working hours and the LSC refunds all or some of the wage costs.

■ More information on the Employer Training Pilots, the areas they cover and telephone numbers can be obtained from the BIGGA Website.

## BIGGA Regional Training Courses

Details of the autumn/winter series of training courses were included with the August Edition of Greenkeeper International.

Places on these Education and Development Fund subsidised courses are going fast, despite the fact that some members did not receive the insert.

Regional Courses with places available are: Presentation Skills and Powerpoint

28&29 October, Ross on Wye Golf Club

Budgets and Finance

28&29 October, East Kilbride Golf Club

Essential Management Skills

9&10 November, Ross on Wye Golf Club

Communication Skills

17&18 November, Cleethorpes Golf Club

Management Skills for HG/CM

22&23 November, Old Fold Manor Golf Club

Next Steps in Management Skills

25&26 November, Dunham Forest Golf Club

Negotiating Skills

30 November, Exeter Golf Club

Each two day course costs BIGGA members £99 plus VAT (£116.33) and each one day course costs £49 plus VAT (£57.58).

However non-members pay £200 (£235) for two days and £150 (£176.25) for one day, which reflects the massive subsidy from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund.

Attending just one, one-day, course saves the greenkeeper membership fee and attending a two day course saves the course manager membership fee.

For further details of all courses or to book your place contact Sami at BIGGA HOUSE.

## Continue to Learn 2005

The Continue to Learn programme for BTME&ClubHouse 2005 is almost ready to be printed. Watch out for your copy in the October edition of Greenkeeper International.

The extended education and training programme includes five workshops that cover: Irrigation, Soils and

Water, Golf Course Design, Tournament Preparation and Effective Communication and Negotiation.

The Seminar programme includes a wide range of topics for greenkeepers, groundsman, club officials, managers and secretaries. All seminar sessions will be held in Hall D of the Harrogate International Centre.



# GTC News

## David Golding, the GTC's Education Director, explains the GTC's role in maintaining an approved network of greenkeeper training providers.

As we take an in depth look at the GTC's role in ensuring the turf sector has an appropriate range of qualifications we must not forget that it is necessary to 'sell' the need for greenkeeper training to employers.

We must always be mindful of the employer's needs when developing and reviewing qualifications. The GTC believes that, first and foremost, employers want a **skilled** workforce. This is now paramount as more and more golfers are seeking out the best maintained and managed courses.

It is all about standards and the GTC has invested heavily in **COURSE MANAGER** training and this certainly will continue as more and more employers see the benefit of investing in a competent and preferably qualified course manager.

It is very rewarding to see that the majority of job advertisements in Greenkeeper International request formal qualifications and more often than not the workbased National / Scottish Vocational Qualifications (N/SVQ's) are seen as the benchmark for recruitment.

In simple terms the N/SVQs are the qualifications that show competency at the various levels i.e. Level 2 craft, Level 3 technical / supervisory and Level 4 Management. The benefit to employers is that on request they can see the list of skills that a candidate has gained when completing a particular level of an N/SVQ.

Additionally, there is a range of education courses and qualifications, that allow trainees to gain the necessary knowledge, which they can then use to enhance their actual practical skill on the golf course.

These types of qualification are known as work-related and the most popular are the Higher National Certificate (HNC), Higher National Diploma (HND) or Foundation Degree and the City & Guilds Advanced National Certificate. The work-related qualifications are often college-based, however at least one of the GTC Approved Training Providers offers the HNC through a distance learning option.

The GTC continues to try and keep employers and employees up to speed on the Government's thinking in terms of qualifications, and learning programmes. For example, the current introduction of a foundation degree will result in the eventual phasing out of the HNC & D in England and Wales.

The GTC works closely with the Government to ensure that all of the approved qualifications are linked to employment requirements through the occupational standards agreed for each greenkeeping job role.

Once a range of qualifications have been developed for the sector, they are then approved through Government bodies and handed to the Awarding Bodies such as City & Guilds, Ed excel and the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). It is the Awarding Bodies responsibility to ensure that the qualifications are offered only by Training Providers - mainly colleges - in the turf sector that can prove that their resources will result in quality provision.

I will explain, in a future article, how the GTC liaises with the different bodies to show how we endeavour to monitor the quality of education provision offered through our network of Approved Training Providers.

Let us now take a look at the role of the Approved Training Providers who serve our sector. The landbased colleges who have served our sector so well over the years have had a very difficult time in the past years, due largely through the various problems agriculture has faced over the last decade or so.

Colleges were encouraged to diversify and many turned to horticulture as the obvious 'complementary' sector to agriculture. However, who was it that said, "The simple answer to maintaining and managing golf courses is to ask a farmer what to do and then do the exact opposite!"

That statement possibly sums up the difficulty the GTC has had to ensure that any provider wishing to join the GTC's approved list fully understands that we may not be a huge sector when it comes to employer or employee numbers but we are organised through the representation on the GTC Board of Management.

The GTC often receives criticism for the number of approved providers it has on its list but it has not been an issue of numbers of providers so much as the **quality** of the provision.

As an example the GTC featured an approved provider in the last On Course newsletter that offers quality education provision in the West of Scotland and, whilst the trainee numbers may be relatively small compared to other providers, the golf clubs and course managers in the area cannot speak highly enough of the centre staff - one man!

It is the GTC's role to work continually with its network of providers to ensure the various qualifications are offered in a variety of methods so that the employer and trainee can choose the most appropriate training course for their needs.

A classic example of the way the GTC has developed the provider partnership is to take forward an initiative to develop a standard set of learning materials, which the providers would use with the trainees on N/SVQ Levels 2 and 3 training courses. This major initiative has received the full support of all members of the GTC, the training providers and the leading industry specialists.

There had been some concerns that the colleges would resist the industry body laying down 'what' they required trainees to be taught but in reality the project received the college's turf representatives' full support.

The GTC's Technical Committee, working with the industry subject matter specialists, produced the Level 2 materials during 2003 and these are not only in use throughout the provider network but also available to purchase in CD-ROM or hardcopy format direct from the GTC. The Level 3 materials will be available shortly. The more enlightened course managers, often those who have achieved their trainer and assessor qualifications, are now taking up the opportunity to train staff in the workplace using the learning materials available.

The employers, through their course manager, then choose a provider who will register and support the trainees to gain the relevant N/SVQ or Apprenticeship qualification.

With 94% of greenkeepers in formal training registered on a vocational qualification course it has been vitally important that the GTC has advised its provider network to adjust its delivery of education more towards the workplace and several providers. I am pleased to say we have done just that.

There will be a period of change whilst more golf clubs fully understand the benefits, and system, of work-based training however at least we at the GTC can now support those enlightened employers and course managers by putting them in touch with the most flexible and progressive providers.

There will always be a role for those colleges who do want to work with the GTC, but sadly we cannot see many of the more traditional agricultural colleges surviving if they do

not work closer with the industry.

There are some quality independent training providers now looking to provide the turf sector with the service that the GTC has identified and whether it be short courses in management skills, health & safety or practical skills the GTC will continue to promote those providers who can prove that their programmes match the standards laid down in the qualifications.

In summary please be reassured that the GTC is monitoring continually its approved training provider network and our key objective is to ensure that quality education and training is available through a range of both work-based and work-related qualifications.

Hopefully, our network of providers will offer flexibility in the provision of courses and the employers. Through their course managers, they will be able to choose the most suitable option for their course and trainee. Moreover, continually monitoring the progress of trainees will lead to standards being maintained.

For more information on the GTC Approved Training Provider network, the new N/SVQ Learning materials and greenkeeping qualifications visit the GTC website [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk) or contact David on [david@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:david@the-gtc.co.uk), Tel 01347 838640





Rachael and Gemma from Membership Services would like to welcome 75 new members to the Association.

# Membership Update

## Rain, Rain Go Away!

As I sit here at the beginning of August the North Yorkshire area is in the middle of a long spell of rain and gloomy weather.

This summer has not exactly been the best on record, so I thought I would talk about keeping dry. Normally I might highlight our waterproof range around the November issue of the magazine but with the weather as it is I thought I'd start early this year.

### Waterproof Socks

Keeping your feet warm, dry and comfortable must be a priority to those who work outdoors in all weathers. BIGGA's merchandise range contains waterproof socks, which are 100% breathable and can even go into the washing machine on a 40 degree wash.



The beauty of waterproof socks is you no longer have to wear cumbersome wellies but can use them with more comfortable shoes and boots. BIGGA also do a range of waterproof gloves, which are designed to offer excellent grip and dexterity in wet conditions. Normally the Sealskinz socks and gloves retail at £20 and £22 respectively.

BIGGA is able to offer them to members at £16.00 plus £1 p&p or you can purchase any two for only £29.50 plus £1.50 p&p.

### Waterproof Suits

For further protection from the elements BIGGA has a mix and match range of waterproofs. The most expensive suit in the range is the "Greenkeeper" at £70 featuring a high performance waterproof breathable lining system and a Teflon coated microfibre outer shell.

The trousers are available in a variety of lengths and have long zips on the bottom. The "Greenkeeper" comes with a two year guarantee. The "Highlander Cargo Suit", great value at £55, is available in two colour ways and has a one-year guarantee.

All waterproofs offer the choice of up to three lines of stitching which could include your club logo and job title for example.

■ For further information please call Rachael Duffy on 01347 833800.



### BIGGA welcomes...

#### SCOTTISH REGION

Stephen Briody, West  
Kevin Cross, West  
Stephen Duffy, West  
Graeme Kirkpatrick, West  
Mark Logan, Central  
Niall Macdonald, West  
Dean Muir, East

#### NORTHERN REGION

Andrew Bright, Cleveland  
Kenneth Fitzgibbon, NW  
Gary Fraser, Cleveland  
Chris Halkeid, NW  
Glyn Hewitt, Northern  
John Johnson, Northern  
Jon Middleton, Northern  
Tony Wilson, North East

#### MIDLAND REGION

David Cole, Midland  
Dylan Collins, BB&O  
Garrod Duncalfe, Midland  
Sean Haynes, BB&O  
Jonathan Holmes, Midland  
Colin Neller, BB&O  
David Pearce, Midland  
Geoffrey Smithdale, BB&O  
John Spear, Midland  
James Stokes, Midland

#### SOUTH EAST REGION

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Ian Burton, Essex  
Ian Cannell, Essex  
Charles Carter, London  
Stuart Evenden, Essex  
Bryan Girling, Essex  
David Grant, Surrey  
Robert Horsburgh, East Anglia  
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Terence Mason, London  
Jeffrey Nash, Sussex  
Daniel Norsworthy, Surrey  
Dale Pangbourne, London  
Andrew Panter, London  
Scott Peterson, London  
Heather Reader, London  
Donald Robertson, Surrey  
Paul Simpson, London  
Gregory Smith, Surrey  
Paul Stevens, Sussex  
Derry Sullivan, London  
Clifford Tormey, Surrey  
Luke Wesley, East Anglia  
Dane Watts, London  
Peter Whittle, Kent

#### SOUTH WEST/SOUTH WALES

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Philip Meek, South West  
Colin Parry, Devon & Cornwall  
Jason Tucker, South Wales

#### NORTHERN IRELAND

John O'Brien

#### INTERNATIONAL

Philip Ingram, Germany  
Scott Lagana, USA  
Sevy Schmitz, Germany

#### STUDENT MEMBERS

Andrew Caldwell, South Africa  
Richard Neville, USA

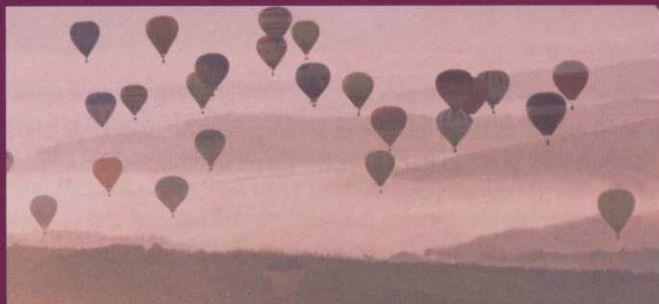
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Derek Hoskins, East Scotland  
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## WIN A CHAMPAGNE BALLOON FLIGHT



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

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

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

## Message of the Month Winner

Each month the person who has written the best message on the BIGGA Bulletin Board, which is found on the BIGGA website [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk), receives an 18 litre Gelert Rucksack. The Rucksack features a multi function organiser, two mesh pockets and a grab handle.

Our congratulations go to September's winner, Ian Tomlinson from Rungsted Golf Club, whose message was posted on the 30th July 2004 under the 'Talk about Turf' section.

## SEPTEMBER'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.

Our congratulations go to this month's winner, Kevin Tregartha of Coventry Golf Club.



# Course Feature

## A Guardian Angel

Just like Robbie Williams Ravensworth Golf Club has an Angel watching over it and, as Scott MacCalllum found out, she has seen great things happening at the club

We'd all like to think we've got an angel watching over us but very few of us can actually point to our very own Angel and not have the men in white coats lining up to take us away.

Ravensworth Golf Club, in Gateshead, does have an angel watching over the members and staff - the famous Angel of the North, which at its nearest point is no more than a few hundred yards from the course. While many may be sceptical that such a heavenly influence can have a genuine impact on the fortunes of a golf club, a look at Ravensworth over the last six years will show genuine progress as both a golf course and a golf club.

Of course you should add that the Angel has had quite a bit of support, not least from Ravensworth's Head Greenkeeper, John Talbot, his team, and a number of committed club members. It is very much a team effort.

So what has the Angel presided over during the last six years?

Well, in that time the club has moved to a wonderful new clubhouse on the other side of the course from the original; the course has been reconfigured to fit

the new arrangement; an extensive drainage and aeration policy has ensured the course stays open in even the worst of the wet weather; new tees, bunkers and lakes have been added while the club now boasts a superb junior section thanks to an innovative policy involving the local schools. Add to that a new irrigation system, which itself is soon to be upgraded, and new maintenance facilities and you have a golf club that can't be accused of standing still.

"It is amazing just how far we've come in six years," said Club Chairman, Colin Reay, whose personal efforts towards the wellbeing of the golf club since he took over as Chairman 10 years ago have been mammoth.

The major change in the six years has been the new clubhouse, the need for which came about when the lease with Lord Ravensworth Estates was due to run out and the existing clubhouse, maintenance facility and car park were earmarked for luxury apartments.

The new site, which on casual observation looks nothing less than a number one choice, had been identified as potential land for a hole extension about 20 years ago and



John Talbot (right), Head Greenkeeper, with his Club Chairman, Colin Reay.



John with his dedicated team.

The Angel of the North can be seen throughout the course.





What the Angel would look like if Colin had his way.

it was only when a member pointed out just how much land the club actually owned in that vicinity.

"There was enough for 110 car park spaces and a new clubhouse and when you look at some of the views we have – including the Angel – it became the place," said Colin.

Indeed the local Council requested that the club change the name of the 16<sup>th</sup> hole to Angel View, which is the closest hole to the course.

Colin, always thinking of the club, did want to put a sign to the golf club on the left hand wing of Gateshead's most famous resident. His fellow members are fairly sure he was only half joking.

The two storey clubhouse was opened on December 19 last year and brought into play the newly configured golf course.

The old 7<sup>th</sup> became the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> became the 18<sup>th</sup> and a short uphill par-4 instead of a par-3. The course is laid out over three fields, each with its own characteristics and the only real downside is the fact that the poor members are still coming to terms with the fact that they start their round with the toughest hole on the course.

"The 1<sup>st</sup> is an extraordinarily difficult par-4, currently playing to an average of 6.4. John is currently building a lake on the left hand side to add more difficulty to the tariff while there is out-of-bounds all down the right and a blind approach shot. Of course it is very much frowned upon to have your stroke index 1 as the 1<sup>st</sup> hole so we'll have to see how it works when the course settles down," explained Colin, as a group of us including John and Mike Potter, the Club Secretary, sat in the new bar area.

Having survived that 1<sup>st</sup> there are only a few holes to wait until you hit the 7<sup>th</sup> an uphill 244 yard par-3 over a

valley, with the green guarded on one side by trees and the other by a big bunker. They breed them tough in the North East!

John took over as Head Greenkeeper when the previous Head Man, Mark Bowman, was head hunted by Seaton Carew Golf Club. Mark, in fact was the first professional greenkeeper the club had ever had and was brought to Ravensworth by Colin.

"Before that it was a very old fashioned system, run on purse strings with £25 the limit any committee man could spend before having to go back to the committee itself," recalled Colin.

John had previously been a one man band in charge of a small 18 hole course, a nine hole academy, a 10 bay driving range and a putting green in Wensleydale.

"Before John was appointed a colleague and I went down to have a look at it and were amazed at what one man had done. He'd even put in an irrigation system," said Colin.

"I looked after it for a couple of years and it was tough putting in 80-90 hours a week and not having a holiday," said John, before Colin jumped in to say that he works more hours now.

Ravensworth was renowned for having the fastest greens in the area but John was concerned that they perhaps weren't the healthiest.

"Every time it rained we were closed so when I started I advocated an intensive aeration programme and hollow tined in May and August," said John.

"I was terrified, but John was always confident it would come together. You've got to remember our members had never seen anything like this and had been happy with their golf course. Then this young lad turns up and tells them that it won't work if we



John's ditch digging protected the course from flooding.



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carried on like it. He said he would stand or fall by his actions as long as we backed him initially which we did," said Colin.

Three years in and the course was transformed and John and Colin were receiving pats on the back from those who'd been critical of the policy prior to that.

Being carried out alongside the aeration was the drainage, necessary because the course, in the old home field, could be like a swamp in very little rain.

"There was a problem with a quarry which had been filled in close to the course which caused water to gravitate to the course so I dug an open ditch across the old 2<sup>nd</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> fairways and since then there hasn't been a problem," explained John, who was a runner-up in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award last year, and who is hoping to add to his education by tackling an MSc at Cranfield University soon.

"As well as being Chairman of the Club I'm also Chairman of the Newcastle and District League so I can go to every club in the area during the season and, while there are better lay-outs than Ravensworth, there is no course in the area which has had as much work done as ours or which comes close to the condition we have," said Colin, with a degree of pride.

