



## Welcome

### NO KNOWN CURE

Most years around this time we allude to Augusta Syndrome in the pages of Greenkeeper International. This month, however, we have gone one stage further and featured it as a major issue. Incidentally I hope you like our cover, drawn by award winning cartoonist Tony Husband. We have an article with highly respected golf commentator, Peter Alliss, who has been visiting Augusta National for almost 40 years and who has strong views on the course, while Assistant Editor, Gareth Jones, has been canvassing opinion on the subject for this month's Talking Heads.

You may ask why it has taken until 2005 to tackle an issue which has been at the forefront of the minds of many greenkeepers for many years, and which genuinely does cause headaches within the Maintenance Facilities of clubs up and down the country.

You'll be glad to hear that I can answer that. As it is discussed in our own magazine there is a danger that we would leave ourselves open to the line, "We would say that wouldn't we". In other words it could be seen as the magazine equivalent of whinging to each other at the back of the class and not taking our concerns through the proper channels.

However, having had the chance to speak with Peter Alliss, a man who is known and respected by television-watching golfers the world over, his views, as expressed in Greenkeeper International, would be of real interest to golf club members.

With that in mind it might be worth leaving your copy of the magazine in the clubhouse for a while or photocopying the front cover and the Peter Alliss and Talking Heads pieces and pinning them to the notice board.

You never know, it might allow for some balanced discussion within the membership at a time when the usual Augusta debate rages and perhaps it may raise awareness of unrealistic expectations within golf clubs. If the articles are seen by the membership you might just make a few converts, or at the very least silence a few critics for a while.

Unfortunately Augusta Syndrome does exist but I don't believe that many club members - although they are a major factor in its existence - have ever heard of it. Perhaps that's no surprise as they are not the people who succumb to AS, it's only greenkeepers who are afflicted and there is no known cure.

However, having Peter Alliss talk about it and say that expecting a regular British course to be like Augusta National is about as realistic as thinking you can live in Buckingham Palace carries much more weight than Kerran Daly, John Pemberton or Scott MacCallum saying exactly the same thing.

To many golfers, "If Peter says it, it must be true." That says much for the esteem in which Peter is held.

So if the going gets heavy later this month make people aware of these articles. It might just help change opinion and lessen the impact of a depressing condition.

**Scott MacCallum, Editor**

### PRIZE GIVING TRACTORS



Stephen Cabrol (left) with BIGGA's Rosie Hancher and John Pemberton and the Carraro Tractor

The BTME & ClubHouse Banquet had a unique twist this year, as all the guests were given a model of a Carraro Tractor, as part of the company's sponsorship of the evening, which marked the end of the Exhibition.

Tickets were hidden in three of the tractors and Stephen Cabrol, of Carraro UK, was on hand to present the three lucky winners, who found these tickets in their tractor, with their prizes.

### EXTRA POSITION FOR GTC DIRECTOR



The Greenkeepers' Training Committee Education Director, David Golding, has been appointed Vice Chairman of Lantra's Landscaping Industry Group.

Lantra is the Sector Skills Council for the environmental and land-based sector and the GTC has been a member of the landscaping industry group for nearly 10 years. David's appointment follows former vice-chairman Eddie Wardrobe's promotion to Chairman of the group.

"I think the nomination is recognition for the GTC in its commitment to the promotion of education, training and qualifications to the golf club employers and greenkeepers it represents," said David.

"The GTC has worked with Lantra to develop, promote and implement the government framework of qualifications and apprenticeship schemes.

"On behalf of the sector I will continue to work with all the relevant bodies and organisations to ensure that both employers and learners can access a quality range of qualifications from the increasingly popular vocational to the more academic awards."

### THE RUNNING MAN

While many consider Sunday to be the day of rest, for one man Sunday April 17 will be anything but that. As countless people will be sitting down and tucking in to their traditional roast dinner Billy Merritt, of Beacon Park Golf Club, will be pushing his body to the limit as he runs the London Marathon.

Billy last ran the 26 mile course in 1997, completing it in just three hours and four minutes. The Beacon Park Head Greenkeeper is part of the Liverpool Running Club and is raising money for Marie Currie Cancer Care. Donations to this worthy cause are welcome and can be made by logging on to [www.justgiving.com/daffodils](http://www.justgiving.com/daffodils).

