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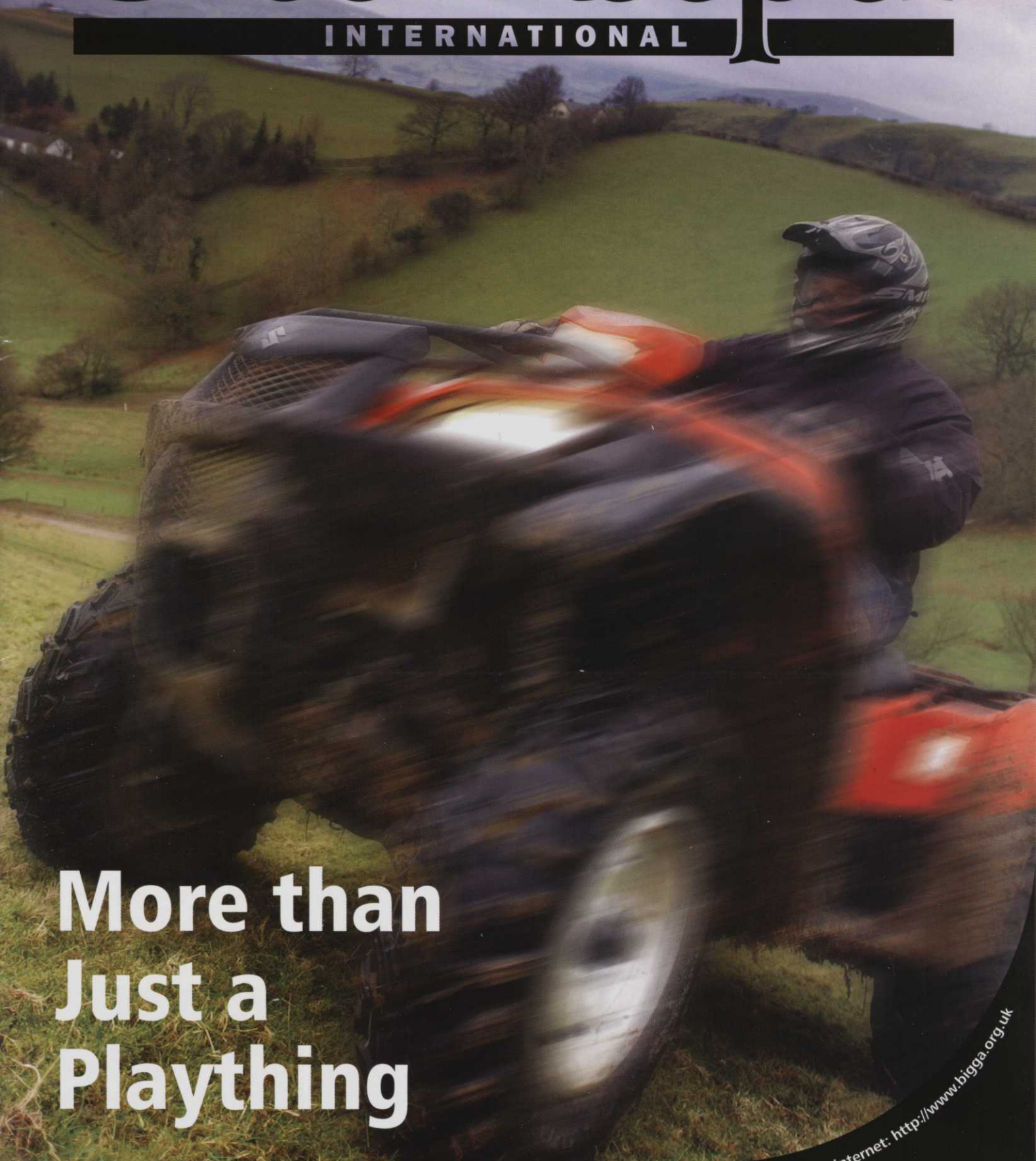
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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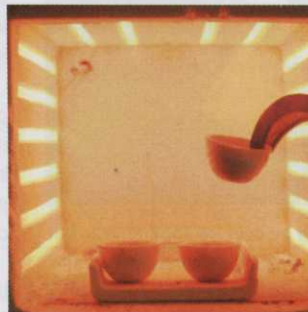
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NEW THIS MONTH!

Check out the Buyers' Guide on page 56-60.

For ways in which D CRANE SPORTSTURF and LAUDERDALE ENGINEERING can help you!



Welcome

WATER, WATER NOWHERE

June and July were dry months for a great many parts of the country and inevitably it resulted in the usual headlines about drought, hosepipe bans and water conservation.

Following on from that I received a call at BIGGA HOUSE from the BBC Radio 4 programme You and Yours wanting information on the amount of water used by the average golf course and asking about the reasons why golf courses used water. Reading between the lines I could tell that golf was being seen as an abuser of H2O and one of the main villains of the peace.

I explained how irrigation systems were so much more sophisticated now than ever before; how "over watering" was just that and that Course Managers were aiming to produce as healthy a grass plant as was possible, which didn't mean giving it a right good soaking on a regular basis.

I also pointed out that it was often golfers who put pressure on greenkeepers to water courses in a bid to stop their expensive watering systems lying idle and making the grass a darker shade of green. That was fine and the point was reinforced by Euan Grant, who took time out of his arduous Open schedule to be interviewed for the programme and did a fine job in putting over some pertinent points to balance the argument. However, it still doesn't get away from the fact that as soon as the chips were down golf emerged as Public Enemy Number 1.

As much as anything it is a problem of perception. Non golfers, even some club golfers, believe that golf is a widespread abuser of water and we have got to get the message across that, as in every other aspect of course management, we are responsible.

You do however get some very green, soft, golf courses, so perhaps we can use the fact that the spotlight is currently on the game to our advantage. Those clubs with memberships keen to get as much use out of their irrigation systems as possible and play on lush green Augusta-like courses might now be in a position to be persuaded that less is better when it comes to watering.

I don't personally believe that golf is as big a culprit as the general public is being led to believe but if we can encourage golfers that irrigation systems are superb tools and great safety nets and not daily workhorses it will make the job of defending the game that much easier.

I can't leave my column this month without paying tribute to the aforementioned Euan Grant, Gordon Moir and their superb team at St Andrews. The Old Course looked fabulous and played as well as any links course could - the fairways were stimping faster than the greens on the Sunday - and the leader board on the final day reflected the fact that the examination that had been set had identified the finest golfers. Sure, due to the fast running nature, there were many drivable par-4s but even in the perfect weather with wonderfully smooth putting surfaces the low score of the week was a respectable 65.

Well done to all.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

THE AFRICAN WAY

Stefan Antolik has ended 35 years as a British Greenkeeper as he jets off for a new challenge in South Africa.

A former Sussex Secretary, Stefan will move to warmer climes with his wife, Sue, and daughter, Samantha, to Aberdeen, where they will set up and run a Bed & Breakfast and self catering apartments. Bitten by the bug of greenkeeping at the age of 15, Stefan will continue



to work in the industry as a Golf Course Consultant.

Stefan will leave Cooden Beach Golf Club after 15 years' service, a period that has witnessed much personal success for the Africa bounded greenkeeper. In his time he hosted the BIGGA National Tournament, won the Essay Writing Competition, claimed the Greenkeeper of the Year trophy in 1994 and was declared Sussex Greenkeeper of the Year in 2003.

"I'm looking forward to the move. It will be different other there with oil based greens but greenkeepers adapt, that's what they do best, and I'll do the same. I have had some great times in greenkeeping in Britain and I will miss it. What I wouldn't miss is the traffic congestion and weather," joked Stefan.

OLD COURSE FACES NEW TRIAL



The Open may well be over for another year, but this month the St Andrews Links courses will be the location for a very different set of trials. The prestigious Open Championship course will be working with WRAP (the Waste & Resources Action Programme) to test a novel use for recycled glass that literally turns bottles into bunker sand.

Processed sand, the product on test, is made

from recycled green glass and it will be used in practice bunkers as part of a three month trial, during which players will be encouraged to provide feedback. If successful, the trials could be extended in the future to one of the club's courses to assess its use in 'real play' situations.

The processed sand is also being trialled as a path material. Being a links course, sand is used for many of the paths at St Andrews and performance benefits, including better drainage, mean that the processed sand is likely to provide firmer underfoot conditions.

"We are delighted to be working with WRAP on these trials to assess the performance of processed sand. St Andrews is committed to protecting and enhancing the environment and using recycled materials clearly offers us the opportunity to reduce our environmental impact," said Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent.

BSG'S NEW DEALER

BSG Tractors and Machinery Ltd have appointed R.C. Setchfield Ltd of Grantham, Lincolnshire, as a dealer for its complete range of products, with R.C. Setchfield opening a new depot in Staverley, near Chesterfield, shortly.

Richard Setchfield is Managing Director of RC Setchfield and heads a team of 17 staff. Established in 1982 as an agricultural machinery dealership, Richard moved into equipment for land management and in 2001 was awarded the JCB Land Power Machinery franchise for materials handling equipment. He also handles the JCB FastTrak range of tractors.

"We are very pleased to be appointed a dealer for BSG. R.C. Setchfield will now be able to offer its customers a 'one stop shop' for all their equipment needs," said Richard.

Graham Godward, Managing Director of BSG, is also very enthusiastic about the new arrangement. "Working together with R. C. Setchfield will be a very positive development for both our companies," he said.



SALISBURY SERVICE CELEBRATED

25 years and still greatly enjoying it was the message from David Salisbury as he celebrated a quarter of a century of service at Burghley Park Golf Club as Course Manager. As a mark of the achievement, the club held a Silver Jubilee Golf Day in David's honour.

In the trade for 33 years, Burghley Park is only David's second greenkeeping job, but it could have been so different for this modest man. A qualified electrical engineer, David worked as a Site Manager on building projects in Birmingham up until 1972. The knock on effects of the coal strikes at the time forced him to look for alternate work and it became a toss up between a greenkeeper at Burton on Trent GC or a gardener at a local school. Luckily for greenkeeping Burton got in first and David has never looked back, being promoted to Head Greenkeeper in 1977 and then moving onto Burghley in 1980, where he has turned the course around entirely.

"When I joined we didn't have one tree or sand bunker on the course, it was just a piece of grass land. Sheep grazed on the course resulting in electric fencing being placed around all the greens. I like to think we have moved the course on since then," said David proudly, who has worked with no less than 11 Greens Chairmen during his 25 years.

Moved on is certainly what they have done, the sheep are no longer residents, the fencing has come down, sand bunkers are strategically littered around the course and trees are plentiful, adding



L-R: John Magman, Club Chairman, Paul Wilkinson, Greens Chairman, and Gary Salisbury, David's son and Burghley Park greenkeeper, with David.

much character to this testing course. This has all been done with five staff.

"I've been luckily to have worked with some excellent members at the club, which has allowed me to push the course forward, make needed changes and really develop it. I have had their support throughout my time here and have also had some great staff on my side.

"It's funny, this celebration feels like it's the end of an era, but it's only the start. There is plenty more to do here and I plan to develop the course further within the next 10 or so years."

BACK TO GRASS ROOTS

Andrew Bowey, Course Manager at Oake Manor Golf Club, has recently enrolled two new Greenkeepers on the Modern Apprenticeship scheme. These are David Horrell, 19, originally from Cheltenham, and Charlotte Pring, 16, from Hillfarrance.

Charlotte is following in her father's footsteps, as Nigel Pring was the Course Manager at Oake from the opening of the course 12 years ago. He left the course five years ago and is now the Course Manager of Farrington Golf Club, North Somerset.

"It's a real novelty having Charlotte here. Not just because of the history of her dad working here, but mainly due to the fact that there are very few ladies within the industry. The last time I had any involvement with a lady Greenkeeper was when I was assessing NVQ students at the Belfry many moons ago. There appears to be only a hand full of female greenkeepers in the whole of the southwest. Therefore I am very pleased and proud to have Charlotte on the team," said Andrew.



Oake Manor Greens Team; Back row: First Assistant John Byrne, Ben Scully, Ian Larcombe and Deputy Course Manager James Williams. Front row: David Horrell, Course Manager Andrew Bowey, and Charlotte Pring

David and Charlotte will be studying for their NVQ level two in Greenkeeping over the next two years. Andrew has high expectations for them both and is looking forward to them starting College in October at Cannington College.

GLASS ALWAYS GREENER

Allerton Municipal Golf Course in South Liverpool has become the first Merseyside club to pilot bunker sand made entirely from finely crushed recycled glass.

The scheme has also been rolled out to two other clubs, Caldy on the Wirral and Blundells Hill Golf Course, in St Helens, in what are the United Kingdom's first full scale trials of recycled glass in bunkers. Organisers are looking for feedback from both greenkeepers and players.

The six month pilot has been organised by the Clean Merseyside Centre, a not-for-profit organisation that works to develop alternative markets for recycled products and materials in Merseyside. The trial aims to build on research carried out last year by STRI, which was funded by WRAP. But the scheme is not only helping Allerton's commitment to going greener it's also reaping benefits for players.

"It's early days and the bunker is performing OK so far. Nobody has come up to any of my greenkeepers and made any comment, so it's obviously as good as normal sand as far as they're concerned," said Dave McCormack, Head Greenkeeper at Allerton.

INDEPENDENT INSPIRATION



Tim Lodge, Senior Agronomist with the STRI, has left the Institute to set up his own independent turf consultancy, Agrostis. Agrostis, based in Suffolk, will cover the whole of

the South of England, going north to Nottingham and west to Bristol.

Dr Lodge, who has been with the STRI for over 16 years, gaining a PhD in the construction, irrigation and nutrition of golf greens in 1994, has extensive experience in all technical areas of turf management, including golf, football, rugby, polo, cricket, parks and gardens.

"This is a great chance to advise on all aspects of sport and amenity turf rather than be confined to just one area. Agrostis will tackle any turf, either to recommend treatment for specific problems or take a new project from feasibility study through construction and build. Most turf practitioners are passionate about grass, and my aim is to inspire them to enhance the turf they look after, both for their own pleasure and that of others," said an excited Tim.

TRILO MOVE ACTIVITY

Trilo have announced that their sales activity will move into Trilo UK Ltd.

"Trilo UK has been trading along side MJT Contracts Ltd for over 10 years. It seemed the right time to move the business and consolidate the two together. We now have Trilo BV for Europe and Trilo USA Inc for North America, it seemed only right to move over to Trilo UK for the UK and Ireland. We continue to work very closely with the factory and to push the global brand forward," said Tim Merrell, Managing Director of both MJT Contracts Ltd and Trilo UK.

NEW TERRITORY FOR QUINTON



John Quinton has been appointed Territory Manager at RS Bird Ltd, the Ransomes Jacobsen dealer for south and mid Wales, based at Cowbridge in the Vale of Glamorgan. John will be

responsible for turf maintenance equipment sales and support throughout the region.

For the past three years John held the position of Machinery Supervisor and then Machinery Manager at Glendale, based in Preston, and prior to that farmed tobacco in Zimbabwe. He is a graduate of Harper Adams University College in Shropshire, where he gained a HND in agricultural engineering. He lives in Monmouth with his wife, Victoria, and their one year old daughter, Sophie.

Commenting on his appointment Jeffrey Bird said: "John joins us at a particularly buoyant time for the company and his hands on experience will certainly add strength to our management team. I am delighted to welcome him on board and I'm sure that he will be a valuable asset as we continue to grow the business."

TWO BECOME ONE

Vitax Ltd has acquired the business and assets of Supaturf Products.

Supaturf, who have been working closely with American manufacturers Aquatrols, has taken their water management products Primer and Revolution to a strong position in the UK market place and are working almost as partners in Europe, the two companies have built up substantial European business.

"We are looking forward to continuing the close working relationship with Aquatrols and developing further UK business within the Local Authority sector, via Supaturf's extensive, national distribution network," said David Griffiths, Chairman of Leicester based Vitax.

JOHN DEERE AGREE WITH SGM HIRE

John Deere Limited has signed a new five year preferred supplier agreement with SGM Hire, covering a wide range of commercial ground care machinery from the John Deere range. These include front rotary mowers, X Series diesel lawn tractors, 900 triplex cylinder mowers, compact tractors and Gator utility vehicles, as well as golf course equipment.

This nationwide agreement covers a number of John Deere commercial & consumer equipment (C&CE) dealers who will supply equipment for the SGM Hire fleet in their own sales areas, and provide full parts and service support.

Steven McInroy, Managing Director of SGM Hire, said: "At SGM Hire, our long term strategy is to establish solid working relationships with both our customers and the key suppliers in our market place. We are delighted to expand our product range with such a high calibre manufacturer, and that this agreement will allow our customers greater access to the John Deere range of products."

David Hart, John Deere's C&CE Division Manager, added: "Over the last two years SGM Hire has bought approaching £3 million worth of John Deere equipment for its UK hire fleet. This new agreement both confirms and looks to build upon our existing, successful working relationship."



L-R: C&CE Division Manager, David Hart, and Territory Manager, Nick Ashman, of John Deere Limited, with SGM General Manager, Andrew Kirk, and MD, Steven McInroy

MILESTONE HIT

New Holland recently celebrated the completion of the 100,000th compact tractor to be made at its dedicated manufacturing plant in Dublin, Georgia, in the USA.

More than 100 staff and local officials cheered as the momentous machine, a 40hp TC40A model resplendent with '100,000th Tractor' stencilled on

the back, rolled off the production line.

It was driven out by Jody Brookes Jr, one of ten employees who have worked at the Dublin factory since its opening in 1996. Today the plant employs more than 100, making New Holland compact tractors for shipment throughout the world and the New Holland Groundcare range is sold and serviced



in the UK by more than 50 dedicated dealerships.

"We are a proud part of the community and we have 100,000 reasons to show our contribution to Dublin, Georgia," said Plant Manager, Barry Ruffalo.

INCREASE AT TGA SHOW

The TGA Show saw 450 individuals visit the event, which was held at Fineturf in Lincolnshire at the end of June. 290 had visited the previous show two years ago, with 40 exhibitors in 2005 compared to 30 in 2003.

The bi-annual outdoor event showcased the latest equipment and hi-tech machines dedicated to the producers of turf, such as turf harvesters, while turf maintenance kit was also on display on the various stands around the site. The Show also allowed the TGA to outline their manifesto for 2006 to

its members and the press, along with their plans to transfer Chief Executive powers to the PVGA - Processed Vegetable Growers' Association.



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CHANGES AT STEWARTSTURF



John Heaphy

Stewartsturf has unveiled changes to their Area Sales Management team. Blair Young has been promoted to Area Sales Manager for Stewartsturf, while John Heaphy has been appointed as Area Manager in central Scotland, the Borders and northern England.

Blair, who plays golf off 4 and whose hometown is Carnoustie, worked as a greenkeeper and groundsman before he joined Stewart Groundcare. When an opportunity arose within the sales team he jumped at it and has not looked back since.

John brings a wealth of experience to the company, not least BASIS accreditation, and he holds a Diploma in Agriculture from Edinburgh. He has very wide experience, particularly in pesticides and fertilisers, and has worked in Scotland, England and East Africa.

"It's great we can attract people of John's calibre. He will bring a lot to the party at this exciting time for the company. Blair is already making a significant impact within his area and has a great future within the business," said Sales Manager, Kenny Archibald.



Blair Young

STRI PLAY HOST

STRI played host to 98 international researchers from the ITRC (International Turfgrass Research Conference) on a glorious sunny day in Bingley recently.

The ITRC conference, organised by the International Turfgrass Society, is held every four years.

This year was the 10th conference and the main programme was held in Llandudno, North Wales. The first conference, held in Harrogate in 1969, was co-hosted by STRI.

The visitors enjoyed a combined presentation from STRI's Soils and Sports Surface Science team and the Turfgrass Biology and Environment team, followed by a tour of the trials grounds. The party then drove back over the Pennines to pay a visit to the City of Manchester Stadium, home to Manchester City FC; the pitch was designed and project managed by STRI in 2003.

MAKE HEGGIE'S A DOUBLE

The Scottish National Tournament took place over McDonald Golf Club, Ellon, Aberdeenshire on Thursday June 23.

McDonald Golf Club is the home course of the North's Chairman, John Geddes, and he certainly had the course in excellent condition despite the horrendous wet weather this area had experienced this year. On the day the conditions could not have been better, with a slight breeze but bright and overhead conditions.

Our thanks go to Alan Barker, Captain of McDonald GC, and the Committee for granting us the courtesy and facilities of their clubhouse and golf course. Also Sandra Brockie, Secretary, who gave her assistance prior to and during the Championship. Finally, to Margaret and George in the clubhouse for providing us with superb service. Alan Barker and Iain Barr, Scottish Chairman, gave a vote of thanks on behalf of all the competitors, and presented the prizes.

Results: SGGG Challenge Cup. Scratch. Scottish Champion. Brian Heggie, Auchterarder GC, 73. Friendship Trophy. Best Nett. Mark Main, Moray, 72. Ransomes Trophy. First Class. James

McCormack, Kirriemuir, 72; Kenneth Mitchell, St. Andrews, 73; Kevin Thomson, Moray, 74 BIH. Pattison Trophy. Second Class. Stewart McBain, Hazelhead, 72; Iain Barr, Largs, 74; Dale Robertson, Newmachar, 76. STRI Trophy. Third Class. Kenneth Andersen, Unattached, 73; Brian Hunter, McDonald, 77; Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead, 81. Dick Aitken Trophy. Best Head Greenkeeper. George Mitchell, Newmachar, 73.

M&M Trophy. Best Assistant. Bradley Wood, Westhill, 73 BIH. Souter Trophy. Best Apprentice. Scott Davidson, Hazelhead, 77. SIGGA Trophy. Best Veteran. Elliott Small, Life Member, 75. St. Mungo Trophy. Team Trophy (Best 4 Nett scores). North Section, Stewart McBain, Hazelhead, 72; James McCormack, Kirriemuir, 72; Mark Main, Moray, 72; Bradley Wood, Westhill, 73; Total 289.

Patrons. Pat Allan, Stewarts, 71.

Qualifiers for BIGGA National Championship. Brian Heggie, Auchterarder, and Mark Main, Moray. Guest. George Simpson, Oldmeldrum, 69. Nearest the Pin. D. Gray, Pines.

Peter J. Boyd - Regional Administrator



Scottish National Tournament prize winners with Scottish Chairman Iain Barr

FLYING THE NEST

Despite the perception of some members, greenkeepers are a friendly bunch and are always welcoming. If not all humans have yet to pick up on this, our feathered friends certainly have, as more and more birds choose the greenkeeping facilities as ideal homes. Ian Stephens, Course Manager at Retford GC, first noticed spotted flycatchers were on the golf course in the last week of May, but it wasn't until the first week in June that he noticed a pair were getting very interested in the club's work compound area.

It was around this time that Ian and his team spotted materials being built up on top of a post stationed right by the main door into the shed. This increased in size until some detection work established it was the 'spofles', a name given to the birds by the green staff, who had made the nest.

As of a mid Friday in July the team noticed they had four very healthy young birds, although they grew so fast that by

the following Monday they had flown the nest.

"They now have some sort of cult status on the course with the members who are also keeping a keen eye on them. Over the winter we may just have to put up some nest boxes around for them, as the post they are on is very vulnerable. I would say to anyone out there who has the room and space to really try to encourage the birds onto the course, as the rewards that you get back are superb," said a pleased and eagle eyed Ian.



FURTHER NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

Barenbrug's plan to further expand its business in Scotland and the north of England has been given an additional boost with the appointment of another new distributor, Turfcare Specialists Ltd, TSL, based in Consett, Co. Durham. The company

will be distributing Barenbrug's BAR range of grass seed to the amenity market in the north of England.

TSL has been trading for over 20 years and employs 10 staff. It sells a wide range of amenity products, such as grass seed, chemicals and fertilisers, to the golf, sport and landscaping market. In addition, TSL has a contracting side, which specialises in the renovation of all types of sports turf.