Being in an urban location vandalism is a constant problem – 18 flags a week were being lost at one stage and police are currently investigating a fire which saw the old clubhouse and sheds razed to the ground in June - but it has reduced since the club sent out a letter to all the neighbouring schools offering free golf lessons on a Friday evening and free use of the course on Sunday afternoons for the juniors.

"We now have a Junior Section to be proud of and a lot of low handicappers among them," said Colin, who also tackled the vandalism problem by approaching the local Police Commander and offering reduced membership to the boys in blue.

"Over 20 of them have taken the club up on the offer and the

new members are very quick at responding to problems on their golf course.

It has all lead to Ravensworth gaining an excellent reputation not just as a golf club but as a potential employer and the club is often approached by fathers and mothers hoping to place their children in work at the club.

"It is the club's policy that as soon as someone is employed they are enrolled at college and they must be prepared to attend college before they will even be considered," explained Mike.

That training extends to driving lessons.

"When I started 10 years ago we only had one member of staff with a driving licence and with a road running through the course that was a problem. We were liable so I said the club would pay them to take their driving test and we still do that," said Colin.

For all the huge strides that the club has made over the last six years Colin is in no doubt where much of credit should go.

"The best thing to happen to this club has been John. He is first class and what he has done to the golf course has been superb and made a huge difference to the course."

To illustrate the point Colin and Mike point out that in the past the club would take in around £8,000-£10,000 per annum in green fees and that now it was around £3,000 a week while societies always rebook when they've made a visit to the course.

If clubs think that employing a qualified Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper is an expensive option the experiences of Ravensworth blow that out of the water.

"You get what you pay for and John and his team have proved that," said Colin.

So while the Angel of the North is watching over Ravensworth she needn't be too worried about what is going on. The club is in very good hands.

## Machinery Inventory

- 1 John Deere 4100, 4200 & 4300 (with front loader) Tractors
- 1 John Deere 3245C Rough Cutter
- 1 John Deere 3235A Fairway Mower
- 1 John Deere 2500 Greensmower
- 1 John Deere 2500A Greensmower
- 1 Toro 3200D Greensmower
- 1 John Deere Handmower
- 1 John Deere 455 Rough Cutter
- 1 John Deere 2653A Tees Mower
- 1 Team Sprayer 250 L
- 1 Charterhouse Verti Drain
- 1 John Deere Aercore 1500
- 1 Charterhouse Top Dresser
- 1 Kubota L4200 Tractor
- 1 Marshall Trailer
- 1 John Deere Trailer
- 3 Strimmers
- 3 Flymos
- 2 Sisis Slitters
- 2 Leaf Blowers
- 2 Scotts Fertilizer Spreaders

One of the newly built tees.



# Bigger is Better

Roland Taylor examines the swing from using compact tractors to larger models on British golf courses

An increasing number of larger clubs are now turning to more powerful tractors in preference to the compacts they have used in the past. Tractor manufacturers key market is agriculture and they have had to take weight distribution in to account to reduce soil compaction. This has meant changes in design to achieve as near as possible a 50/50 axle loading on the front and rear to give an even weight on each tractor wheel.

Tyre manufacturers have also improved their designs. A large tractor fitted with low-pressure tyres, that are inflated correctly, is likely to cause no more surface compaction than a smaller less powerful model. However, there is the possibility the larger tractor will create more compaction at deeper levels than the smaller one.

Other reasons for selecting more powerful units are that larger and wider turfcare machinery, such as top dressers and vertidrainers, require

higher horsepower to give optimum performance.

Another factor is increased output. It is a continual battle to find ways of reducing costs and finding more efficient ways of maintaining high standards.

The bigger machinery covers the ground quicker and reduces the number of loads required to carry out the work, thus saving both time and manpower.

In the following illustrations a number of clubs have purchased larger tractors and we take a look at their reasons for making this decision and some of their comments.

## McCormick

The St Andrews Links Trust in Fife attracts golfers from all over the world who arrive expecting to find the six courses in tiptop condition. The sandy soil and coastal weather make this a tough job. To help them maintain the high levels of excellence they have recently upgraded their tractor fleet with three McCormick CX85s.

This move up from traditional compacts is proving to have a big impact on productivity because the tractors can tow larger trailers. Fewer journeys are needed to haul sand from the beach to fill bunkers or carry turf from the nursery to reconstruct eroded bunker walls. The McCormick is also proving capable of working the six tonne top dressers on the fairways and landing areas.

Gordon McKie, Head Greenkeeper of the Eden course, said, "The tractors are making a big difference. More material is shifted on each journey and they are quicker. We have found the time taken on the three-mile journey to the beach has been cut by 25%."

One of the tractors is fitted with a Liftmaster hydraulic loader that has a two tonnes lift capacity and a tipping height of 3.8 metres.

Another has large flotation tyres so it can be used to mow the nursery turf and operate a larger aerator. All the tractors have spacious cabs with wide doors and provide a comfortable working environment.

Commenting on these latest acquisitions, St Andrew's Links Superintendent, Gordon Moir said, "The tractors are performing well and the fact that they are British built is a bonus."

## John Deere

Woking Golf Club was established in 1893 and this 18 holes, 6340 yard, Sussex course is ranked in the UK's top 100. Last year, through a contract hire scheme with John Deere Credit, they took delivery of a 75hp 5410 utility tractor.



▲ McCormick: Gordon Moir, right, Links Superintendent, and Gordon McKie, Head Greenkeeper of the Eden course, at St Andrews Links have upgraded to the CX85.





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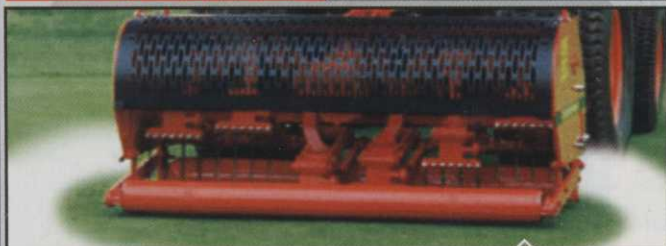
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Head Greenkeeper, Jon Daly, who took over this role in 2003, having spent five years at the club, explained, "Our previous equipment could not be relied on and so valuable time was wasted. We have found the 5410 tractor highly efficient, comfortable to operate, easy to maintain and above all very efficient. This means that more attention can be paid to ensuring the course is in tip top condition."

The tractor is fitted with floatation tyres and according to Jon the weight distribution is such that with an attachment on board the unit has less ground pressure than a greens mower. No turf marking problems have been experienced.

By having a large power unit they are able to use wider machinery behind it, such as a two metre wide vertidrainer and 1.3 metre earthquake subsoiler. This means that the operations are carried out quickly and efficiently.

The 5410 has now been superseded by the new 5415 model. This latest version has a larger and quieter cab, hydrostatic power steering and a choice of transmissions.

John Deere's Tier 11 emission certified Power Tech diesel engine provides the power. At a rated engine speed of 2,300 rpm it is said to give better fuel economy, quieter running and a more comfortable ride.

The cab has curved rear corner windows for better visibility and with a noise rating of 78dB(A) it is less distressing for the operator.

Other ergonomic features include a choice of a comfort or suspension seat, plus a tilting extendable steering column. There are five synchronised transmissions to choose from and four models make up the 5015 series of John Deere utility tractors from 55 to 80 horsepower.

#### **TYM**

According to Course Manager, Mark Logan their TYM T431 tractor at Silvermere Golf & Leisure near Weybridge, Surrey, has gone about its work without any problems.

"We use the tractor for fairway aerating, scarifying and hollow tining. The ground pressure is low enough for it to be used safely on greens.

One of the major benefits we have found is the automatic PTO. It is very efficient and safe, especially when we are training staff on the



▲ JD5410: The John Deere 5410 in action at Woking Golf Club.

tractor. One of the other features my team like about the tractor is the air conditioned cab, they are queuing up to use it in hot weather," said Mark.

The T431 has selectable four-wheel drive with 16 forward and reverse gears including a creeper speed and synchronised shuttle. The PTO has an electronic hydraulic push button control and the choice of 540 or 750 rpm. Power is provided by a 43hp Kubota V2203 engine.

TYM offer two other models in their larger tractor range, the T550 (55hp) and the T700 (70hp). All tractors have a two-years warranty.

#### **Kubota**

Like most companies involved in selling tractors to the golf course market, Kubota are finding an increasing number of clubs are considering larger equipment to achieve a more efficient operation.

Their groundcare tractor range offers a choice of models in the higher output category.

One in the L30 series is the 50hp model. This four-wheel drive tractor has a ETVCS water-cooled diesel engine, with a choice of manual or GST transmission. Power steering is standard and it can include air conditioning in the cab.

The ME Series tractors have been designed for high output. There are two models in the range an 86hp and 94hp. Both are powered by Kubota's own engine. A fully synchronised main transmission gives 18 forward and 18 reverse gears.

Hydraulic shuttle transmission is another feature. Operator comfort and ease of use has played an important role in the design of these tractors. There is also the option of an easy and quick to attach, or remove, front loader.

#### **Kioti**

Foxhills at Ottenshaw in Surrey has three courses; the Chertsey, an 18 hole parkland course; the Longcross (wooded); plus a par three 9 hole. Course Managers, David Langheim and David Wyborn look after these courses.

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▲ Kioti DK50: The Reco Kioti DK50 is a firm favourite at Foxhills.

year they are continually looking for ways of increasing work efficiency. To aid them in this, they have recently acquired a 51hp DK50 Kioti tractor.

David Langheim said, "We were looking for more capacity from our tractors and decided to go for a larger unit that would give us what we needed."

Regarding compaction, he said that they had been using large tractors for years with very little problem.

The new Kioti, which is fitted with a loader and large capacity front bucket, will enable them to reduce their loading time by 50%. They are also looking to buy wider attachments in the future, as this will enable them to carry out operations quicker such as vertidrainage.

The Kioti has a 51.2hp engine, 12 forward and 12 reverse synchromesh gears plus shuttle shift. Independent 540 rpm PTO includes control for automatically engaging or disengaging the PTO when the implement is lifted or lowered.

A fully air conditioned cab is available as an option. The tractor has two-years unlimited hours, parts and labour warranty.

#### Renault/Claas

Ian Thomson, Groundcare Product Manager for Renault/Claas, said that the most important aspect to consider regarding larger tractors for golf course work is their design and distribution weight. The greater the difference between the weight of the front and rear axle - heavier at the back - will increase the ground pressure, especially if a rear-mounted attachment is fitted.

Modern tyre technology has resulted in the weight of a large tractor being spread over a greater area so the ground pressure is often less than that of a smaller tractor.

Gavin Ballantyne, Course Manager at Turnhouse Golf Club near Edinburgh, took a fresh look at his tractor policy. He explains, "We found our small compacts were fine for mowing, but not a lot else. One of them was fitted with a loader and its capacity was minimal, plus it could not handle pallets. These had to be off loaded by hand.

We decided to buy a 52hp Renault/Claas 210-4 with a five tonne loader and only retain one of our compacts for routine work. The new tractor gives us the power and capacity of a large tractor in a small package.

The original tyres would not allow us to get into tight corners so it was suggested we fitted a slightly thinner tyre with a grass pattern. Although the Renault is twice the weight of our compact the new tyres bought the ground pressure down to 7psi."

Gavin said that most of their equipment is for use behind compacts but as implements come up for renewal there will be the opportunity to go for wider machinery. This would save manpower and be more cost effective.

He concluded by saying that loading times were far less than what they had been before and were also safer because the tractor was well within its capabilities.

The Renault/Claas Pales 210 has a 52hp engine with four gears and three ranges (one extra slow). Steering is hydrostatic with a priority valve. A cab is available as an optional extra. There are two other models available in the Pales range.

#### Massey Ferguson

From Massey Ferguson there are three models in the MF2200 series with horsepower of 55hp, 68hp and 80hp. All tractors have Perkins engines and there are a number of transmissions options including Speedshift gearboxes, these allow for gear changes on the move. The low noise cab can be fitted with optional air conditioning for operator comfort.

The electro-hydraulic 540/1000-rpm PTO is controlled by the touch of a button and an independent hydraulic pump ensures the steering has a light response under a variety of conditions.

Tractors are available with two or four wheel drive and optional equipment includes a trailer braking system.

In the UK at present there are at least 23 companies offering a large tractor range. With a rough average of 10 models each this adds up to 230 different tractors on the market.

Admittedly, most of these tractors are designed for the agricultural market. It must be borne in mind that, as far as compaction is concerned, growing crops is no different to cultivating turf-playing surfaces.

Manufacturers have had to take the weight factor into consideration when designing a new model. The main difference between agriculture and groundcare tractors is the type of tyres that are fitted. Again manufacturers of this component have addressed the likely problems and come up with solutions in recent years.

Some suppliers and dealers are not interested in the turfcare market, it is therefore important that greenkeepers deal with those companies that have a department specifically for this sector.

With the right advice, support and help a change over to a larger tractor can bring a host of advantages that make caring for a modern golf course more cost effective and a tad easier.



# The Greener Approach to Greenkeeping

Andy Dawe, Materials Sector Manager for WRAP's Glass Programme, explains how greenkeepers can adopt a sustainable approach to resource management.

There is a growing interest in taking a sustainable approach to golf course management and as the number of recycled products available on the market increases, golf course greenkeepers now have sustainable alternatives for their turf management and landscaping needs.

Using recycled products and implementing recycling schemes at a course not only demonstrates a responsible attitude to members but it also makes the course stand out from the rest.

## Recycled products – the choices for greenkeepers

Greenkeepers need to have the confidence that using a recycled product will give them the same high standards of performance as existing products. This is why WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) has undertaken extensive work testing recycled products to ensure that they meet the necessary standards in terms of look, quality and performance. Recycled products which are already available include:

### Recycled glass-derived sand

Research to compare the performance of recycled glass-derived sand with conventional sand was carried out at the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) between 2002 and 2004. They identified three potential uses for recycled glass-derived sand: As putting green rootzone; top dressing on fairways or tees; and finally as a bunker sand.

Overall, glass-derived sand is capable of complying with USGA specifications and can provide benefits such as improvements to drainage, greater stability underfoot and reduced ball plugging on impact, when compared to conventional sands.

### Compost

Compost derived from garden trimmings and cuttings is especially suited for landscaping applications on fairways and in planted areas. The organic matter in the compost helps to improve the soil structure, increase grass seed germination and improve regrowth in divots on tees and fairways.

It also provides nutrients such as nitrogen in a slow release form that 'greens up' grass (without excessive grass growth), and many of the micro-organisms present are able to suppress turf disease.

### Wood

Landscaping around golf courses is comprehensive and often labour intensive. Using recycled woodchips as a mulch helps suppress weed growth and also gives flowerbeds an attractive finish. They can also be



used as walkway cover, which is more forgiving to players' spikes than gravel or shale, and will not damage grass cutting machinery should it be spread onto the grass.

### Plastic

Fences, walkways, signage and benches can all be constructed from recycled plastic. These products are highly durable and last up to four times longer than traditional timber. Products are low maintenance without the need for regular painting or treatment as they are impervious to rot and infestation and do not lose colour from sun exposure. Other benefits they offer over wood include non-slip characteristics and vandal resistance.

### The Carden Park Experience

One golf course leading the way in its adoption of recycling initiatives is the Carden Park Golf Club, near Chester, part of the DeVere Group. The course has 54 holes spread across an imposing 750-acre estate and is a Nicklaus designed course together with the Cheshire Championship Course.

Andy Campbell MG CGCS, Golf Courses & Estates Manager at Carden Park as well as Chairman of BIGGA 2004, believes it is only a matter of time before other golf courses also put environmental awareness at the top of their agenda.

Golf courses can generate a lot of waste and Carden Park is no different, but the way it deals with its waste certainly is. This course, along with two of the other larger courses within the DeVere Group - the Belfry and Slaley Hall - is taking a very proactive approach to recycling and environmental awareness, setting an example for the other courses within the Group.



wrap

creating markets for recycled resources



Andy Campbell explains, "We have installed a system at the course which recycles all the water we use. For example, the water used to wash the machinery is collected and recycled, and the treated effluent water from the hotel is reused as irrigation water."

"We also regularly top up the water levels in the ponds using recycled water from the drainage system. This 'closing of the loop' in terms of recycling our water is a real breakthrough and not only demonstrates our environmental awareness, but saves the course money as well."

One of the easiest ways for a golf course to take up the recycling challenge is through the use of mulch derived from composted materials. "At Carden Park, all our grass clippings are collected and added to our compost heap. We then have our own round the year stock of organic compost to use as mulch and in any landscaping projects around the course," said Andy.

For the last 5 - 6 years, BIGGA has been proactive in encouraging

environmental initiatives and sustainability, most recently with the Golf Environment Competition. Andy sees the competition as an excellent way for greenkeepers to learn from other golf courses' experiences.

"There is bound to be some reluctance to change from traditional products, however most golf course managers are recognising that there are genuine benefits to using recycled products and seeing their colleagues' success can only add to this. In fact, some courses find that their own members soon follow suit and start to compost at home after seeing how successful it is on the course."

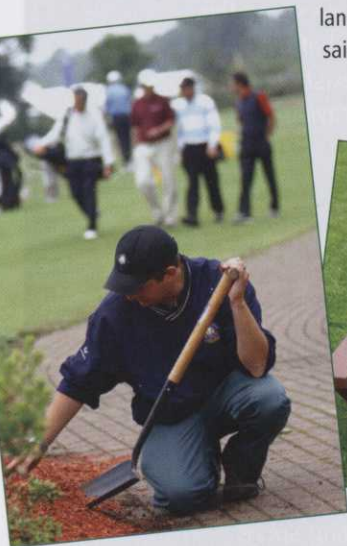
Looking to the future, Andy believes there is still more that the greenkeeping industry can do and he is confident that this is set to change through increased emphasis on training and education.

"With the younger generation coming up through the greenkeeping ranks, issues such as protecting the environment, reducing wastage and using recycled materials are at the forefront of their minds. They have a lot of enthusiasm for this change in attitude and, in time, taking a sustainable approach to golf course greenkeeping will become second nature to them."

#### WRAP's involvement

At this year's PGA Seniors' Championship held at Carden Park, WRAP demonstrated a number of recycled products appropriate for golf courses such as a practice bunker constructed using recycled glass-derived sand and recycled wood mulch pathways. Visitors were also able to see benches made from recycled plastic and compost used in planting areas.