Billy, 43, has now been running for 10 years and in that time has entered hundreds of races, including 10k, 10 mile and half marathons. The Marathon in the English Capital received a record 98,500 applications for the 2005 race, and Billy was one of the lucky athletes who successfully got through. The international event has been running since 1981, when just 7,747 individuals were accepted to race.



Billy has competed in numerous races in his 10 years of racing

## INTURF BOUNCES BACK

Turf producer Inturf has signed a new three year deal to sponsor Wilberfoss FC, who are in Division 1 of the York and District League, having won promotion last year.

"We're delighted to get behind our local team this way," said Stephen Edwards, Joint Managing Director of Inturf. "Sport at the grass roots is important for us all yet it's remarkable to think that in the very same week that we teamed up with Wilberfoss we also signed up for turf orders with the likes of Everton and Burnley Football Clubs and Carnoustie and The Belfry Golf Courses. It's an exciting time for our business, which celebrates its 20th Anniversary in May."



Inturf's Stephen Edwards (left) with Wilberfoss Manager, Brian Walker

## GOLF TEE SIGNS APPOINT ROBINSON



Golf Tee Signs has appointed Charmian Robinson as Sales and Marketing Manager for the UK, with the aim of increasing the market share of Golf Tee Signs in the golf and Leisure signage market.

Charmian has many years experience in promoting machinery and associated products to the Golf and Amenity markets. For the past year she has been employed by Golf Tee Signs as a Marketing and Publicity Agent, resulting in a significant increase in sales and general awareness of the company within the market.

"We felt that there was a requirement for a more coordinated sales and marketing strategy that required the expertise of someone with a broader perspective of the sales potential," said Simon Challoner, owner of Golf Tee Signs.

"Charmian has a vast knowledge of the golf and associated industries and has proved that she can generate enquiries not just in the golf sector, but in other markets as well. We welcome her to our management team and look forward to even greater success in the future."



The Sheffield Section at Rotherham Golf Club after their golf match

## TARGET BREAKERS RECOGNISED

Dave Tullett (left), from Parks and Grounds Machinery, receives his Award from Philip Threadgold (right) and Cees de Bree



The performance of nine Charterhouse Turf Machinery dealers has resulted in them being

named as the company's Target Breakers for the 2004 sales year.

The dealerships that surpassed their target sales levels are Ben Burgess Garden Equipment, FG Adamson & Son, Geo Brown Implements, Keith Morgan Mowers, New Forest Farm Machinery, Parks & Grounds Machinery, Campey Turf Care Systems, Rickerby and Tomlinson Groundcare.

Representatives from the nine Target Breakers recently attended a special presentation ceremony with Philip Threadgold, Managing Director of Charterhouse Turf Machinery. Also in attendance was Cees de Bree, of Holland-based Redexim, Charterhouse's parent company.

Two special awards were made in recognition of particularly outstanding performance. Keith Morgan Mowers were named as Charterhouse Dealer of the Year, and David Common scooped the Charterhouse Salesman of the Year Award.

## EASTERN GARDEN COVERS JERSEY

Eastern Garden Machinery, based in Gorey on Jersey, has taken on Tracmaster's BCS Dealership for the island of Jersey.

Tracmaster's Managing Director, Stephen Pitt, said: "We are delighted to welcome Bob Messervy and

Eastern Garden Machinery to our growing team of BCS and Camon Dealers. We are currently looking to expand our Dealer Network as we are changing the way we trade in the UK. We propose to offer our entire BCS and Camon range through Dealers."

## SUPATURF GO ORGANIC

Supaturf Products Limited and Sport Organics Limited have entered into a sales and marketing partnership for the products and services offered by Sports Organics. The new arrangement provides Supaturf Products Limited with complimentary sales and services for the local authority and sports turf market.

Marcus Palmer, Supaturf's Managing Director said: "With our sales team's activity in the local authority and sports turf market we will be able to provide our customers with a wider package of products and services. Sports Organics has developed products that provide sports turf and amenity managers with powerful management tools in the form of Plan IT and technically proven alternative methods to current drainage methods."

"This new venture is very exciting and enables our technologies and services to be exposed to a broad, targeted audience through the Supaturf sales team," explained Justin Smith, of Sports Organics.

## ETESIA AND SGM ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP



SGM Hire's Business Development Manager, Andrew Racle (left), with Colin Plumb, Sales Manager for Etesia UK Ltd

Etesia and Scottish Grass Machinery have announced a new partnering agreement between the two companies.

Under the arrangements SGM Hire's customers nationwide will now be able to contract hire new Etesia machines.