"We are delighted to be working with Barenbrug because they have been a high profile seed supplier for many years and their quality is well known. I have known their Scotland Operations Manager, Billy Nimmo, for many years and it's good to be working with him again," said Terry Charlton, Managing Director of TSL.



L-R: Billy Nimmo, Barenbrug, with TSL's Karen Hopper and Terry Charlton

THE BIG EASY

When the dust settles on another successful and busy BTME & ClubHouse in January 2006, there will not be much time to recover before the start of the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in America. Once again the BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard & Co., is giving 10 greenkeepers the chance to visit the Show for free.

The Delegation is open to all BIGGA members and all you have to do to enter is fill in the wrap around form attached to this month's Greenkeeper International. Once you have completed the form, send it back to BIGGA HOUSE and you will be automatically entered into the second stage of the competition. It is just that simple. If, for any reason, you do not have a form please phone

BIGGA HOUSE on 01347 833800 to request an application.

Held in the Big Easy, New Orleans, February 9-11, the GCSAA Event is expecting more than 22,000 golf industry professionals for the 2006 Show. This will feature approximately 850 exhibitors over more than 270,000 net square feet of exhibit space. GCSAA and NGCOA (National Golf Course Owners Association) will be presenting their annual education conferences, GCSAA's Education Conference will take place on February 6-11, while NGCOA's Solutions Summit will be held on February 7-11, during the Industry Show.



IRELAND AND HAMPSHIRE COVERED



R-L: John Hanley, Patrick Hanley, Groundcare Sales Manager; Sam Thompson and David Austin, Sales Executive.

Hampshire horticultural machinery firm Carters of Swanwick Ltd has been appointed sales and service dealer for the entire range of Kubota tractors and groundcare equipment.

"We have a loyal and dedicated team at Duncan Road, Swanwick. We intend to work very hard to extend Kubota's presence throughout southern and central Hampshire amongst domestic customers, estate owners and professionals working within the agricultural, horticultural and groundcare

industries," stated David Jacobs, Carters of Swanwick's Managing Director.

Meanwhile family firm J F Hanley has been appointed Kubota tractor and groundcare dealer for the Connacht region of Ireland. Operating from premises at Ballydooley, Roscommon, J F Hanley is now providing sales, service and parts support to customers for the full range of Kubota compact tractors and matching implements, ride-on petrol and diesel mowers, and the RTV900 all-terrain utility vehicle, which was launched in May

this year. The area covered by the company encompasses the counties of Roscommon, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo and Sligo.

"The company comprises a dedicated team of skilled and experienced staff determined to deliver consistent first-class service and support to all Kubota customers - past, present and future. I will be providing sales, technical and demonstration assistance to J F Hanley, as and when required," said Sam Thompson, Kubota's Area Sales Manager for Ireland.

SUSTAINABLE GOLF FORUM LAUNCHED

The European Forum for Sustainable Golf, a major new initiative designed to assist the European golf sector in addressing environmental sustainability issues, has been launched in Brussels by the Committed to Green Foundation. The launch was marked by the personal attendance of top officials from the European Commission, WWF International, the European Golf Association, the International Olympic Committee Sport and Environment Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme and BIGGA.

The European Forum for Sustainable Golf is an independently operated, stakeholder led initiative that will provide a centre for information exchange between organisations; improve cohesion of environmental strategies within golf; assist in the identification of priority sustainability issues to be addressed and develop partnership projects to do so; promote new environmental innovation within golf; promote environmental initiatives and practices carried out within golf to external organisations and the public; provide a credible interface between golf, government regulators and environmental NGO's.

ARE YOU TOUGH ENOUGH?

A BIGGA Select Team will again clash with the Combined Services in a Scratch Challenge competition this year. Monday October 17 is the date for match, which will be hosted by Burton on Trent Golf Club and played in a Ryder Cup format.

The inaugural contest was fought over the two courses at The Berkshire Golf Club in 2004. Despite many close matches, BIGGA went down 10½ to 1½ and the Association will be keen to exact revenge in 2005 at the East Midlands course prepared by Gavin Robson.

If you are a scratch golfer and wish to be considered for selection for the BIGGA team contact Peter Larter, Regional Administrator, on 01476 550115 or email Petelarter972@aol.com.

CRANE CONSTRUCTING EXPANSION

D Crane Sportsturf Construction has taken on Iain Watson. Derrick Crane has been operating in sportsturf construction for 16 years, in Cheshire and the north west area and, with the addition of Iain to the team, the company are using Iain's experience to expand further.

The construction business will be offering a full renovation package consisting of verti draining, coring, scarifying, overseeding, koroing and sand spreading, while offering the current full construction service.



David Golding outlines the GTC's new learning materials to aid in the study of N/SVQ Level 2 and 3.

Have you attended college to learn about greenkeeping or are you one of many who are working on a golf course thinking I would love to gain more theory about my job but for one reason or another I cannot attend college?

Well no problem, the GTC, with the support of senior greenkeepers and college lecturers, have compiled all the theory required into sets of learning materials linked to the N/SVQ Levels 2 & 3. These learning materials are being used by the GTC training providers and are available in both CD and hardcopy format.

Each chapter clearly follows the knowledge requirements as specified in the units of the qualification and the information is in line with the best practice and principles for sustainable playing surfaces. No longer do you have to wonder what your colleagues are being taught when they go off to college, you too can now access this information.

Course Managers who have attended a GTC training course to become work-based coaches would benefit from obtaining the materials, as these compliment the skills training any trainee will be required to carry out on the golf course. Having read the learning materials and gained the experience on the job then, in association with your employer, a formal qualification is well within your reach.

Several of the GTC training providers will facilitate this by visiting your workplace to discuss the programme and funding and no longer is it a requirement to leave your job to attend college. Some employers still have yet to grasp the concept of work-based training and often it is the Course Manager who has attended a

GTC assessor-training day, who promotes formal staff training and they are the key person in the vocational training system.

The majority of the GTC training providers still offer vocational qualifications by ensuring the trainee attends the college for a number of days and this is the alternative to all of the learning and training being carried out on the job. What the GTC has ensured is that there are now options to suit both the employer and the learner.

My personal view is that employers seeing on the job staff development being lead by the Course Manager cannot help but be impressed by the system, which is supported by the chosen training provider as the registered Awarding Body Centre. Having established that the Course Manager is the key player in the on the job staff development we must ensure he/she can also access

training to ensure they understand the demands both from their employer and their staff.

The GTC will continue to provide the training to ensure they become competent trainers and assessors but their managerial skills and technical knowledge can be accessed through several sources.

The most traditional route for education has been the land-based further education colleges, who offer courses leading to qualifications such as the Higher National Certificate/ Diploma or Foundation Degree. We now have University accredited B.Sc and M.Sc courses available following GTC and other industry bodies' support. There are also some excellent independent trainers who offer specific courses and organisations, such as

BIGGA. These engage those people who are well briefed to ensure the course are both informative and enjoyable.

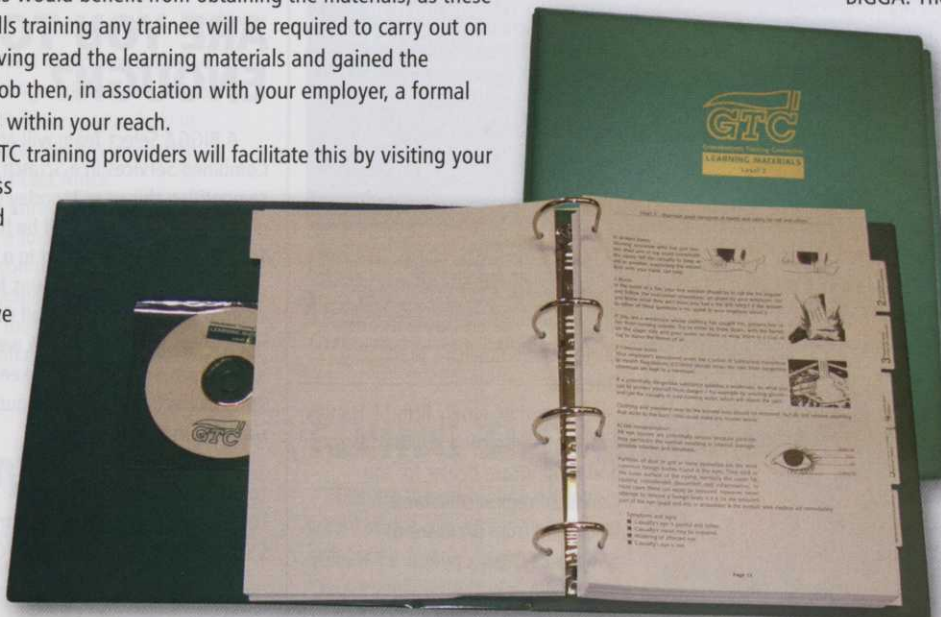
I also still hear that there is a reluctance to train staff through restrictive budgets and this may be true in some cases, but often these are subsidised courses through the Association's education and development fund or with the college courses they receive substantial government subsidies.

What I have learned since leaving BIGGA in 1993 is that it is not always the employer who is preventing staff development, it is often the

Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper who has not presented the case to the owner or Committee why they should support his/her recommendations.

There has never been more access to knowledge and qualifications, therefore if you have been thinking about how do I make the first step to your personal development please pick up the phone or email the GTC to discuss all the options.

David can be contacted on 01347 838640 or email golf@the-gtc.co.uk.



GTC is supported by:





Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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

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

For details, please contact Ken Richardson on 01347 833800 or via ken@bigga.co.uk

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Education Update

Ken Richardson, Education and Training Manager, reviews the Student of the Year Regional Finals.

July has always been an eventful month for the Education and Training Department of BIGGA. July 2005 was memorable for all sorts of reasons but the cowardly act of terrorism perpetrated in London is likely to lodge in my memory for many years to come.

Toro Student of the Year Competition 2005



We seemed to have picked a bad week for the Regional Finals of this year's competition as the first day, July 4, coincided with the planned G8 protest in Edinburgh. Thankfully, things ran smoothly on the day and all five nominees attended their interviews.

A rapid train journey south was followed by interviews at Manchester Airport, where we interviewed a further five candidates. Hemel Hempstead was the next location, where we interviewed nine candidates and managed to fit in the announcement that London had been awarded the 2012 Olympic Games. A leisurely drive west took us to Cheltenham, followed by a more hectic drive to Kettering

while listening to the shocking news about the London bombs, on Radio 4.

Over 1200 miles of travel, five hotels and a full week of interviews, when I was joined by Iain McLeod, Andy Campbell, Jeff Mills and Gavin Robson, from the BIGGA Board of Management, and Trevor Chard and Jeff Anguige, from Toro, saw us select eight candidates for the National Final that takes place at BIGGA House on September 26.

The standard of entrant to this competition improves each year, making the judge's job even harder. All of those reaching the Regional Finals have gone through a selection process when 3000 'students' are whittled down to 25 entries. Unfortunately, we can pick only eight finalists and you can read all about them in the September issue of Greenkeeper International.

BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships



This is also the time of year when students graduate from colleges of higher education, including greenkeepers completing NVQ Level 4, HNC, Foundation Degree, First

Degree and Masters Degree Courses. Many of these were fortunate enough to receive a BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, to help with their fees.

If you are about to start a course of higher education then you could be eligible for a scholarship. Contact Ken or Sami on 01347 833800 for details.

Harrogate Week 2006

The programme for Harrogate Week 2006 is almost ready to go to the printers and it will be distributed in late September/early October. Make sure that you read the brochure thoroughly as many changes have been included for 2006, including a massive increase in the amount of education opportunities available.

Last month's education article contained information on some of the Workshops that would be running during Harrogate Week. The Programme included a Resource Management Workshop presented by Frank Newberry. This should have read Project Management presented by Frank Newberry.

Regional Training

There is still time for you to decide on subjects and locations for this autumn's education courses. Contact your Section Secretary, Regional Administrator or Ken/Sami at BIGGA HQ for further details.

The Midland Section, of the Midland Region, are well ahead with their planning and wish to offer a range of training courses this Autumn. Paul Woodham has asked that I publicise the following.

The Midland Section is actively promoting skills training this autumn/winter. Gay Hill Golf Club have kindly offered their facilities for training purposes and we hope that a selection of courses will be held depending on demand. Suggested courses are:

- Manual Handling
- Compact Tractor Operation
- Chainsaw Use
- ATV Driving Skills
- A1 Assessor
- L12 Trainer

The courses can be run only on demand and it is in our member's interest to take the opportunity to further their career development and strengthen the health and safety aspects of greenkeeping.

If there are other courses that you wish to attend in the Midlands or you require further information, you can contact Paul on 07880 734197 or email paul@ghgc.org.uk.

Policy Continuity and the Importance of Staff Involvement

Many golf clubs have Health & Safety policies in place but unfortunately they vary widely and therefore their usefulness to the management and staff is limited.

The most common situation we find is that the policy was drawn up some time ago, usually with professional help, and left on the shelf. The document is therefore not being consulted and reviewed on a regular basis, as it must be to ensure a safe working environment, as well as, more importantly, not being compliant with current legislation.

OTHER INSTANCES OFTEN FOUND ARE ALSO WORTH MENTIONING.

- The policy is not site specific to your golf club. i.e. it is a copy of another golf club document with the name changed, or a company has produced a generic document to sell with little or no work carried out in terms of matching the document to the golf club which it covers.
- The staff are not sufficiently involved and consulted at all levels and therefore view Health & Safety, at best, as being a necessary evil instead of something which protects them in the work place.

SO LETS LOOK AT EACH POINT IN TURN.

1. If your policy is not current, active and reviewed annually as a minimum, make provision for this to happen.

2. Ensure your policy relates exactly to your golf club - in areas of risk assessment, whether in the clubhouse or on the golf course for instance, this is absolutely vital.

3. The staff must be involved - department heads in the first instance, but all staff must have some input - this makes the manager's job easier in the long term.

With the staff involved Health & Safety becomes part of the daily routine and ultimately inherent in the culture of the club - when this happens it is no longer viewed as a necessary evil but something to be welcomed.

By bringing your policy up to date and involving the staff in all the necessary work involved everyone's working life becomes much more manageable and therefore easier - and of course safer.

Duncan McGilvray is Sales and New Business Manager at Haztek and to find out more visit www.safegolfplan.com or call 0208 905 7552: email: info@haztekinternational.com.

Quick Guide To Sick Pay

It is a misconception that employers have to pay employees full salary sick pay. The only sick pay an employer has to pay is statutory sick pay. Any payments over and above this are at the discretion of the employer and will be detailed in your contract of employment.

HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR STATUTORY SICK PAY (SSP)?

To qualify for SSP you must be

- Aged 16 or over and under 65.
- Sick for at least four or more days in a row (including weekends and Bank Holidays). This is known as the period of incapacity for work.
- Earn, before Tax and NI, an average of not less than £79 a week (earnings are averaged over an eight week period before sickness began).
- Must notify employer of absence.

HOW MUCH WILL I GET?

The standard rate of SSP is £68.20 a week for a maximum of 28 weeks. SSP is a daily payment and will be paid for the days that you normally work (qualifying days). It is not paid for the first three qualifying days of sickness (certain exceptions apply) - it is the fourth day of sickness that triggers the SSP entitlement.

HOW TO TELL YOUR EMPLOYER YOU ARE SICK?

You should tell your employer you're sick as soon as possible (More than seven days and you may forfeit your right to SSP). Check your employee handbook for your employer's requirements. An employer can insist you if you tell them:

- In person
- By a set time
- On a special form
- On a medical certificate
- More than once a week during your sickness

After seven days of sickness you will be asked to provide evidence of sickness, which is usually a doctor's note.

WHAT IF I DO NOT QUALIFY OR SSP ENDS

You should ask your employer for form SSP1, which they should fill in and give to you. You then need to send this to your social security office to claim incapacity benefit.

For more detailed information go to the department of work and pensions website of www.dwp.gov.uk or ring the legal helpline on 0800 068 1893.

Rachael and Gemma from the Membership Department would like to welcome 74 new members to the Association and talk about the direct debit scheme.

Membership Update

Improved Direct Debit Scheme

After reviewing the way subscriptions are paid to make it easier for you, the member, we are adding a new option to the direct debit scheme. Currently payments can be made over five or 10 instalments. We have now introduced the option to pay in one single instalment.

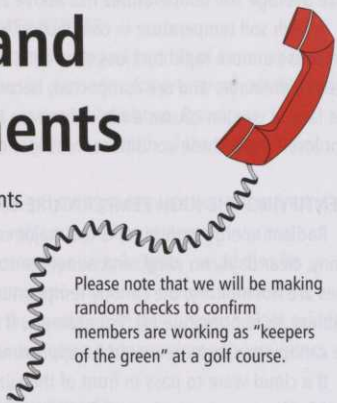
If you are registered for direct debit we will also stop sending out a yearly renewal form for you to complete. In future we will write to you a month before your membership is due to expire

informing you of the new payment amount and asking if you have any change of details. If you have no changes then you do not have to do anything further, your membership will be renewed automatically, which is another job off the list.

If you would like to sign up to direct debit then please call the Membership Department for a form on 01347 833800.

Telephone and email payments

We are now able to take payments for your membership over the telephone and via email. If you would like to pay by this method then please call the membership department on 01347 833800.



Please note that we will be making random checks to confirm members are working as "keepers of the green" at a golf course.

WIN A WEEKEND SURVIVAL COURSE FOR TWO

Spend a weekend existing on what nature has provided. Build your own shelter and spend the night under it, learn about edible plants, survival medicine, fire lighting and navigation. The course runs from Friday through to Sunday, are you man enough to last the weekend?



To enter the prize draw all you have to do is introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA. Make sure your name goes on their application form as the person who referred them

and we will enter your name into the draw. Remember the more new members you refer the more chances you have to win! The draw will take place on October 1 and the winner will be announced in the November magazine.

Call either Rachael and Gemma today for a new member application form or fill out the slip on the outer cover of this magazine.

BIGGA welcomes...

SCOTTISH REGION

Ross Duncan, North
Neil Farmer, Central
Sean Fotheringham, Central
William McBride, Ayrshire
Stuart McCormick, Ayrshire
Bobby McDougall, West
Scott McLeod, North
Ross Mitchelson, East
Sandy Nisbet, West
Gregor Norrie, North
George Pendrich, Central
Kerr Rowan, Ayrshire
John Wilson, Ayrshire
David Wilson, Ayrshire

NORTHERN REGION

Brian Barber, Northern
Nicholas Cape, Northern
Stuart Corry, Northern
Craig Finnegan, Northern
Chris Gibson, North West
Mathew Gill, North West
Scott Greenough, Northern
Robert Morgan, Cleveland
Darren Rimmer, North West
Robert Upton, Northern
Robert Wallace, Northern
Michael Willoughby, Northern

MIDLAND REGION

Clive Barnes, BB&O
Gary Cooper, Midland
Walter Frankham, BB&O
David Hartley, Midland
Phil Mansbridge, East Midland
Nicholas Miller, East Midland
Paul Smith, Midland

SOUTH EAST REGION

Kyle Adams, London
Denis Church, Kent
Daniel Cox, East Anglia
Simon Cross, Sussex
Tim Drewster, Surrey

Phil Hoare, Kent
Graham Hurren, East Anglia
Craig Jennings, Surrey
Graham Lamb, Kent
Adam Marrable, Kent
Alex McDermott, Kent
Lee Mullanny, Sussex
Neville, Rowlandson East Anglia
Terence Russell, Kent
Russell Sharpe, Sussex
Nicholas Smith, Surrey
Clifford Smith, Surrey
Tom Spurgeon, Surrey
Mark Thompson, Surrey
Robert Wallis, Surrey
Paul Walters, Kent

Timothy Watts, East Anglia
Adam White, Surrey
Robert Dyer, Sussex

SOUTH WEST/WALES REGION

Andrew Jones, South Wales
Edmund Stahl, South Coast

OVERSEAS

Hans Inguorsen, Denmark
Brett Perlini, USA
Stuart Cooper, Hong Kong

STUDENT MEMBER

David Lafferty, Central Scotland

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Sally Flannagan, Kent
Stephen Harmer, Kent
Carl Horrax, North West
Mark Keysell, East Anglia
Richard Lawrence, North West

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

James Moore, BB&O
Golden Key Member
Colin Gregory, East Anglia

AUGUST'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 a DIGITAL FM SCAN RADIO/ALARM, with a detachable speaker and headphones. Our congratulations go to Andrew Flemmings at Filey Golf Club.



Summer Stress and Pre-Stress Conditioning

The essence of turfgrass management is to provide a quality golf course surface throughout the playing or growing season. In most instances a specific period or time exists where management of a golf course green or fairway is difficult. This period often revolves around an environmental stress period defined primarily by temperature but often in conjunction with a moisture stress.



The combination of high soil temperature and saturated soil conditions resulted in a rapid loss of turf.

Identifying the stress period is the centrepiece for developing a pre-stress conditioning management programme. The 'beginning of the season' should be thought of as occurring after the stress period, and the 'end of the season' is when the turf is under stress. Management practices need to be considered in the context of how they might influence, positively or negatively, turf growth during the stress period. In other words, what are the practices that we will implement prior to the stress period that will enhance survival once the stress period arrives?

By definition, stress subjects the turfgrass plant to a hardship. Each stress induces a strain or injury, which results from direct or indirect physical or metabolic alterations. A temperature stress occurs when plants are exposed to temperatures above or below their optimum range.

TEMPERATURE STRESS

The optimum range for cool season turfgrass shoot growth is 15-24°C and 10-18°C for root growth. In contrast, the optimum temperature for warm season turfgrass shoot growth is 27-35°C and 24-29°C for root growth. Outside these ranges the turfgrass is under some degree of strain or injury.

The three major temperature stresses are freeze stress, which occurs at temperatures at or below 0°C; chilling stress, which occurs at temperatures below 12°C but above freezing; and heat stress, which occurs above the optimum for growth, and is typically lethal above 45°C. Freeze and chilling stress are primarily concerns on warm season turfgrasses. Freeze stress however can occur to annual meadowgrass (*Poa annua*) and to a lesser extent perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne* L.). Heat stress most commonly is a concern on cool season grasses and is greatly affected by the temperature and the duration of the stress.

HIGH TEMPERATURE STRESS

Elevated temperatures have a physiological and morphological impact on cool season turfgrasses. Creeping bentgrass studies have found that increasing temperatures above the optimum reduced net photosynthetic rates, decreased leaf chlorophyll content, increased respiration, and reduced carbohydrate content

*Continue
to learn*

turfgrass growth (Ref 8). The visual impact to the turf quality caused by these changes is a reduction in growth, and a decline in turf density. In addition, under high temperatures, traffic or wear stress is more evident due to the fact the turf cannot recover quickly.

At supraoptimal temperatures beyond what we would consider chronic (37 to 40°C) protein denaturation or unfolding can occur causing death or severe injury to the plant (5). In this case a special group of proteins, called heat shock proteins, play a role as 'chaperones' that help prevent the unfolding of proteins once they are exposed to high temperatures (5). These proteins may also help explain genetic differences in heat tolerance among cultivars of creeping bentgrass (12).

Soil temperature is considered more detrimental to turfgrass growth than air temperatures (15). As described previously the optimum soil temperature range for cool season turfgrass growth is narrow, 10-18°C. However root growth can occur below the optimum until soil temperatures reach freezing (0°C). Conversely, increasing soil temperatures above the optimum can cause root growth to decline and death to occur (9). A temperature threshold for root decline and death occurs once average soil temperatures rise above 21°C. The total root loss can exceed 50%.

A high soil temperature in conjunction with a high soil moisture content level can cause a more rapid turf loss than soil temperature alone. Soils that have poor internal drainage, and are compacted, become oxygen deficient upon saturation. The lack of oxygen causes a rapid decrease in root respiration, contributing to rapid root loss. Under these conditions, root loss can occur in a matter of hours.