Working in partnership with BIGGA - most notably in its education programme - and a number of innovative golf courses, WRAP plans to ensure that as many greenkeepers as possible see how performance and reputation can be enhanced by switching to a greener approach to greenkeeping.



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# The Elements of Disease

## Dr Kate Entwistle researches the role nutrient deficiency plays in turfgrass disease

Through experience and from our years of study, we know that disease development is dependent upon three things, firstly the presence of a pathogen (invariably a fungus), secondly suitable environmental conditions, and thirdly a susceptible host. If any one of these is lacking, disease cannot develop.

However, there apparently remains a misconception that it is the presence of the pathogen that is the most important factor of the three. Since the pathogen is almost invariably present on the sward or in the rootzone, I don't believe that this is the case. It is much more important to ensure that the turfgrass plant has low susceptibility to any potential infection than it is to worry about the likely presence of the pathogen.

Susceptibility comes down to stress and in turfgrass management stressing the sward is a daily necessity if the desired quality of the surface is to be achieved. Stress is difficult to define but involves a number of factors that can reduce the overall quality of the plant, its vigour and its ability to maintain optimal growth conditions.

This is where our ability to manage close-mown fine turfgrasses is tested to the extreme because whatever we do to try and keep the plant healthy, the boundaries are constantly being changed by the environmental conditions.

The best way to maintain plant health is to manage its nutrient availability. The elements taken up by the plant are used in countless physiological processes that ensure optimal growth and development through the year. If nutrient availability is compromised, these processes will be directly affected and the result will be a reduction in the overall quality of the plant.

The purpose of this article is to pull together a relatively small amount of information from research, completed over the past decades by some of the leading turfgrass researchers around the world, to show how certain nutrients affect plant stress and disease development.

There is a vast amount of information on this subject that is freely available on the World Wide Web and much of the text below is taken from a relatively small number of articles found from recent searches. All of the text used from these articles is referenced so that you can obtain and read the entire article, should you wish to.

Although nutritional problems in turf are well known, especially on high sand content rootzones, extreme deficiencies are much less common. However, what is more common are non-acute symptoms of decreased growth and turfgrass quality that render the plant more susceptible to stress, disease and pest problems.

Much of the general text relating to nutrient requirement that I have included in this article, is taken from Chapter 20: Turfgrass, written by T R Turner, in *Nutrient Deficiencies and Toxicities in crop plants*, edited by W F Bennett, 1993. Where information has been taken from this reference, it will be written in *italic* text. Other text, taken verbatim from various articles, is acknowledged with the author(s) name(s) and a complete reference provided at the end of this article.

### Nutrients and nitrogen

How do we know when the turf requires nutrient input and what type of nutrient and what amount are required? Experience and analysis. Nutrient input is specific for each individual course since it is heavily affected by the rootzone composition and quality and by the grass species and cultivars present in the sward, not to mention mowing height.

*In assessing nutritional deficiencies of turfgrass, a variety of aesthetic and functional characteristics are much more important than top growth rates. For example, low levels of a nutrient may result in the increased incidence of disease, which in turn reduces*

*turfgrass quality. Many factors complicate the degree of nutrient deficiencies and they may occur in turfgrasses.*

*These factors include turfgrass species and cultivar; length of growing season; inherent soil nutrient levels, soil texture, and soil organic matter levels; degree of environmental, pest, and wear stresses; amount of rainfall and irrigation; management practices such as clipping removal versus recycling; and quality expectations at a specific site.*

"Turfgrasses need certain nutrients in the right amounts to grow properly and maintain good health. When these nutrients are deficient or present in excess amounts, diseases can gain an advantage and seriously injure plants. Although well-designed fertility programs by themselves rarely provide complete control of turfgrass diseases, they can reduce or delay the need for fungicides and lessen the severity of disease outbreaks.

Turfgrasses need at least 16 nutrients for normal growth and development. They require some nutrients in large amounts and others only in minute quantities. Of all the mineral nutrients, nitrogen (N) has the greatest influence on turfgrass disease. Perhaps the main reason for this is that N affects nearly all aspects of plant resistance to fungal diseases. Plants use N to help manufacture anti-fungal compounds that protect them against invasion by pathogens. Too much N, conversely, can increase the severity of some diseases (Landschoot, 1999i)."

*Many turfgrass diseases are more prevalent under low N (nitrogen) fertility. These include dollar spot (Cook, et al. 1964ii; Endo, 1966iii), red thread (Cahill et al, 1983iv), Rusts (Couch, 1973v), take-all patch (Dernoeden, 1987vi) and yellow tuft (Dernoeden & Jackson, 1980vii). High N levels versus moderate N levels, however, may increase turfgrass susceptibility to several other diseases, such as Rhizoctonia brown patch (Bloom & Couch, 1960viii), anthracnose (Danneberger et al, 1983ix) and Drechslera leaf spot (Madsen & Hodges, 1980x).*



Fusarium patch.

### Phosphorus

*Although leaf symptoms associated with extreme P (phosphorus) deficiency may not be exhibited, turfgrass quality and performance can be seriously affected by inadequate soil P. Phosphorus deficiency on established turfgrass stands is less common than during the establishment phase.*

*Probably the most frequent occurrences of moderate to severe P deficiency on established turf are on very high sandy soils, such as putting greens that have been highly modified and have a high sand content (80% or more).*

*Some diseases that can have major impacts on turfgrass quality have been shown to be influenced by P applications, although these effects generally appear minor compared with those of some other nutrients, particularly N and K (potassium).*

*Phosphorus applications may interact with other nutrients in reducing the incidence of fusarium patch (Goss & Gould, 1968axi), take-all patch (Davidson & Goss, 1972xii) and red thread (Goss, 1969xiii).*



Red Leaf Spot on bentgrass.

### Potassium

*"Fertilizer naturally plays a most important role in the maintenance of good turf. Well-balanced nutritional programmes can aid materially in helping to suppress weeds and diseases.*

*Potassium, one of the three major plant food elements, plays an important role in turfgrass vigor, which in turn influences disease development. Potassium*



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serves many roles in the grass plant and, if it becomes deficient can cause:

- Accumulation of carbohydrates that cannot be synthesized in to proteins.
- An excess of non-protein nitrogen.
- Failure to produce new cells for lack of amino acids essential for protoplasm formation.
- Slower growth of meristematic tissue that permits replacement of diseased tissues.
- Thinner cell walls and epidermal tissues.

W.E. Pritchett and Granville C. Horn of Florida have reported less dollar spot disease caused by *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa* where potassium was applied. J. Drew Smith in his book *Fungi and Turf Diseases* in 1955 stated that application of potash assisted slightly in recovery from infection of *Sclerotinia* dollar spot disease. Here are two indications, arrived at independently, that potassium does have some effect on dollar spot (Goss & Gould, 1968biv)."

*Whereas severe K deficiency symptoms have (also) rarely been reported for established turfgrasses, many beneficial responses have been observed as a result of K applications. These responses indicate that mild deficiencies are rather common. Potassium appears to play an important role in tolerance to heat, drought and cold of turfgrasses.*

*Whereas no leaf symptoms of K deficiency may be apparent, beneficial responses in stress tolerance and thus turfgrass quality may result from K applications. It was suggested (Beard & Rieke, 1966xv) that winter survival of turfgrass was at a maximum when applied K rates were approximately half that of applied N (nitrogen) rates.*

"Potassium (K) seems to be an important component in the prevention of diseases, perhaps because it prevents plant stress (Elliott & Simone, 2001xvi)".

"In our investigations in western Washington we have found this disease (fusarium patch) to decrease with increasing levels of potassium. The greatest fusarium patch infection occurs from early fall to early winter when the potassium level of tissue is approaching its lowest level. Take-all patch, caused by the fungus *Ophiobolus graminis* var. *avenae* has responded with practical significance to both phosphorus and potassium nutrition.

We have reported in a previous paper, that potassium had a suppressing effect on the amount of disease in two years of investigations at Washington State University. Potassium was found to reduce the amount of disease, regardless of nitrogen and phosphorus levels (Goss & Gould, 1968b)."

"On occasion, applications of potassium fertilizers suppress dollar spot, leaf spot, take-all patch and stripe smut\*. Although our understanding of the conditions under which this occurs is sketchy, the susceptible plants presumably are in need of this nutrient. Because potassium regulates many plant functions – including cell wall thickness and the plants' water content – it is easy to see why a deficiency can lead to weaker and more disease-prone plants (Landschoot, 1999)."

### Manganese

"Take-all patch is a root disease that has plagued creeping-bentgrass fairways and greens for decades. Golf course superintendents often rely on cultural methods for take-all patch management.

One cultural practice that has been effective in suppressing take-all patch is the application of ammonium-containing fertilizers, especially ammonium sulphate. The main reason for the success of ammonium sulphate appears to be that it makes soils more acidic – a condition that inhibits the disease.

After years of researching the influence of nutrients on take-all of wheat (essentially the same disease that affects creeping bentgrass), scientists at Purdue University proposed that acidifying the soil surrounding roots promotes the build up of microbes that convert manganese to a form that the plant can take-up and use while, at the same time, suppressing microbes that prevent manganese uptake by plants. Manganese is involved in the synthesis of compounds that protect grasses from take-all disease and also affects root development (Landschoot, 1999)."

"Researchers recently conducted experiments over a three year period on a golf course in central New Jersey in an effort to determine fertilizer management practices that could suppress this devastating disease (take-all patch). Research clearly showed that manganese fertilization can effectively suppress take-all patch. Research found that manganese fertilization reduced disease severity by about 70% (Heckman, et al, 2003xvii)."

"Applications of manganese and copper are thought to increase the plants

resistance to disease through the utilisation of these elements in the increased synthesis of phenolic and ligneous compounds (Hill, et al, 1999xviii)". In their research, Hill et al completed an experiment on a creeping bentgrass fairway that was naturally infected with *Gaeumannomyces graminis* var. *avenae* to determine if foliar applications of  $Mn^{2+}$  (1.02 and 2.04 kg/ha per application) and  $Cu^{2+}$  (0.68 kg/ha per application) would reduce take-all severity.

Treatments were initiated in July 1995 and applied every four weeks through 1997 (with the exception of December, January and February).

"Disease incidence was decreased from 20% on untreated turf to 5% with the high rate of manganese sulphate. For both years, turf treated with the high rate of  $Mn^{2+}$  had less disease than turf receiving the low rate of  $Mn^{2+}$ . The application of copper sulphate did not influence disease development (Hill et al, 1999)."



Stripe smut on bentgrass.

### Minor nutrient stresses can go unnoticed

Nutrient balance and availability in turfgrasses has received much attention over the past decades and there are countless articles and scientific papers that show how certain elements can help in reducing the outbreak of disease or lessening the severity of infections.

It is possible to tell from the general appearance of the sward when the plants are under heavy nutrient stress, but minor nutrient stresses can have profound

effects on the plants susceptibility to infections and can easily go unnoticed. Not just my words but also those of countless researches around the world.

"Managing micronutrients is not an exact science. Those managing sandy or high-pH soils, salt-affected sites, or who are growing-in a golf course should be familiar with the interactions among micronutrients, the factors that can cause imbalances, and what fertilizer strategies can be used successfully. So take the time to learn more about the role of micronutrients in turfgrass systems and how site conditions, management practices and weather conditions can impact their availability. This is one time when micro-managing is not just acceptable, but is downright necessary (Skorlusi, 2003xix)."

In this article, I have deliberately focused on the elements N, P, K and Mn, since there is so much research evidence to support their role in turfgrass stress management and disease development. It should be borne in mind that I have taken only small parts of the referenced articles to provide an overview of the role of micronutrients in turfgrass disease management.

If disease problems are plaguing your turf, a full nutrient analysis may help you to determine which nutrients, if any, are deficient. Small applications of the right nutrient (in the right form) can have significant effects on the severity of disease problems and nutrient availability in 'disease-prone swards' may be worth a second thought – now that you have a few more facts.

**\* Author comment: Stripe smut was identified (by independent pathologists) as causing damage to bentgrass plants in a turfgrass sample received in May 2004.**

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# Safety and performance from the start

There is a wind of change blowing through the turf care machinery industry as an increasing number of manufacturers and dealers recognise that there are several good commercial reasons to improve the way in which they install new machinery.

It is important to draw a clear distinction between installation and operator training. Installation is about the handover of new and used machinery to the Course Manager. It is designed to highlight the information about safe and correct operation contained in the manufacturer's handbook. Operator training is, as the name suggests, about competence to operate the machine correctly under different conditions and in different applications and, although here to safety is a key concern, the yardstick is performance.

Historically, many new machines have been 'installed' simply by leaving the manufacturer's handbook on the seat when the machine has been delivered by the dealer. Today, the sharper legal focus on employee health and safety means the supplier and the employer share a responsibility to provide far more than this.

Certainly, the handbook contains all the necessary information to do the job. Legally, it must. However, in future suppliers are likely to find it increasingly difficult to rely on the defence that a copy of the manufacturer's handbook was delivered with the machine, if an operator or someone else was injured because key information about the machine had not been effectively communicated at the point of delivery. In short providing a copy of the handbook is not a guarantee that operators will read and understand it before first operating the machine!

The British Agricultural and Garden Machinery Association (BAGMA) is the trade association for the UK's agricultural and turf care machinery dealers. It provides them with a range of business services and support to help reduce costs and promote better service to their customers. It is so concerned about both the legal and moral implications of the 'leave the handbook' approach to installation, that it has developed its own Approved Installer Scheme in conjunction with the HSE and Norwich Union.

Ian Jones, Director General of BAGMA, was keen to achieve two key objectives within the programme.

"First was to have a system that provides evidence of installation by trained, accredited installers," he says. "And second, but equally important, was to provide the training and resources they need to plan and deliver installation professionally."


The key components in the BAGMA system are a Record of Installation for each operator involved, and an Accreditation Card for all trained and tested installers which entitles them to use the system and a series of special module cards developed to help them plan and deliver installation on any machine – new or used.

The modular approach is simple to apply and highly effective. The information contained in the manufacturer's handbook is broken down into a maximum of 15 modules using a separate card for each. The modules include an introduction to the manufacturer's handbook; specific information it contains about safe systems of work; details of the principal operating systems and controls with particular reference to safety guards, interlocks, signs and warning signals; safe starting and stopping and routine maintenance that is the operator's responsibility.



The cards (see example below) use a series of open questions to help the installer plan and prioritise what to include in the installation presentation. The same cards can also act as an aide-memoir during presentation. The systematic modular approach means that it is possible to plan installation for any machine, new or old, using the same set of cards. Any cards that are not required for a particular machine, because, say, it doesn't have an engine, are simply omitted.

The BAGMA programme also focuses on presentation skills for the installers to ensure that they can effectively communicate the necessary information, whether they are presenting to groups or an individual operator. Again, the module cards can help, since many of the same questions the installer used to plan the installation material can also be used to test the operator's understanding.



### Record of Machine Familiarisation / Installation Training

The following 15 point check, developed in consultation with HSE, has been given to the operator(s) on the machine(s) listed below.

This record also helps to provide evidence of training provision under *Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998* and general duties under *The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974*. (Please tick as appropriate or N/A if not applicable)

<input type="checkbox"/> Operator's Manual / Instructions	<input type="checkbox"/> Lights & Beacons
<input type="checkbox"/> Safe Systems of Work	<input type="checkbox"/> Warning Devices
<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Guards	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre Start Checks
<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Interlocks	<input type="checkbox"/> Tyres & Wheels
<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Signs & Lights	<input type="checkbox"/> Starting, Stopping & Safe Stop Procedure
<input type="checkbox"/> Levers & Controls	<input type="checkbox"/> Routine Maintenance & Adjustment
<input type="checkbox"/> Handbrake & Brake	<input type="checkbox"/> Operator Training Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Steering	

Name of operator \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ has received Installation / Familiarisation Training on \_\_\_\_\_

Details of machine (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Any other comments

I have received Installation / Familiarisation Training on the above machine(s) and all the relevant points have been fully explained to me and I have understood them. I have access to and know how to use the operators' manual.



This is not a **driver training** course; therefore a recognised operator training course should be undertaken before using the machine/vehicle(s) listed above. This can be arranged through BAGMA, a registered training provider, on 0870 205 2834.

Operator's Name:	Operator's Signature:
Operator's Company:	Operator's Training / Assessment Card details (Lantra / NPTC / ROLO etc)
Installation Date:	Installer's Name:
Installers Company:	Installer's Signature:
	Installer's ROLO Number:

Information on training and assessment provision can be obtained from [www.bagma.com](http://www.bagma.com)

White copy – Operator Green copy – Installing company Yellow copy – Employer

Training courses supported by Norwich Union Insurance, and Byas Nosley Schemes





## Keith Jaynes looks at what is now required when it comes to receiving new machinery and the training which is now available to smooth the process

During training installers are assessed. Following training they are tested to ensure that they satisfy the standards set by BAGMA for accreditation under its ROLO scheme. On successful completion, installers are awarded approved status by BAGMA and receive a unique 'photo licence' card to prove that they are authorised to use the BAGMA scheme and documentation to record the delivery of installation.

Each operator who is involved in installation and familiarisation delivered by BAGMA-approved installers receives an individual record of installation that notes the machine type(s) on which this was delivered, the specific modules included and details any further training that may be relevant. For example, LANTRA Awards training for operators with little previous experience of tractor and grounds care operations. This provides evidence of familiarisation with different machine types that can be valuable to future employers.

So where does the installation stop and operator training begin?

Installation is normally the responsibility of the supplier and is largely about communicating important information face to face to all operators – assuming that many will already be experienced. Operator training is the responsibility of the employer and aims to develop the skills of employees with limited experience of a particular type of machine. In practice, there are many crossovers between the content of each. For example Health and Safety, daily maintenance, use of the controls, etc. Fortunately, the same modular system was originally developed for operator training and can be easily adapted for use by Course Managers too.

The BAGMA programme was developed in conjunction with the Health & Safety Executive, which believes that the investment in training to prevent an accident is more effective than its legal prerogative to enforce action in the event of one. Norwich Union also endorses the BAGMA programme and urges employers to look not just at the legal reasons for training but also at the cost benefit of lower insurance premiums.