"While Etesia is heading this venture nationally, all machines will be supplied through our local specialist dealer network in order to maintain our high standards of supply and back-up. We are very pleased to be taking a proactive role in this partnership which we believe will make Etesia products more widely available to end users," explained Les Malin, Etesia UK's General Manager.

SGM have also signed an agreement to distribute Yamaha golf cars and utility vehicles in Scotland. In the past 3 months SGM has signed up distribution agreements with CLAAS UK, Shibaura and Kioti.

"In building this business, our focus has always been to add top quality names to the list of manufacturers we represent and, with Yamaha, we have certainly achieved that," said David McInroy, Chairman of Scottish Grass Machinery.

Andy Pumfrey, Divisional Manager, Power Products, Yamaha Motor (UK) Ltd, commented: "We are confident that the sales, service and support network established by SGM in Scotland will provide a major boost for our products north of the border and we look forward to a long, mutually rewarding business relationship with SGM."



In March we placed the incorrect photo of Lee Strutt MG into the Tip of the Month. We wish to remedy this now.

## SEVENTH HEAVEN FOR PATTERSON



St Andrews Links Trust has appointed a Head Greenkeeper for its seventh course, which is being created just outside St Andrews.

Allan Patterson, Head Greenkeeper on the Kings, Queens and Wee courses at Gleneagles, will oversee the construction, opening and long-term development of the cliff top course.

The appointment was made following a thorough selection process involving over 70 applicants from as far a field as Australia, Canada and the USA. The decision, as the Trust's Links Superintendent Gordon Moir indicates, was based

on Allan's experience and knowledge.

"Allan has the desired greenkeeping skills to develop a golf project of this size and quality. His experience at Gleneagles combined with his ability will help ensure that the new course complements the broad range of golfing experiences available at St Andrews."

Allan held the position of Head Greenkeeper at Gleneagles for seven years following an apprenticeship that saw him take on a variety of roles including Deputy Head Greenkeeper and Assistant Greenkeeper at the resort. Prior to this, Allan spent nine years at Powfoot Golf Club, Dumfriesshire.

His appointment at St Andrews Links is a move that the 38 year old greenkeeper is relishing: "This is a great opportunity to work at the Home of Golf. The course design is fantastic and the location couldn't be better. It promises to be an outstanding golf course."

At over 7,000 yards, the seventh public course at St Andrews is being created in response to demand on the existing Links courses where approximately 210,000 rounds are played every year. Designed by David McLay Kidd, the new course is expected to open in 2007.

## NEW HEADLAND DISTRIBUTORS

Headland Amenity has appointed Stewartsturf Ltd as the company's main distributor for Scotland. Based in Mayfield, Dalkeith, south of Edinburgh, Stewartsturf is a family company with over 100 years in the Amenity Turf Market.

"Stewartsturf has built a sound reputation over many years and developed an impressive coverage," said Headland's Andy Russell. "The key thing for us is that they understand our programmed approach to turf management and will go out and look at the customer's situation as a whole rather than just sell products in isolation."

Kenny Archibald, Stewartsturf's Sales Manager, is delighted with the new deal: "Headland has the whole package which works as a programme and sends out the right message about Stewartsturf."



Headland's Andy Russell (left) with Kenny Archibald, Sales Manager for Stewartsturf

## NEW ROLE FOR MCGILVRAY



Duncan McGilvray with Kerin Conn, Marketing Manager, Haztek International

Haztek International, Golf Club Health and Safety Specialists, have announced the addition of Duncan McGilvray to their team.

Duncan's role will be as Sales and New Business Manager for the UK and Europe and he will be looking to expand the company into new areas.

"I am thrilled about Duncan's appointment to the team. He has over 30 years experience in greenkeeping and golf club management and will be a valuable addition to the company. His expertise and contacts within the industry will enhance our operations to a large extent," said Jerrard Winter, Haztek Director.

Duncan added: "With the advent of Health and Safety legislation the need for simple, robust, Health and Safety systems has become paramount. I am looking forward to the new challenge not only from a personal viewpoint, but also in doing my bit for the industry as a whole in ensuring safer places for people to work and play golf."

## PROMOTION FOR DAVID ROBERTS



David Roberts has been appointed Sales and Marketing Manager of Kubota UK Limited's tractor and groundcare division.