IDENTIFYING THE HIGH TEMPERATURE STRESS PERIOD

Radiant energy (sunshine) is the major contributor to leaf temperature. Under sunny, clear days, no wind, and adequate soil moisture levels where transpiration rates are not limiting, the canopy temperature is often 7 to 10°C warmer than the ambient air temperature (4). For example, if the ambient air temperature were 32°C the canopy temperature would be approximately 41°C.

If a cloud were to pass in front of the sun the canopy temperature would drop 5 to 8°C. Thus, on cloudy days under the same conditions of no wind, and adequate soil moisture, the canopy temperature would be similar to the ambient air temperature.

A slight breeze (~8kph) across the turf canopy can reduce the temperature 4 to 7°C under sunny clear conditions. In shaded or restricted areas, where little air movement occurs, promoting air movement through cutting or trimming trees or installing fans can help reduce the canopy temperatures and thus reduce the potential for canopy temperature build-up.

In the above situations, moisture levels were not limiting. However, if the turfgrass plants cannot meet the transpirational needs, leaf temperatures can raise 11°C or higher beyond the ambient air temperature. Localised dry spots often have canopy temperatures of 49°C due to the lack of moisture present to the turfgrass plants (3).

As previously mentioned, average daily soil temperatures above 21°C can result in significant root loss. For onsite measuring of soil temperatures, many of the new irrigation systems come with weather stations that have the capability for measuring and recording soil temperatures. Soil temperatures can also be measured with a relatively inexpensive soil temperature probe placed on a nursery or practice green to a 5cm depth. Reading the soil temperature between 11 and 12 noon will provide a rough measure for the average daily soil temperature.

By Karl Danneberger and David Gardner, Professors of Turfgrass Science, Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University, Columbus, USA

TORO

Count on it.



Heat stress normally manifests itself in association with under stresses like increased susceptibility to moisture stress, and increased susceptibility to pests.

Once average daily soil temperatures remain above 21°C that creeping bentgrass and/or *Poa annua* green or turf is under temperature stress. In a recent study, the combination of syringing and fans not only reduced canopy temperatures, as mentioned above, but also reduced soil temperatures (2,7). Although, decreasing soil temperatures from supraoptimal conditions by a few degrees may enhance shoot/root ratios (16), root growth does not increase until soil temperatures are optimum for root growth.

PRE-STRESS CONDITIONING FOR SUMMER STRESS

Developing a hardy plant that can sustain prolonged periods of summer stress is the goal of pre-stress conditioning. Obviously, a criterion for pre-stress conditioning is knowing when the stress period occurs, as described above. Pre-stress conditioning practices should focus on enhancing the health of the turf including improving its growing environment (1).

Pre-stress conditioning practices include providing adequate soil aeration and surface organic matter management through coring, topdressing and vertical mowing. Correct fertilisation programmes and mowing heights would also be practiced to enhance turfgrass growth going into the stress period. However, a couple of specific practices that enhance the condition of the turfgrass plant prior to stress are irrigation and the use of exogenous plant hormones/growth regulators.

MOISTURE STRESS AS A PRE-STRESS CONDITIONER

Prior to summer high temperature stress, plants undergoing moisture stress like annual bluegrass, perennial bluegrass, and Kentucky bluegrass are more heat tolerant than those not exposed to moisture stress (14). Drought pre-conditioned plants tend to accumulate ion solutes, specifically potassium, at higher levels during periods of high temperature stress compared to non-drought stress plants (10).

The higher ion concentration allows for a relative higher osmotic adjustment potential during summer stress. In addition, a deeper more extensive root system develops prior to the period of high temperature stress (10). When irrigation is needed, deep infrequent irrigation is the most desirable for hardening turfgrass plants off for the summer.

PLANT REGULATORS AND HORMONES PRE-STRESS CONDITIONERS

Plant regulators are a small group of hormones that in small amounts can affect membrane functions, enzyme activity, and gene expression in plants. Cytokinin is one of the plant hormones that plays an important role and it can promote axillary bud growth by overriding auxin effects.

Thus, this interaction with auxin is a means of balancing shoot/root ratios. Cytokinin is also important in retarding leaf senescence or yellowing during periods of high temperatures. It probably plays a roll through stimulating RNA and protein

synthesis and delaying degradation of chlorophyll.

Research has found that applications of cytokinin to the root system (cytokinins are synthesized in the root tips and transported via xylem) alleviated leaf senescence and improved turf quality (13). Further research has found that cytokinin containing seaweed and humic acid extracts increased plant cytokinin levels possibly leading to improved drought tolerance (17).

Along these lines certain classes of fungicides exhibit cytokinin-like properties in preventing leaf senescence (11). In the late 1970's and 1980's it was postulated that one of the reasons *Poa annua* fairways survived summer stress was that fungicides used to control anthracnose also acted as a leaf anti-senescence agent by inducing cytokinin-like effects. In this case, fungicide applications were applied preventatively prior to the summer stress period.

Trinexapac-ethyl (Primo), a plant growth regulator, increases levels of zeatin riboside, one of the more prevalent and bioactive cytokinins (6). The increased plant levels potentially could increase the heat and drought tolerance of the turf. To get the desired effect multiple applications need to be initiated prior to the stress period.

CONCLUSION

As the intensity of turfgrass management increases, the susceptibility of the turf to environmental stresses increases. Managing turf successfully during stress periods depends increasingly on the condition of the plant going into the stress. Our understanding of how and why pre-stress conditioning factors may help is still in the early stages. However, it is clear that under intensive management, these factors will play a greater role.

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Course Feature



Niall McKibbon

Racing Ahead

Scott MacCallum may have arrived at Ramsey on the Isle of Man on four wheels rather than two but he found the golf course just as interesting as the TT course.

Hear the name "Ramsay" and what do you think of? Is it the guy who managed England to the Jules Remes Trophy in the dim and distant past? Perhaps it's that famous street in Australia with all those neighbours? It could also be the bloke who invented the ladder or the chef with the colourful language.

See it written down as "Ramsey", though, and unless you are acquainted with the names Ducati, Kawasaki, Yamaha, Suzuki and Honda, it may not mean much to you. Ramsey is the town on the north of the Isle of Man where the famous TT course passes through but it is also home to a very fine golf course which, although it may never usurp motor bike racing as Ramsey's claim to fame, is a good reason to pack your golf clubs as well as your leathers if you're ever in the area.

"They average 200 miles an hour for the 39 mile course," revealed Course Manager, Niall McKibbon, who has a library of gory tales of what has happened to some of the racers when things go just slightly wrong. Indeed just a couple of weeks after my visit a sidecar passenger died in Ramsey itself during one of the races.

"They close the road for practice in the morning and then again for racing in the late afternoon and the noise can be deafening when they pass just beside the golf course, having started at ten second intervals," said the young Ulsterman, who has been Course Manager since May '99.

In that time he has done much to polish what is undoubtedly a fine James Braid layout through the introduction of new working practices, new course presentation and a bunker reconstruction programme which has moulded the greenkeeping team together and provided the course with a set of bunkers even Gary Player would enjoy pitching his skills against.

The project which really relaunched the club came in 1999 when architect, Steve Marnoch, and construction company, Delta 2000, were appointed to look at the first six holes and last two of the course. Four and a half miles of drainage pipe was installed, new ditches were built, tees were reconstructed and all the bunkers in that phase, the clubhouse side of a course which is split by a road, were rebuilt.



The success of that project gave the club a taste of what the course could be like and Niall was asked to redo the remaining bunkers.

"We started the bunker programme in October 2002 when we did 15 bunkers on holes 7 to 11 and the response from the members to those was good. They were astonished by the visual enhancement of the holes and the change from having a bunker which went up to their knee caps to having to be on their tip toes to see out."



Niall and his staff

Over the following two years, having got the bit between their teeth the team did a further 23 bunkers and 10 holes and the entire project was completed last winter.

"It was a buzz. The boys were coming in when the weather was terrible keen to get stuck in and they were often turfing bunkers in the pouring rain."

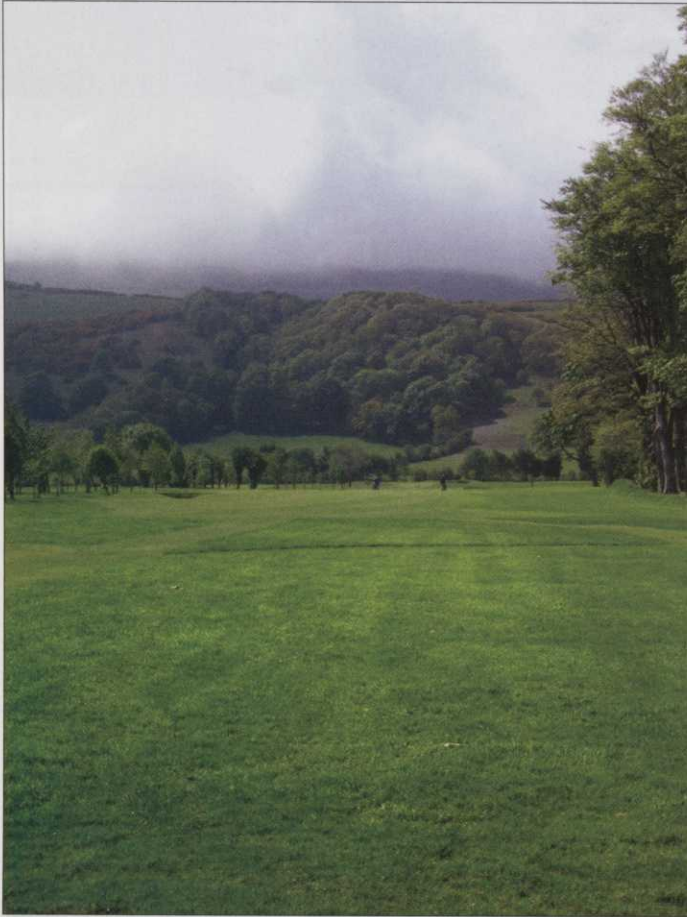
Niall took the lead on that first phase using the experienced he'd picked up through working on golf course constructions in South Carolina and Virginia as a young greenkeeper in the mid 90s.

"The club asked me to take on the construction - basically to design and build the bunkers from scratch - and one thing I would say is that you won't know how good you are until you are put in a situation where you have to think about the knowledge and skills you have picked up and then put them to good use. Being naïve and 23 in the States I thought everything was going in one ear and out the other but eight years later I found myself putting into practice what I'd picked up.

"I found the best way was to return the old bunker to flat ground and then assessing the situation, imagining the bunker before I put anything into the ground. When I got the shape I'd visualise the shot and take some more out if I thought it was too shallow," explained Niall.

All the staff were involved throughout the process, preparing the ground and removing the turf, putting in the membrane, adding the sand and returning.

"The following year I taught two of the guys how to do it because I could have been off sick and they might have needed to step in and they picked up the skills."



One of them did get a little carried away though on a bunker on the 13th fairway.

"I was driving back across the course and I couldn't see the digger. I got a little closer and I could just see the bucket coming up. He'd gone so deep the digger was below the level of the surface. We pulled it back to about six feet deep although he had been about 10."

Despite the severity of the new Ramsey bunkers the course record has gone four times in recent years and Niall is still smarting that his own record 64 was beaten last season by a 63.

When he took over as Course Manager he started to bring in presentation styles more sympathetic to a Braid designed course.

"I introduced the shaping of fairways and started to off set the tees which was a feature of Braid courses. I'd also noticed that every green was cut differently so I now get the guy cutting the greens to put a stroke on the calendar in the Mess room so that the guy who is cutting next knows which way to make the cut," said Niall, as he pointed out the calendar covered in a series of pen marks.

"We change that every day through the season so I can see how many times we've cut them and which direction they've been cut in. It's second nature to the guys now," he explained, adding that he now also had policies in place for the cutting of fairways.

He has also left more areas uncut, which is more environmentally friendly and cuts down on the workload for the team.

His communications skills verbally and in written form are well honed and he also has knack of finding a way to get a job done.

When the ladies were concerned about rough being left in front of one of their tees and their ability to make the carry he gave them all survey flags to take out with them on a competition to indicate where their drives had finished so he could amend his strategy appropriately.

The other significant change he introduced involved the working hours of the team and he did so initially on a trial basis after having floated the idea past them first.

"They used to work 8am-5pm and take three breaks a day. I felt you'd only

got started on something when it was time for another break so I proposed 6am - 2.30pm which we operated for four and a half years. We changed it last year in response to the lady members, who felt that the machines were too noisy on Ladies' Day, so now we work 6am - 3.30pm four days a week and 6am - 10am on Tuesdays. The boys now enjoy those hours."

He has recently introduced a three flag system so the colour of the flag signifies if the pin is front, middle or back.

"It is helpful to the members but also means that the guys cutting the holes have to make sure they think more about what they are doing and have six front, six middle and six back. Prior to that the holes were sometimes moved without too much thought to pin position."

Niall started his career at his home club of Royal County Down where he worked under Walter Beattie. Whenever he's home he visits Alan Strachan, a man for whom he has the utmost respect, but while his upbringing was on a links, he has no desire to return to that style of course.

"I've gone away from links and been on inland golf for sometime so I think I'd find myself getting confused if I returned to links. The only way forward for me is to stay with the type of golf course I know best and that's parkland," explained Niall, who has now settled down well into island life and married a local girl.

Island life does have its complications however and compromises have to be made.

"I went to four different quarries on the island to ask for a sample of bunker sand as bringing it in from the mainland is just too prohibitive - it would work out at nearly £8,000 for 100 tones and I spent £3,000 on 210 tonnes. I eventually stumbled across what I thought was an excellent sand and sent it to my agronomist, Dave Bates, and he was blown away by it. Unfortunately the quarry has since moved and I'm back to square one but it is something we have to deal with."

Another problem is coping with the pace of life on the island, remarkable for somewhere where the record for getting around 39 miles of it is under 20 minutes.

"I recently ordered some speed rollers from Greentech and they were delivered to the island but then didn't arrive. I finally got the name of the company who had them and was told that they'd get them up to me in two



The team have been busy with a bunker reconstruction programme



The course boasts some superb views

days as it wasn't a big enough order to do it straight away. I ended up driving the 16 miles from Ramsey to Douglas and picking them up myself.

"It is a lot slower and you have to be patient. The Manx have a saying, 'Tres De Loure' which roughly translated is, 'What can't be done today can be done tomorrow'. It just means you have to plan ahead. If you want something in June order it in March."

It is also important to have a good mechanic to keep the machines operational and Niall appointed just such a character in 2003 and Dave Birchenough has since proved his worth.

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 Oleo Mae 951 Chainsaw
 Oleo Mae 962 Chainsaw
 Bernhard + Co Rota Minor Relief Grinder
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 Toro Blow Vac

"He'd been in the automotive industry for 36 years and decided on a career change and there isn't a machine he doesn't know inside out. He can tell if there's a problem just from the sound a machine might make," said Niall, who has since promoted him to become his Deputy.

He is very keen that his team are properly trained and he encouraged Paul McGreal, of Myerscough College, to visit once a month to work with his team.



"Initially he just came here but now Paul visits virtually every club on the island. In fact when our guys all became qualified we had our picture on the front page of the island newspaper," said Niall, who is also D32 and D33 qualified and proud of his tough assessments.

"I was assessing one of the guys on irrigation and was going to fail him but Paul told me that it was the toughest assessment he'd ever seen, and advised me to pass him."

The work is paying off however and one of his team has recently left to take up a position at a golf club in Austria, proof if it were needed that if you work at it greenkeeping can be a passport to seeing the world.

Ramsey may be synonymous to bikers but thanks to the work of Niall and his team it is now on the golfing map as well.

Tight at the Top



Rigby Taylor 1 battled though to claim a narrow victory in the second Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day.

30 teams, 120 players and a scorching hot day meant only one thing - the Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day. Hosted, as always, at Aldwark Manor Hotel, the base of BIGGA HOUSE, this was the second such event since the passing of the Association's Executive Director, Neil Thomas, in 2004.

Running since 1997 in various guises, the competition's 2005 format was changed from previous years to a four ball best two to count on each hole, best three to count on par 3 holes. All eyes were on the defending champions, the Surrey Section, but it was the Rigby Taylor 1 team who adapted to the new format the quickest as they fought though to claim a narrow victory.

How narrow? Very narrow indeed. Rigby Taylor 1 finished their 18 hole round on 100pts, edging out Lincsgreen 1 by a solitary point with the Chief Executive's side forced into the bronze medal position with 97pts.

But the amenity supplier team were not the only winners of the day. Nearest the Pin, sponsored by Scotts, was won by Kevin Kinzer, of Alpha Amenity, with Antony Freeman making sure the Surrey Section kept their name on the winners' parchment, as he claimed the Longest Drive, sponsored by Hayter. This was the second year in succession that the Roehampton Course Manager has won the prize.

The Putting Competition was another dramatically close affair. Former BIGGA Chairman, Richard Barker, and Andrew Corns, Acorn Golf, needed to endure a sudden death playoff to determine the winner. Eventually it was Richard who held his nerve to come out on top and lift the prize.

The evening witnessed sun kissed golfers enjoying a delicious BBQ and the presentation of prizes. Neil's widow, Elaine, was again in attendance with two of their four children Adam and Natalie, and she awarded the prizes to the jubilant winners.

In another change to the BIGGA competition, the 18 holes were individually sponsored and the Association gratefully thanks all who supported the Golf Day and Aldwark Manor for hosting the event. The money raised from the event was donated to Macmillan Cancer Relief.

RESULTS

1. Rigby Taylor 1. Mike Brear, Ian Whitehead, Paul Dockerty & Kim Kirkham, 100pts.
2. Lincsgreen 1. Graeme MacDonald, Rob Welford, Les Howkins & Phil Wilkinson, 99pts.
3. Chief Executive Team. John Pemberton, Gerrit van Nieuwnhuize, Alan Russell & Mark Dobell, 97pts.

Longest Drive, sponsored by Hayter. Andy Freeman, Surrey Section.
Nearest the Pin, sponsored by Scotts. Kevin Kinzer, Alpha Amenity.
Putting Competition: Richard Barker.



Players putt on the 14th, besides the River Ouse, on a scorching day at Aldwark Manor



The Greenkeeper International team, led by the Editor, didn't have the best of days



The Putting Competition was a real test of golfers' nerves



Anthony Freeman, of the Surrey Section, receives his Longest Drive Prize for the second successive year



The Lincsgreen 1 team of, L-R, Rob Welford, Graeme MacDonald, Phil Wilkinson and Les Howkins were piped into second place



Elaine Thomas presents Rigby Taylor 1 with the Neil Thomas Memorial Cup



Richard Barker grabbed the Putting Competition award after a dramatic playoff against Andrew Corns



Nearest the Pin went to Kevin Kinzer of Alpha Amenity



John Pemberton and BIGGA Guardian Mark Dobell collect third prize for the Chief Executive team



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Stiff Challenge Ahead

Gareth Jones previews the BIGGA National Championship at the home of Robin Hood.



The event of the year for golfing greenkeepers and trade members is now less than two months away. The BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobson, is once again here and all roads point to Robin Hood country, as Worksop Golf Club and Sherwood Forest host the 2005 competition in October.

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Sherwood Forest GC

Section and Regional qualifiers have been played out across the UK during the summer months and they have witnessed many a success and failure as greenkeeper and trade members alike fought it out for limited automatic qualifying places. The scene is now set for the battle to commence to find the 2005 BIGGA National Champion.

Like Robin Hood and the Sheriff of Nottingham competing for the hand of Maid Marion, it was Graeme MacDonald and Noel Crawford who brawled for the 2004 title. Still in the balance until the final holes at Alwoodley GC, it was the Newark Course Manager Graeme who overcame his adversary to lift the BIGGA Challenge Trophy, forcing Royal Country Down's Noel to settle for the Scratch Championship.

Such drama is bound to be seen again this year as Head Greenkeepers Barry Lax, Worksop GC, and Kim Kirkham, Sherwood Forest GC, and their merry men set up their picturesque, challenging courses one last time before the winter weather takes hold.

Worksop, which will host the first day of the Championship on October 3, has had a busy season. Its dry, sandy based land has resulted in the course remaining open for the majority of the year and the summer has witnessed the course host the entire programme of Nottingham golf events. From the Nottinghamshire School boys to the Nottingham Match Play Open, Barry and his green staff have been kept busy preparing a top track week on week. If that wasn't dominating enough of the greens team's time, they have also been working on a heathland regeneration programme. However, all this wouldn't put Barry off producing a challenging course for BIGGA's finest.

"We'll set up Worksop the same for the National Tournament as we do for all the rest. In fact we don't change the course too much for competitions as it is set up day to day for the members, as it is already a tough challenge. Worksop is very tight with the fastest greens in the area, the 18th green has a 12ft fall from one side of it to the other," said Barry,

who will have been at the club for 35 years in February 2006.

Day two, October 4, of the BIGGA Tournament will move to Sherwood Forest. Kim Kirkham, fresh from taming Aldwark Manor's course during Rigby Taylor 1's march to victory in the BIGGA Golf Day, will have his course in its typically testing condition. It's been a demanding summer for Kim, but that wouldn't stop the heathland course from being very tight in October, with rough looming at every turn ready to snaffle any stray balls.

"We've let the rough grow more for this season, so the course is even tighter. We've also concentrated on keeping the speed of the greens up and the normal high standards expected by the membership," said Kim proudly.

"I'm looking forward to hosting the National Tournament. It's always nice to have your peers come and play your course and hopefully appreciate it. We've held Section and Regional events at Sherwood before and they have always been very enjoyable. BIGGA events are always a great chance for greenkeepers and trade of all levels to socialise together."

So the BIGGA competitors have been warned, Worksop and Sherwood Forest will take no prisoners, golfers will need to be on their game to survive the two days. So, can the two Headmen offer any tips to help?

"The 9th, 10th and 12th are the biggest tests at Worksop. The period between the 8th and 15th is where scores must be kept together and it's here that will make or break your round," stated Barry knowingly.

"I think the Sherwood Forest back nine will play a major part in determining who wins the National Tournament. If the wind gets up and blows in a certain direction it can be a very different last 9," said Kim.

There is still time to book your place in the BIGGA National Championship. To do so or for more details contact BIGGA's very own Maid Marion, Sarah, at BIGGA HOUSE on 01347 833800 or via email, sarah@bigga.co.uk.



Worksop GC

It Had To Be

With The Open returning to its Spiritual Home something extra special just had to happen at the 2005 Championship. Not surprisingly when at St Andrews there was more than just one extraordinary, memorable element. There just had to be.



Tiger Woods winning his second Open Championship, his 10th Major in total, with a consistently exceptional performance, is a distinctive image that will live in the memory for many years to come. Bar a slight wobble during his third round, the world number one never looked like losing the form or the lead that he had established from what seemed like the 1st tee on the opening day.

Jack Nicklaus, the world's greatest ever player said his goodbye to The Open. The sight of the sensational golfer, who won three Open Championships, standing on the famed Swilcan Bridge on his way to play his last ever Open hole, on the second day, was a moment when the thousands of fans who were clambering for a decent view can say I was there. Historical sporting moments like that don't occur very often in this now money driven professional world and will have been savoured by every person watching around the world. Many left the Old Course with a tear in the eye and a lump in the throat when thinking back to that enduring image.

The so close, yet so far for the perpetual bridesmaid, Colin Montgomerie, as another Major past him by sticks in the mind. We were all gripped by his meteoric rise during the weekend's action. Written off by most, Montgomerie proved the doubters wrong, but it was just his poor fortune that when he played his best Major round since 1997, Woods was in such a zone. Everybody hoped, everyone believed and one and all will remember what could have been.

For the 2005 BIGGA Open Support Team it was a memorable

Championship for so many reasons. Working at the Home of Golf, witnessing one of the most dramatic final rounds in recent Open history, walking the hallowed course inside the ropes and generally being part of the whole BIGGA team was an experience of a lifetime. The Open also had one more landmark as the Great BIGGA Bunker Competition came full circle at St Andrews, as it celebrated its 10th birthday.