The system has been piloted by a number of different organisations. One, a major machinery hire company, nationally known in the turf care industry, was keen to adopt the system because its own research showed that where machinery was correctly installed there was a measurable reduction in damage during operation. Where this was followed by further formal operator training the maintenance savings between trained and untrained hirers were substantial.

A leading tractor manufacturer was also involved in the development and trial of the system. It is excited about the potential of the system in other areas of its business, particularly public demonstrations where risk assessment and familiarisation are critical.

All acknowledge that there is more to installation than simply 'covering your back' against potential litigation – particularly civil claims! For example:

**Performance:** Correct operation means users profit from promised machine performance, adding value to the relationship with the supplier.

**Maintenance:** Machine support costs, including warranty claims on the manufacturer, should be reduced as a result of correct operation. What's more, additional emphasis can be placed on areas of potential misuse that subsequently reduce the need for maintenance, which, in turn, saves money.

**Relationships:** Strong customer relationships are very important. The extra care taken over installation is likely to be repaid in stronger customer relationships.

**Activity Insight:** The installer has a unique opportunity to spend up to two hours with the customer, answering operator questions about the new machine but also learning more about how the Course Manager/employer intends to use it and what results are critical.

Although the supplier is responsible for installation, the process also requires the co-operation of the Course Manager to ensure that the right operators are made available to learn about the new machine and that the timing and location are suitable.

The BAGMA installer training programme places considerable emphasis on health and safety, in particular the ability to conduct risk assessments following the "5 Step" approach advocated by the HSE. This doesn't just cover identifying and communicating specific hazards inherent in the operation of the machine, it also includes a site assessment to ensure that potential risks of installation are acted upon and any special conditions required for installation are planned in advance. For example, public access to areas, contingency for installation in wet / cold conditions; any Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required, etc.

David Golding, Education Director of the GTC, is pleased that BAGMA has launched its installation initiative, but added a word of caution.

"Installation should be conducted professionally to ensure all operators are aware of the safe and correct procedures for operating machinery that is new to them," he said.

"However, safety and performance are on-going, which is why all operators should receive additional comprehensive training on site. This is why the GTC has invested heavily in coaching programmes and the development of Course Managers as workplace assessors to develop greenkeeper skills on the job.

"Following the delivery of installation to the Course Manager and operatives," he adds, "the recording of staff competencies should become the norm. The necessary documentation, such as the GTC's Training Manual and the BIGGA Training and Assessment Manual, is readily available to Course Managers."

Installation is NOT a substitute for operator training. Getting the best from the latest turf care machinery and equipment takes a considerable amount of skill and knowledge. Skills develop over time with practice. What operators learn and how well they perform is the responsibility of their managers.

In the words of the Chinese proverb: A journey of 1000 miles starts with a single step. Effective installation should set the scene for what is to follow. It should place clear emphasis on safe operation and correct operation, which is then followed by continuing with training to ensure the basics are consolidated into every day work as a matter of course.

BAGMA and the GTC co-operate on key issues such as safety and areas of operator training designed to offer a more professional service to the employer. Further information about installation and other training options available to Course Managers and those involved in the supply and use of professional turf care machinery is available from:

The Greenkeepers Training Committee: Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF. Phone: 01347 838640. e-mail: [golf@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:golf@the-gtc.co.uk). website: [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)

BAGMA: 1st Floor, Entrance B, Salamander Quay West, Park Lane, Harefield, Middlesex UB9 6NZ. Phone: 0870 205 2834. e-mail: [info@bagma.com](mailto:info@bagma.com) website: [www.bagma.com](http://www.bagma.com)



# Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award

Gareth Jones reviews the 2004 Regional Finals and reveals the eight National Finalists.

The Toro Student of the Year Competition has once again scoured the UK and Ireland in search of the top student greenkeepers who are undergoing college training. There are currently over 3000 greenkeepers in the UK and Ireland studying for various qualifications, and that number continues to grow year on year.

Many previous Student of the Year Winners, boosted by their victory and the experiences gained from this, have progressed rapidly through the greenkeeping ranks to become, among other things, Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers of major courses.

Now in its 14th year, the Competition's 2004 Regional Finals were held in Edinburgh, Manchester, Hemel Hempstead, Cheltenham and Huntingdon.

As always the standard of candidates was excellent and the judges had a tough time narrowing 36 interviewees down to eight students to go through to the National Final, which will be held at BIGGA HOUSE on September 27.

BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, once more travelled the length and breadth of the country in order to evaluate the prospective finalists. Ken was joined on the Regional interview panels by a BIGGA Board member and a representative from Toro.

For the Scottish interviews, hosted in the Scottish Capital, the panel

comprised Ken, Iain MacLeod and Toro's, George McDonald. The standard of candidates was high, but one student stood out in particular. That was Christopher Kerr who was selected to progress to the National Final.

Christopher, 22, is First Assistant at Cowglen Golf Club, Glasgow, where he first started as an apprentice five years ago.

Studying for his SVQ Level 3, Christopher is keen to continue his rapid move through the ranks of greenkeeping and hopes to be a Head Greenkeeper within five years.

A top golfer, Christopher plays off 1.5, he won the Glasgow Match Play Championship in 2003 and has represented Glasgow County.

Manchester held the Regional Finals for both the North of England and Ireland. Here Ken was accompanied by BIGGA Chairman Andy Campbell MG CGCS and Peter Mansfield, of Toro.

During a long day of judging the panel witnessed some outstanding candidates, resulting in three being selected for the National Final. Peter Kennedy, Robert Finnegan and Stuart Glover will all be visiting BIGGA HOUSE in September.

Peter, 21, is a Dublin lad based in Ballymanna. Currently he is on a



three year course studying a HND at Reaseheath College.

Peter's major experience has come in the US, where he spent a year at the Pinehurst Resort, North Carolina.

Working as an Intern, Peter impressed his

American counterparts and received the Employee of the Month award during his time at the Resort.

He plays off 7, and is also a big rugby, football and snooker player.

Robert, 20, cut his teeth in greenkeeping working as an Assistant at Navan Golf Club. Trained at Elmwood College in Scotland, Robert has already completed his NC Greenkeeping Course and plans to return in September to study a HND in Golf Course

Management.

He has made the most of his summer break, working at St. Andrews, on both the New and Old Courses - he is now employed as an Assistant Greenkeeper on the Old Course - and in Norway.

Robert is an eager sportsman and enjoys playing golf, football and Gaelic football.

Stuart is the oldest of the 2004 finalists at 32 years old, and is another candidate from across the Irish Sea.

He is currently Deputy Greenkeeper at Lisburn Golf Club, where he started

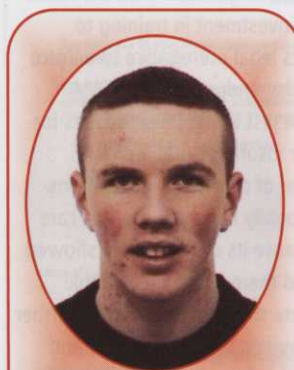
employment back in May 2004. He has been in the greenkeeping profession for 16 years working on four different courses, including Northern Ireland's highly rated Belvoir Park.

Stuart completed his NVQ Level 2 in June at Greenmount College and has aspirations to pass NVQ Level 3 and become a Head Greenkeeper in the future.

Huntingdon hosted the Midlands Final, where BIGGA Board Member David Walden joined Ken and Peter Mansfield. More stiff competition, but it was James Canham who shone through



Peter Kennedy



Robert Finnegan



Stuart Glover





**James Canham**

as the ideal student to progress to the National Final.

James is just 18 years of age and is an Assistant Greenkeeper at Weston Park Golf Club.

He started his career at Ryston Park, before moving onto an 18 hole course at Weston Park one year ago. James is currently working towards his NVQ Level 2 at the College of West Anglia.

His major goal is to become Head

Greenkeeper at one of the most highly regarded courses in the world.

When not on the golf course James gardens professionally, plays football and is also keen on karate.

For the South East interviews, held in Hemel Hempstead, Ken teamed up with Ian Semple and Toro's Peter Mansfield once more. After much deliberation two Finalists were chosen from the South East. Alastair Higgs and Alex Shore will be making the trip to North Yorkshire.

Alastair is a 19 years old Assistant Greenkeeper at Calcot Park Golf Club, Reading, where he has worked for over three years.

He has spent the past four years gaining his PA1, PA2, PA6 Chemical Applicators Licence and NVQ Level 2, and he is currently studying for his NVQ Level 3 at Sparsholt College.

Between studying and supporting Reading FC, Alastair finds time to get out onto the golf course to improve on his already excellent handicap of 7.

Alex is an Assistant Greenkeeper at Woburn Golf and Country Club, where he has been for the past five years.

A passion for golf got him into the profession, and with encouragement from his Head Greenkeeper Alex decided to undertake his NVQ Level 3 at Oaklands College.

Newly wed Alex, 26, believes his study will help him realise his ambition to one day become a Head Greenkeeper himself.

The South West Regional Final was based in Cheltenham. This time Ken was flanked on the interview panel by Richard Barker and John Pike, of Toro. Here Katherine Walls greatly impressed, and she was rewarded with a place in the National Final.

Katherine works as an Assistant

Greenkeeper at Taunton and Pickeridge Golf Club, Somerset.

Katherine, or Katie, already has a NVQ Level 2 and three 'A' levels under her belt, and is currently in the first year of her degree in Sportsturf Science

at Myerscough College, the same institution 2003 Student of the Year winner Keith Scruton attended.

She has major ambitions, as she would like to get into Course Management while still in her twenties, while also playing as much competitive golf as possible. Katie, 21, plays off 3 currently and has represented both Somerset County and Wales.

The Regional Finals proved once more that there remains a rapid increase in the amount, and quality, of qualified greenkeepers in the UK and Ireland. The interview panels are increasingly impressed by the standard of the student candidates, the work that they put in and the support they receive from their golf clubs.

"We had a good young group this year, they were all very prepared and because of this there were some difficult decisions the panels had to make," said Ken.

"The support from a student's golf club and their Course Manager is crucial. When students are supported it makes a significant difference to the standard. It was obvious which candidates had received such support and guidance and we want to promote that.

"The eight candidates that progressed to the National Final stood out in particular for their determination to win the competition and progress in greenkeeping. They had done their research, one even contacted a previous winner for advice, and that was clear for the judging panels to see."

The final, at BIGGA HOUSE on September 27, will consist of two stages.

Firstly, the eight candidates will face a final interview. The interview panel will comprise BIGGA Chief Executive John Pemberton, BIGGA Board of Management Member David Walden, Peter Mansfield and Andy Brown, of Toro.

Secondly, the Finalists will conduct a survey of the Aldwark Manor Golf Course. This will involve the candidates evaluating nine holes of the course.

The Finalists will be joined on the day by the 2003 Toro Student of the Year, Keith Scruton, and the Regional Judges.

The National Winner will receive the Toro Scholarship, which includes an eight week trip to the USA. Six of those weeks will be spent on a residential Turf Management study course at the University of Massachusetts.

The lucky winner will also spend time visiting the Toro Headquarters in Minneapolis, and the GCSAA Show and Conference in Orlando.



**Katherine Walls**



**Alastair Higgs**



**Alex Shore**

**The experiences of last year's winner Keith Scruton are featured on the next two pages.**



# Reflections from over the Pond

**20000 miles, 56 days, 14 flights, eight destinations, 250 hours of lectures temperatures of - 40°C to 27°C and life out of a suitcase.**

**Sound surreal? That's the opportunity of a lifetime that awaits the 2004 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year. Well it certainly was for me as the 2003 winner.**

From the moment that Ken Richardson reads out the name of the 2004 winner life will become surreal, if my experience is anything to go by. Although the trip doesn't begin until the January following the final at the end of September, the months in between are full of planning, activities and packing.

The real trip began at 3.30 am on the morning of January 4 2004 with a trip to Manchester Airport for the first of three flights that day. Prior to all of that was the worst part of the trip, having to sneak around the house and kiss goodbye to my wife and the boys.

As they were lying fast asleep it was hard to believe that it would be two months before I would see them again. The faces, fast asleep, were with me all the way to America and for the next eight weeks.

First up was the shuttle to Heathrow followed by a flight to Washington and finally a connecting flight to Hartford in Connecticut and a transfer to the Quality Inn in Hadley, Massachusetts.

The whole process took 23 hours and left me feeling disorientated and tired.

On landing in Hartford a cold wind whistled through me and I was greeted by icy rain. After panicking about the cab driver being on the 'wrong' side of the road I reached my new home for the next seven weeks, room 236 of the Quality Inn.

The university course started on the following day at 9.30am, so it was important to meet people who could give me a lift there or find out the bus times. Following the good advice from Murray Long, 2002 Toro winner, I hit the breakfast room early. In the room were at least 20 people that were all doing the winter school at UMass; a lift was soon fixed up.

It is amazing at how greenkeepers, even from different continents, can mix together so easily with the golf course providing the level playing field. Naturally everyone become intrigued with the guy from England and a somewhat celebrity status is endowed upon you by the others, as I am a novelty.

When we arrived at UMass the scale of the campus is unbelievable, we had a 25 minute walk from the parking lot to the first class room, which is not the far side of the campus. In the campus is a 20,000 all seated hockey stadium, a 20,000 open-air football field, 10,000-basketball area, a hotel, three churches and enough classroom space to accommodate the 28,000 students that attend the university. It resembles a town rather than a campus.

Classes ran Monday to Friday, starting at 8am and finishing at 5.30pm, with an hour break for lunch. Lectures on Monday start at 10am and Friday lectures finish at noon. Four lectures were given each day from a total of 11 different topics. The subjects were: -

Irrigation, Soil science, Turf grass management, Weed management, Arboriculture, Mathematics of turf grass management, Advanced topics in turf grass management, Personnel management, Architecture, Entomology and Pathology.

The vast majority of the teachers had doctorates in their specific fields.

As for the students a total of 56 attended the winter school at UMass. The vast majority were from the Northeastern States, although other parts of the US were represented. There were also a number of international students present, including eight Canadians, one Australian woman, at Banff, Canada, one Brazilian, working in America, and an Englishman. Quite a cosmopolitan feel to the place.

There was a wide range of ages and backgrounds to the students. Ages went from 20 – 45, with people from a lifetime of turf management to relative new comers having two to three years experience.

There were some cultural aspects of being a Brit that took some explaining. We don't all work on links courses and the rules of cricket do take some explaining, as does the whereabouts of

Blackburn. Fortunately soccer is catching on in the US and numerous people had heard of the world famous Blackburn Rovers, although most, sadly, only knew of Manchester United.

The reason for the great popularity of the winter school course at UMass is that it is one of the most respected turf courses in the whole of the US. Over the years it has helped the careers of greenkeepers throughout the US, with many of them becoming superintendents at the top courses in America, such as Pine Valley, Pinehurst and the Congressional, to name but a few.

Through my conversations with Murray I had quite a few tips on how to get through all of the hours of study and lectures, however my expectations of the course were undefined before the start of the course.

Having completed the course I have to say that it was very similar to the HND Turf Science award that I took at Myerscough, but with an American twist to it all. It is great credit to the staff at Myerscough that I was able to keep pace with the work,

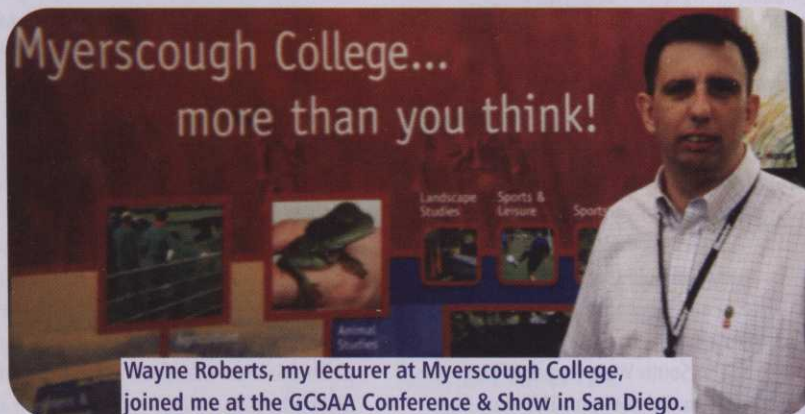
as there was very little time to spare in each class. It was very difficult to cram in subjects that usually get taught over a 16-week period into just seven weeks.

Full time students have to cope with four to five modules per annum, we get all 11. All of the subjects that are taught have to be completed in the 250 hours that is allocated to the delivery of the winter school.

My day started at 6am, due to a combination of jet lag that woke me up at 3am every day, and the fact that I had to revise for a test almost every



My home for seven weeks – the Quality Inn.



Wayne Roberts, my lecturer at Myerscough College, joined me at the GCSAA Conference & Show in San Diego.



# by 2003 Winner Keith Scruton



Me in Boston –  
what a view!

day. The 6am start allowed me an hour of study prior to breakfast. For breakfast the Quality Inn was taken over by up to 30 greenkeepers chewing the fat over the day to come.

Dependant upon the particular topics that were allocated for that day's tests could either be for every subject or even none for the day, however for the 17 weekly sessions expect to take at least seven to 10 tests.

There was a sporadic nature to the testing, some subjects had no tests at all while others had tests for every session, which could mean three to four on the same subject per week. The manner of tests varied too, apart from the session tests there were mid term test, end term tests, home work assignments or a combination of all of them.

As the end of the seven weeks drew closer, the intensity of testing increased, as did the homework assignments. This began to put a strain on everyone as we all began to dream of home, wherever home was, I had to keep reminding myself of the fact that I had an additional week flying around America before I could go home.

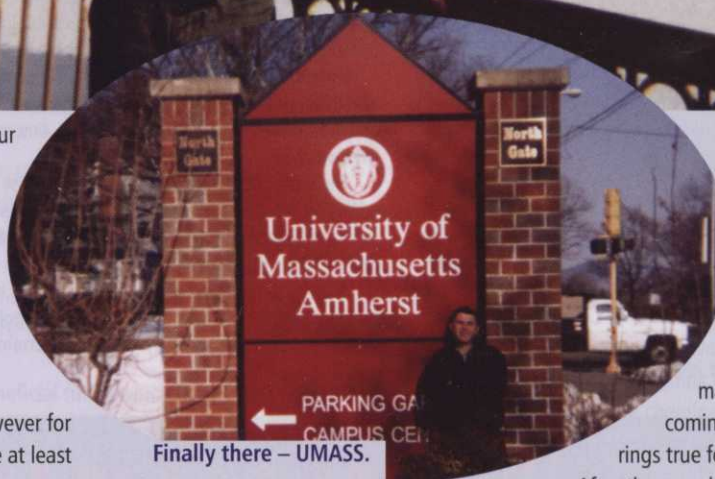
The final week brought the final tests, exams and thankfully the results of our endeavours. To my relief and surprise I had acquitted myself well and all but one of the graded subjects I managed to get into the 90% and above range, soils was 85%.