Taking on responsibility for managing and directing the sale and marketing of tractors, tractor attachments and ride-on mowers for the Thame, Oxfordshire based business, David had been previously the company's Sales Manager. In his new integrated role, David's principal responsibility is to ensure the effective

distribution, sale and support of Kubota agricultural and horticultural products by the company's appointed dealer network in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

David joined Kubota's sales office in 1989, having gained higher education qualifications in agricultural engineering. During the 1990's David worked both as Distribution Manager and then a Regional Sales Manager for Kubota UK before becoming the company's Sales Manager in 2002.

"My intention is that the name Kubota becomes a by-word not solely for product quality but also for customer service and support, building on the excellent dealer network that we have appointed throughout the UK and Ireland," said David.

## SOUTH COAST SEMINAR SUCCESS

The South Coast Section held its annual seminar at Canford Magna Golf Club in February. The seminar is part of the BIGGA Continue to Learn Programme and the close working relationship with Ken Richardson and Sami Collins has seen it continue to develop and become a huge success.

As well as receiving sponsorship from BIGGA, the day was also sponsored by Farmura and Bredy Irrigation Services and received excellent support from both the GTC and the R&A. The day had 110 delegates and was sold out well in advance with a long reserve list too.

The theme was 'A natural golf course' and was promoting traditional greenkeeping and a sustainable golf course. Jim Arthur, who chaired the day, opened the proceedings. The morning saw three excellent presentations from Rungsted Golf Club's Course Manager, Ian Tomlinson, Royal Cinque Ports' Course Consultant, Gordon Irvine, and Temple Golf Club's Course Consultant, Malcolm Peake. The afternoon session saw two more excellent presentations from Tyrrell Wood's Course Manager, Billy McMillan, and BIGGA National Chairman Kerran Daly.



A Greenkeeper's nightmare: The Minchinhampton course is left devastated by horses that broke out of the next field just two days before the Club Championship

## HAYTER AWARD DEALERS



Jason Scott (right) receives his Award from David Sturges

Held yearly the Hayter Dealer Awards Dinner is eagerly looked forward to by distributors both in the UK and abroad. The awards are given for outstanding achievement and are much prized by the recipients. The dinner is also an opportunity for Hayter to thank all of their dealers and distributors

for the hard work they have put in throughout the previous year.

This year one of the most popular people in the industry in the USA, the UK and Continental Europe, Stan Kinkead, received the International Distributor of the Year Award on behalf of the National Mower Company in the USA.

The Top Dealer of the Year Award was given to Lister Wilder Agriculture Ltd, and the Outstanding Dealer of the Year Award was presented to Carrs Billington Agriculture. Each year an Individual Achievement Award is given and this year Peter Bagguley, of Mitchell Industries Ltd, received it.

Commenting on the evening's events David Sturges, Sales and Marketing Director for Hayter said: "These awards are not given out lightly and a great deal of thought goes in to who should receive them. We deliberately keep the awards to a small number to ensure their individual value but at the same time we do recognise the tremendous efforts made by our dealers and distributors."

## MACMILLIAN QUALIFIES AS PARALEGAL

Ian MacMillan, of the Scottish Central Section, has recently qualified as a Fellow of the Society of Specialist Paralegal. Ian, Course Manager at Murrayshall Hotel and Golf Courses, has gained the specialist



degree in order that he could aid other greenkeepers who are having difficulties in their employment on top of the BIGGA Legal Helpline.

Ian sailed through the degree course, completing it in just six months and the Headman was the only student out of the 38 sitting the exams that was not practising law as a profession.

## COLLEGE ACHIEVES EXCELLENCE

Plumpton College has achieved full status as the Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) for Rural Business Management Training, after a year of developmental work. The award has brought with it over £500,000 of investment from the Learning and Skills Council to the colleges.

In recognition of this achievement, Plumpton has invested in a fully equipped training centre, The Sussex Rural Business Centre, which enables the College to deliver courses and seminars tailored to rural business needs. "This has been an important development in the future direction of the College," said Des Lambert, Principal of Plumpton College.

## EDWARDS TAKES OVER



Past Chairman Chris Carr (left) hands the Chairmanship of the TGA to Stephen Edwards

Stephen Edwards, of Inturf, has taken over the Chairmanship of the Turfgrass Growers Association when members gathered in Cardiff for its AGM recently.

"I'm committed to the turf industry as a whole, not just those growers who choose to be members of the TGA," commented Stephen. "As Chairman I plan to encourage the TGA council to work proactively with existing members to encourage new membership and to promote its benefits to both the grower and the end-user."