Started in 1995 at the Home of Golf, the prediction competition returned to the Old Course once again to record vital bunker statistics for both the competition itself and for information requirements for the Press and Media at The Open.

All the talk before the Championship was about the lengthening of the Old Course. The question that was on everyone's lips was would the increased size of the course bring into play more of the 112 bunkers littered across the Links course? The stats, collected by the Open Support Team, highlighted emphatically that the course's extension indeed has brought those deep, feared traps into play.

In total 676 bunkers were hit by the cream of the golfing world during the entire 2005 Championship. That compares to a final figure of 448 when The Open was last at St Andrews in 2000. The 2005 figures were dramatically higher for each day of the Championship than 2004. For example, just 148 bunkers when located in the first day's play in 2000, while 252 were put to use for the corresponding day in 2005.

Tiger Woods may have lifted the Claret Jug for the second time, but he could not repeat his 2000 feat at St Andrews of evading all of the Old Course's 112 bunkers. In total the world number one was forced to escape from the sand four times.

The 14th was the golfer's major enemy during the Championship. As well as catching the most balls, 31, on Day Two, the Long Hole's bunkers were visited more than any other during the whole Open, totalling 83.

The 3rd, Cartgate (Out), was the hole with bunkers that caused the least agony to the top golfers. Its bunkers were invaded just 10 times during the four days, with the hole also being the only one not to steal any balls on a single day, that was day two. The 1st and 18th on the Old Course are absent of any bunkers.

So many historically moments, numerous special memories, frequent fun filled times all added to a wonderful Championship and a once in a lifetime experience. It just had to be.

THE UPDATED STORY... 10 YEARS ON

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	St A's	Lym	Troon	B'dale	C'stie	St A's	Lym	M'field	St G's	Troon	St A's
Bunkers	112	185	84	117	115	112	197	148	106	93	112
Rd 1	214	501	344	355	539	148	557	359	388	393	252
Rd 2	201	577	272	406	468	164	547	372	405	371	203
Rd 3	130	269	107	226	202	65	224	175	149	148	100
Rd 4	156	271	136	153	265	71	257	169	181	185	121
Total	701	1618	859	1140	1474	448	1585	1078	1123	1097	676

BIGGA's Golden Nuggets

There was plenty of interesting tales that occurred throughout The Open, here are just some of the stories collected by BIGGA Open Support Team Members and staff during the four days.

Stig Persson was the lucky Open Support Team Member who went out with Jack Nicklaus on his final ever Open round. The Swedish greenkeeper was right there when Jack crossed the famous Swilcan Bridge for the last time.

"It was very special. To be that close to it all was very good indeed. You could see all the emotion of the moment and I was honoured to be out there," said Stig.



The entire 2005 BIGGA Open Support Team

As well as staging a superb Open Championship, Old Course Head Greenkeeper, Euan Grant, and Links Superintendent, Gordon Moir, had something extra to be smug about after receiving a special gift. The pair both had the rare, newly released Scottish edition of the £5 note with Jack Nicklaus on the face. That memento became even more special when the two greenkeepers had the notes signed by the great man at a Dinner during the Championship.

American Richard Matteson had his club to thank for him being part of the BIGGA Support Team for the second time. His club, Pendleton GC, held a golf day to raise money for his travel costs to St Andrews. Despite his members helping with his funds, Richard still set up the course as hard as possible in tribute to the US Open, as it was hosted on the same Sunday as the Major. Half of the money raised from the golf day was given to the Superintendent, which was in the region of \$1,200.

"Entries were given two extra shots on their handicap if they were wearing anything resembling a kilt," said Richard smiling, who made the most of his St Andrews experience during the week, once he got there that is.

The 'Dam Yank', as he has now been named, left Tony Smith and Ian Holoran waiting at Darlington Train Station for five hours. The north east pair had agreed to pick up Richard on their way up to St Andrews, but delayed trains and planes resulted in the mammoth wait and the new endearing nickname for the American.

Former Board Member Ian Semple had one of those fearful moments. Like a true professional Ian got onto the first tee in plenty of time for his second round match. He enjoyed chatting with various members of his group until he realised, just before the players were to tee off, that there was a problem. He had forgotten to pick up his rake at HQ and had to race back to fetch his weapon. Information supplied by Robert Hogarth.

Maarton Lafeber's caddie had a tough final few holes on Day One. His bag strap snapped while leaving the 16th tee. He was forced to manage without the strap for the remaining three holes. Information supplied by Jimmy Richardson.



A support team member removes footprints in the bunker as Miguel Angel Jimenez looks on

Another caddie having a bad first day was Tom Watson's. As Watson threw his ball for cleaning, on the 11th green, his right hand man stepped back and fell over backwards and rolled down the green, bag and all, with his course planner blowing in the opposite direction. Information supplied by Billy Merritt.

The 5th captured all three members of game four on the first day. Amateur Champion, Brian McElhinney, Jerry Kelly and Craig Parry all landed in the same bunker from their tee shots. McElhinney and Parry then repeated the feat on the 12th, again landing in the same trap from the tee. Information supplied by Richard Blackburn.

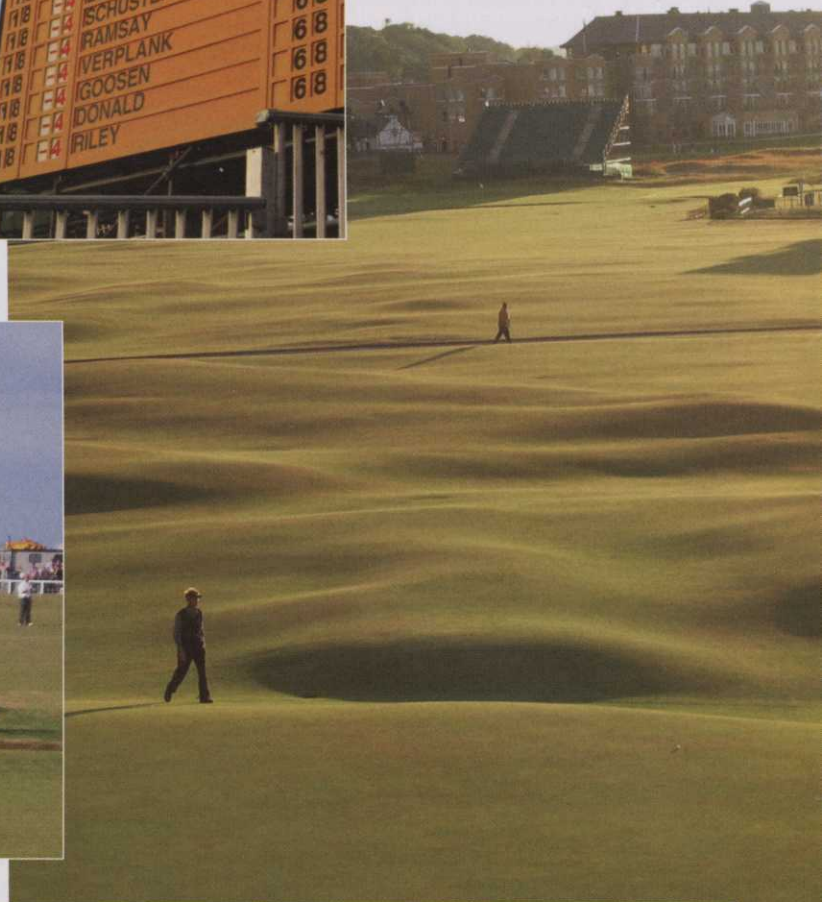
After raking the Road Hole bunker at the 17th, Open Support Team Member Mark Lewthwaite was asked to go back and rake one of the fairway bunkers as two ducklings had fallen into the trap. The R&A Official rescued the birds and Mark was safe to rake both the Official's and duckling's prints out of the sand. Information supplied by Mark Lewthwaite.

HOLE	PAR	PLAYER	SCORE
17	6	WOODS	66
17	6	HENSBY	67
17	6	COUPLER	68
17	6	IMMELMAN	68
17	6	LOLAZABAL	68
17	6	LONARD	68
17	6	SCHUSTER	68
17	6	RAMSAY	68
17	6	VERPLANK	68
17	6	GOOSEN	68
17	6	DONALD	68
17	6	RILEY	68



Colin 'Bob' Denny shows off his glove signed by Patrik Sjoland

Woods never relinquished his first day's lead



Jack Nicklaus crossed the Swilcan Bridge for the final time



The BIGGA Team learnt how the bunkers should be raked for The Open by the superb Old Course staff



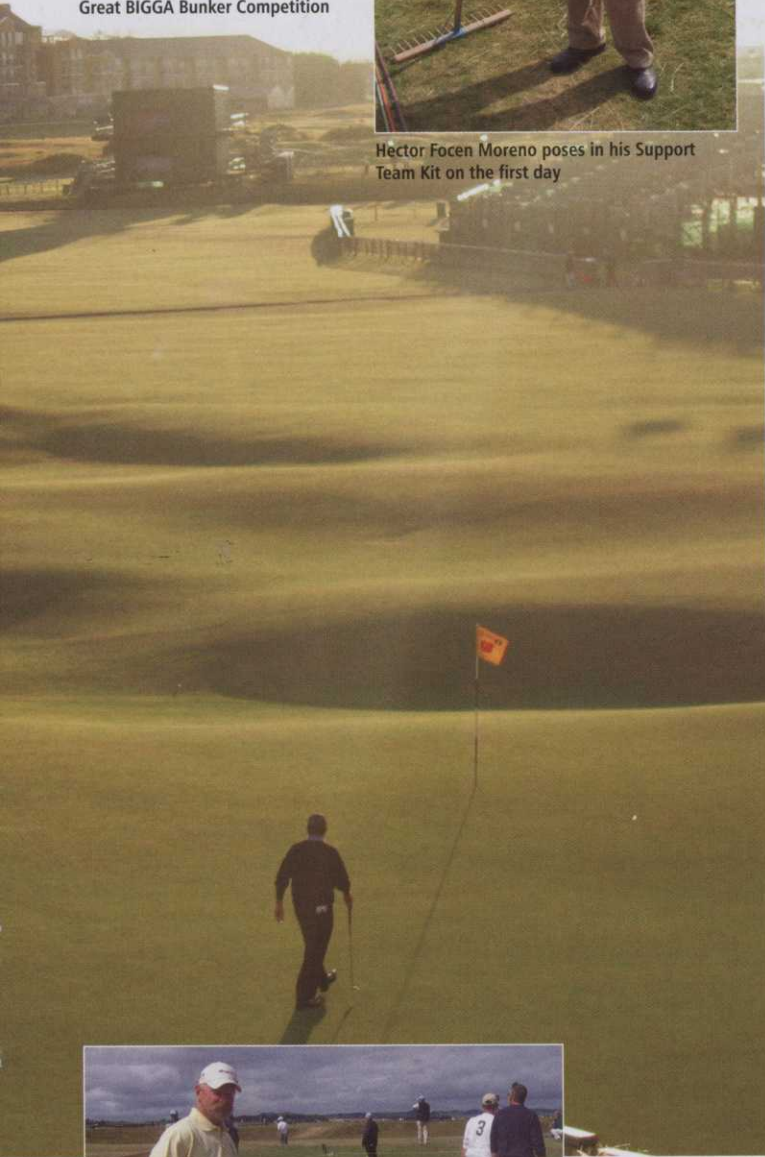
(L-R) Ian Holoran, Andy Campbell, Mark Lewthwaite (kneeling), Tony Smith and John Keenaghan with the three Jacks



Chairman Kerran Daly presents Iain Barr with his prize for winning the second day of the Great BIGGA Bunker Competition



Hector Focén Moreno poses in his Support Team Kit on the first day



Richard Matteson was at St Andrews thanks to his members




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Matthew Jordan on his debut at The Open



Some of the boys relax after their round

Matthew Evans performs his duties admirably



John Keenaghan during his round on the second day



Sergio Garcia was in a mischievous mood before starting his second round. Knowing that Mr Starter, Ivor Robson, had been standing on the 1st tee without a toilet break all day, the Spaniard started to pour his water out of the bottle, in front of Robson, to make a satisfying and relieving splashing sound. Information supplied by Ian Semple

Talking of toilet breaks, Ian Poulter opted to pop into the bushes when nature called, while his caddy used the loo on the 8th. Information supplied by Richard Matteson.

After a long second round, Thomas Bjorn finally snapped on the 18th. He hit his tee shot out of bounds and responded by smashing one of the tee markers to pieces. Information supplied by Billy Merritt.

The 13th was definitely unlucky for Scott Drummond. After pushing his second round tee shot into a bunker, the player then reached down to grab his bottle of drink and cracked his head on the tee marker. Information supplied Richard Blackburn.

S K Ho weekend appearance at the Championship is owed as much to Open Support Team Member Paul Jenkins' eagle eye, as it is to the skill of the actual player. The Korean lost his ball in the rough on the 2nd, resulting in a mad scramble to find the golfer's ball before his allotted time of five minutes was up. Just as the Official was to call time of this search, which would ensure a two stroke penalty, Paul found the ball and Ho could go on his merry way. The Korean made the cut by two shots, a feat not possible if he had incurred the penalty. Information supplied, unsurprisingly, by Paul Jenkins.

It's a hard life for the Rules Officials. After already completing two days play, the Official in the Paul McGinley/Rod Pampling match was struggling by the 3rd hole. So tired was the Official that he decided to get out his little umbrella seat and have a deserved sit. The only problem... he did it right in the middle of the 3rd green. Information supplied by Kevin Hobbs.

Finally, always looking for a souvenir, an American spectator asked Justin Leonard for his golf ball on the 6th green on Day Three of The Open. "Sorry, but I'm still using it," was the reply from the golfer. Information supplied by Richard Holmes.



What's in your Top Dressing?

Mick Higgins and Sasha McCann explain exactly what a top dressing consists of and how careful selection of the right material is essential.

Historically, top dressings for fine turf areas were produced on site by the greenkeeper using local sands and soils. These complimented the rootzone of the greens' construction as they were made from the same, or similar, materials. Over the years the game of golf has developed to the extent that courses are now expected to produce fine turf areas that can withstand play 52 weeks of the year. Hence, the vast majority of construction rootzones are now designed and produced by external specialists such as Rufford and Pro-Sport. As top dressings should match a rootzone profile, they too need to be designed and manufactured to the same high specification.



Sand grains under the microscope

However, whereas we have recommendations and guidelines for putting green rootzones from the United States (USGA) and later this year from the UK (STRI), there are no similar guidelines for top dressing materials. There have been numerous articles written on the subject of top dressings over the years, about how and when to use them. But do you actually know what goes into a top dressing and the measures taken to get it right?

For example, if you requested a 70/30 top dressing, would you actually know what is in the mix? What type of sand would you be adding in at 70%? Which grade of sand would you require - medium coarse or medium fine? Furthermore, what kind of organic amendment would you be adding in at 30%? Is it a sandy loam soil with low organic matter content or a sedge peat with high organic matter content? All of these considerations are fundamental to the way in which the top dressing, and ultimately the putting green, will perform.

CONSTITUENTS OF A TOP DRESSING

Irrespective of the blend ratio, i.e. 70/30, 60/40 (which is actually by volume and not by weight), the majority of top dressings produced in the UK would typically consist of:

sand (53 or 63 - 2000 microns)*	90 - 99%
silt & clay (<53 or <63 microns)*	0.5 - 7.0%
organic matter content	0.5 - 3.0%

*53 microns is used for American procedures, 63 microns is used for UK.

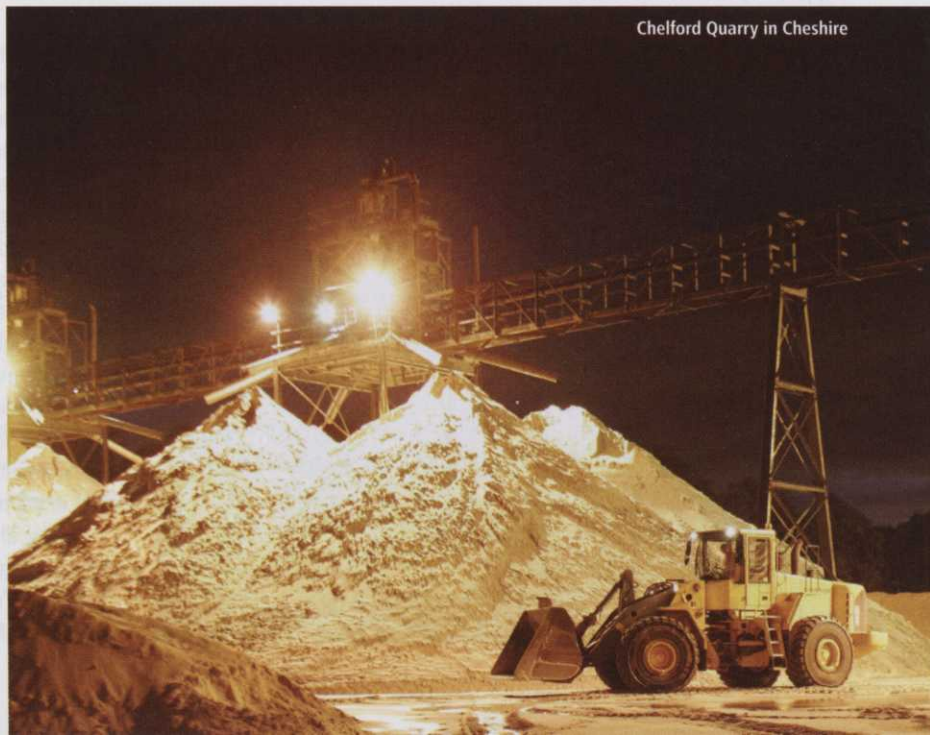
By reducing the percentage of silt and clay, water infiltration rates will increase. Higher silt and clay levels will also increase the possibility of greens being capped. Top dressing, in conjunction with other maintenance practices such as scarification or aeration, will help to control thatch. Therefore, a top dressing with a high content of organic matter will only add to any existing problems with thatch layer. The combined percentages of silt and clay plus organic matter content at 10% or less, results in over 90% of a top dressing consisting of sand.

SAND

The definition of sand is an inorganic mineral fraction between 2000 microns and either 53 or 63 microns (depending on US or UK specification respectively). A point to remember is that any organic amendment containing particles within these size fractions would also be classified as 'sand'. The chemical composition of sand in the UK is predominantly silica (SiO₂). Each deposit has its own unique mineralogy depending on how, when and from which mineral it was formed.

It is important to appreciate that not all sands are the same and, as it is the major constituent in a top dressing, care should be taken to ensure that the sand used has the desired physical properties.

Construction or building sands have a wide range of particle sizes, which can lead to a high degree of interpacking, resulting in poor drainage. Sands used for top dressing should have a narrow range of particle sizes with the majority of particles in the medium sand range, that is between 0.25mm and 0.50mm. This will help to reduce the impact of interpacking and offer the optimum balance for capillary and non capillary



Chelford Quarry in Cheshire



Sasha McCann at work in WBB Minerals' laboratory which has been a member of the USGA Proficiency Testing Programme for the past 10 years

By removing fine sand, silt and clay fractions drainage of the sand is dramatically improved. The processed sand is stockpiled and left to drain before being used in top dressing production.

Sands that have not been processed effectively are likely to be cheaper but when used in top dressings may not provide the desired results, specifically drainage. Even a top dressing that contains over 90% sand, when incorporated into a rootzone, may not perform as expected and could lead to capped greens or reduced infiltration rates.

ORGANICS

The most commonly used organic amendments for top dressing production in the UK are soil, peat and green compost.

- Soils can vary in texture from sandy loam through to heavy clay loam and in organic matter from 'sandy' to 'peaty' soils.
- Peat is formed by the partial decomposition of vegetation in acid, waterlogged conditions. Sphagnum peat is derived from sphagnum moss and sedge peat from sedge, a grass-like plant.
- Green compost is produced by the decomposition of recycled green waste.

It is not just the blend ratio, but also the type of organic amendment used that will determine the overall organic matter content of a top dressing.

QUALITY CONTROL TESTING

It is important to request up-to-date product information from your supplier. If they follow an internationally recognised quality control system, e.g. ISO, and participate in a proficiency testing programme, they should be able to guarantee consistency of their products.

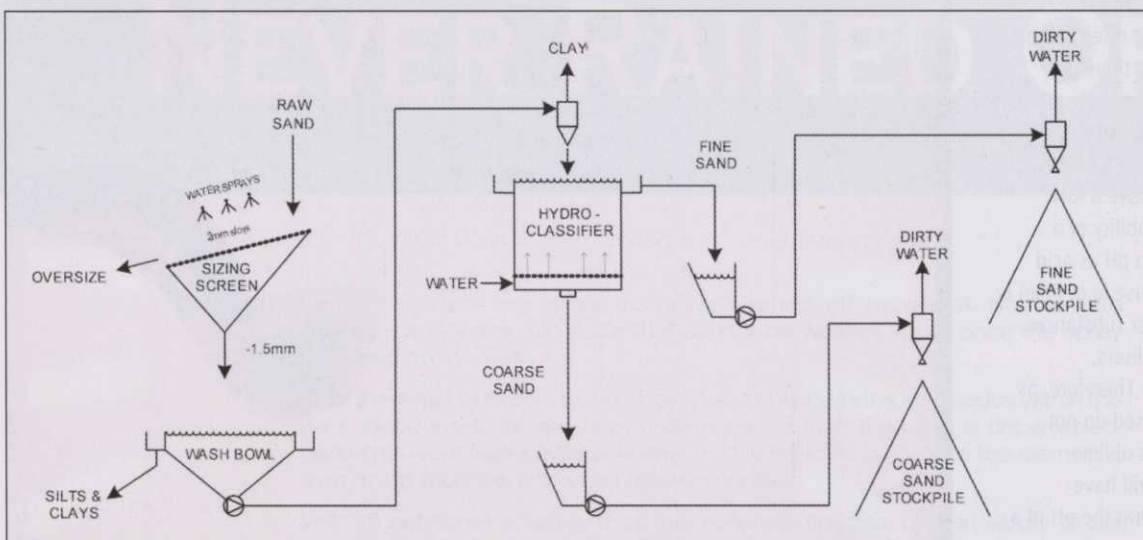
A proficiency testing programme consists of a range of samples being equally divided and sent to participating laboratories on a regular basis. All test data is collated to provide information on consistency of results within each laboratory. This information is also used to statistically compare test

results between laboratories. Laboratories that gain accreditation, i.e. a formal recognition that a testing laboratory is competent to carry out specific tests, through accreditation bodies such as BSI, CICS, UKAS, NAMAS or A2LA, should be utilised wherever possible.

A further measure of a laboratory's competence is participation in the USGA Proficiency Testing Programme that uses

ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) procedures. This is a requirement of A2LA, however you do not have to be A2LA accredited to take part in the USGA PT Programme. The current procedures cover testing for putting green and sports turf rootzone mixes. Top dressings are not specifically mentioned but these procedures are generally adopted.

The most common test that laboratories carry out on a top dressing is particle size distribution analysis. Samples must be washed and dried first to remove silt and clays otherwise grains may stick together giving a false (coarser) result. Individual grains are then sorted according to their size using a sieve stack.



The various stages of processing

water filled and air filled porosity levels required for healthy turf. When choosing a sand/top dressing supplier, it is important to interrogate and be comfortable with their quality control procedures. Do they operate within an internationally recognised quality system?

As an example, WBB Minerals' sands used for top dressing production are extracted from the quarry face and immediately screened to remove any oversize material (+ 1.5mm). They are then fed into the wash plant where they are vigorously washed to remove any silt and clay, before being hydroclassified. This continuous process involves segregation, by size, using an upward flow of water within an open topped vessel and results in a closely graded sand.



pH Testing

The particle size distribution of a top dressing should be compatible to that of the greens profile to improve or maintain its drainage characteristics. Coarse over fine may result in a surface that is nutrient deficient and has a low water retention; whereas fine over coarse may result in a surface which holds onto water with very little air-filled porosity.