## THE TORO TRIPS

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy", or so the saying goes. Apart from the academic side to the prize, Toro gives an invaluable insight into the workings of the American greenkeeper movement and the work of the Toro Company.

Toro arranged a total of three trips for me to attend, the first being the USGAA Golf Show in San Diego, California.

It is surprising how similar BTME is to the USGAA show, there are the vast amount of exhibitors carrying the same message, of course there are



Finally there – UMASS.

more of them, but its very much of a muchness. One of the prominent themes of the show appeared to be the environmental stewardship of golf course management.

There were numerous examples, throughout the two days that I was present, to illustrate the responsible management of the environment that is coming from American greenkeepers, this rings true for the UK.

After the completion of the university course, as others departed for home, my trip was far from over. I had a further four flights to take before I could think of the three flights home.

My first destination was to Minneapolis in Minnesota, via Chicago. This is the home of Toro machinery, where every machine was designed, manufactured, built, tested and then shipped all over the world. For this and the subsequent leg of the trip I was the special guest of Toro, and Toro certainly know how to entertain.

I was to be shown around with the Canadian winner of the Toro Future Superintendents Award, Kendall Costain. Kendall was also staying at the Radisson. It was a pleasure to meet up with Kendall to exchange views on the trips we had, Kendall's trip was to Scotland, where he studied at Elmwood College and worked at Kingsbarn golf course and on the Old Course at St Andrews.

The next day was the final leg to Riverside, California, to be given an

insight into the design, production and manufacturer of Toro's irrigation line. After a successful and informative seven weeks I flew back to the UK.

Now the dust has settled on an amazing trip I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter Mansfield and Lely UK, Andy Brown of Toro, and all at BIGGA for helping to make this dream come true.

A special thanks to all those people that were kind enough to look after the English man abroad, to the people of UMASS, Toro in Minneapolis and Toro in California for looking after me so well and giving me remarkable stories to tell for years to come.

■ A full version of Keith's diary can be found on the BIGGA website.



The rest of the world team – three Canadians, an Australian girl and me the solo Brit.



## FIRE RISK

### Tutorial Four

## How safe is your Club from Fire?

**Too many golf clubs in recent years have had serious fires putting lives at risk; don't let this happen to your club**

#### What Is the Legislation?

The Fire Risk Assessment is carried out to comply with the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations Amendment 1999. The purpose of the Fire Risk Assessment is to ensure all fire and explosion hazards are correctly identified and reasonable measures are in place to manage the hazards and allow safe escape of all personnel from the premises.

#### Scope for the Fire Risk Assessment

The assessment should be completed systematically for all risk areas for example; Offices, Professional shop, Clubhouse areas incl. kitchen, machinery shed, battery store and other functional areas of the golf club.

#### Methodology

The process should be systematical and involves dividing your facilities into areas and for each area applying the following guidewords. The Fire Risk assessment should identify whether the area is safe or not and be recorded in writing as such;

What are the fire and explosion hazards in that area. E.g. electrical, gas, heaters, smoking, boilers, oil/liquids, hot surfaces, Electrical overload, Open Flame, Flammable materials, Welding, Grinding, Fat Fire/Chip Pan, Petrol fire, Diesel Fire.

What is the likelihood of the fire or explosion occurring? I.e. Low, Medium and High.

What Fire Detection and Safety equipment is required for this event and the

work carried out. Eg. fire detection and alarm systems, fire fighting appliances, and the maintenance requirements.

Are adequate Escape routes and emergency exits provided. Eg. number, illumination, free from obstruction, and correctly signage.

What training is required for fire fighting on the premises?

Other additional measures may be required and these will form recommendations.

#### Corrective Actions

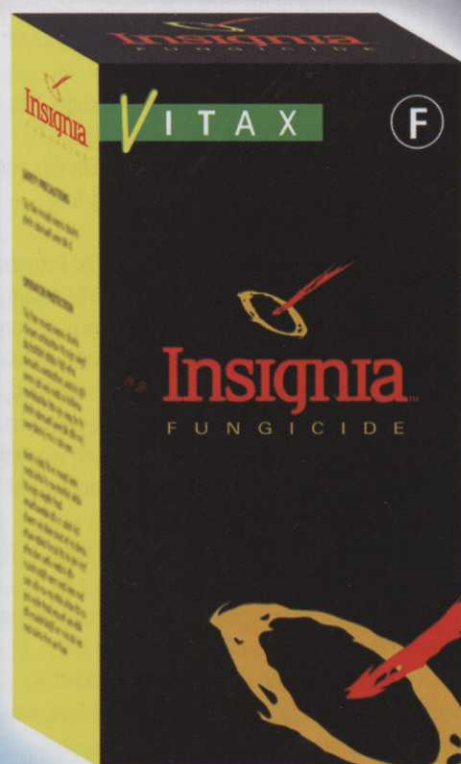
Once all areas have been assessed the club should end up with a number of corrective measures to ensure fire and explosion risks are reduced to as low as reasonably practicable. Some measures may be to review the following systems;

Sprinkler systems, Hose System, Smoke alarms, Fire Extinguishers, Gas Shut Off Lever, Fire Doors, Oven Extinguishing Systems, Rescue equipment (Axe etc), Fire Plan and Procedures, Escape Routes, Signage, Emergency lighting, Training

#### On Completion

The club should have a written Fire Risk Assessment reflecting the fire and explosion hazards and the corrective actions taken to reduce the risks. Any changes to the structure, equipment or mode of operation of the club should result in an update to the fire risk assessment.

Haztek International have completed many golf club Fire Risk assessments and will offer assistance if required by contacting Jerrard Winter on 0208 905 7552 or email: [info@safegolf.co.uk](mailto:info@safegolf.co.uk).



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...together bringing  
you the best



# From Lab to Links

Scott MacCallum talks with Dr Alan Gange about the work that he and his students are carrying out at Royal Holloway College

Finding a link between the hard running fairways and firm greens of a well maintained golf course and the microscopes, test tubes and lab coats of a university research laboratory may at first seem a tall order but a visit to Royal Holloway, University of London, brings it all together and into sharp focus just how important the academic work currently being carried out could prove be to for Course Managers in the next few years.

The students of the Biological Science Department, under the tutorage of Dr Alan Gange, are currently investigating among others the biological control of *Poa annua* and finding ways of turf becoming more resistant to *Fusarium*.

There, I knew that would attract your attention!

"Our big project is looking at the biological control of *Poa annua* using beneficial fungi in the roots (known as mycorrhizas) and trying to find a way which we can slowly reduce the amount of *Poa* in a golf green," revealed Alan, as we sat in his office in what must be one of the most impressive buildings in the country, just a stone's throw from The Wentworth Club.

"We're also looking at the beneficial fungi which exist in the foliage of plants known as endophytes and Paul Stevens, our Masters student, is looking at these fungi. Increasing their abundance in sports turf which would make grass much more disease and pest resistant," he explained.

Indeed Stevens, a turf professional who has taken time out to complete his Masters Degree, has been looking for golf courses which haven't been sprayed in recent times so he can use evidence collected from them in his work.

The project which launched Alan into golf course research was into the conservation potential of heathland on courses, which was part funded by the R&A, and Alan still has undergraduates researching into the subject.

The relevance of the work of Alan and his students will become ever more important as chemicals are lost to the increasingly tight legislation the fine turf industry is now working within.



▲ Dr Alan Gange.



▲ Laboratory observation of leaf subduction by *Tipula* larva.

"I won't ever suggest that we are going to see the end of chemicals on sports turf. I don't actually think you can grow sports turf in this country without the use of some chemicals, but by the same token I don't believe that in 10 years time greenkeepers will have the number of chemicals they have at their disposal now. I think they'll have one or two. However, it is fair to say that the natural remedy will be the only sustainable method in the future," said Alan.

Having such a limited arsenal of chemicals will in itself have knock on problems with pests and diseases able to build up resistance to the smaller choice of chemicals available whereas before, if a chemical was losing its effectiveness, it was relatively simple to change to one with a slightly different chemical make-up.

"I'm not sure if greenkeepers realise just how many chemicals are going to disappear so there's a lot riding on our research," he warned.

Despite the almost universal agreement that there is a lot of work to be done in view of the move towards a reduction in chemicals, Alan finds golf singularly apathetic when it comes to funding research into alternatives.

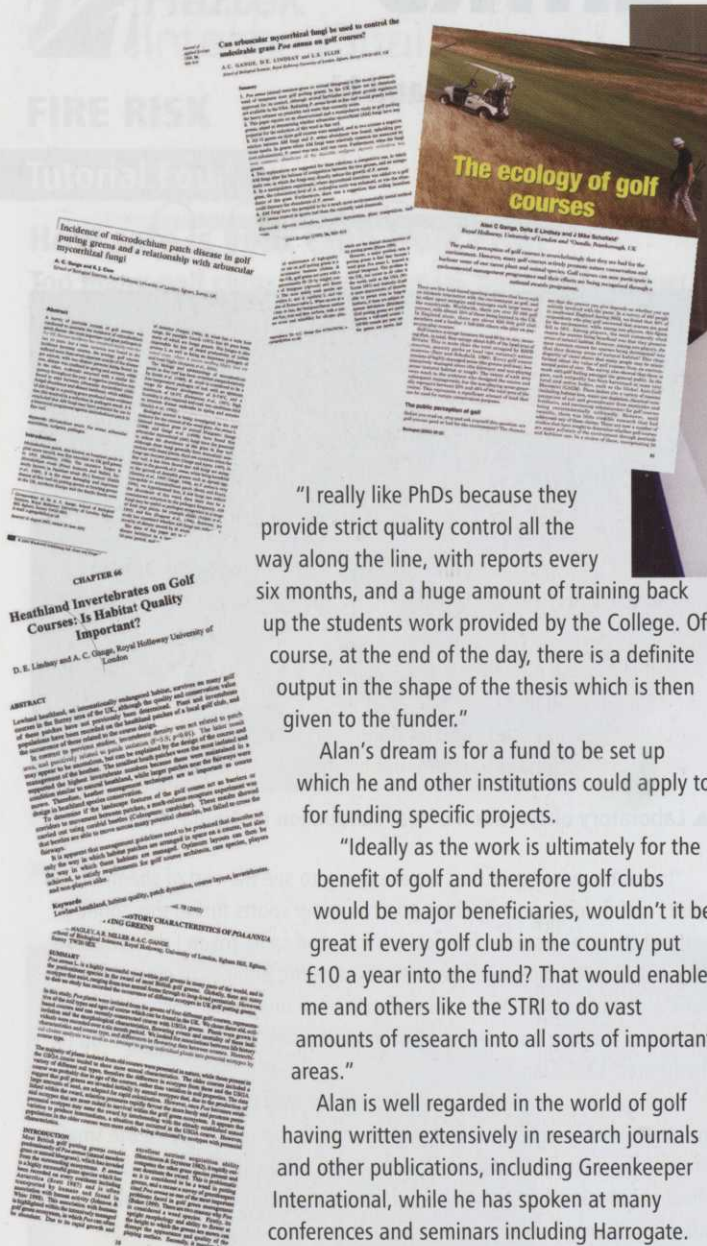
"It really does depress me just how hard it is to get funding and I'd certainly like to see a better funding system for golf course research and believe the industry is in desperate need of it. I look enviously across the pond at the way universities are funded by the industry and organisations such as the USGA, but over here companies within the industry, who don't think twice at spending vast sums of money in other areas or on advertising their products, balk at the thought of investing relatively small sums on potentially vital research projects."

The lack of funding has certainly curtailed much of the work that Alan and his team of talented students wish to undertake.

"We've been trying to do studies looking into the diversity of the golf course but getting funding has been virtually impossible. Other than the R&A funding the heathland project, and some other notable exceptions, we've had to fund everything else ourselves."

Alan points out that financing a doctoral (PhD) student to undertake research is an extremely cost effective way for a company to obtain valuable information.





"I really like PhDs because they provide strict quality control all the way along the line, with reports every six months, and a huge amount of training back up the students work provided by the College. Of course, at the end of the day, there is a definite output in the shape of the thesis which is then given to the funder."

Alan's dream is for a fund to be set up which he and other institutions could apply to for funding specific projects.

"Ideally as the work is ultimately for the benefit of golf and therefore golf clubs would be major beneficiaries, wouldn't it be great if every golf club in the country put £10 a year into the fund? That would enable me and others like the STRI to do vast amounts of research into all sorts of important areas."

Alan is well regarded in the world of golf having written extensively in research journals and other publications, including Greenkeeper International, while he has spoken at many conferences and seminars including Harrogate. Remarkably though his involvement in the game came about pretty much by chance.

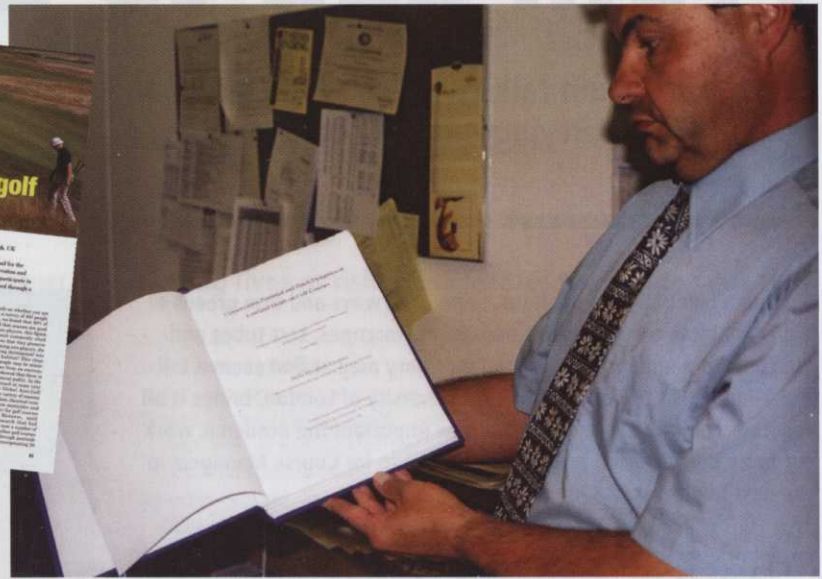
"I was interested in mycorrhizal fungi in the soil and how they affected the diversity of natural communities of grass land and in order to do that I was using a fungicide – Rovral – to try to reduce the diversity of fungi. I was also interested in subterranean insects and how they could affect the diversity too."

"I wanted to set up lab trials of insects and fungi but couldn't find any insects. I was moaning about this to a friend in the pub when he suggested I go to a local golf club."

Having no interest in the game whatsoever, Alan thumbed through the local phone book and the first club he came to was The Berkshire so he called up, got through to then Course Manager, Bob Moreton, and asked him if he had chafer grubs.

"At the time I didn't know that it was such a rude question to ask a greenkeeper but Bob, being the bloke he is, said 'Yes, millions of them, come and help yourself'. He couldn't believe his luck that this idiot was wanting to dig up his grubs and take them away!"

"I began chatting to Bob about greenkeeping and discovered that he was applying Rovral to the greens to control Fusarium and I told him I'd been using it for years to control beneficial fungi in the soil. Bob then wondered what affect it was having on his greens and whether beneficial



▲ Dr Gange and his published work.

fungi might exist in a golf green. I said I'd no idea but that I could find out.

"That was in the early 90s and ever since we've been using The Berkshire as a natural laboratory to obtain chafer grubs, leatherjackets and beneficial fungi, so we didn't have to spend time culturing them in the lab here," said Alan.

He admits that until then his perception of golf had been quote "awful" and that he was one of those who felt it was more bad than good when it came to protecting the environment.

"Walking The Berkshire looking for chafer grubs enabled me to see that most of the golf course isn't really playing areas at all but natural habitat. I was astonished because I'd been teaching students about heathland ecology and why heathlands are rare and why the amount of heathland had diminished over the years. But the old surveys by English Nature in this area never included golf course land."

Now Alan is a real convert and even runs a survey among his prospective students and their parents on their perceptions of the game. It turns out that if they play golf they believe a course is good for the environment and if they don't they say it's bad. Almost a perfect mirror image and therein lays the problem.

"I ask people if a lovely course like Sunningdale didn't exist what would it be? The answer is concrete. If Sunningdale or Wentworth were closed tomorrow and the land went up for sale a developer would buy it and it would become a housing estate."

Holloway College itself is an amazing building and the story behind it is even more amazing. Thomas Holloway made a fortune, a fortune which



▲ Students at work in the lab.



would equate to around £500 million at today's rates, from patented medicines in the 1880s which the College's chemistry department discovered, but which had no medicinal value whatsoever!

Having made this fortune he put a letter in The Times asking for advice on how to spend £250 million. In the end he took the advice of his wife and built a university for the education of young ladies, which was opened by Queen Victoria. Royal Holloway remained an all female college until the late 1960s.

"It is now ranked in the top 10 universities in Britain while the Biological Science Department, which boasts around 300 students, is rated as world class," said Alan proudly.

He is equally keen to dismiss the notion that much of what goes on in his department is of no practical value.

"It is all applied research. I talk to greenkeepers and ask them if what we are doing is of use to them. If it isn't then we won't do it. I could do a whole lot of what I think is really interesting but it would be a waste of time if it is not going to benefit the industry."

So the link between golf course maintenance and the hallowed portals of universities like Royal Holloway College is probably closer than you think and the work that they are carrying out might just make your lives a great deal easier in future.

#### Students

**Donald McGregor** is in his fourth and final year and when we spoke was writing up his thesis, which is on soil aeration and looking at the effect of it on microbial populations within the soil, the research is sponsored by Redexim Charterhouse.

"I have gone into it with a completely open mind, and obviously we



▲ A student at work



▲ From left to right, Dr Lynn Whitfield, Paul Stevens and Donald McGregor, whose research will benefit golf courses in the future.

can't influence the outcome, but the results are not always what one might expect. I will certainly get some interesting data, but it will also create more questions and open the door to more research," said Donald.

**Dr Lynn Whitfield** is working on Mycorrhizas in sports turf specifically trying to develop a mycorrhizal fungus which will combat *Poa annua*.

"I have been working on the project for two years, based on the work Alan has been doing for several years now. It is going very well at the moment," said Lynn, whose work is funded by the Leverhulme Trust, which funds projects which fall outside the remit of Government Research Councils.

**Steven Ixer-Pitfield** is in the early stages of his work, studying how mycorrhizas affect the growth of three grass species, including *Poa annua*, to see if he can achieve increased growth of the desirable grasses, to fight the *Poa*.

"I'm really pleased I got this project and I'm now going to start a Masters course with Dr Gange after I finish this work," said Steven.

**Paul Stevens** is a turfgrass professional who has worked in the UK and abroad before enrolling at Royal Holloway. He is looking to find endophytes which might combat *Fusarium*.

"I believe that new build golf clubs should be able to manage their nutrients properly and thus reduce the amount of fungicides and pesticides," explained Paul, who is looking to move back into greenkeeping once his work has been completed.



▲ Royal Holloway College – a view from the courtyard and a view from the air.



# NEW PRODUCTS



## SISIS AER-AID SYSTEM

Sisis had launched its new Aer-Aid System, which is to be used with the Sisis Javelin vertical action aerator.

The equipment will allow greenkeepers to give their turf a blast of air every time they aerate. The air injection tines alternate with conventional solid tines and both are 10mm diameter and carbide tipped.

The cam trigger system ensures that the air is always expelled at the bottom of the tine penetration, ensuring a precise and constant working depth. The depth is infinitely variable to a maximum of 127mm.

Working at 150mm (6ins) spacing air is

introduced at a rate of 88 litres per minute. The air injection tines are specially designed to use the maximum air available from the compressor, which produces clean, fresh air at a constant rate.

The Aer-Aid System can be de-activated very easily when not required, and the Javelin fitted with conventional tines can be used for other operations such as hollow coring prior to top-dressing, or cluster heads and needle tines in the summer months.

Compaction tests showed a hardness of 95.07 on the untreated ground, 93.67 after spiking and 84.5 after treatment with the Aer-aid system – an 11% reduction.

For further information TEL: 01625 503030

## INSTANT HEDGE

Practically Brown, in partnership with Elveden Estate, has released another 600 linear meters of Elveden Instant Hedge. 27000 metres of instant hedge are now available to satisfy demand for truly instant screening.

In addition to 2003's unveiling of Green Beech, Laurel, Holly and Mixed Native hedge, the company now have Yew, Box and Hornbeam available.

Elveden Instant Hedge is grown using a unique system that allows stress free installation of this product all year round, so gone are the days of seasonal planting. It is planted in root strips and once planted it is virtually impossible to see the join.

To ensure successful reestablishment on site, a dripper hose irrigation system is installed linked to a simple battery operated tap timer or it can be integrated into an existing irrigation system if available.

Elveden Instant Hedge is grown using automatically irrigated controlled release nutrition, which ensures that the product is always in peak condition.

For further information TEL: 01753 652022



## NEW V-TWIN ENGINES

Briggs & Stratton Commercial Power has launched its new range of V-Twin engines, aimed specifically at the demanding commercial turf applications market.

Available in two displacements with six different horse power options (18.65 – 26.1kW / 25 – 35HP), these are robust, powerful and environmentally friendly application engineered V-Twins, available as both air and liquid-cooled models.

The Vanguard air-cooled V-Twin engines have been developed with 'cooler cleaner' technology, including an advanced debris management system, ideal for heavy duty mowing applications.

The Vanguard liquid-cooled V-Twins feature a 360 degree cooling water jacket, efficiently cutting oil and engine temperatures. All engines feature a large volume muffler, which ensures the engines comply with all European noise and emissions regulations.

The engines are manufactured through a joint venture with Daihatsu and contain revolutionary V-Twin Overhead Valve (OHV) technology delivering superior balance and reducing vibration and component wear, whilst improving fuel efficiency and enhancing durability and performance.

Designed with total flexibility in mind, the engines are completely interchangeable since they feature the same envelope and identical PTO and mounting dimensions, enabling OEM's to keep product development costs to a minimum.

Featuring a single ply, super thin metal head gasket, the new engines optimise the combustion chamber function and thus overall engine performance. In addition, each light compact model in the range is precision balanced to achieve the lowest possible vibration levels.

A cast iron block further dampens noise emissions, whilst a fine-tuned timing gear tooth profile, and helical angle, pushes the gears away from the cover, eliminating transmission of gear train and internal noises.

All engines come with a two year commercial engine warranty and lifetime Magnetron ignition warranty.

For further information TEL: 04126 460 7932





## TWO WHEEL DRIVE SUZUKI



Suzuki has added a two-wheel drive model to its range of 400 class "Eiger" ATVs.

The new model has been introduced to meet the demands of users who need a powerful ATV but do not face the extreme conditions or terrain that demands the additional expense of a four-wheel drive model.

The two-wheel drive Suzuki Eiger 400 combines stylish looks with advanced engineering features which ensures outstanding performance, versatility and value for money.

It has a five speed manual transmission and high/low gear ranges. In common with the selectable two/four wheel drive automatic and manual transmission models, it has a long wheelbase and low seat height giving a low centre of gravity for good stability.

Rider comfort and protection is provided by independent front and swing arm rear suspension with an all round wheel travel of 170mm (6.7in), large mudguards and full floorboards.

The 235mm (9.3in) ground clearance and underside skid plate protect the machine from damage.

The 376cc long life four-stroke OHC four-valve engine provides good low and mid range torque and incorporates Suzuki's advanced cooling system.

This passes a high volume of oil from a large cooler through the cylinder head to prevent overheating even in slow, heavy duty operations.

A start in gear system provides easy starting even in difficult conditions by allowing the starter to be operated in any gear when the front brake lever is applied.

Large 190mm (7.5in) front disc and sealed rear drum brakes ensure consistent stopping power.

Other features include, twin halogen headlights, full instrumentation and sturdy carrying racks with 30kg (66lb) front and 60kg (132lb) rear capacity. Tow hitch capacity is 450kg (990lb).

For further information TEL: 01293 766000

## SELF PROPELLED MOWER

The MAS Mower 01 is a self-propelled, laser-guided, reel-type mower capable of creating a multitude of geometric patterns on turf without an operator being present.

While mainly used on football and rugby pitches, this product is the first sign of the future of technology and the huge advances in the turf equipment field. It will surely only be a matter of time until this technology is used for the benefit of greenkeepers. Fully self-contained, the electrically powered machine combines a conventional 914mm (36in) wide cutting unit with an advanced laser guided steering system.

The mower includes cylinder cut-off for turf rolling without mowing, automatic emptying of its 65 litre high-tip grass collector and a wealth of inbuilt safety features, allowing safe unattended operation.

The mower is equipped with a long range, eye safe rotating laser scanner which operates in conjunction with a series of fixed reflectors positioned around the area being mown.

An onboard computer linked to the laser continuously calculates the mower's position on the surface to centimetre level accuracy, sending signals to the steering system to keep the machine moving along its pre-programmed path.

Powered entirely by rechargeable batteries and electric motors, the MAS Mower 01 can work for more than six hours unattended, with no emissions and at a very low sound level.

At an average mowing speed of 2mph the machine is able to cover over 12,000 sq metres before it needs recharging. The mower contains six blades and the cutting height is adjustable



between 15mm – 70mm.

Low maintenance and running costs are assured thanks to the absence of an engine and hydraulic system.

For further information TEL: 01453 544135

## KUBOTA'S KX SERIES

Kubota's KX Series range of mini excavators has not stood still since its introduction within the UK and Ireland more than 10 years ago.

Continued model development and growth has seen the KX Series expand into a formidable line-up of machines capable of handling the toughest of tasks on the most difficult of terrains. One of the newest models in the series is the KX36-3.

The KX36-3 model weighs 1580kg with a cab and has a maximum travelling



speed of 2.2km/hr. Its 950mm long arm provides a maximum digging force of 7.2kN (735 kgf) and the digging force of the bucket is 13.0kN (1327 kgf).

It features a 3-cylinder Kubota diesel engine with a 778cc displacement.

An advanced hydraulic system improves response and reduces energy wastage, giving the KX36-3 the ability to outperform larger and more costly machines.

This is enhanced by the ergonomically designed control lever layout for smoother operation with reduced driver fatigue.

For added safety the top boom mounted cylinders and hydraulic hoses are routed through the boom.

For further information TEL: 01844 814500





# News from the Chief Executive

**August - what a month for rain and I wonder if we have seen the last of summer for this year. I realise how time seems to pass quicker and quicker each year as preparations for the forthcoming BTME and Clubhouse become more involved.**

The staff at headquarters have been out of the office to several region and section events during the month and the feedback that I am getting from members on this policy is positive and reassuring. These included several Golf Management Trophy days sponsored by Scotts and also the final of the John Deere Team Championship that was held at Forest Pines Golf Club in Lincolnshire. Our thanks go to both companies for their support.

August has also been a busy month with regard to staff. My congratulations go to Marie Whyld, BIGGA's designer, who gave birth to a baby girl, Jessica. Marie is on maternity leave until 31 January 2005 when she hopes to return to full-time work. In the meanwhile we are employing the services of a freelance designer.

There has also been a change in the Sales Department with the appointment of Sarah Craven who replaces Sam Richardson. Sarah will be working mainly on display advertising tele-sales. The two vacancies for regional administrators have been re-advertised and the response for the South East post in particular has been encouraging.

My own change of role has resulted in a change in the accounts office with Tony Cocker, my old assistant – "less of the old," says Tony - stepping up from four to five days a week and taking on the responsibility for the day to day accounting. This has left a vacancy and I am pleased to announce that Stephen Coates will join the Association on 1 September.

We are now back up to a full complement with the exception of a part-time cleaner following the resignation of Sue Hancock, who has been offered more hours at her main job. The search for a replacement goes on and we hope to come to some agreement with the hotel to use their housekeeping services. In the meanwhile we are all having to learn to be far more responsible for our actions.

I don't wish to sound patronising but what a pity I cannot say the same about some of our members. I have been in many mess rooms in greenkeeper's sheds and mess is an appropriate word. In my opinion there is no excuse for lack of hygiene and care.

Before everyone starts jumping up and down I must add that I have also been in some rooms where it has been a pleasure to sit down and enjoy a chat and a mug of tea. I know at times greenkeeping can be a dirty job but it does not need to spill into the canteen and become a health and safety risk!

I am also aware that golf club funds do not always stretch to providing the most modern of facilities, however, it's not always about money more a question of basic housekeeping.

Mugs not washed, floors not swept, litter not disposed of properly, surfaces not kept clean, filthy toilets, perhaps a coat of emulsion on the walls now and again would not go amiss. Do you recognise the scene? If so what are you doing about it?

The biggest investment is time and effort not money. BIGGA is working hard to raise the public opinion of the greenkeeper and gain recognition for the professional job that its members do. The Association however can only do so much, the rest is up to you.

**John Pemberton**



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

## SCOTTISH REGION

### East

Well here we are, after a few months away we're back! So anyway down to business. I hope you are all enjoying this weather, I think over the last few weeks the grass growth has been more than it has been all season due to the moisture and rise in temperature, which is good for the rest of the season.

Well congratulations to some of our East Section clubs, namely West Linton Golf Club and Gullane Golf Club, on achieving top environment status by becoming winners of the Scottish Golf Environment Groups National Environmental Excellence Award. This prestigious award puts both clubs into the top thirty clubs in Europe for care of the environment. So congratulations to them and their continued drive forward in environmental excellence, also congratulations to the other winners of this award St Andrews Links Trust, and Downfield Golf Club, well done to them.

Well done to Andy Forrest, Swanston GC, and wife Kirsty on the birth of a baby son Cameron in July, mum and baby are doing well but Andy is having a few sleepless nights (shame), so congratulations to all the family and a little brother for Nathan which he will enjoy, so well done from everyone in the Section.

At our last Section meeting we decided on a few changes. Firstly I am taking on the position of Education Officer for the East Section as we don't have one at the moment and I have thought about this for a long time and after being asked at the meeting I was very pleased to accept this position.

As I am coming to the end of my term as Chairman for the second time I wanted to give something back to the Section, because after 23 years on the committee its become part of my life and I look forward to this new chapter with vigour as education is a very big part of our profession, so I cant wait to get started on your behalf.

Secondly, the Willie Woods Tournament has had a revamped as it had become stale, we've now changed this to a three man Texas scramble with you inviting guests from your committee/green staff, but preferably your committee members, for a fun day with the emphasis on fun because golf is becoming to serious. You will receive notification of this along with your Autumn Tournament entry form so lets see a big turnout for both events.

The AGM this year will take place at Gullane Golf Club on October 26, details will be with you soon, hope to see you all there.

Apologies for no report from the Spring Tournament, but here it is. We had a great day at Craighielaw Golf Club. A first visit for a number of us and what a test of golf it is, I look forward to returning soon to tame the beast. A big thank you to the management team who made our day most enjoyable, the bar and restaurant staff and last but not least Head Greenkeeper Mark Reid and his staff, the course was in great condition apart from a few severe pin positions?? Well done lads.

There was some good scores and some high scores to say the least and here are the results;

Scratch. Stephen Gray, 78; Class 1. 1. Craig Gilholm, 82-7-75; 2. Keith Burgon, 83-7-76; 3. Ryan McCulloch 87-9-78. Class 2. 1. Colin Irvine, 80-10-70; 2. Rory Campbell, 85-10-75; 3. Chris Yeaman, 89-11-78. Class 3. 1. Jimmy Neilson, 106-21-85; No other players in 3rd class handed in a card. Best Nett. Alan Russell, 89-10-79. Veterans Prize. Graeme Wood, 88-7-81. Trade prize. Iain Lauder, 73-0-73.

Well done to all prize winners and yes your handicaps have been adjusted in time for the Autumn Tournament, hope to see you all there.

Well that's it all for this month and I WILL be back with more news, etc next month, so if you have any news let me know so we can get it into print ok. The usual numbers (h) 01968661313 (w) 01968661721 (m) 07719580449 (ADDRESS) Westwyn, West Linton GC, West Linton, Peeblesshire, EH46 7HN.

So I'm ready and waiting for your info so will be back next month - see you then.

**Chris Yeaman**

### Ayrshire

Hello everyone just a few things to let you know about. Loch Lomond Golf Club has generously offered the Dundonald Course to the Section for our Autumn outing.

The date for the outing is Thursday October 7. Tee times will be from





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

midday. We have 50 places, so please return your entry form to Derek as soon as possible to avoid missing this great opportunity.

The AGM this year will be held in conjunction with a machinery demonstration from Hamilton Bros. West Kilbride Golf Club will host the day on Thursday October 21.

Patron award winners for this year are Jim Paton, West Kilbride, and yours truly. A warm welcome to new members Steven Kelly, Lockerbie, John Muir, Largs Routenburn, and Ian MacDonald, Largs Kelburn.

Congratulations to all the team at Royal Troon for producing a beautifully conditioned course for one of the best Opens in recent memory.

I can't help thinking wouldn't it be great if there was another course in Ayrshire able to host the Open, so that we could get that electric atmosphere twice as often!! DREAM! DREAM! DREAM!

Any news or constructive criticism then call me on 07939 104 701.

**Denis Tweddell**

## Central

We begin this month's report by welcoming another three members to the Section and they are Mark Logan, from Lochwinnoch Golf Club, Alistair MacFadyen, from Crieff Hydo Golf Club, and former member Mark Laing, from Aberdour Golf Club, who is making a welcome return to the Section. You should all have received your entry forms for the Autumn Tournament at Downfield later this month, so perhaps we will get an early opportunity to meet you there.

It is nearly time for the AGM again and arrangements are being made to organise it for the last week of next month, hopefully on the 27<sup>th</sup>, no doubt you will all be putting this date in your diary as an event not to miss. Dream on! It will be the usual few who turn up, we'll all end up on the committee and spend our own time organising events which hardly any of you bother to support, still, we can always live in hope.

The Central Section must have the most educated greenkeepers in the country, as we have asked for subjects for educational events and so far not one member has come forward with any suggestions - of an educational nature.

Latest winners in Club 2000 are L.Brunton with No60 and S.Lee with No 401, well done to you both, your cheques are in the post, only another three draws to go and that will see the end of the Section's only fund raising venture. What can we think up next?

At the time of writing this report we have not yet finalised our nominees for the annual Patron's Awards, awarded to the most supportive members of the Section, so I will include our choices in next month's news, along with how the Section team fared in the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Auchterarder Golf Club in August and any other relevant matters.

Question time!

Are you happy with the way the Section, or for that matter the Association is being run? Do you feel you are getting value for your membership fee? Do you feel that you are being asked to give financial support to far too many Section events? Are Section events too expensive to attend? What do you really expect your Section committee to do on your behalf?

After all every committee member gives up at least one evening a month to attend a meeting to organise events on your behalf.

I can hear you all saying, "Here he goes again". Well I have got good news for you, it won't be for much longer, then someone else can have a go.

As you will have gathered it has been a struggle to put together a report on Section matters each month this year, so unless someone sends me some news, you will just have to put up with my drivel for the time being!

**John Crawford**

## North

Some new members to report this month and they are Michael Nicholl, Course Manager at Shetland GC, Calum Fraser, greenkeeper at Brechin GC, and Chris Nicholl, apprentice at Fraserburgh GC.

The Section were represented at the Open this year by Iain Macleod, Tain GC, Iain Gunn, Strathpeffer GC, and Duncan Adams and George Mitchell, of Newmachar GC.

I would like to thank John and Scott and the other BIGGA staff for their

efforts to make everything run smoothly and our own Board of Management. Also a special mention to Peter Boyd, Bert Cross and Ian Holloran.

The autumn outing will be at Westhill GC on September 9 and hopefully there will be a good turnout. The retiring secretary of many years Dougal Duguid is Course Manager at Westhill and it would be a fitting send off for him to have a large turnout.