Additional tests carried out on top dressings are:

- Organic matter content, which is based on the loss on ignition of an air-dried sample, is important to know where there is a thatch problem.
- pH or acidity of top dressings should be slightly acid or neutral for fine turf areas. Sand based top dressings have a low buffering capacity, i.e. the ability of a solution to resist changes in pH as acid (e.g. certain fertilisers) or base (e.g. lime) is added, compared with other substances used on the green, i.e. fertilisers, fungicides, irrigation water. Therefore, as long as the top dressings used do not contain significant amounts of lime (Calcium Carbonate) they will have negligible effects on changing the pH of a greens profile.
- Moisture content will help to determine its ease of use. Top dressings are easier to apply and integrate into the surface (brush in) when dried.

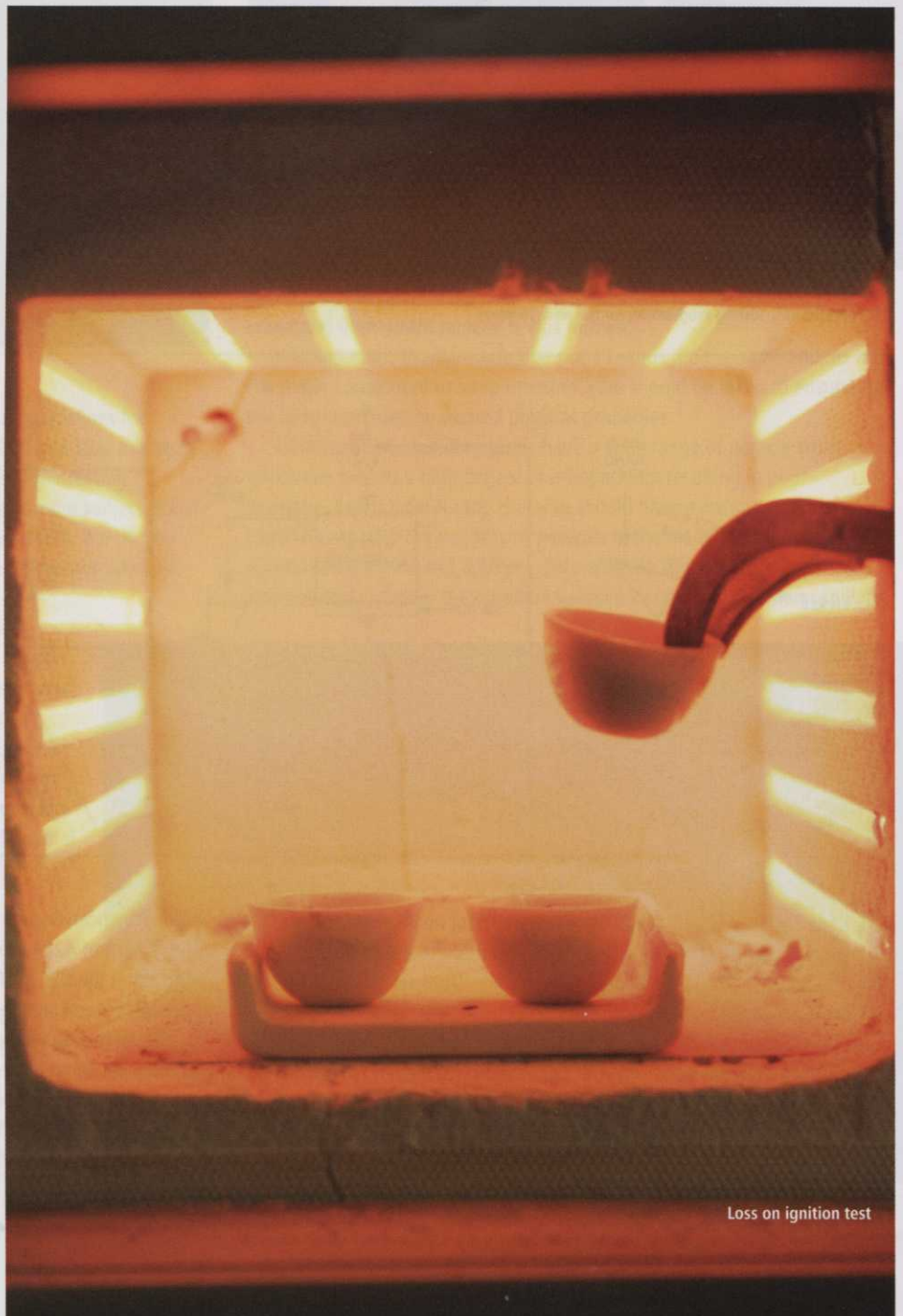
It should be noted that any test data obtained from analysis carried out using different procedures and/or equipment may give different results, so this should be taken into consideration whenever comparisons are to be made.

SUMMARY

Choosing a top dressing is not a case of 'one size fits all' as there is no single grade that is suitable for all applications. Asking for a 70/30 top dressing is no longer acceptable. It is necessary to know the particle size distribution of a green's profile in order to select the correct grade of top dressing. If this information is not known then samples should be taken and forwarded to a suitable laboratory for analysis. Based upon the results, a top dressing should be selected to maintain or improve the current profile.

If these steps are followed and the product is supplied from a reputable company, then this should pave the way for consistent, healthy greens for years to come.

Mick Higgins and Sasha McCann work for WBB Minerals and for further information on golf course construction and maintenance visit the Technical Pages at www.rufford.com.



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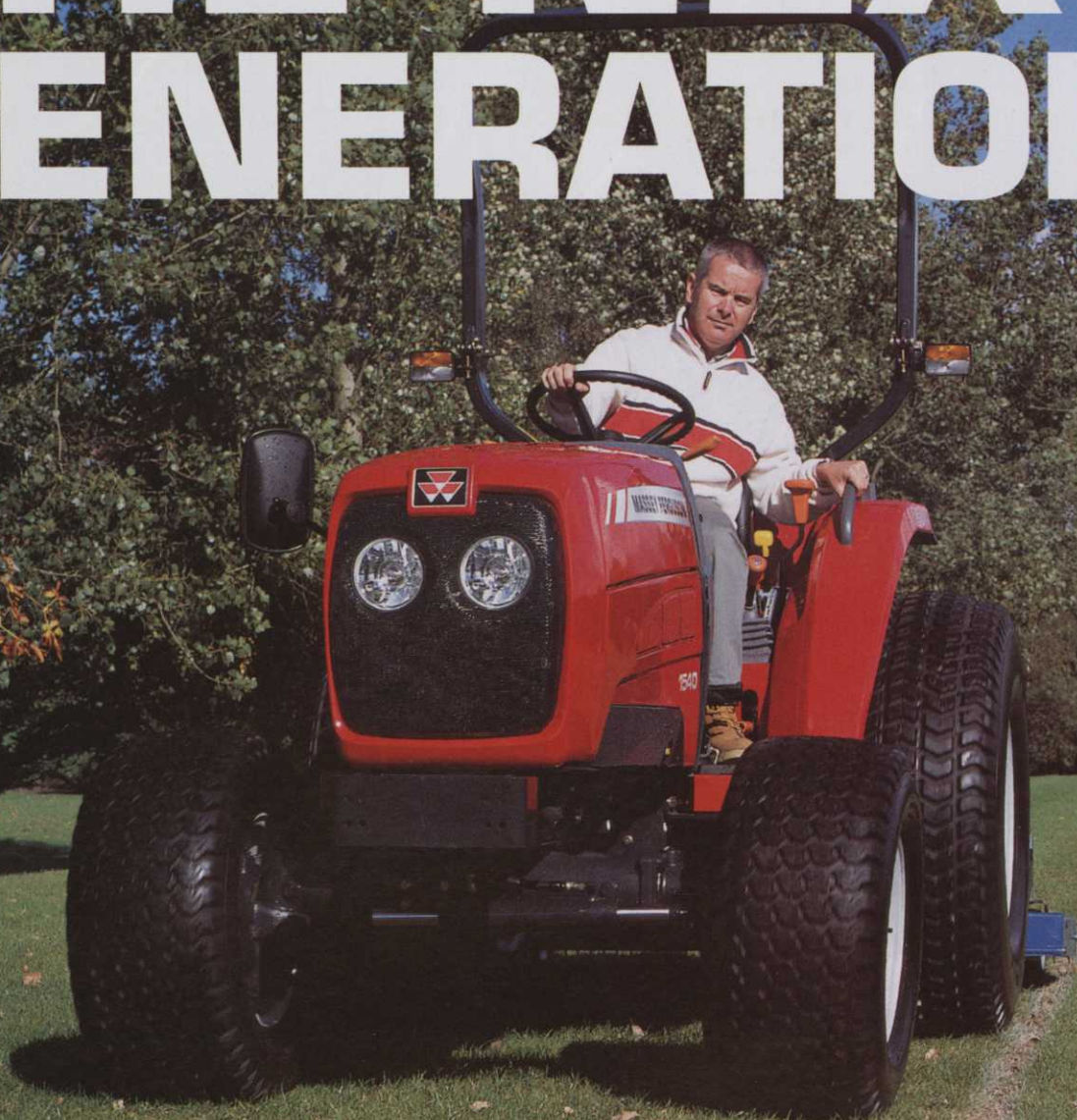


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More Than Just a Plaything

James de Havilland revs up as he tackles tough terrain on golf courses with the latest ATVs.

Sales of ATVs in the UK hover between 6,000 and 7,000 units a year. Of these, the majority are working, as opposed to leisure quads, with farmers being by far and away the biggest ATV users. But do these machines have a place on a golf course?



Although Suzuki offers an entry level model, the 250 Ozark, it is the 400 Eiger models that will appeal to those looking to tow a load. Manual transmission models provide most relaxed low speed ride

On its own, an ATV is little more than a motorised pair of legs. Although these machines have the ability to traverse some pretty demanding terrain, they have limited carrying capacity on their integral front and rear racks, can only transport one person and have no means of driving ancillary equipment other than that powered by a 12v DC outlet. To add to its limitations, professional ATV operators complying with risk assessment strictures will need to ensure the operator wears the appropriate safety clothing, this essentially condensing down to a helmet.

Competing on a golf course against a utility vehicle, such as the ubiquitous John Deere Gator and Kawasaki Mule, an ATV will, on

the surface, have little to offer. A Gator or Mule can carry a couple of people, they have a built in load platform and both can be specified with diesel power. Utility vehicle three, ATV nil. It is, of course, difficult to argue the ATV corner when an existing course has the resources to fund a utility vehicle. As the latter can be purchased with a cab and does not require the wearing of protective clothing either, it starts to make even looking at what the ATV world has to offer seem somewhat meaningless.

Canny users, however, know different. An ATV cannot be compared to a different class of machine for starters, and to pigeon hole these machines by what they cannot do overlooks their potential uses. Like a utility vehicle, they can work with a range of accessories. These can include equipment from winches and sprayers through to trailed self-powered mowers and spreaders. The reality, however, is that by far and away the majority of ATVs will be purchased for transport, and to optimise this, a trailer is a simple and low cost addition to any first ATV buying package. Although the amount that can be towed by the ATV will be determined by individual model capacities, a trailer loaded with a brush cutter, fuel and some hand tools will be unlikely to tax even the smallest working ATV.

Putting the cart before the horse, ATV trailers from a specialist like Logic are priced from around £450 (ex. VAT). This buys a fully galvanised 1500 x 1000 x 380mm unit offered with a choice of dropping tailgate. Dedicated ATV trailers are built tough and can be supplied with a range of tyres to suit the given load and ground bearing pressure. They can make an ideal transport platform easily robust enough to move a pedestrian greens mower around an 18 hole course.

The Massey Ferguson 'AgTV' range includes models with nominal capacities from 250 to 500cc, with the MF400 automatic illustrating what to expect in terms of looks



As a trailer should be an integral part of an ATV buying decision, it follows that any ATV considered for work on a golf course should have the capacity to tow a load. Realistically, this can make it better to steer away from entry level utility ATV models. Although experience suggests a model such as the 2WD Honda Fourtrax 250S, at a shade under £3,200 (ex. VAT), will easily pull a load in excess of 250kg it is not really aimed at users who want to tow.

Move up the Honda range to the 2WD Fourtrax 350S, and note that this £4,070 (ex. VAT) model has a 325kg towing capacity. That is fine for most users, and this ATV will pull that sort of load safely over varied terrain. This model, incidentally, has a single range, five speed manual transmission with reverse. Gears are selected via a foot shift, an automatic clutch enabling shifts to be made via the pedal alone. An auto clutch is a common feature of 'foot shift' ATVs, regardless of make of model.

While looking at Honda ATVs, the company offers ES variants of both its TRX250 and TRX350 models. The ES system replaces the foot shift with left hand side mounted up and down shift buttons. These work a solenoid to shift through the gears. Opting for the ES shift carries a respective premium of £100 and £200 and, in the writer's opinion, is worth every extra penny. Honda is the ATV market leader in the UK, but they are by no means the only maker of utility ATVs.

Starting with Kawasaki, the company has a broad ATV offering that includes fully automatic models, starting with the selectable 2 or 4WD KVF360. The CVT transmission used in this model is essentially similar to that employed in the Mule, a belt transmitting power between a pair of expanding pulleys that automatically balance engine speed to load and forward velocity. To drive, the KVF360 is simply put in high or low ratio, the throttle opened and that is it. Kawasaki put the towing capacity of this model at a massive 500kg. The KVF360 has a good specification for the money, this model having a £4,495 (ex. VAT) list price.

Kawasaki also cater for those looking to a manual ATV, its venerable 2WD KLF300 having a respectable 317Kg towing capacity and uniquely a lockable rear differential. ATVs typically have no rear diff, which explains why they can be a handful to steer on hard surfaces and why tight turns on turf can lead to a good deal of scuff. This feature alone makes the KLF300 well worth a look, as does its competitive £3,895 (ex. VAT) price.

Suzuki was the first company to develop a four wheel ATV in the early 1980's, no one can challenge Suzuki's heritage in the ATV sector. Despite becoming market leaders initially, the company did itself no favours by withdrawing temporarily from the UK market in the mid-1990's. On its return, however, it introduced a new range of models, including the 400cc Eiger range.

In terms of capacity, a 2WD LT-F400 Eiger is arguably in a different performance league than the aforementioned Honda and Kawasaki models, but the smaller Ozark 250 is arguably not really right for a professional user. Whatever the case, the five-speed manual 2WD Eiger is one of the best all-round ATVs, with a towing capacity of 450kg. In the writer's experience, this model can safely handle this type of load in good



Kawasaki has a choice of models in its utility range, including the KVF360 and, as pictured, the rear diff lock equipped KLF300. The latter will be less likely to mark turf during a tight turn

going, with the caveat that 4WD offers better stability in adverse conditions.

There are three models in the Eiger range, including a 4WD manual and a 4WD Automatic. The 2WD model retails for £3999 (ex. VAT), with an option for 4WD adding a healthy £800 premium. Going auto is even more costly, these models retailing for a shade under £5000 (ex. VAT). For most courses, a 2WD model will do all that is asked of it.

Moving on to Yamaha, the company again offer a 250cc model, the five speed manual Bruin250AN. It is the automatic larger brother to this model, the 2WD Bruin YFM350AN, however, that will interest many potential buyers. For a start, it is among the lowest priced automatic ATVs in the utility sector, with a retail price of £3,999 (ex. VAT). Although the engine is some 50cc shy of the Suzuki Eiger automatic, the 2WD Bruin 350 is well priced and has a Kawasaki KVF360 matching 500kg towing capacity.

Automatic ATVs, incidentally, are good at towing. The operator cannot really set off in the wrong gear and modern autos are pretty controllable when it comes to automatic engine braking. Automatic ATVs are generally harder to abuse, which makes them a good choice in multi-user applications. What can let them down is the need for relatively high engine revs at low speeds and a liking for petrol. Fuel consumption, incidentally, can be high with ATVs. A manual model of around 350cc will be doing well to exceed 35mpg in light going, with an automatic used to tow a heavy load perhaps liking a drink in the low 20's.

Moving on to Polaris, this US manufacturer has long specialised in automatic ATVs, its 2WD Magnum 330 rating as one of the most comfortable quads in its class. Towing capacity of this model is put at 454kg, the physical size of the Magnum making this a realistic maximum in even pretty tough going. As for price, £3,695 (ex. VAT) represents good value, the 329cc power unit having good power delivery.

Next up is Bombardier. The company's ATVs are not really aimed at the entry level utility market, its lowest priced working machine, the 400cc Outlander weighing in at £5,199 (ex. VAT). That is quite a premium over some of the manual quads already outlined, but this model comes with selectable 4WD and a CVT automatic transmission. The company also offer



Hang a trailer onto the rear of an ATV, and it is immediately more useful. A two-wheel drive ATV is fine in easy going, but if there is steep terrain in the job mix, go for 4WD

a 'platform' model, the Traxter XL. The rear platform will take a 275kg payload, while the chassis design allows a 'step through' design so there is no need to swing a leg over the saddle to get seated. Powered by a 498cc petrol engine, this model is more like a cross between a utility vehicle and an ATV with a price of £6,999 (ex. VAT) to match.

A point to watch with Bombardier, however, is the link the company has with John Deere. These ATVs have already started to appear in Deere colours in the USA. When that happens over here expect interest to really start to pick up. As it is, the Traxter XL is an extremely useful bit of kit.

Last in this round up, but by no means last in terms of product offering, is Massey Ferguson. Massey are a well know brand, and for the past three years have been bringing Arctic Cat ATVs as MF AgTVs. The 'Ag' element is to help remind buyers that these are working machines, Massey having developed its MRP rack attachment system to boost their appeal. MRP accessories simply plug them into small sockets on the racks, with clamps for tools and carrying boxes being listed among the items on offer.

In terms of models, the company offer, like rival makers, an entry level model, the MF250, with the next machine in the range possibly being the one to look at, the MF300. This three range, five speed manual ATV has 4WD and a 386kg towing capacity and has a lot going for it as a working bike, not least due to its versatile manual transmission. Prices around £4,489 (ex. VAT).

So, there are certainly a good number of ATVs to choose from, with a specification and budget range that should suit most golf course needs. Utility vehicle prices kick off at around £7,500 (ex. VAT) for petrol models, with an ATV and trailer combination costing from around £5,000 and up. This is a substantial saving, and one that can make looking into buying an ATV well worth the effort.

Honda ATVs have a good reputation for reliability and residual values. A two-wheel drive ATV will suit most golf courses, these models also offering better economy and lighter steering



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September sees Saltex come around once again and GI previews the IOG Event.

Like BTME & ClubHouse, held in January every year at Harrogate, all the displays at Saltex 2005 focus on labour and money saving products for the effective maintenance and management of turf and sports surfaces, as well as children's play and safety surfacing and leisure and facilities management. These will be complemented at Windsor Racecourse, September 6-8, by a host of features.

These include the Central Arena, which is at the heart of the showground and is constructed as a mini stadium. This is the venue for a host of events, including Tree Climbing demonstrations, a series of educational/training presentations and debates.

As originally introduced at BTME & ClubHouse, the Internet Café is another component of the show and offers visitors unlimited and free access to the Internet and email services. Also a feature at this year's show is the LandscapeSkills Competition final, which has teams completing predetermined landscape projects from scratch.

The educational programme includes presentations on recycling, meeting demands in the public amenity sector, pesticides and EU legislation, landscape skills training as well as play area insurance and inspections. The Groundsman Live Question Time type debates will this year focus on climate change, natural versus artificial turf and safe surfaces. There will also be presentations by Eddie Seaward, of Wimbledon, home of The All England Lawn Tennis Club, and the 'From Cow Field to Cricket Pitch' session by Chris Wood, ECB pitches consultant.

SEMINARS AT SALTEX 2005

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 6

10.30 Seminar

Recycling for the Future - A Changing Landscape

Louise Hollingworth, WRAP

12.00 Seminar

How Climate Change Affects The Open Space

Profession Institute of Horticulture speaker

12.30 Groundsman Live Debate - **Climate Change**

Panellists include: Gus Grand, Climate Change Projects' Officer, Eden Project; Jacob Tompkins, Policy Development Adviser, Water UK; David Mackinnon, General Manager, Windsor Racecourse; Institute of Horticulture Speaker

13.30 Seminar

People or Targets - What Drives the Public Amenity Sector?

Eddie Wardrobe, ex-Newcastle Council Environmental Services

14.30 Seminar

Pesticides - How is EU Legislation Going To Affect Us All?

Simon Barnaby, Technical Product Manager, Scotts

16.00 IOG Awards

IOG Stand Awards. Followed by IOG Sports Turf Awards

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 7

10.30 Seminar

In Praise of Natural Turf - Martyn Jones, Natural Turf Foundation

11.00 Seminar

Artificial Grass Surfaces - The Real Story

Bryn Lee, MD Tiger AG & Chairman of The Manufacturers' Group.

11.30 Groundsman Live Debate - **The Turf Debate**

Panellists include: Martyn Jones - Natural Turf Foundation; Bryn Lee, SAPCA; Alastair Cox, UEFA Artificial Turf; Steve Williams, The Football Association; Alan Ferguson, Ipswich Town FC; Eddie Seaward, Head Groundsman; The All England Lawn Tennis Club

13.10 Seminar

All Year Round Tennis Court Maintenance

Eddie Seaward, Head Groundsman, The All England Lawn Tennis Club

14.10 Seminar

Landscape Skills Training - Card Accreditation Lets You Hold The Aces

Neil Huck, BALI



SEMINARS AT SALTEX 2005

Thursday September 8

10.30	Seminar	Soil and Water - The Critical Mix; Taking Time To Think Alex Vickers, Cranfield University
11.30	Seminar	As Safe as Necessary - Being Serious About Play David Yearley, RoSPA
12.00	Seminar	Playground Insurance & Inspections - Don't Waste Your Money Rob Wheway, Child Accident Prevention Trust
12.30	Groundsman Live Debate - Safe Surfaces	Panellists include: David Yearley, RoSPA; Andy Chalmers, API; Rob Wheway, CAPT
13.30	Seminar	TBC
14.30	Seminar	From Cow Field to Cricket Pitch - Converting a Farmer's Field Chris Wood, ECB Pitches Consultant

All seminars are subject to change

HOW TO GET TO SALTEX

SALTEX is hosted at Windsor Racecourse, which is accessible from the M4, M25, M3 and M40 motorways.

BY ROAD:

From the M25:

Leave the motorway at Junction 15, where you'll join the M4, heading west.

From the M4:

Westbound - leave the M4 at junction 6, follow the brown signs for Windsor Racecourse or yellow AA signs for IOG SALTEX 2005.

From the M4:

Eastbound - leave the M4 at junction 8/9, follow the brown signs for Windsor Racecourse or yellow AA signs for IOG SALTEX 2005.

BY BUS:

Windsor Express bus number 700 connects London with Windsor. They depart from London Victoria Green Line Coach Station and you alight at Maidenhead Road, a short walk from the Racecourse.

BY RAIL:

You can travel by rail to Slough station from Paddington or the South West, or to Windsor Riverside & Eton station from London Waterloo. There will be a shuttle bus running from near Windsor Riverside & Eton station to and from the exhibition site every day.