The AGM is to be at the end of October at one of the clubs at the links in Aberdeen, you will receive due notice by post. Murcar GC has been fixed up for the Spring outing.

Brian Anderson, the Course Manager at Murcar GC, recently had an accident at work and we wish him a speedy recovery. No more news to report at the moment, so have a successful end of summer and autumn season.

**Iain Gunn**

## NORTHERN REGION

### North Wales

September grass is the sweetest kind, or so say's James Taylor. September also brings the SALTIX IOG show at the Windsor Showground 7 - 9 so if there are any of you wishing to purchase 'play area equipment' or a 'climbing frame' for the kids, you should get yourself down there!

On a more serious note, Dave Parry, from Prestatyn GC, has had a major spate of direct vandalism at the course, a residual weedkiller has been deliberately sprayed on 16 of the 18 greens. One green was attacked first then a month later a further 15 were contaminated with this chemical.

Tests are being carried out by Alistair Beggs at the STRI Laboratory, Bingley, as cores have been taken from the greens. Dave has also irrigated them heavily with wetting agent and double overseeded in an attempt to gain coverage over the dying areas.

If anyone out there has had a similar thing happen to them and know of any 'quick fix' please give Dave a call at the club. The police are still seeking the person(s) involved and any information received will be treated in the strictest confidence by the North Wales Constabulary.

The Golf Management Trophy was a huge success held at Carden Park on August 23 and was well attended by BIGGA members who brought along committee members from there respective clubs, including Greens Chairmen, Secretaries and Captains, etc who interacted with members of other clubs to gain a better knowledge of what BIGGA is about and place a positive image within their clubs.

This came only two weeks after Carden hosted the major event of the year - The European Seniors which consisted of players from all around the world, including the Ryder Cup Captain of 2002 Sam Torrance.

The 'OPEN' at Royal Troon this year saw a 75 strong support team involved with the bunker raking of the matches and they were treated once again to some spectacular shot making. The Claret Jug again goes stateside as another little known American lifted the title.

I managed to get myself another caddie job as my club professional Anthony Millar came through regional qualifying at Little Aston GC, then after a two man play off at Glasgow Gailes LFQ we got the last spot to get into Troon.

Two full practise days helped a level par front nine on the first day, but after coming around Amen corner 10, 11, 12 saw us drop 5 shots finishing +7 after day one. Day two didn't get any better and we were on our way home on the Friday night. I would just like to personally thank Wilson Golf of Irvine for all their help, sponsorship and advice whilst we were up there.

Finally I would like to thank John Pemberton for asking me to sit on the Steering Committee of BIGGA, and having attended my first meeting at the end of July I found it very interesting looking into the future planning of the BTME show and hope my input as an exhibiting trade member was of help to the discussions.

Until next month. Any news views or comments please give me a call.

**Mesen Cymru**

**Andrew Acorn**



## Northern

Firstly, I'd like to welcome new members Colin Goodwin and Thomas Bradford, who have both joined the Section this month.

I'm pleased to announce that a date has at long last been set for the Christmas Golf. It will take place on Thursday December 9. The venue is Crow Nest Park Golf Club, Brighouse. As usual, a coach is likely to be booked in order that a more festive day can be had by all attending!

In next month's report I will bring you the results of August's Invitation Day. If you would like to put your name down early for the Autumn Tournament and AGM to be held at Low Laithes on October 13, just get in touch, my details are Adam Speight, 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford BD2 4EB

Tel: 01274 638366, Mobile 07739319060

Email adam@speight1156.fsife.co.uk

**Adam Speight**

## North West

The end of July and not much happening in the Section, at least no news had come through to me, but please if you have any snippets of news let me know as it makes my job much easier.

Nationally plenty has happened with what was probably one of the most exciting finishes to the Open at Royal Troon. Once again BIGGA were present to carry out the duties of the support team, namely early morning bunker raking '4am', accompanying each game to rake bunkers, record the amount of bunkers the players found, assisting the scorers and the youngsters carrying the scoreboards.

This year we really were international, with greenkeepers from Canada, America, Sweden, Germany and Spain, all enjoying the opportunity to be a part of the greatest golf tournament in the world.

The course was in superb condition and Billy McLachlan, the Course Manager, and his staff must be very proud of themselves as they received many praises from both players and officials. Next year St. Andrews is the venue for the Open, so if you want to be part of it watch the magazine for information.

The next golf is the Autumn Tournament at Hurlston Hall GC on Tuesday September 14. Lunch 12 – 12:30. Tee time 12:50pm – 2:20pm. All applications to be received by Thursday September 9 including a cheque for £20 payable to BIGGA N/W Section. Applications to Bert Cross, Harthill Lodge, Harthill RD, Liverpool, L18 3HU.

You will have received a Regional Training Booking Form in the July Magazine and on November 25 - 26 at Dunham Forest GC there is a course headed 'Next Steps in Management Skills'. If you are interested please complete the form and return it to Sami Collins at BIGGA HOUSE as soon as possible. That's it for now, but you can contact me on 0151 724 5412 or 07761 583387

**Bert Cross**

## Sheffield

Hello again to all. This month I have a brief report of the day's events at Sickleholme GC, who very kindly allowed the Section to hold our summer tournament at their lovely course. Congratulations to Mike Lake and his team for presenting the course in such excellent condition, I'm only sorry I was not able to attend myself.

Main sponsor for the day was once again Mansfield Sand, thanks go to Dave Smith and Russ Lathom for their excellent prize table and their continued support of the Section. Thanks also to all the other members of the trade who make these occasions so memorable.

Prize winners on the day were as follows; Best Gross. D.Womack 78 – 7 - 71; Best Net. 1. J. France, 65-24 – 89; 2. J. Hobson, 68 – 24 – 92; 3. A. Bunting, 69 – 16 – 85.

Peter Fell won the trade prize with 68 – 12 - 80. Nearest the Pin was also won by a trade member, well done to Mike Brear.

The Chairman Gordon Brammah gave thanks to the Club Captain Peter Blower and President Brian O' Conner in the usual way by presenting them with a BIGGA tie for their representation of Sickleholme GC on the day.

Just a reminder that the autumn competition, to be held at Gainsborough on September 6, is an earlier start at 12.00pm.

Don't forget I can be reached on 01427 614175 or 07904 121690 or e-mail geoff@wellsy1.freemove.co.uk.

**Geoff Wellsy**

## MIDLAND REGION

### BB&O

Summer at last! As irrigation systems get fired up and start to work overtime, I sit in my white van on the M25 with the traffic gridlocked and temperatures soaring higher and higher. Air conditioning in my cab only comes to life at 100 mph with all windows down.

Looking on the bright side, I am shedding a few pounds and people pay good money for a sauna. Growing tomatoes in my cab might still be an option.

Chiltern Forrest GC, or otherwise known as The Himalayas for the wonderful undulating ups and downs of the course, was the venue for The John Deere Classic Qualifier held on July 5 under the organised guidance of Turner Groundcare.

Wychwood GC recorded a score of 18 under nett 52 which was good enough to secure first. Taking second, with a score of nett 56 jointly on count back, was Filford Heath, of Cotswold Hills GC.

Thank you to Chiltern Forrest GC and Steve Horwood and his staff for every effort in ensuring that all had a great day out. Forrest Pines GC in Lincolnshire is the venue for the next stage and we wish the qualifiers the best of luck.

Mathew Smith from Dudsbury GC in Hampshire is the new Course Manager at Sonning GC, and racing post editor and horse tipster in the making. Steve Cherry, from Abbey Hill GC, is the new Head Greenkeeper at Silverstone GC.

On the move is James Ferrar, from Gerrads Cross GC, who has taken a challenging position as Course Manager in Kenya. After 18 months in prison - as a prison officer - David Griffith is returning to Greenkeeping and starts his new position as Deputy at The Buckingham GC. Also returning home to roost is Michael Ginger, from Harewood Downs GC, who takes on the Deputy's position at Hazelmere GC.

The BB&O's very own Barry Sheen, namely Carl Small, is having his foot fused and welded. This sounds extremely painful and after this operation not even the Bionic Man will have more metal to boast about. We wish Carl a speedy recovery back to work and back on the buggy at our golf days.

The next event is a Clay Pigeon Shooting Day open to all members. This is a first time social event for our Section and will be held sometime in October, details will be mailed shortly.

Our Annual General Meeting and Turkey Trot will be held at Donnington Grove GC - formerly Parasampia GC - on Thursday November 4.

Any member wishing to play a role on the BB&O committee please come forward as your help will always be appreciated. For more details, contact the Secretary, John Scoones, on 07880 550 380.

The London Section has arranged for a one day course covering **The Essential Elements to a Successful Career in Greenkeeping** and the members of our Section have been invited.

The venue is Porters Park GC in Herts on Wednesday October 2, and the cost will be £15 per person. Early booking is recommended as places are limited.

Please send your cheque, payable to BIGGA, to Peter Philips, 11 Anderson Road, Shenley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9EQ.

**Mark Day** mark@day.fm

## Midland

To open this month's notes, I must apologise for the lack of notes in August. Such being due to the fact that I was unfortunately unaware of the E-mail address change at H.Q.

Communication is a wonderful thing! I send these notes from Reykjavik in Iceland. Surely I must have better things to do on my holiday. Perhaps not, a small mortgage might just buy a bottle of decent red.

It gives me great pleasure to report the wonderful news that Steve Wenlock, North Worcester GC, and his fiancée Emma have had a baby boy, Joshua Kyle Wenlock. Let's hope he has his mother's looks and father's skills. Congratulations to all three of you. Looking forward to "wetting the baby's head" Steve.

It also gives me great pleasure to welcome eight new members to our Section this month: Malcolm Mitchell, David Pearce, David Cole, Christopher Baugh, Mick May, John Spear, James Stokes and Jonathan Holmes - a descendant of Sherlock "I



presume". Also, congratulations and good luck to the new Course Manger at Walsall Golf Club, Dave Coomes.

Our Summer Tournament was held at Moor Hall GC. Unfortunately I was unable to attend. However, my spies reported that the course was in excellent condition, and a fantastic day was enjoyed by all. Thanks and respect is more than due to Wayne Ganning and his fine team for presenting the course in such great condition, and of cause thanks to More Hall GC for graciously affording such a sumptuous opportunity.

The results of the day were; Best Gross. A.Walker; Nett. 1. D.Ganning; 2. D.Gibbons; 3. D.Fellows; 4. A.Walker. Thanks to our old friends at Amenity Technology for the main prize table.

Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive was kindly sponsored by W.W.B. Minerals, and won by A.Kite and M.Cutler respectively. Looking at the above results I wonder whether Mr.D.Ganning M.B.E. had any input as to the pin positions?

As I'm sure you've been waiting with baited breath, our Angling event is organised for October 31, as kindly organised and sponsored by Hanson Aggregates/Allen Southam. To book your peg please call me on: 07816 410 552. Let's see if we can't beat Middleton Hall Anglers this time. With all the rain we've had the fishing should be good. Looking forward to Mrs Southam's trifle.

I, in the past, have had the pleasure of our President's, as I'm sure you're aware Peter Richmond, lovely wife's company. A most wonderful lady, unfortunately Bryda has spent some unscheduled time in hospital. All of the Midland Section would like to wish you a speedy recovery Bryda. Lwc wda hogan.

Finally to close, my Scotts partner and I had the ominous task of playing Terry Cheese and Phil Nixon. How on earth is one to out play against eagles with drives of 330 yds. I must confess that my partner drove the ball superbly, however within the shorter game we where given a right royal lesson. Well played gentlemen, and what gentlemen. Good luck to all left in this wonderful competition. You never know I might get further than the first game next year and stand a chance of playing Wentworth. Good luck to all left in the event.

Due to the mix up with the August notes, telephone entries shall be accepted this once (Gary: 07876 693 269 by September 13) for our Autumn Tournament at Hawkstone Park GC, on September 22, 10:30am start. The AGM is to be held after the golf at 5:00pm. Anyone wishing for a specific question to be answered at the AGM should give notice in writing by return post after receiving this notification, thus giving the Committee a chance to deliberate. Cheers for now, see you at the golf, AGM, or the fishing.

Sean McDade.

## Mid Anglia

Welcome to the Mid Anglia Section. From this issue Steve Mason has handed the pen to me, Bob Butfoy, to report our news, as he is to become the newly appointed Course Manager of Stocks Golf Club. I think I speak on behalf of everyone from the Section when I wish Steve ALL THE BEST for the future.

The Summer Tournament was held at Mount Pleasant Golf Club, where 22 players took on a tough 18 holes. The course was in excellent condition so big thanks to Steve Mason & his team for doing us proud. The food & hospitality was also excellent, so again big thanks, this time to the Simkins family.

The day was sponsored by Boughton Turf Management, who provided some great prizes, all presented by Simon Headley, our thanks to them also.

The results were as follows:

1. John Chapman & John O'Gaunt; 2. Bob Butfoy & Heydon Grange; 3. Geoff James & John O'Gaunt. Nearest the Pin. Clive Parnell, Gem; Longest Drive. Richard Goddard, Ashridge; Trade Prize. Steve Crossdale, Headlands.

Our next event is the autumn AGM at Woburn on October 27. The price for this day is £30 for ALL entries, get in quick as this will be busy.

IMPORTANT: Reminders are that the Marquis course is soft spikes only, and that this event is a two tee start from 9.30am. You'll need to arrive in good time as if you are drawn to start from the 10th tee it is a 15 min drive!

The London Section has arranged for a one day course covering **The Essential Elements to a Successful Career in Greenkeeping** and the members of our Section have been invited.

The venue is Porters Park GC in Herts on Wednesday October 2, and the cost will be £15 per person. Early booking is recommended as places are limited.

Please send your cheque, payable to BIGGA, to Peter Philips, 11 Anderson Road, Shenley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9EQ.

Bob Butfoy

## East

June 23 saw about 20 brave souls venture out in the good old British summer for the Lincs Green Golf Day at South Kyme. Everyone cast aside shorts and t-shirts for waterproofs and umbrellas as torrential rain fell for most of the day. Some of the field only completed nine holes and the ones with no brains completed the full 18.

The whole day was sponsored by Phil Wilkinson, of Lincs Green, with some excellent glass wear as prizes and a very impressive buffet lunch was also paid for by Phil. Many thanks go to Phil and South Kyme Golf Club for holding the event.

The results were; Best Gross. Rob Welford. Second Class. Ian Batty. Best Nett. Russ Moody. Second Nett. Graeme MacDonald. Longest Drive. Rob Welford. Nearest the Pin. Tim Jones.

The next golf outing was held at Lincoln Golf Club (Torksey) on July 22. The prizes for the day were sponsored by LMS. The format for the day was four man Texas scramble. The day was held to celebrate the retirement of Derek Blades as Head Greenkeeper from Lincoln Golf Club and several members from the club joined with the greenkeepers to make the day more enjoyable.

Many thanks go to Lincoln Golf Club, the members and LMS for a good day. It was also nice to meet Rachael Palmer from BIGGA HQ and thanks go to her for helping get everyone started on time and helping out through the day. Best wishes go to Derek and we shall hope he has a long and happy retirement.

The results were 1. S. Clayton, G. Gilding, J. Heswon & J. Day, 58.5 on back nine; 2. N. Lister, S. Haywood, D. Hampshire & R. Moody, 58.5; 3. P.Fell, S. Beverly, A. Tonge & D. Tonge, 59.2. Longest Drive. G. Gilding. Nearest the Pin. S. Dickinson. Les Howkins

## SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

## Devon & Cornwall

It is unfortunate that my first report for the Magazine should start on a sad note, to report the sad loss of one of our Greenkeepers. John Gawman recently past away at the age of 47. John began his Greenkeeping career when he left school at the age of 15, and joined Tavistock Golf Club with his friend, Mike. Having worked at Tavistock for 17 years, he departed for pastures new and joined the well known Jack Nicklaus course, at St Mellion, Saltash, where he eventually became Head Greenkeeper of the old course, or Foreman in American Golf terms.

The funeral was at his local church in Horrabridge near Tavistock, and was overflowing with Greenkeepers and Trade Representatives from throughout the South West. Our sympathy goes to his widow and family.

The Mid-Summer BIGGA meeting was held at the Launceston Golf Club in Cornwall in almost tropical conditions, and sponsored very generously by Martin Ward of Symbio. There was an excellent attendance as always, and the prizes were very generous, including prizes for the Longest Drive, and Nearest the Pin on a par 3.

The competition was a Stableford format, and won by Adam Bridgewater, with 36 points, Adam also won the Longest Drive. Second was Paul Bullen with 31 points, who also won the Nearest the Pin, Paul has recently retired from Newquay Golf Club as Head Greenkeeper. The third prize went to Howard Meadows also with 31 points, however Paul had a better score on the back nine holes.

We would like to welcome Graeme Gallimore to our Section, who has just become the new Head Greenkeeper at Launceston Golf Club, having worked at the Warwickshire Golf Club and more recently at the Benton Hall Golf Club in Essex.

Graeme is married to Louise and has a two year son called Asher, who is obviously following in his fathers footsteps, as he seems to be spending rather a long time in the bunkers.

Congratulations to Jonathan Bullen, the Head Greenkeeper at the Staddon Heights Golf Club near Plymouth, who has just become married to Julie, we all wish them many years of health and happiness.

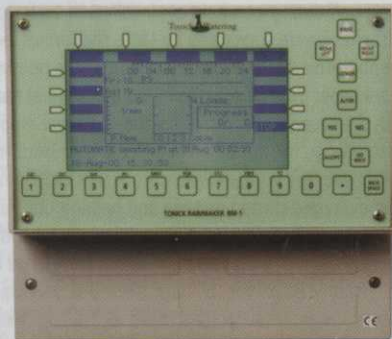
Congratulations also go the Devon County Team who recently played at the Trevoze Golf Course and became the EGU County Champions for the South West, the Team now go forward to represent the South West in the National Finals. The main reason for reporting this is because the Devon Team is well represented by three of our Greenkeepers, Adam Bridgewater, from Yelverton GC, Paul



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Newcombe, East Devon GC, and Alan Gawman, from the St Mellion GC, Alan, the son of the late John Gawman.

Last but not least I would, on behalf of the Section, like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Steve Evans, and his daughter Alison, for his work and his total commitment as secretary over the past year, never an easy task to follow our previous secretary Richard Whyman, if I do as half as well I will be delighted.  
**Donovan O.Hunt**

## **SOUTH EAST**

### **London**

The Section has arranged for a one day course covering **The Essential Elements to a Successful Career in Greenkeeping**.

The venue is Porters Park GC in Herts on Wednesday October 2, and the cost will be £15 per person. Early booking is recommended as places are limited.

Please send your cheque, payable to BIGGA, to Peter Philips, 11 Anderson Road, Shenley, Radlett, Herts WD7 9EQ

### **Essex**

July 28 saw the Essex area qualifying for the John Deere Team Championship. 20 teams of four – including the club professional – entered, with 19 under par being the winning score, which included a hole-in-one.

The day was sponsored by our local John Deere Dealers, P. Tuckwell Ltd. Our thanks goes to James Tuckwell, Neil – the Aussie – Peachey and the rest of the Tuckwell team for organising the day.

Channels GC was the venue this time around and for some of us it was our second visit of the season – the first back in April. The course was in superb condition once again thanks to Ray Clark and his staff.

Team Positions; 1. Three Rivers GC, Craig Lawrence, Arnold Phipps-Jones, Terry Peachey & Fernando Teixeira, 19 under par; 2. Regiment Way, Ian Sinclair, Malcolm Smith, Simon Larner & Roger Ramphilon, 18 under par - count back; 3. Maldon GC, John Edgington, Steve Blackwell, Rob Halland & Dave Kelly, 18 under par.

Nearest the Pin. Phil Wilson, Bentley GC. Longest Drive. Owen Scott Reid, Saffron Walden GC.

Hope to see more teams enter next year and the best of luck to Arnold, our chairman, and his winning team in the National Finals.

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**Martin Forrester**

### **Surrey**

The rain on my conservatory roof sounds like a stampede of wildebeest being chased by a pack of hungry lions. It is Thursday August 5 and I am also on the phone to Ron Christie, who is in his sheds at Addington Palace.

Ron complains that this localised storm has missed his course by inches and as he is only about 25 minutes from Banstead he feels that even the Gods are against him getting his due level of rain.

This has been how the weather has affected most of my customers; their normally cheerful faces are now pinched and sunburnt and only those who lead a life of chastity, modesty and sobriety have been blessed with glorious rain. Being one of the few, my newly seeded lawn is growing a treat.

The Surrey Bowl Knockout pairs competition is moving on rapidly and to date remaining pairs are Darren Woodward and Simon Kirkham, Adie Locke and Dave Murdoch, Ian Sellers and Lee Stutt and, last but not least, Brian Turner and John Mathis.

Yours truly and Mark Harvey, from Epsom, had the pleasure of playing our last round at Sunningdale GC against Brian Turner and John – when a child is born – Mathis. Brian kindly let us play on the old course from the back tees that were used the day before in the Ladies Weetabix Open Championship.

What wonderful golfers they must be for some of the carries are very long and even I had a few difficulties. Brian and John's five birdies in a row helped a little in their victory over us, which Mark and I put down mainly to luck and local knowledge.

The MacMillan Tankard competition on the new course at Sunningdale is on August 12, so results will appear in the October edition.

**Brian Willmott**

### **Kent**

It would appear that to comply with the BIGGA constitution we have to have an extraordinary General Meeting to reform the Kent Section, as at the last meeting the Section was officially disbanded.

It is planned to have a tournament sometime during late November/early December, followed by a meeting to do the necessary and form a new committee. All members will be informed of the venue and date in due course.

Any members interested in helping out and would like details of what is involved, please call me on 07970 789708 during office hours.

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**David Wood**

## **NORTHERN IRELAND**

Firstly this month I would like to give a big thank you to all the greenkeepers who helped out at the British Seniors Open in July at Roya Portrush during the final two days of the tournament.

Their commitment, enthusiasm and reliability was very much appreciated. Course Manager, Joe Findley, and his staff had worked very hard to get the course in great shape, under very difficult conditions regarding dry spring weather extending into June, alongside an unbelievable amount of play on the course prior to the Championship.

August 6 was the date for the annual Terry Crawford Charity Golf Day at Clondeboyne Golf Club with over 120 greenkeepers, trade members and club members competing.

Terry is the Course Manager at Clondeboyne GC and has been raising money for the Children's Hospital within the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast now for seven years. This year another fantastic sum of £2,600 was raised, which will be used to buy heart monitoring equipment for the Children's Wards.

Terry would like to thank Horta Soils and Irwin Sands for their generous sponsorship of the prizes, and especially Clondeboyne GC for once again making the Dufferin course available for the charity event.

Terry and the greenkeeping team had the course in magnificent condition while the greens were really in superb order and a pleasure to putt on.

The winner of the event was Gary Crawford, a young greenkeeper from Royal Co Down GC, with 42pts. The gross prize was won by Dale Barker, from Down Patrick GC, playing off +2 with a round of 66 gross, four under par.

Results were; 1. Gary Crawford, R.C.D., 42 pts; 2. Paul Hamilton, Clondeboyne GC, 42pts; 3. Aaron Small, Clondeboyne GC, 41pts; 4. Sam Napier, Clondeboyne GC, 40pts; 5. Irwin Robinson, Bangor GC, 39pts. Longest Drive. Jeff Lamb, Shandon Park GC. Nearest the Pin. Jo Dargan, Shandon Park GC.

The team prize was won by Clondeboyne, Jim Millar, Ivan Boyd, Ronnie Gibson & Paul Hamilton, with a score of 113 points - best three cards.

Our next Section event will be our National Championship qualifying competition, to be held at Malone Golf Club on September 16. Two successful competitors will represent the Northern Ireland Section at the National Championship to be held at Alwoodley Golf Club, Leeds, on October 4 & 5.

Every member will receive a letter detailing the competition at the beginning of September. Well that is all my news for this month folks.

**Ken Henderson**



# Your Letters...

## A Once in a Lifetime Experience

Thought that I'd drop you a line to say thanks to you all at HQ for your sterling work in organising this year's Open Greenkeeping Support Team for Royal Troon.

It was my first Open for a few years and I can appreciate the amount of time and effort which needs to be committed in order for things to run as smoothly as they did once again this year. I realise that the team, including Peter Boyd and Bert Cross are well versed with such events, but nevertheless their input and commitment is outstanding and they deserve credit for it, as does the BIGGA HQ team.

It was great to return to the Team and to renew acquaintances and to make some new friendships. To be a part of this event is indeed a privilege and I would recommend to every greenkeeper out there that they should try it at least once.

A fantastic event again this year, I'm so glad that I was a part of it. Having already been to St Andrews I doubt I shall be there next year as I will leave the door open for somebody else to experience first hand the enjoyment that one can gain from being a part of this Open Greenkeeping Support Team.

Perhaps I shall renew friendships once again at Hoylake in 2006 if not before. Thank you for the opportunity and thanks for the memories.

**Peter Lacey**  
Pennard Golf Club

PS. Has anyone found that bloody bunker rake yet?

## A Big Thank You

**I wish to express my thanks to BIGGA and all the greenkeeping support team for the help you all gave to the greenstaff at Royal Troon.**

**The success of the Championship takes many groups of people working well together and the help that we received from yourselves contributed to making this year's Open a success.**

**William McLachlan,**  
Course Manager,  
Royal Troon Golf Club

## YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

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

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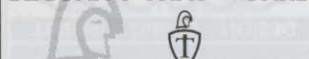
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## Great Barr Golf Club Ltd

### DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

The Deputy Head Greenkeeper would work closely with the Head Greenkeeper and deputise in his absence.

The position would suit a candidate who:-

- Has a minimum of 5 years experience in Greenkeeping.
- Would be qualified to HNC or NVQ Level 3 with PA1, PA2 & PA6.
- Have experience of current Health & Safety regulations.
- Show knowledge in machinery & irrigation maintenance.
- Be enthusiastic, highly motivated and committed.

Please apply in writing with full CV including current salary, by 30th September, to: Mrs. D Smith, Club Secretary, Great Barr Golf Club Ltd., Chapel Lane, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 7BA. Tel: 0121 3584376

## Eastham Lodge Golf Club

REQUIRES A

### DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

The successful applicant must be a good team player and have the ability to manage and motivate our team of greenkeepers and assist the present Course Manager to take the course forward, also, to deputise for him in his absence.

- The position would be suited to a candidate who should:
- Ideally be qualified to at least NVQ Level 2 or similar with PA1, PA2 and PA6.
- Have experience of current Health and Safety regulations.
- Show knowledge in machinery and irrigation maintenance.
- Be enthusiastic, highly motivated and committed.

Eastham Lodge Golf Club is a parkland course on the Wirral, Merseyside and has recently undergone an irrigation upgrade. A newly built greenkeepers accommodation was completed in 2003.

Applications should be made in writing no later than Monday 27th September 2004 including your full C.V. and present salary to:

Mr C S Camden, Secretary, Eastham Lodge Golf Club, 117 Ferry Road, Eastham, Wirral, Merseyside. CH62 0AP

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To place *YOUR* job advert in the recruitment section simply contact

Amy on

01347 833800 or e-mail  
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## IRRIGATION —control—

Due to continued expansion we have the following vacancies throughout the UK.

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This is a valuable opportunity to join a large and expanding Irrigation Company with clients and projects throughout the UK and Europe. An excellent package is available to suitable applicants.

Preference will be given to applicants who have relevant experience within the Irrigation Industry, preferably within a service environment. However, applicants with a sound electrical background and Greenkeepers/irrigation technicians with irrigation system experience will be considered. A full driving licence is required.

All applicants will be treated in full confidence.

Please send C.Vs to Admin Manager,  
Irrigation Control Ltd,  
Smithy Paddock, Hall Lane, Darnhall, Winsford,  
Cheshire CW7 4DE.

## Finchley Golf Club

has an immediate vacancy for a

### QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

To play a major role in the Club's continuing development of its traditional James Braid designed course.

Requirements are:

- Minimum 2 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 ongoing training, first class conditions and a highly competitive salary.

Applications in writing with full C.V. to be sent to:  
Mr. C Newton, Course Manager, Finchley Golf Club Limited, Nether Court, Frith Lane, London, NW7 1PU





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Our Area Sales Managers are responsible for achieving sales targets through building effective long-term relationships with our Dealers and for identifying and developing new business. Excellent communication and organisational skills are required to manage the area effectively. You must be able to demonstrate a proven track record of success in sales, have previous experience and the flare and enthusiasm to make the most of planned increases in the 2005 product ranges from Baroness and Snapper.

This is an opportunity to join a successful and ambitious company selling a portfolio of branded equipment. To find out more visit our website [www.saxonind.co.uk](http://www.saxonind.co.uk).

If you think you have the personal drive and selling skills to develop your own area please send your CV and current salary or e-mail me at [amanda.johnston@hyoung.co.uk](mailto:amanda.johnston@hyoung.co.uk).

**Amanda Johnston, Group HR Director, H.Young Holdings PLC, Buckingham House, West Street, Newbury, Berks RG14 1BG.**

## The Kilmacolm Golf Club Course Manager

Founded in 1891, The Kilmacolm Golf Club is a village members' club. It lies in a moorland setting in the Renfrewshire hills about 10 miles from Glasgow Airport. The club prides itself on its environmental record and has hosted a number of national events, including this year's BIGGA tournament for Scotland.

**The Course Manager's role is a hands-on job and it is expected that the chosen candidate will work with the committee and other members of the Club management team to:**

- Build on the track record of success to date.
- Deliver the highest standards of course and practice facility.
- Co-ordinate an on going programme of improvements
- Manage, coach and develop the 4 man green-keeping team

**We are looking for appropriately qualified and experienced applicants who are committed to professional development.**

**Salary and benefits package negotiable according to experience.**

**Closing date for applications is 14th September 2004 with a starting date of December 2004 or earlier.**

**Apply in writing with C.V. and current salary to Club Secretary, The Clubhouse, Porterfield Road, Kilmacolm, PA13 4PD.**

**Or E-mail [secretary@Kilmacolmgolf.sagehost.co.uk](mailto:secretary@Kilmacolmgolf.sagehost.co.uk)**

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YORK**

Scotchman Lane, Flaxton, York. YO60 7RG.

## Broadstone (Dorset) Golf Club

Has an immediate vacancy for a

### QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

to play a major role in the Club's continuing development of its Championship Heathland course.

The following requirements for the post are:

- Minimum two years post qualifying greenkeeping experience
- Qualified to at least NVQ 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 competitive salary.

Applications in writing, or by email, with full CV to be sent to:

Mr C G Robinson, Club Manager, Broadstone (Dorset) Golf Club, Wentworth Drive, Broadstone, BH18 8DQ Email: [admin@broadstonegolfclub.com](mailto:admin@broadstonegolfclub.com)

Closing date for applications 19th September 2004

## Need to recruit?

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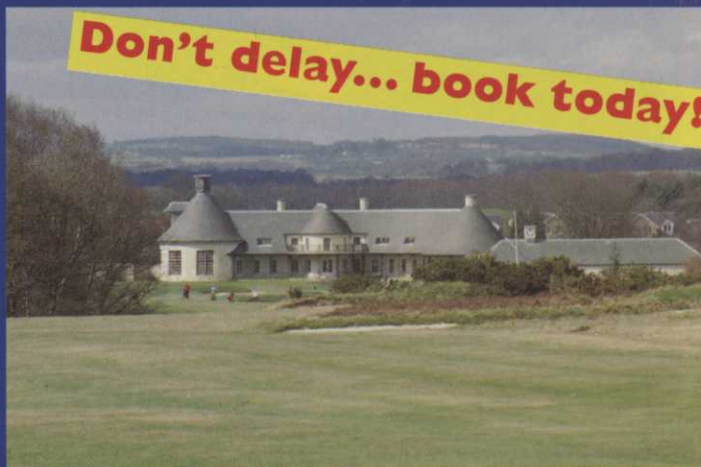
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after this date will be ineligible for a refund.**

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

**FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO GET TO ALWOODLEY GOLF  
CLUB CALL SARAH NORRIS ON 01347 833800  
OR VISIT [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)**

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



**Don't delay... book today!**

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

#### ENTRY

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

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

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

#### ACCOMMODATION

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

#### SUGGESTED LOCAL HOTELS INCLUDE:

Weetwood Hall Hotel	<a href="http://www.weetwood.co.uk">www.weetwood.co.uk</a>	0113 230 6000
Ramada Jarvis Leeds	<a href="http://www.ramadajarvis.co.uk">www.ramadajarvis.co.uk</a>	0113 267 2551
Ramada Jarvis Wetherby	<a href="http://www.ramadajarvis.co.uk">www.ramadajarvis.co.uk</a>	01937 583881
Thorpe Park Hotel Leeds	<a href="http://www.shirehotels.co.uk">www.shirehotels.co.uk</a>	0113 264 1000
Village Hotel & Leisure Club	<a href="http://www.villagehotelsonline.co.uk">www.villagehotelsonline.co.uk</a>	0113 278 1000
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Travel Inn	<a href="http://www.travelinn.co.uk">www.travelinn.co.uk</a>	0870 242 8000



## Feature listing from September 2002

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

# Chairman's Column



## Weather Words

Has the world really gone crazy or am I affected by a premature middle age form of senility!?

A strange way you may think of opening this month's Chairman's column - but wait, look around you.

Tropical like weather conditions, with torrential rain coupled with thunder and lightening and mid 30's Celsius temperatures causing severe damage to our golf courses, bringing complaints from golfers of washed out bunkers and casual water on fairways.

Maybe it's just me, but how did we manage to place more importance on this when we have a village in Cornwall almost being washed away before our very eyes and live on TV to boot.



It's a given in today's world that golfers travel fair distances in order to get their fix of the latest 'wonder' design but are we/they so totally insulated from the real world, even with minute by minute weather forecasting and news coverage, that we expect golf courses to be some kind of oasis amongst these strange weather patterns.

To listen to some, emerging early on a bright August morning, you could be forgiven for thinking that they had arrived from another planet, let alone another part of the same country!

Today, and in keeping with the latest Health and Safety procedures, we have sounded the Klaxon to evacuate the course due to thunder and lightning.

A sound policy you may think, even though commercially this has a negative impact on our profits, but the result? Complaints from golfers that their game has been interrupted and that they have run out of time, and in any case they have never been struck by lightning!?

At least this poor weather gives me some time to catch up on correspondence.

The first letter to deal with is a complaint from a customer who has been offended by a ranger asking him to speed up his pace of play. The customer, a golfer of 25 years standing and a low handicapper, has never before been accused, or been guilty of slow play, and therefore his day has been totally ruined.

The next deals with a complaint of 'no sand in the bunkers'. The member in question has obviously not been on a beach just after the tide has ebbed. Yet another complaint from a member that, because the holes have not been recut today, his score was the worse by two shots on account that his ball had lipped out! This phenomenon occurred on Greens stimping at nearly 10 foot and the golfer had a handicap of 9.

All of the above, you may think, are ridiculous complaints, and you should be forgiven for thinking so.

However, these people are our customers, and in today's world, important people. As managers we are challenged daily to provide conditions and a service

that will please. In order to do so it's most likely that extra training and education, over and above the normal agronomic disciplines, will be required. As you plan your budgets for the coming year will you consider the expense of the above seriously and will you have the skills necessary to defend and justify its inclusion in your budget?

All of the above is not merely a ramble or the Chairman's valiant effort to think of something to write about mid term. For some years now, a few, me included, have been strong advocates of management training.

Thankfully our pleas for help have been admirably answered by Ken Richardson and David Golding, but still too few avail themselves of the opportunities provided.

Well Ladies and Gentlemen, after a few false starts, the Train is now most definitely leaving the platform. Today's customer is discerning and demanding and is unable to accept inadequacies.

Your challenge is not only to be able to provide first class playing conditions, in all kinds of weather, but to be able to communicate that you have done so, and if you have not, to placate and soothe the angry customer.

Please for your futures, and that of your golf course, don't miss the Train. It will prove expensive, not only in the loss of customers but also in your own wellbeing. Stress is a killer and the biggest form of stress is not knowing how to deal with or control a situation. You don't need to take that chance!

In closing, if all else fails, don't forget sometimes just to laugh, it works wonders.

**Andy Campbell MG CGCS  
National Chairman**





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