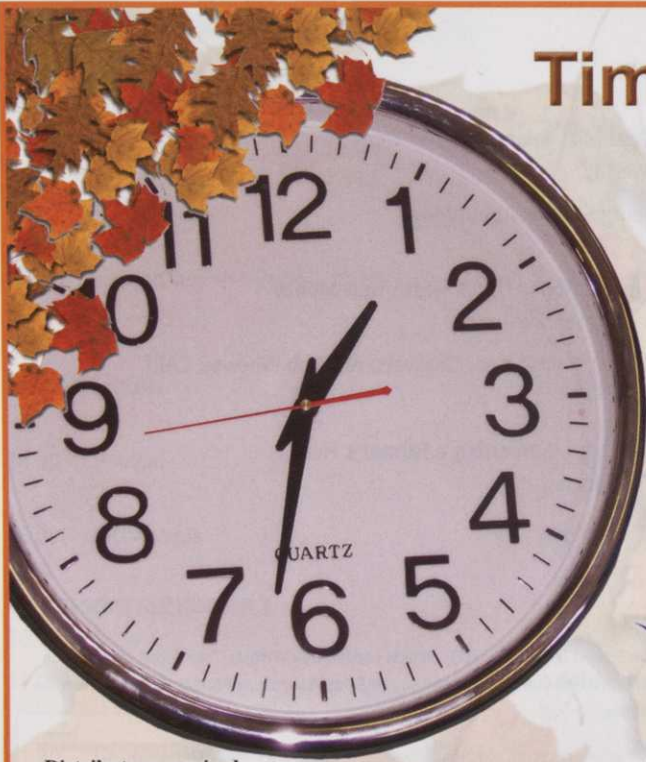
In addition, the IOG has introduced a water taxi service for visitors travelling by public transport.



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Your Letters...

A Bright Future

I am 21 years old and I am a newly qualified greenkeeper. I started playing golf at Leyland Golf Club when I was 13 years old in 1997. I have grown up from a teenager to a young adult, coached by Head Professional Colin Burgess.

On July 20 1984 I was born in Bolton's special care baby unit, three months premature. I was on an artificial respirator to help me breath for two months. Through my life I have over come a lot of problems to live a normal life.

After I finished school in 2000 I went to Myerscough College in Lancashire. I started off on two Basics courses, NVQ level 1 & 2 in Horticulture before progressing into the sportsturf department. For two years I concentrated on getting my First Diploma and National Certificate. I have to thank my lecturers, Gary Andrews, Terry Robinson, Lance Butters, Malcom Eckton, Brian King and Robert Hughes.

As part of the First Diploma one day release I acquired work with my local golf club. I started my greenkeeping career off at my local golf club, Leyland Golf Club.

Head Greenkeeper, Charles Bevan, has over 25 years of experience and I would like to thank him and his team for all that I have learnt in two placements. One over the winter months and summer months.

Living just a short distance away from the club, it was easy to get to work with a 10 minute walk. There I learnt the basics jobs to progress and further develop, such as bunker raking, resanding, strimming, fly mowing and turfing tees. In the summer of 2004 I started my first seasonal post for six months.

March 2005, I started my first full time job at the Marriot forest of Arden Golf and Country Club, home to the European Tour's British Masters. This is my first time living away from home learning all the basics, such as how to look after yourself and lead a healthy life.

I have done my first Championship event and have loved every minute of it. I have respect for Robert Rowson, who has started his first Head Greenkeeper's post. In four months I have learnt how to tippie tees, cut semi rough and how to set up a course. I know the basics for these jobs, now I want to perfect these and get them spot on.

I want to work on getting my NVQ level 3 and PA2 Spraying Certificate. I have an ambition of becoming a Course Manager in 10 years time, where I end up that's up to me. No one is perfect at the end of the day. Two people were perfect, God and Jesus Christ. Everyone has got strengths and weaknesses, which they want to perfect in the greenkeeping industry.

Alastair Gauld

Many Thanks

I write to express my sincere thanks to the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team for their excellent work during The Open Championship. I'd also like to thank everyone on the St Andrews Links team who worked tirelessly for the months prior to The Open and during the week itself

St Andrews is known for its bunkers and the Support Team maintained them superbly during the hours of competitive play complementing the fine work our team did in preparing them at the beginning of each day.

I was delighted with the way the Old Course looked and played for the Championship and the feedback I've had since has been extremely positive.

Once again thank you to everyone involved with the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team your work was much appreciated.

Euan Grant, Head Greenkeeper,
Old Course, St Andrews

Chemical Error

What is the worst thing that could happen during a heat wave? Chemical burns on the course!

This is what happened to our course. One of my experienced staff carried out some routine spot weed spraying on the semi-rough areas of the course on a dull Friday in June. This was followed by a heat wave over the weekend. On the Wednesday I noticed some areas in the rough browning off and I thought it was the combination of the weed killer and the drought, but it got worse over the following weekend.

On closer inspection of the areas concerned, speaking to the member of staff in question and checking the empty containers I discovered the error. Total weed killer had been used instead of Selective. On checking the label the wording was not as clear as we would have liked. Yes, I know what should have been done - ask someone to check it properly before use and so on.

I suggest that a simple way to identify different products could be for companies to consider colouring the caps on all containers uniformly, i.e.

GREEN	Liquid fertiliser
BLUE	Wetting agents
RED	Total weed killer
BLACK	Selective weed killer
YELLOW	Pesticides
WHITE	Fungicides, etc.

The same could be placed on the seal itself, so you could tell what chemical it is before opening it. This is just an idea of a few examples to consider that would help reduce the risk in future. Pass on your experiences and thoughts to the relevant companies or to the BIGGA magazine to help others.

J. A. Smith (Tony), Teesside GC

Thank You

A big thank you to all members who provided such willing and able support at The Open in St Andrews. It was a tremendous Championship and the condition of the course and the teamwork shown by our dedicated band of greenkeepers was a credit to our profession.

Well done to Euan and all the team at St Andrews, fabulous stuff, and well done to BIGGA staff for keeping everything running smoothly throughout the four days.

It was a great pleasure for me to be back in my home county and to see the world's top golfers in action. It was an even greater pleasure to share in the camaraderie and spirit generated by the warm and generous people of our industry.

K Daly, Chairman

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

Life After Anthracnose

Tony Smith faced his worse nightmare and came through the other side a stronger man

I finished work on Friday evening on a high. It was mid August 2003 and I was pleased with the course and the way the greens were playing as they had all summer. Members and societies were both praising the condition of the greens and the course.



Anthracnose of *agrostis palustris* golf green

I returned to work on the Monday and checked the greens as usual. I noticed a touch of yellowing in the grass, but didn't think much of it until a few days later when I checked again, found and confirmed to my horror that I had got Anthracnose - *coletotrichum*. This disease was fairly new to me, I had read about it in magazines but took little notice of it until now.

I immediately set about trying to find out more about it by talking to friends in the greenkeeping world, various companies and on the Internet. They all said not to panic as sometimes it comes and goes without a problem. So I did just that and waited like a fool.

Well it didn't disappear, it got worse. The only way to describe my feelings at that time were empty and gutted inside; after so much praise of the greens and my biggest competition of the summer due in couple of weeks time, it didn't look good.

After a few days of deep thought and taking advice from some companies, I decided on a plan of action and set to work. To my surprise the advice checked the disease but not without the thinning of the sward on large areas of some greens. The competition came and went with very mixed feelings, some of sympathy, some of criticism, but rightly or wrongly, it cut deep. To my shock a couple of weeks later it returned with a vengeance, more alopecia and thinning out of the greens. I now needed to take drastic measures.

First I had to inform my Executive Committee of the situation and my plans, to come off the greens for the whole of the winter period. This did not go down well but they knew it had to be done if we had any chance of full recovery by the summer, hoping to have a good growing start in spring.

My staff knew we had an extra hard task to do, having to prepare winter greens to a high standard like we had never done, so that the members would accept our proposal. The staff did exceptionally well.

I kept the Committee and membership informed at all times of my plans, work, extra budget, results and progress of the situation.

My work programme started immediately by micro-tinning/topdressing for the next three weeks to help start root development and improve the putting surface on the greens until all competitions had finished.

On some of the greens the disease had checked, on others it spread rapidly over large areas of the green with very little if no grass on them. By the end of September the greens were in a very poor condition, with less than 60% of the grass remaining on some of them. By this time my name was mud, or some thing similar. With over 40 years experience and 20 years' loyal service some members still wanted my head on a platter. I had everything to lose, most importantly my pride. I set out to prove that I was good at my profession and got to work on the task ahead, with only six months to go and very little if any growing weather left.

Firstly I studied my past diaries for evidence of my work and fertiliser programmes to find out where or if I had gone wrong in my planning. To my surprise I found it. Over the years the greens had received less and less tinning work, one way or another. This I can only put down to allowing the window of opportunity to work on the greens to pass me by, probably because of the praise we had received over past years. So I think we did less work on the greens.

With the golfers requesting faster greens and the dry/hot drought conditions in summer 2003 and using more water on the greens than in a normal summer, the result was stress. The grass gave up the ghost and started to die on me. With this combination and a lack of foresight on my part, I blame myself for the condition of the greens.



Anthracnose of a *poa annua* golf fairway, with survival of *agrostis palustris*



Anthrachnose of a poa annua golf fairway

The first thing I did was to inform the Committee of my finding and if my theory was right the greens could be back in good condition by the end of May, given the weather/growth and my plan of action. I decided to go back to basics, starting with short tinning at first working my way down to as far as the machines would go (21ins).

The work plan was completed by the end of March; micro-hollow tined (4 times), micro-solid tined (3 times), earth-quaked 5in deep (twice), 5in x 3/4 in solid (twice), slit tined 9ins (heavy duty fairway machine), slit tined each week (green machine) and robin-daggered to 21ins every metre. This task took about five weeks and top-dressed five times between March and May.

When the spring came the greens had started to fill in but not as quickly as I would have liked, so a little boost of fertiliser was needed. People asked if we were going to over seed, I said not immediately but would do later if needed. In my experience the greens at Teesside are predominately poa annua greens and when managed well can and do produce excellent results.

By the end of May they had filled in and we could start to work to produce a good putting surface. What the golfers don't see is under the surface the roots. This problem will take years to put right as we all know and the spiking programme will go on for years to come.

The greens in the summer had been excellent. Each month we continued to micro-tine/top-dress during the summer with no complaints but it will take years to get the roots back down to a reasonable depth.

Throughout my 42 years in greenkeeping I have seen quite a lot of changes and problems but never have I had greens turn on me like this before. With all the modern machinery, fertilisers, chemicals, herbicides, fungicides, modern training, up to date information, etc it shouldn't happen. So what goes wrong, do we take all these modern things for granted and hope it makes our job better or easier? No.

Let's look at some of the problems in the industry at the moment, weather, climate changes, environment, Health & Safety, Committees, television, magazines and not forgetting the membership.

Weather and climate changes: This has a very important impact on the way we manage and present our courses; heavy spells of rain, long periods of sun/drought, last summer's drought. This all puts pressure on our staff and equipment. One day trying to make grass grow the next trying to keep on top of cutting.

Television and Magazines: The way we manage our courses and the way we should present them are being published more and more each year in every magazine on every golf tournament shown on TV. The members then expect to play on the same condition every day, which adds pressure to our jobs.

Environment, Health & Safety: This in itself adds extra pressure to our jobs. We have to do risk assessments of the course, machines, staff and chemicals for the members, the time this takes is not always taken into account but it is still expected that such tasks are carried out. More emphasis is now being placed on the environment on golf courses these days. We are expected to provide a happy living/playing environment for golfers and animals, our staff's safety/well being all year round and use the modern, technical and up to date equipment that is around these days.

Committee and Members: Over the years these have changed very little in the number of years I have been in this profession. Committee members still have to take complaints/suggestions from members whenever they socialise in the golf club or play golf. Some take it seriously, others take it personally, and all have different ways of dealing with complaints/suggestions. Most committee people have the golf club's interests at heart when doing this role and do a good job most of the time.

There are times when we don't agree on tasks or how they should be done. It's at these times when a clash of personalities usually gets caught up in the decisions that can cause people to fall out with each other and create a poor working environment for each other. Sometimes when this happens to me I take a step back and analyse the situation before taking action and think about their thoughts/ideas and mine then find a compromise to the problem.

Talking to the members on a daily basis and being friendly seems to help at our club. We get to know what they think of the course, the work being done, staff and Committees' ideas. All my staff acknowledge the golfers by a simple wave, greeting or a chat. It all helps moral in a difficult working environment in our working profession. I think people/golfers in general don't realise how difficult it is to work on a golf course.

Firstly it's the only sport in the world where people play their sport during the preparation of the sports areas (the course). This in itself is hard. Golfers of all ages and handicaps trying to play while we are in their way so why not try to ease the pressure and try to be friendly with everyone you come into contact with on or off the course.

I hope this article gives you a taste of the pressures we all feel at times and that you are not on your own when this occurs. If I had to give any advice it would be to tell you to talk about your problems and not bottle them up inside until a crisis is reached. Finally, remember your staff's feelings when you are under pressure. They will feel it to.

Tony Smith is Course Manager at Teesside Golf Club.



Anthrachnose of agrostis palustris golf green



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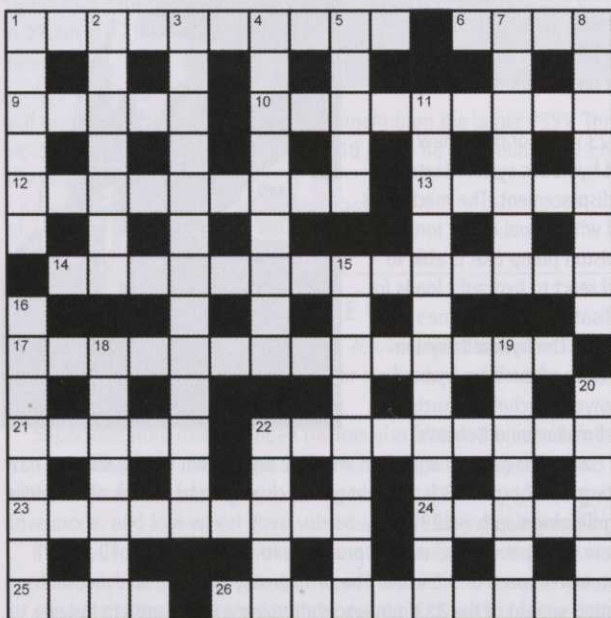
CROSSWORD - Compiled by Anax

ACROSS

- 1 Beer and lemonade drink - name often shortened (10)
- 6 British athlete who dominated middle distance running in the 1980s (4)
- 9 Small branch (5)
- 10 Revolving tray on a dining table (4,5)
- 12 Principal adversary (4-5)
- 13/14 Of horses, about to begin racing (5,8,6)
- 17/21 1933 film starring Spencer Tracy as Tom Garner (3,5,3,3,5)
- 22 Alan ---, economist and Chairman of US Federal Reserve Board of Governors (9)
- 23 Communication sent "par avion" (3,6)
- 24 Block of metal (often gold) (5)
- 25 Mountain range of south central Europe (4)
- 26 Producer of white blood cells (5,5)

DOWN

- 1 Walk loftily (6)
- 2 Type of fruit similar to peach (7)
- 3 Type of old photograph produced on silver plate (13)
- 4 1995 James Bond movie (9)
- 5 Blurred, indistinct (5)
- 7 Leftovers, surplus (7)
- 8 City in Angus, Scotland, on mouth of South Esk river (8)
- 11 Kind of activity at an American country knees-up (6,7)
- 15 Produce of tenant farmer (5-4)
- 16 Marks similar to Christ's wounds on the cross (8)
- 18 An act designed to highlight one's own importance (3,4)
- 19 Ancient underground chambers such as catacombs (7)
- 20 Joined, combined (6)
- 22 US multi-billionaire 1892-1976 (5)



ANSWERS TO ALL THE PUZZLES ARE SHOWN ON PAGE 55

ANAGRAM

Decipher these two well known television cartoon characters.

ARMPIT SNOBS

SNIFFLED ROTTEN

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

Why not answer these questions during your break!

1. Tiger Woods' victory at St Andrews was his second Open Championship title, how many Majors has he now won?
2. Which former Beatle opened Live 8 with U2?
3. The British Lions were white washed by New Zealand 3-0 in July, but what was the record aggregate score from the three test matches?
4. Which British actor stars as the new Batman in Batman Begins?
5. Arnold Schwarzenegger is Governor of which US state?
6. Five players in the England team to play in the first Ashes Test had not played a Test match against Australia before, name them.
7. In which city did actor Tom Cruise propose to Katie Holmes?
8. Rodger Federer won his third consecutive Wimbledon Title in July, name the other two players to have achieved the same feat.
9. Who has replaced Christopher Eccleston as the New Doctor Who?

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

5		1						7
		9	4					2
	6			1		9		8
			1			7	8	4
2	5	4			6			
4		5		7			3	
1					2	4		
	9					1		5

Supplied by www.dailysudoku.com

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Look closely at the pictures below and try and spot the difference between them. You should be able to spot six!



NEW PRODUCTS

LUNAR LANDING

Sherriff Amenity has announced the launch of Lunar, a new addition to their fungicide product portfolio. Lunar contains both a systemic and a translaminar fungicide.

It contains two different active ingredients with two different modes of action, it has exceptional levels of disease control. Fusarium Patch can be effectively controlled in both curative and preventative situations. Lunar can also be used as part of an overall disease control programme.

For further information Tel: 01638 721888.



MOVING UP

Terrain Aeration has launched Airforce Scamper, the smallest, lightest and nimblest of the company's four wheeled, ride-on, deep compressed air de-compaction machines to date.

Sporting flotation turf tyres and driven by an 11 hp Honda engine, Scamper weighs in at $\frac{3}{4}$ tonne less than Airforce, the larger combined engine and compressor ride-on, and is aimed at golf courses with steeply undulating ground and/or waterlogged golf greens.

This machine has a maximum weight of 600 kilos and a top speed of 7mph. Though light, Scamper is stable and the hydraulically powered back wheels enable the negotiation of steep banks and tight corners.

For further information Tel: 01449 673783.

LINDUM AT THE BASE

As one of four UK turf growers accredited to use Barenbrug's new Rhizomatous Tall Fescue cultivar in its turf products, Lindum are launching the new turf on a reinforced felt base.

Extensive trials on RTF have confirmed its excellent wear tolerance, similar to perennial ryegrass. It also has good tolerance of shade, salt and frost and can withstand water logging and drought due to its rooting depth capability.

RTF is capable of rooting to a depth of 1.5 metres, which means that alongside its shade and wear tolerance is a strong resistance to drought. RTF Grassfelt is available in a choice of biodegradable or non-biodegradable growing mediums, and like the original Grassfelt can be harvested to any size or shape required, eliminating the joins which result from turf harvested in conventional rolls.

For further information Tel: 01904 448675.



GUIDELINE FOR GREENS

For many years there has been a need for construction guidelines for golf greens specific to the United Kingdom, driven by the demand for good quality golf courses able to sustain play all year round. Recognising this need, STRI has now produced STRI Guidelines - Golf Green Construction in the United Kingdom.

Following extensive research, STRI's guidelines are based on technical and practical experience. They aim to outline a construction method and materials requirements that will result in well-drained putting surfaces of high quality without excessive management demands, particularly in terms of fertiliser and irrigation use.

Dr Stephen Baker, Head of Soils & Sports Surface Science at STRI, has sought comments from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the final production of the guidelines. These include the USGA Green Section, BRTMA, EIGCA, RAPTA and the R&A.

For further information Tel: 01274 518908.

BUNCE INTRODUCE FUJII

Bunce (Ashbury) Ltd has launched the new Fujii, Japanese, ride on brush cutters, ideal for cutting rough and overgrown areas. Powered by 18 or 21hp Kawasaki engines, they are powerful and had a large fuel capacity.

Both have two range hydrostatic drive, 0-5.8km/hr and 0-10km/hr range, a cutting width of 950mm and easy adjustment of the four step cutting height. The machines also have adjustable seat and steering columns for different sized operators.

A differential gear makes for easier operation on slopes and awkward places and the height of the machine is designed to avoid damage from low hanging branches. Cutting height is adjusted using a gas spring assisted lever and the cutting knives can be changed easily.

For further information Tel: 01793 710212.



BOBCAT DIGS DEEP

Featuring a new engine and a new hydraulic system, the 323 mini-excavator has been launched by Bobcat to replace the previous 322 model.

The 323 incorporates a new advanced hydraulic system featuring variable displacement. The machine is equipped with a dual outlet torque-limiting piston pump that is able to sense and react to hydraulic loads for better utilisation of the engine's torque curve. The hydraulic system offers 30 l/min of auxiliary hydraulic flow to power attachments such as hydraulic breakers and Bobcat's hydraulic clamp attachment. Equipped with cab and rubber tracks, the 323 has an operating weight of 1743 kg. Maximum reach at ground level is 4014 while maximum digging depth is 2297 mm.

The new two-speed travel motors provide a low travel speed of 2.3 km/h and a high travel speed of 3.8 km/h. The turf-friendly rubber tracks distribute the operating weight of the 323 mini-excavator over a larger area to lower ground pressure to 27.1 kPa.

For further information Tel: 01724 289009.





WELL DRESSED

Charterhouse Turf Machinery has added two new machines to their range of Rink top-dressers, designed for high work-rate performance on sports and amenity turf. The DS1200 and DS800 models are both 1.45m wide and 1.6m high.

The 3.4m-long DS1200 is a trailed unit that can be operated with a 25hp tractor, while the DS800, which is 2.4m long, attaches to utility vehicles. These two new models feature a specially designed, continuous loop guided belt system that delivers the topdressing to a pair of spinning discs which distribute the material evenly across the desired width, which can be adjusted to a maximum 10m.

The application depth can be set between 0.5mm and 15mm. The machines weigh in at 450k and 220kg respectively, and have carrying capacities of 1.2cu m and 0.8cu m.

For further information Tel: 01428 661222.

TWIN SPIN

Turfmech has introduced a new twin spinner for the ProPass 180 low impact top dresser. The twin spinner is designed to fit all ProPass 180s, enabling existing owners to take advantage of the resulting improvements brought by the latest technology.

The new twin spinner delivers improved spreading consistency across the entire bout width, irrespective of whether the machine has been set to spread materials narrow or wide, light or heavy. An additional feature of the new twin spinner design is its ability to produce a clearly defined edge when applying heavy applications across a narrow bout width.

Available in tractor-trailed or worktruck-mounted, the ProPass 180 has a hopper capacity of 18 cu ft, sufficient for light dressing of up to four golf greens. Angled slightly downwards, the new twin rear spinner for the machine give a consistent and even spread of materials across bout widths from 4.5m to 9m.

For further information Tel: 01889 271503.



TORO GET PRECISE

Toro Irrigation's new generation of golf sprinklers are designed to give greenkeepers greater versatility and water conversation.

The new 835S and 855S units, the latest additions to the company's 800 series, are the industry's first sprinklers able to provide both part and full circle operation from one, single unit - with full 360deg capability.

Both new sprinklers incorporate Toro's Trujectory technology, which allows nozzle height to be fine-tuned from 7-30deg. This compensates for windy conditions, allows for accurate application round obstructions and on slopes, and minimises wastage by ensuring turf is watered precisely where it's needed.

The 835S is the smaller radius unit, designed predominantly for fairways, approaches and small greens. It has a 1in inlet and a radius ranging from 16.8m at 52 litres/min to 27.8m at 171 litres/min.



Approaches, larger golf greens and broader fairways will benefit from the larger 855S. This model has a 1.5in inlet and a radius between 18.6m at 68 litres/min and 29.6m at 227 litres/min.

For further information Tel: 01480 226800.

MAXTER RANGE

There are five models in the new Maxter range from 48hp to 70hp featuring the quality of build and performance associated with Goldoni compact tractors. The Maxter can mount implements, PTO driven or otherwise, for use in both forward and reverse drive.

The 70hp model has the option of having the ability to reverse its direction of operation, which gives the Maxter a degree of flexibility that allows the operator far greater precision in difficult conditions. The Maxter is essentially a Super Quad with all the advantages and manoeuvrability of a BSG Quad Tractor but with the higher powered engines and additional features found on larger tractors for even greater versatility.



The Maxter Rev W70RS is aimed at the top end of the compact tractor market and has a 70hp VM 3 cylinder turbo engine. It is fitted with a synchronised gearbox that provides 32 speeds; 16 forward and 16 reverse. It has a 1750kg rear lift capacity, a 2-speed electro hydraulic PTO and hydro-static steering.

For further information Tel: 01026 212092.

NEW HOLLAND BOLSTER LINE UP

New Holland's latest series, the TCD-A, of compact tractor includes the 27hp TC27DA, the 40hp TC40DA and the 45hp TC45DA. For maximum performance, units can be fitted with New Holland's SuperSteer front axle.

SuperSteer front axle equipped tractors also feature the Sensitrac four wheel drive system, which automatically disengages four-wheel drive when any difference in speed is detected between the front and rear axles during turning. The tractor can make the turn in two-wheel drive mode, and four-wheel drive subsequently re-engages, minimising the risk of turf damage.

The modern styling of the tractors is more than just aesthetic. Curvaceous panels are highly practical, such as the sloping engine hood, whose narrow profile gives excellent visibility. Access for servicing is straightforward and the curved bodywork is easily cleaned. The fully glazed cabs are spacious, giving panoramic vision and safe protection from noise, dust and the elements.

For further information Tel: 0800 0150105.





News from the Chief Executive

Another Open Championship comes and goes and with it the stark realisation that July is nearly over and the golfing season is steadily marching on. Congratulations must go to the R&A for their smooth running of this great Championship and also to Gordon Moir, Euan Grant and their team for presenting the course in such wonderful condition. My thanks also go to the members of the BIGGA Open Support Team, who were in action for the four competition days, they represented the Association very well and I know gained a lot from the experience.

Places on the team are always a point of contention with applications usually exceeding availability by two to three times. The team is selected as fairly as possible and comprises of a dependable core drawn from those who have been to The Open before and therefore know what to expect and just as importantly we know that this group can be relied upon. They are topped up by a number of 'Open novices', many of whom will never have experienced Championship golf at this level, let alone find themselves within a few feet of some of the world's greatest golfers, which in itself can be a daunting prospect.

For most The Open is more than about raking bunkers following errant golf shots, its also about meeting new colleagues, exchanging views, sharing problems and perhaps the chance to talk with the resident greenkeeping team about the venue and competition preparation. Anyone interested in being considered for Royal Liverpool in July 2006 should contact Scott MacCallum at HQ.

Many of you will have read Trevor Ledger's article on Harrogate in his latest publication in which he 'poses' thoughts about the management of this Association and in particular how staff may be 'living it up' at the Majestic Hotel during BTME at the members' expense. I have received many, many calls and emails of support from those members who know the staff better and I thank them for their concern. If there are any of you who wish to discuss any aspect of his writings then I invite you to contact me. I believe in open government and in fact there is, and always has been, a standing invitation to members to visit Headquarters and see for themselves what is being done for the benefit of not just its members but also for greenkeeping as a whole.

Plans for Harrogate Week in January 2006 continue to progress and it is intended that we host an Open Day on August 18 at Harrogate International Centre in order to explain developments to current and potential exhibitors. If any members would like to come along then please contact Pauline Thompson or Sami Collins at HQ by Friday August 12, so that catering arrangements can be made, additionally there are a limited number of free parking facilities.

In the near future we are looking to set up an email based regular information service to members and if you would like to be included can you please send an email to Rachael (rachael_p@bigga.co.uk) or Gemma (gemma@bigga.co.uk) in our Membership Office so that we can capture your details.

Finally I would like to wish Tony Cocker, the Association's Accountant at HQ, a speedy recovery. Tony has recently undergone surgery for a knee problem and is expected to be off work for about six weeks.

John Pemberton

SCOTTISH REGION

East

I write to advise you that after many years' loyal service Chris Yeaman has decided to retire! However, before you all rush your CV's off to West Linton Golf Club, I can assure you that the only retirement Chris is planning is from writing this column. A big thank you to Chris for all his efforts over the years, and I will endeavour to keep the flag flying on the Section's behalf.

On returning to Scotland in 1992, after many years' absence, I was frankly appalled at the poor facilities used by greens staff, many of which did not meet basic Health & Safety standards. During the intervening years this is no longer the case, with quality Greenkeeper Compounds now the rule rather than the exception. The latest to get new facilities is Cardrona, which at the time of writing is almost complete.

On the move in April was Alan Campbell, formerly of Eyemouth Golf Club, to Jedburgh Golf Club. Alan takes over at an exciting time, with maintenance of the existing 9 holes and growing in of a new 9. The course designer at Jedburgh is Alistair Connell and the contractor is Souters of Stirling. Another gentleman on the move is Brian Sharp, the Deputy Course Manager at the Roxburghe, who takes over the role of Head Greenkeeper at Westerhope, which is not far from Newcastle Airport.

Finally, Monksford House, which was once owned by David Murray, is currently for sale, and includes a top quality 9 hole course. So, if any of you have a spare few million, it would be worth putting an offer in.

Any news please call me on 07831 855182 or email: info@thorntreesamenity.co.uk.

Mike Dooner

NORTHERN REGION

North West

Well on the day of writing it was the final day of the greatest tennis tournament, with Roger Federer winning once again, so next was the greatest golf tournament at St Andrews, the home of golf. I am sure that those of you lucky enough to have been chosen for the Support Team enjoyed your week.

One member of the N/W Section who has already taken his holidays, and I am sure enjoyed himself, is Steve Johnson, Wilmslow GC, who has just married Jennifer Callwood. They have taken off to Thailand for a three week honeymoon. Good luck to you both.

Neil Atkinson, a Section member who works for John Greasley, tells me that a new course near Crewe has just opened, called Gorstly Hill GC. Perhaps some of you Cheshire lads might like to try it out. I have just recently attended the Regional Board and the Board of Management meeting at HQ and at both meetings Education has been discussed. The Education fund, which is financed by the Gold and Silver Key Companies and also from BIGGA funds, is there to run Regional funds, so why not take advantage of it.

There are many courses available of one and two days, for example Chainsaw Maintenance and Cross Cutting, Computer skills, Risk

Assessment and many others. If you wish to book a course or have any queries ring Sami Collins, Education and Training Administrator, on 01347 833 800.

After the Summer Tournament at Childwall GC we have the Autumn Tournament at Prestbury GC on September 1. All applications to Bert Cross, Harthill Lodge, Harthill Rd, Liverpool, L18 3HU. Including a cheque for £20 to BIGGA N/W Section.

Any news or queries please contact me on 0151 724 5412 or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross

Northern

Could I start this month's report with a reminder that this year's Invitation Day is being held at the York Golf Club on August 10. If you haven't got your name down then please get in touch as soon as possible.

June 10 was the date of this year's President's Day and the event was held at the excellent Scarthingwell Golf Club. A huge thank you to John Waite and his team for producing such a superb course, to the catering staff for the fabulous meal, and to all the officials of Scarthingwell for their hospitality. Thank you also to Richard Pull and CSC Amenity for their sponsorship of the event.

The results were: Bill Mountain Trophy. D. Collins. Division One 1. J. Waite; 2. A. Baxter; 3. A. Slingsby. Division Two. 1. J. Watts; 2. A. Speight; 3. F. Stewart. Division Three. 1. C. Garnett; 2. D. Cockburn; 3. Joe Baxter. Trade. 1. M. Guy; 2. I. Collett.

I promise I shall not go into detail about holing my second shot from 140 yards for an eagle 2. I'm sure I've bored most of you enough by now!

In next month's report I will bring you the result of the second annual Northern Section vs. Sheffield Section, which is being held at Hillsborough Golf Club.

If you have any news to share then please do get in touch. Tel: 01274 638366, Mobile: 07739 319060.

Adam Speight

Sheffield

On June 29 we held our Summer Competition, which was hosted by Renishaw Park Golf Club. It was an overcast day but was warm. Renishaw was in fantastic condition, well done to Mark Nelson and his staff for the excellent job they are doing. Our thanks go to Renishaw for giving us the courtesies of their course.

Our main sponsors for the day was Mansfield Sand, who provided an excellent prize table once again. Our thanks go to Dave Smith and Russ Latham from Mansfield Sand. Thanks to all the other trade members who provided prizes. Thanks also to the catering staff for providing an excellent meal.

The Captain of Renishaw, John Crabtree, presented the prizes. On the day there was some fantastic golf played and there was one person who had an amazing day, becoming the winner of our Summer Competition with a Nett score of 62 playing of 15, which also included a hole-in-one!

This golfer was Ken Ashton, well done. I think it was one of those days when everything went right for you, great golf Ken. Ps. we will wait until the autumn for our drinks for your hole-in-one! See you at Hollinwell. The winner of our Gross prize for the day was Simon Dye, with a Gross 71. Well done Simon.

1. Ken Ashton, Nett 62; 2. Simon Dye, 66 (Best Gross 71); 3. Kevin Clarke, 67; 4. Alan Samson, 69 (BB9); 5. Andy Unwin, 69. Guest. Stuart Clayton.

While still on golf competitions, in future any late entry forms received will not be accepted and no telephone entries either or payment on the day will not be acceptable as we give everyone plenty of time to enter.

Our seminar, which is going to be held on October 24, is all on schedule and details will be in next month's magazine.

Kevin Locke, a former greenkeeper at Coxmoor Golf Club, has just been appointed Assistant Professional at Gainsborough Golf Club. Well done Kevin.

On a sadder note our condolences go to our former president, Ken Arnold, whose wife died recently.

Any news feel free to contact me on 07793111845.

John Lax

MIDLAND REGION

East Midland

Congratulations this month should go to Mark Bindley and his girlfriend, Julie, on the birth of their daughter, named after Mark's favourite football team, Chelsea. This may well see the end to Mark's cricketing days, as other duties will now be required. Also congratulations should go to Chris Bates, of Scraftoft GC, who has now moved on to the landscape contracting side of our profession.

Onto a personnel note, I would like to thank the Captain of Kirby Muxloe Golf Club, Paul Baxter, who kindly invited me onto his Captain's away day at Kings Norton GC, on June 3. The course was in excellent condition, which must have played a major part in my score of 39 points, which was just good enough to win the day. Thanks Captain and I hope you enjoy a great year in office.

I would now like to call on the help of every member of our Section, please send me any information you can if you what to read this article every month, as so far I have to rely on just a few sources.

This year's AGM will take place at Norwood Park GC on November 2, with Chamwood Forest GC hosting our Christmas Tournament on December 15. If you wish to attend either of these events please contact me for an entry form. Please also remember to ensure that your entry slip and payment is made to me before the closing date as meals and start times need to be booked, there are still a few late entries coming in for our tournaments.

At the Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day on June 27 Kevin Kinzer won the Nearest the Pin prize, and the East Midland Section team was represented by Adi Porter, Stuart Raybould, Nigel Colley and Andy Marsh, results will appear when available.

Antony Bindley

Midland

As I sit here trying to find something obscure, yet relevant, as a topic to rely to you my friends, I find myself utilising Gregorian Chant as a stimulus. After exploration of the origins of such I find that such was scored back in 600 Anno Domini. So how on earth does such relate to greenkeeping?

Darwin noted that Amazonian Indians were playing a form of golf in 1834. More recently, Graeme Patrick has just retired from the Course Manager's post at Enville. So what can we deduce from such? To understand the future we must firstly have learnt the lessons and knowledge of the past. It is with great respect and thanks to Graeme for



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SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND
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Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
 Tel: 01476 550115

his past efforts as both a teacher of many a fine greenkeeper, and for his work as a Section Committee member that the Section wishes you all the best in your well earned retirement.

On a further note regarding Enville, well done to John Wood on gaining the Course Manager's position there. A further movement being that of Craig Tidmarsh, to The Gloucester GC. Wishing you every success in your new position as Head Greenkeeper Craig.

With the above in mind and considering that Education is more readily available to all than it has ever been, our Section is actively promoting Skills Training this autumn/winter. Gay Hill Golf Club has kindly offered their facilities for training purposes, and we hope to be running a selection of courses, dependent upon demand of course. A Manual Handling course will be run on September 26. Morning or afternoon times will be available for the three hour course, with certificates awarded upon completion. The cost being £40 per delegate.

A one day Compact Tractor course will be run by Lantra. The course is aimed at experienced operators and will cover all aspects, including safe mounting of attachments to 3 point linkage and the safe use of PTO's. At a cost of £160 can golf clubs really afford not to send their operators? Other courses ranging from Chainsaw use to ATV Driving are in the pipeline and we will be contacting you in the near future with further details. We shall also be offering you the opportunity to become A1 & L12 Assessors free of charge via funding through the European Social Fund.

Please remember that these courses can only be run with sufficient demand, it is up to us as members to take advantage of these great

opportunities to further our career development and strengthen the all important Health & Safety of the Greenkeeping Industry as a whole.

Application forms and further information can be obtained directly from the GTC or from Paul at Gay Hill GC on 07880 734 197 or email, paul@ghgc.org.uk. Please let Paul know of any other courses that you may find of interest. Our thanks to Paul for his very kind efforts, and to Gay Hill for their support and use of its fine facilities.

Due to a double booking at Shirley GC our Autumn Tournament has had to be rescheduled for the week prior. The new date is Tuesday September 13. Please don't forget that the AGM is also to be held there on the same rescheduled date. You shall be receiving a new entry form in due course.

And finally, two well dones. Firstly to D. McLaren, of Shirley GC, for being awarded Apprentice Greenkeeper of the Year at Warwickshire College. Just need to put such into practice now Darren, I'm sure you already are mate. Secondly, to Ed Stant who is to be married to Tracy on August 25. I note that the vodka bar in Walsall has just gone into liquidation.

Until next month.

Sean McDade

East of England

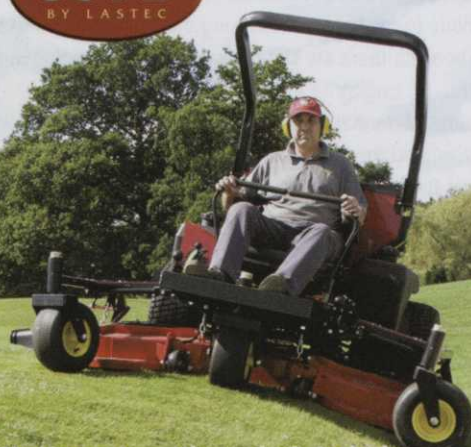
What is the common denominator here? Me, BIGGA Golf Days, rain. It's starting to get personal now. So, if your course is a bit dry, give me a phone and I will come for a knock.

July's Golf Day, as you all know, was at Burghley Park to help Dave

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celebrate his 25th year as Course Manager (More on Dave's Celebration can be found in the News section of the magazine). Not having to drive I did just that to the best of my ability! This course was in super condition and the food was first class. Considering Dave was two men short for a week prior to this, it was also a credit to his staff. Well done lads.

Results are as follows: 1. T. Shinkins, 41pts; 2. D. Coupland; 3. Corby; 4. J. Firman; 5. B. Robinson. Trade Prize S. Clayton, Midlube. Our thanks go to the sponsors, Burdens, who did us proud.

The subject of Mexican Bandit has been mentioned once or twice this year, but I don't think we will hear that again for a while - will we Mr Shinkins? I wouldn't like to say how much you are going to be cut by, but Bruce has worn out his calculator.

Finally, the British and Irish Lions, or should I say pussycats, demonstrate just what happens when there are no Scots in the team.

Allan Walker

SOUTH EAST

Kent

Our fully revitalised Section had a fantastic day recently in the glorious surroundings of Broome Park Golf Club. This was a first time visit for many of us and we were extremely impressed with the beautiful clubhouse and golf course.

I was fortunate enough to be playing with Chris Latham, the host Course Manager, who used his many years of experience at Broome Park to hit exactly the right branch of a tree to hit the green on the Nearest the Pin hole. Very many thanks to Chris, Shane and the rest of the greenkeeping team and the entire clubhouse staff on a superb and very memorable day out.

Full results were: 1. John Donnelly; 2. Adam Marrable; 3. Stuart Butler; Nearest Pin. Andrew Pearson. Longest Drive. Andrew Guy. Trade Prize. Gary Tait.

On the day we managed to gather plenty of interest in forming a Kent golfing team from the assembled numbers and we hope very soon to be taking on other home counties. Many thanks to all of you who put your names forward for consideration. It was a massive boost for us on the Committee to know that so many of you want to see our Section go from strength to strength. If anyone else is interested in playing a part in the team matches you can put your names forward at any of our regular Section days.

The next event is at Southern Valley Golf Club on September 29. Remember, we are always keen to see as many of you as possible attend these events. Course Managers, Assistants and Trainees of all golfing abilities are very welcome.

If anyone has any news for me for this column or would like any more details on events please contact me grassyars@hotmail.com.

Rob Holland

East Anglia

This report could be like waiting for a bus. You wait all day, or in this case for months, then two come long at once. This is the Weston Park report following hot on the heels of the Diss report!

Immaculate. That's how I would describe Weston Park and all credit must go to Mick Bamey and his team for all their efforts. Well done. I was particularly impressed by some of those trees, I must admit I made contact



Jane Jones
SOUTH WEST AND WALES
Tel: 01454 270850

with several but no harm done I trust. To me, golf is all about enjoying what's around you and I saw a lot of what was around me as my score indicated. I digress, here come the dedicated golfers:

0-10 Section. 1. Peter Howard, 35pts; 2. Rob Boyce, 35pts; 3. Mick Buck, 33pts. 11-19 Section. 1. Mark Broughton, 34pts; 2. David Childs, 33pts; 3. Asa Barber, 33pts - his brother's name is Ali. 20-28 Section - Salt of the Earth Golfers. 1. Steve Crabb, 32pts (Cromer: sorry, Sheringham); 2. Steve Davidson, 32pts; 3. Wayne Thrower, 31pts (Dad's name Percy). Nearest the Pin. Stuart Patterson, 2nd hole, and Asa Barber, 16th hole. Longest Drive. Steve Dickinson, 9th hole, and Michael Buck, 14th hole.

Nearly forgot Trade and Guest or G&T's. Yes, G&T's it definitely is. 1. Nick Brown, 37pts; 2. Stuart Patterson, 36pts.

The loo seat was won by Ian but he should have got a medal for keeping the show on the road following a very stressful time for him. Well done mate.

The prizes were presented by Vice President, Max Tinkler, who incidentally is the Godfather to all us bikers. It was good to see him again. The main sponsor for the day was Ben Burgess, who did a splendid job. Other prizes were donated by Aitkins, Amenity Wise, Atherton & Ellis, ATT, Bartram Mowers, CMW, Collier, Turf Care, Consultant Clarkson, Headland Turf, Prime Irrigation, Rigby Taylor, Sherriff, Sisis, Tacit; Textron, Tomlinson Groundcare, Toro and Vitax. Thank you once again Weston Park for a really great day.

I must mention Steve Curtis. He is a dad with new born son, Ben. Congratulations to all.

Mick Lathrope

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

South West

I'm just recovering from the Open Championship Regional Qualifying round held here at Minchinhampton on July 4. The low score was 66, everyone who shot level par 71 got into a playoff for the last couple of qualifying slots. The Cherington Course, which is only 6450 yards held its own quite well with greens putting at a very reasonable 9.5, and plenty of challenging rough. All in all a very good day, although not helped much by the weather, which was chilly and damp.

I'm now off to the Dordogne with the family for 10 days to recover - even that's to stay at a Golf & Country Club, so no escape even on holiday. If anything untoward should happen on my holiday you'll be the first to know.

Grateful thanks from the Section Committee to Matt Maryon, who must be one of the busiest guys in greenkeeping at the moment, for showing a party of Section members around his new site at the Woodlands Club. Woodlands is situated near the M4/M5 junction and is on what may be one of the largest landfill sites in the Western World. There was a constant stream of lorries in and out tipping, each one with 20 tonnes of rubble in the back, and £25 cash stamped on its ticket.

Multiply that by one every five minutes for the entire day, six days a week, 52 weeks a year, and you get some obscenely large figure, which would probably pay for 10 golf courses. It is only as you near the edge of the site and realise that you are standing on a golf course sized piece of land, 40 feet above the original ground level that you get a full sense of the scale of tipping.

The club is expanding from the existing 18 to 36 holes and the whole operation is controlled by Matt, in addition to managing the separate Woodspring site also. Several machines were shaping lakes, moving rubble into bases for the greens, putting in drainage and laying stone carpets and rootzone. One digger in particular had a swivel and tilt bucket, which looked as if it were capable of tying itself in a reef knot, so skilled was the driver. Matt is using Bathgate rootzone, supplied through Countrywide Farmers, for the greens and tees. Opening is scheduled for Summer 2007 and matters looked well in hand.

Do please support our Race Night at Bath on August 26. To book a ticket, which will cost £10 entry, please send a cheque together with your details, partners are welcome, to Jon Jarvis at Lansdown Golf Club - he'll do the rest.

Finally, after another successful Open at St Andrews, I heard a lovely story about the Old Course. All the bunkers are named - Hell bunker, Shell bunker, the Road bunker and so on. There is also a small bunker, partially hidden by gorse on a reverse slope somewhere on the 13th hole, which is called locally "The Admiral's Letterbox". It is named after Rear Admiral Sir Somebody Something-or-other, who came to grief there in a quite spectacular fashion.

Apparently the Admiral was out playing with his pals when an attractive female jogger, dressed in bright red, appeared on the course. The Admiral licked his lips lasciviously, and remarked to his pals: "I wouldn't mind posting a letter in that particular box". With that, he disappeared completely from sight. When his pals looked round, there was the Admiral upside down in the little bunker with trolley and clubs scattered on top of him, completely pinned to the spot.

Have a good summer, relaxing holidays, and keep the news coming in.
Paul Worster

South Coast

It seems incredible that we are in August already, how time flies! Our much anticipated annual match against the Wessex Secretaries was played at Weymouth Golf Club and the day was sponsored, as usual, by Course Care. Having lost the fixture last year revenge was in our minds but the Secretaries' Captain, Eddie Robertson, had another result in his mind.

The matches were played in very good spirit and the standard of golf was excellent on a very testing afternoon. The Secretaries managed to edge the match 3-2 and we will be looking to stop our losing streak next year. Many thanks to Weymouth Golf Club for their hospitality, to the greenkeeping team for all their hard work in preparing the course for us, it was superb! Last but by no means least to Course Care for their continued sponsorship of the match. Dave Mears and Paul Dyter were on hand to support the Section team but we fell short again this year, it won't happen again next year.

Rushmore Golf Club was the next port of call for our Summer Invitation Tournament, sponsored by Tacit. Most of the field had never played the course before and were treated to a real gem, with some stunning views across the surrounding countryside. Mr Starter, Joe Crawley, was there to make sure we all teed off on time, thanks Joe.

The course was in excellent condition and scoring reflected this, winners on the day were: 1. Alex McCombie & Stewart Gibson, 44pts; 2. Andy McDonald & Alan Symonsons, 43pts; 3. Chris Bitten & John Clarkson, 41pts.

Many thanks to Rushmore Golf Club for their superb hospitality. To Andy and his hardworking greenkeeping team, many thanks for preparing the

course so beautifully. Also thanks to the catering staff for the superb meal. A huge thank you for our sponsors, Tacit, without such generosity we could not have such wonderful golf days and last but by no means least to our tournament organiser, Chris Sturgess, he does a great job for us!

Phil Wentworth has asked me to request that all the Jim Fry pair's matches are played promptly so that the final can be played earlier this year, so your cooperation is much appreciated.

Don't forget to contact me if you have any news that you would like include in the Around the Green section. My contact details are: Tel: 01202 661106, Mobile: 07966 386232, or email me at a.mccombie@ntlworld.com.

Until next time.

Alex McCombie

Devon & Cornwall

I seem to remember a song from the old days that started with the words, "The rain in Spain, falls mainly on the plain". Not any longer, with recent weather that we have received in the past couple of weeks I am beginning to think that, "The rain falls mainly in Devon and Cornwall".

Recently in North Cornwall 75mm of rain fell in four hours, causing havoc to many a golf course with the result of many a bunker being washed out. For the second time in the past few months greens were damaged and on one course the putting green collapsed, leaving a large hole. If that's not enough, the intense thunder and lightning caused chaos with computers and irrigation.

Devon did not escape either, with more bunkers washed out and paths washed away. Our thoughts go to all the greenkeepers that have had to cope with the extra workload, who forecast that we were going to have a drought this year?

In spite of the recent poor weather conditions, we were very lucky with our mid summer meeting held at Launceston Golf Club, on June 15. The event was kindly sponsored by Symbio. Many thanks Martin. Unfortunately Martin could not attend to present the winners with their prizes because of a bad back, however Neil Carter, the Symbio Technical Representative for the area, was on hand to take over. Although a very busy time of the year for all the members 35 took part.

The course was in excellent condition, thanks to Graeme Gallimore, the Head Greenkeeper, and his team and a special thanks to Mike, in charge of the catering department, who produced a first class dinner.

The winners of the Symbio Competition were as follows: 1. Gavin Moore, Launceston Golf Club, 38pts; 2. Eric Barber, Retired, 37pts; 3. Craig Martin, Falmouth Golf Club, 33pts.

Last but not least, congratulations go to James Collins, Head Greenkeeper at the Falmouth Golf Club, who managed a hole in one on the 4th hole at the Clowance Golf Club in Cornwall. Well done James, and you thought you were going to keep that quiet, no chance, thanks for the tip off Keith.

That's all for now until next month.

Donovan O Hunt

Events Coordinator

NORTHERN IRELAND

Our National Championship Section Qualifying Competition will take place at Royal Co Down on Tuesday August 9, with a 3pm tee time. Two competitors will win a trip over to the BIGGA National Championship. The venue this year will be on Lee Westwood's home course, Worksop GC, and Sherwood Forest GC on October 3 & 4.

I would also like to remind members that Terry Crawford's Charity Golf Day, at Clandeboye GC, will again be played on the first Friday in August. Numbers will again be limited to 120 players.

Our third competition this year was played at Allen Park GC outside Antrim Town. A big thanks to our sponsors on the day, Kyle Irwin, from Turf Care Solutions, and Jim Holden, from parent company Irish Turf Care. Jim travelled all the way up from Country Wexford to attend on the day. The very generous prizes they provided were greatly appreciated by the competitors. I would like to thank all the members who made the effort and attended on the day.

Well needless to say, my John Letters Collector's piece driver let me down again, so it will have to return to the attic. We have recently opened our new bunkers, including fairway bunkers to catch big hitters. I proceeded to watch Noel Crawford drive off from the 1st tee and hit the new bunkers. That just left him a short wedge to the opening green, the 1st hole measures 445 yards. The winner of the competition was Noel's nephew, Gary Crawford, who accumulated an excellent 41pts.

Results were: 1. Gary Crawford, RCD, 41pts; 2. Eamonn Crawford, RCD, 36pts; 3. Aaron Fulton, Lisburn GC, 34pts. Visitors' Prize. Martin Kennedy, RCD, 39pts. Longest Drive. Justin Waddell, Fortwilliam GC. Nearest the Pin. Ken Henderson, Allen Park GC.

Once again I would like to thank our sponsors, Kyle and Jim from Turf Care Solutions and Irish Turf Care, for making the day a success.

One new member this month. Welcome to James Harkness, Malone GC.

Until next month.

Ken Henderson

SECTION NOTES INFORMATION

In order to improve the sending and receiving of Section Notes, where possible can all future notes be emailed to gareth@bigga.co.uk by no later than the 5th of the month prior to publication please.

You will receive an email back to confirm receipt of your notes.

If you do not receive this confirmation please get in touch with BIGGA Headquarters.

In the Shed ANSWERS

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- 10
- Sir Paul McCartney
- 107-40
- Christian Bale
- California
- Andrew Strauss, Ian Bell, Kevin Pietersen, Andrew Flintoff and Geraint Jones
- Paris
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8	7	9	4	6	3	5	1	2
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4	2	5	6	7	1	8	3	9
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ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE ON THE MEMBERSHIP PAGE

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7	8	3	5	1	2	4	9	6
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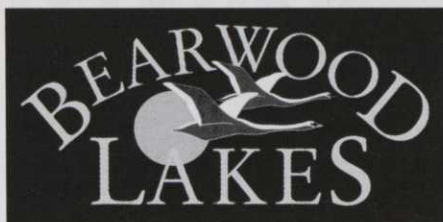
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HEAD MECHANIC

Bearwood Lakes Golf Club is looking for a Head Mechanic to join our dynamic and forward thinking course management team.

The applicant will be required to work with the Course Manager to maintain and improve all aspects of machinery maintenance at Bearwood Lakes Golf Club.

The candidate should have experience of hydraulic, petrol and diesel systems. The ability to maintain service records and undertake accurate stock control is essential.

The applicant should ideally have 5 years experience in a similar field and any additional training will be provided.

Salary and conditions are negotiable.

Please send you C.V. and a covering letter by email or post for the attention of:

**Daniel Lightfoot, Golf Course Manager,
Bearwood Lakes Golf Club, Sindlesham,
Nr. Wokingham, Berkshire RG41 4J
d.lightfoot@bearwoodlakes.co.uk**



HARPENDEN GOLF CLUB

requires a highly motivated, hands on

COURSE MANAGER

to supervise and lead its greenkeeping staff in the continuing enhancement of its 18 hole parkland course.

The primary responsibilities of this position are as follows:-

- Maintenance of the golf course to a consistent and high standard.
- Management and development of all greenkeeping staff.
- Administration of project and maintenance programmes.
- Input and control regarding course financial budgets.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate:

- Recognised qualifications in turf management, as well as a positive approach to further training and professional enhancement.
- A good working knowledge of modern golf course management practices and techniques, including the appropriate use, and basic servicing of, turf maintenance machinery.
- An understanding and practical application of the requirements of COSHH and Health & Safety at Work regulations.
- The ability to play golf and to empathise with the requirements of a diversified playing membership.

Salary package £30k to £40k, plus benefits, depending upon qualifications and experience.

Concise CV and hand written letter of application in the first instance to:

The General Manager, Harpenden Golf Club,
Hammonds End, Redbourn Lane, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2AX

Closing date for applications Wednesday 31st August 2005

Make the most of your future

As one of the largest further education providers in the South East, Oaklands is committed to high standards and innovation.

Lecturer in Sports Turf/Horticulture

£19,659 - £28,221 (under review)

Ref: L1261

Our Smallford Campus provides a range of courses on a 103-hectare site close to St Albans. You will teach on a range of Sports Turf/Horticulture programmes, preferably in turf culture or mechanisation. You will act as a Programme Co-ordinator for an academic programme as well as a personal tutor for a relevant group of learners and will assist in the development of the Sports Turf/Horticulture curriculum maintaining quality, recruitment and diversity.

You will need a relevant qualification and preferably a teaching qualification and 3 years' relevant industrial experience.

For further information and an application form, please apply to:

The Personnel Unit, Oaklands College, St. Albans Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St. Albans, Herts AL4 0JA. Tel: 01727 737748 (24 hour answerphone) please quote corresponding reference number, alternatively visit our website at www.Oaklands.ac.uk

Closing date: 15th August 2005.



PLEASINGTON GOLF CLUB OPEN REGIONAL QUALIFYING COURSE

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We are looking for an enthusiastic, hard working greenkeeper who is highly motivated and able to work as part of a team.

You should be qualified to NVQ2 or equivalent and spraying certificates would be an advantage.

The successful applicant will be encouraged to undertake further training to progress within the industry.

Minimum of 2 year's golf course experience essential.

Written applications, including full CV should be sent to:

Mr. T. Ashton - Secretary/General Manager,
Pleasington Golf Club, Pleasington, Blackburn, Lancashire BB2 5JF



St Andrews Links

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER COURSE No 7

Course No 7, designed by David McLay Kidd, is currently under construction and is due to open in 2007.

The position requires a professional with at least seven years practical experience. Reporting to the Head Greenkeeper, the successful candidate will be involved in much of the finishing work, the grow-in and ultimately the maintenance of the golf course.

We would expect the candidate to have NVQ/SVQ level three or HNC qualifications and to be qualified in all aspects of greenkeeping. Ideally, the candidate would also have experience of golf course construction and grow-in.

We offer a competitive salary, contributory pension scheme and other benefits.

Send a letter with accompanying CV to: Gordon Moir, Links Superintendent,
St Andrews Links Trust, Pilmour House, St Andrews, Fife KY16 9SF
or e-mail gordonmoir@standrews.org.uk

The closing date for applications is August 19, 2005. www.standrews.org.uk



Recruitment

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Sport Turf Lecturer Merrist Wood Campus

Arboriculture, Countryside, Sport Studies and Sports Turf

REF 0405/294

Up to £29,340 per annum

Full-time (36 hours per week)

We are looking for a lecturer in Sports Turf with course team management responsibilities to work with a small team of Sports Turf experts and support staff. We currently run Level 2 courses (BTEC First Diploma and NVQ), Level 3 courses (BTEC National Award and NVQ) and Level 4 HNC/HND Sports Turf Management along with a variety of short courses. The ideal candidate will have the following:

- Degree in Sports Turf or related academic area
- Teaching qualifications * and teaching experience
- AI and VI or equivalent awards
- Knowledge of Sports Turf NVQs
- Knowledge of the Sports Turf industry
- Enthusiasm, self-motivation and ability to work in a team environment
- Valid driving licence
- Ability to work to tight deadlines.

* those without a Certificate in Education must be prepared to gain this qualification outside of normal teaching hours within two years at the College's expense.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is **Friday 12 August 2005.**

Interviews will be held on **Wednesday 17 August 2005.**

Our aim is to develop a workforce which reflects the diversity of the community we serve and is committed to the belief that all people have the right to be treated with dignity and respect. We therefore welcome applications from members of all minority groups.



For an application pack (quoting the reference number) either: phone 24-hour voicemail 01483 448539; email personnel@guildford.ac.uk or apply online at www.surreyjobs.info where vacancies can be seen. CVs will not be accepted.

Stoke Park Campus Guildford Surrey GUI IEZ Fax: 01483 44 86 13

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Area Sales Manager

(South West)

The successful applicant will be able to develop sales in conjunction with our distributor partners, contribute to new product development and work closely with other industry professionals. He or she will have experience in the turf or amenity sectors and must be highly motivated with exceptional communication skills.

Applications are invited from people who would like to be part of a rapidly expanding business and who can work as a member of a close team of sales professionals and, equally, are capable of acting on their own initiative.

Remuneration will be commensurate with qualifications and experience and the package also includes a quality company car plus Private Healthcare and Pension after a qualifying period.

Please apply with full C.V. either by post or email to:

Andy Russell, Sales & Marketing Director
Headland Amenity Ltd, 1010 Cambourne
Business Park, Cambourne, Cambs CB3 6DP
Email: info@headlandamenity.com
Telephone: 01223 597834 Fax: 01223 598052

CLEETHORPES GOLF CLUB

invites applications for the post of

COURSE MANAGER

The successful applicant will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the course and its continuing development. They will possess the following attributes:

- Ideally HND in golf course management or equivalent recognised relevant qualification
- In-depth knowledge of turf management, irrigation, drainage & equipment maintenance
- Up-to-date knowledge of Health & Safety legislation • Spraying certificate
- Strong supervisory & management skills • Experience of planning & budgeting

Salary negotiable depending on experience & qualifications.

Please apply in writing, including CV, to: The Secretary,
Cleethorpes Golf Club, Kings Road, Cleethorpes, DN35 0PN

Closing date for applications 31 August 2005.

BLUNDELLS HILL



golf club

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

NVQ Level 2, PA1, PA2, PA6

View Course Details at: www.blundellshill.co.uk

Contact Andy Roberts: 0151 430 9551

Blundells Lane, Rainhill, Merseyside L35 6NA

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If you are looking to recruit new members to your team for the coming year, then **STOP!** Look no further!

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to book your space



Verulam Golf Club

Due to the impending retirement of the current Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager after 30 successful years at the Club applications are invited for the post of

COURSE MANAGER

Verulam is an 18 hole traditional, yet progressive private members club that's just celebrated its Centenary. James Braid designed the course and Sam Ryder was Captain of the Club in three separate years including 1927, the year he founded the Ryder Cup.

Reporting to the General Manager the successful applicant will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the course. They should possess the following attributes:

- A minimum of 5 years experience as Assistant Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager
- In depth knowledge of turf management, irrigation & equipment maintenance
- Up to date knowledge of health and safety legislation
- Strong supervisory skills and man management skills
- Qualified to NVQ3 or equivalent with full range of spraying and spaying certificates
- Proven track record of achievement and improvement of present course

Salary is negotiable depending on experience & qualifications.

Please apply in writing with your CV to:

**Mr. D Cliffe, General Manager, Verulam Golf Club,
London Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 1JG
or email it to gm@verulamgolf.co.uk**

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE GOLF CLUB

North Warwickshire is an established nine-hole parkland/heathland course situated between Solihull and Coventry.

1st ASSISTANT

Applicants must have a minimum of NVQ Level 3 qualification together with PA1, PA2, PA6 spraying certificates and will be able to demonstrate self-motivation and experience in all aspects of course maintenance.

Reporting directly to the Course Manager, this is an excellent development opportunity for individuals wishing to pursue a career in Greenkeeping. Salary commensurate with skills and experience.

Please apply in writing enclosing your CV together with details of your current salary and benefits to: Mr J. Ganley, Course Manager, North Warwickshire Golf Club, Hampton Lane, Meriden, Coventry CV7 7LL

Closing date: 19th August 2005

Lecturer Sportsturf/Greenkeeping

Oatridge is a specialist landbased College. We are looking for an enthusiastic and committed individual to join the team responsible for the development and delivery of Sportsturf and Greenkeeping programmes.

You must be qualified to at least HND or equivalent and have a minimum of three years relevant industrial experience.

A teaching qualification and/or previous experience in a management/supervisory role is desirable.

Salary scale: £18,750 - £29,112 p.a with placement dependent upon qualification and experience. Attractive holiday entitlement and Final Salary Pension Scheme offered.

For further information contact Personnel Services, Oatridge College, Ecclesmachan, Broxburn, West Lothian EH52 6NH.
Tel (01506) 864800.

Closing date: 12 August 2005.

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THE FULWELL GOLF CLUB

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Vacancy for:

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The Candidate

Applicants should be ambitious, hard working and reliable.
The successful candidate will be qualified to NVQ level 2 standard or equivalent

The Venue

The Fulwell Golf Club, established 1904, boasts one of London's finest golf destinations with a stunning parkland Course and impressive Clubhouse.

Competitive Salary, in line with the CGS Salary Recommendations

Please apply in writing with a full CV to Mark Walden, Secretary,
The Fulwell Golf Club, Wellington Road, Hampton Hill, Middlesex TW12 1JY

Mellor & Townscliffe Golf Club

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Appropriate qualification and experience required.
Good man management skills essential.
Holidays honoured.

Apply in writing with full C.V. and salary required to:
Mark Rowden, Mellor & Townscliffe, Tarden,
Gibb Lane, Mellor, Stockport SK6 5NA
Tel: 0161 4279700

Surrey Downs Golf Club Ltd.

Invites applications for the position of

Assistant Greenkeeper

Opened for play in September 2001, this challenging, privately owned down land course set in scenic Surrey countryside offers a new maintenance facility and a fantastic working environment for the successful applicant.

This post requires a well disciplined, dedicated professional who possesses the following experience:

- 3/5 years + experience Golf Course Maintenance
- Minimum Level II NVQ Qualification
- Spraying & Chainsaw Certificates would be advantageous
- Sound Communication Skills
- Knowledge of Machinery & Irrigation Systems

The successful applicant will be a highly motivated individual with good sound Greenkeeping experience and a strong desire to succeed in his/her chosen career.

Please send your CV and covering letter to be received no later than the 30th September 2005 to

Tony Kyle, Head Greenkeeper, Surrey Downs Golf Club,
Outwood Lane, Kingswood, Surrey, KT20 6JS



THE TYTHERINGTON CLUB

COURSE MANAGER

Reporting to the General Manager, you will take responsibility for the day to day running of this prestigious course. It is essential that you have a full understanding of Health & Safety and COSHH regulations and promote safe working practices at all times.

With at least 5 years experience as a Greenkeeper, a recognised qualification in turf management is desirable together with PA1, 2 & 6 spraying certificates. You should have a keen eye for detail and ensure exceptional standards of quality are maintained.

A strong leader of people with good communication and organisational skills are essential requirements for this role.

Fantastic package! In addition to a competitive salary, we offer an excellent range of staff benefits, including pension scheme, incremental holiday entitlements, complimentary use of facilities across the Group and discount on retail goods.

Applications should be made in writing or by email with full CV to:

Blair Fotheringham, General Manager, The Tytherington Club,
Dorchester Way, Tytherington, Macclesfield SK10 2JP
Email: b.fotheringham@theclubcompany.com
www.theclubcompany.com

The Club Company is an equal opportunities employer



NEWBURY & CROOKHAM GOLF CLUB

Invite applications for a

COURSE MANAGER

Newbury & Crookham is one of the oldest members' clubs in England, dating back to 1873, although the current course dates back to 1946. An 18 hole traditional parkland course set on the Berkshire Downs just south of Newbury, its presentation and maintenance presents a real challenge for the aspiring and ambitious Course Manager.

The successful applicant must have the ability, experience and motivation to manage, maintain and develop the course through leadership of a team of green keeping personnel and the utilisation of available resources.

The following skills, qualifications and experience are required:

- Significant golf course management experience.
- Excellent man management and leadership skills.
- Professional qualifications to NVQ level 3 with the appropriate professional certificates in pesticides and chain saws.
- Environmental management experience.
- Health and Safety management skills.
- A sound working knowledge of machinery and equipment.
- The ability to assist in compiling, and working within, an annual budget.
- Sound communications skills.

A competitive package is available to the successful applicant

Applicants are requested to apply for an application form by either telephoning or writing to: Mr Stephen Myers MBE, Club Manager,
Newbury & Crookham Golf Club, Bury's Bank Road, Greenham, Thatcham RG19 8BZ
Telephone: 01635 40035 e-mail: steve.myers@newburygolf.co.uk

Closing date for receipt of applications is by noon on 31 August 2005.



Feature listing from August 2003

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

September 2004; Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Preview; Ravensworth Golf Club; Turf Disease; Royal Holloway College; Tractors; The Greener Approach to Greenkeeping

October 2004; STRI 75th Anniversary; Kenwick Park GC; Ecology; John Deere National Team Championship; Best Practice; Top Dressing; Saltex Review; Aeration

November 2004; Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Final; The BIGGA National Championship; Comrie GC; CV Advice; Drainage; Construction; Fences

December 2004; BTME & ClubHouse Preview; Henley GC; Grass Identification; Trees; Environmental Winner; BIGGA Delegation; Interview Advice; College Listings

January 2005; Sir Michael Bonallack; Parkstone GC; Machinery Servicing; Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship; Recycled Products; John Deere Team Championship; Tees; Negotiation Advice

February 2005; Harrogate 2005 Review; Meet the Chairman; Environmental Competition; Tyres; Coombe Hill GC

March 2005; Alwoodley GC; Difficult Areas; Drainage; Irrigation; Greens

April 2005; Augusta Syndrome; Thornhill GC; Difficult Areas Part 2; Turf Tonics; BIGGA Delegation; Fescue Grass

May 2005; Helliidon Lakes; Power Mowers; Pest Control; Cutting Heights Survey; Nozzles

June 2005; Minchinhampton GC; Aeration; Rigby Taylor Profile; Chemical Useage; Top Dressing; Jim Arthur Tribute

July 2005; Loch Lomond GC; St. Andrews GC; Mini Excavators; Disease; Finance; Scholarship

Envyng the Distinction



A recent article in Golf Course News International heavily criticised aspects of our Association. When I personally feel that I am being unfairly criticised I always take solace in the words of Sallust (86BC - 34BC): 'They envy the distinction we have won; let them therefore envy our toils, our honesty and the methods by which we have gained it.'

The more active and influential our Association becomes the more likely it is to attract unwarranted criticism. Whether this is the case in this particular instance, I could not possibly comment. While, for obvious reasons, it would be incorrect of me to discuss the details in our magazine, I would encourage members who have concerns resulting from information in these articles to make representations through their Sections and Regional boards. The membership deserve answers to any concerns they might have and I and the board will be happy to give them through the proper channels.

As Chairman, I cannot hide my disappointment at the criticism of our Association in any magazine. I take comfort in the fact that the Editor has a job to do and that is to spice up his editorial to increase circulation for his advertisers. What concerns me more is that two of our members were also willing to criticise openly the Association. As I have often stated, I do not mind criticism, indeed I believe it is a healthy channel for progress. However, as members, they have a duty, as we all do, to maintain the reputation of the Association by expressing our concerns through the proper channels.

Representatives of the Board have met with the members concerned and received assurances that there was no intention to bring the Association into disrepute. Both expressed regret if this had been the case and cited editorial control as the main driver in setting the tone of the articles. Both are long term members who have given much time and effort in the support of greenkeepers and the Board are satisfied with their explanation of events. I must make clear to all members however, that the Board have a duty to uphold the rules of the Association and any future breach of any of our codes of ethics by any member must be regarded as a disciplinary matter.

In my personal opinion, this episode is symptomatic of a situation we have all failed to address successfully for some time. There has long been a 'feeling' out there, among some of the membership, that the Board and HQ are not addressing some of the major needs of everyday greenkeepers. I know, because for many years I have been a grass roots member with similar feelings. When I was appointed Chairman I systematically went about trying to resolve this issue. I was immediately aided by support from all other Board members and staff.

As a Board, we agreed to review the business plan with a view to removing perceived obstacles. This review is ongoing and I would appreciate input from the Regions on how best we can address the issue. We have made a start by agreeing to Region requests to maintain Regional Administrators to serve their needs. This represents a large investment in staffing costs specifically for Regions and Sections. We have allocated additional funding for Section and Region education. We have removed perceived obstacles such as coloured blazers and I have done all that I can to try to debunk the Master Greenkeeper mythology.

I have tried at all times, through the magazine and the bulletin board, to communicate openly with the members on issues which are of importance to us all. There is much more

we can do but these changes need time to have an effect. In view of this, the Board have invested in a Vice Chairman, Richard Whyman, who represents the very heart of grass roots greenkeeping and who we know will carry on this push to improve our services to core greenkeepers.

For those of you who have read the aforementioned articles I must reassure you that, whatever the impression given, the Board are fully in control of all of our business activities and the staff are carrying out their assigned duties in compliance with our instructions in a most satisfactory and professional manner. Should anyone require independent evidence of the commitment of our staff, I would refer you to this recent citation, given within a glowing report, by the Investor's In People award scheme inspector: You remain a very client (membership) focussed organisation with excellent leadership and management. As your systems and processes for data capture become more refined I have no doubts that with such a committed team you will continue to deliver your mission of excellence in golf course management throughout the greenkeeping profession.'

The performance of the Association has steadily grown with greater levels of greenkeeper education and support than ever before. We are more financially sound than we have ever been and have a full Regional and Sectional structure which is healthy and active. We are now a highly respected professional body involved in all aspects of golf course management in the UK and worldwide. Our advice, support and assistance is requested and welcomed by all other major golfing bodies and I can assure members that the vast majority of the forward thinking and progressive individuals who started the Association are proud of its achievements and the respect that BIGGA commands throughout the industry.

I apologise that this month's column is rather muted in its content. This is a great pity as I normally enjoy trying to be creative and giving you something a little bit different to read. In fact I am finding it rather tedious that I have to be stern and serious when the Editor of the said magazine seems to be quite happy to be very creative in his work. I can only recommend to him the words from the song, 'I Am A Lonesome Hobo', wherein is described the circumstances which can lead to a lonely and inconsequential existence:

'Kind ladies and kind gentlemen,
Soon I will be gone,
But let me just warn you all,
Before I do pass on:
Stay free from petty jealousies,
Live by no man's code,
And hold your judgement for yourself
Lest you wind up on this road.' (Blind Boy Grunt 1968)

K. Daly

Kerran Daly
Chairman

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