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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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

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Greenkeeper International:

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

ISSN: 0961-6977

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When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.



Welcome

A POSITIVE YEAR AHEAD!

This year seems to have flown by in the blink of an eye - a sure sign of getting older!

And what a monumental one it has been in global and in greenkeeping terms. It started with the aftermath of the shocking Tsunami while during the year we had Hurricane Katrina, which ripped the heart out of New Orleans, closely followed by the devastating Earthquake in Pakistan. In this age of the terrorist attack they are a sharp reminder of the power of nature.

Closer to home we had the sad passing of Jim Arthur, perhaps the best known man in British greenkeeping and certainly the most controversial, while we also lost Derek Green, less than 18 months before he was due to welcome The Open Championship to his beloved Hoylake. Jim and Derek were close friends and you can be sure that high above the clouds they will be taking a keen interest in the goings on at Royal Liverpool.

We must hope that 2006 will be memorable for more positive reasons.

Hopefully that will begin with Harrogate Week 2006 for which preparations at BIGGA HOUSE are at an advanced stage.

It's not betraying any confidences to say that we at Headquarters are all firmly of the opinion that everything possible has been done to ensure that those who attend, whether they be delegates or exhibitors, get the most from their Harrogate experience.

Not a stone has been left unturned in making sure that every educational need has been catered for. For example well over 200 hours of education and training has been laid on, the most there has ever been and it is tailored to the needs of turf professionals at varying stages of their career. In the Halls, the BTME and ClubHouse Shows continue to provide much to tempt greenkeepers and secretaries alike by way of new products or machinery to enable you to do your job more effectively.

Harrogate, in the third week in January, is certainly the place to be if you want to get ahead. The Exhibition Halls, lecture theatres, bars and restaurants are usually awash with industry gossip and if you want to know which job has become available because the Course Manager has moved on to a more prestigious club you don't have to be anywhere other than a 400 yard radius of Harrogate International Centre.

Oh yes, and if you decided to investigate career advancement the Careers' Fair, sponsored by Toro, is the perfect place. Not only can you see what jobs are available, you can brush up your CV and hone your interview and negotiation skills under the watchful eye of trained experts so you have the edge when an opportunity presents itself.

As I said, no stone has been left unturned in making sure that Harrogate Week 2006 is just right for you.

Have a great Christmas and I'll hope to see you at Harrogate in the New Year.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

RACING FOR RESEARCH

Tony Hunter, greenkeeper at Cherwell Edge Golf Club, Oxfordshire, is searching for sponsors as he plans to race for Cancer Research. A former competitor in the British Rally Championship, 20 years on he has been offered the opportunity to race again, this time in the Formula Renault Clio Kupa Series.

After guest driving for Proaktiv in only a handful of races in 2005, the greenkeeper finished second in the International Drivers' Section. That impressive display earned Tony the chance to race in the famous 2006 Series. After being diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a form of cancer, four years ago, Tony has now recovered and will raise money for Cancer Research during the tour.

While the Clio racing car is provided, Tony urgently needs to raise funds to actually race

and is currently seeking much needed sponsorship. With the Series being covered by various media throughout Europe, the greenkeeper is hoping to attract one or numerous sponsors to ensure he can race for the deserving charity.

Any interested, potential sponsors can contact Tony for more details on 07850 099009 or email broughthel@aol.com.



RANSOMES STUDENTS GRADUATE



Peter Cross

The late summer months have witnessed students the length and breath of the country donning mortarboard and gown as they celebrate their graduation from College or University. Included in these wonderful celebrations are the students who have been fortunate enough to be involved within the Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship scheme.

Judith Colley, Peter Cross and Tobias Hartman, all from Myerscough College, David Tomlin, Merrist Wood College, Tommy McFadden, Elmwood College, Mark Wilshire, Pencoed, and Paul Garman, Writtle College, have all received their relevant

rewards for their hard work and study thanks to the BIGGA scheme greatly supported by the manufacturing giant.

The Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship Scheme has helped fund many aspiring greenkeepers though their study and aided them in competing their ambitions of becoming fully qualified greenkeepers.

"Once I completed my Higher National Diploma I decided to stay on at college for one more year and gain my BSc in Sports Turf Science and Management. This decision was helped by the aid of being given a Higher Education Scholarship from BIGGA with support from Ransomes Jacobsen. I'd like to thank BIGGA and Ransomes Jacobsen for the support I received. Also my mentor Stefan Antolik, Neil Metcalf, who supported me during my placement at Royal St George's and, lastly, Stewart Brown, my senior lecturer at Writtle College," said Paul Garman, who is now a full-time assistant greenkeeper at Royal Liverpool Golf Club.



FORMING A PARTNERSHIP

ProLink Solutions, a world provider of Global Positioning Satellite systems for golf courses, has, through its key distributor Elumina, been named the official GPS partner of the PGAs of Europe. The PGAs of Europe will promote Elumina and the ProLink system to its 12,000 members in 34 countries and individual courses seeking GPS systems.

"The PGAs of Europe welcome ProLink and Elumina to their family of sponsors and supporters. We believe that we only associate ourselves with the best and leaders in their field and both ProLink and Elumina are certainly in this category," said Sandy Jones, Chairman of the PGAs of Europe.

UNLOCKING THE MAGIC

Novozymes Biologicals held an Introduction visit at its production plant in Denmark in November, as the company seeks to extend its sales in the UK. The trip flew members of Amenity Land Services, who sell Novozymes products, to Copenhagen, where they were joined by sports turf professionals from Norway, Sweden and, of course, Denmark, including fellow sales people and members of the Danish and Swedish Greenkeeping Associations.

The two day itinerary was designed to increase the knowledge and understanding of Novozymes and its biological turf care products, which are used vastly in Europe and America, while becoming more popular within Britain. Novozymes A/S supply over 40% of the world's demands for industrial enzymes and have a \$600 million plus annual revenue. The company supply the Household, Industrial and Commercial markets, with their enzymes typically being used in such things as chemical toilets, lakes and ponds, drain lines and septic tanks.

Novozymes Biologicals, whose slogan is 'Unlocking the Magic of Nature', has been producing micro-organisms for over 30 years and after buying out Sybron Chemicals in 2001 and the well known Roots Company in 2003, their attention has been focused on turf. The company offer biological answers to greenkeepers' needs, which include products such as Turf Food, Lake Relief,

EnoRoots and Stand Up.

The first of the two day programme involved an outline of Novozymes, presented by Thierry Pradier, Sales & Marketing Manager Plant Care Europe, who had made the journey from France. An afternoon laboratory tour was followed by a talk from Hugh Frost, Technical Manager UK, on Plant Care Technology and the Roots Product Range for sports turf. Here Hugh highlighted the science behind the biological products available to UK greenkeepers.

The second day saw visits to Kalundborg Golf Club and Skovbo Golf Club, two courses that use the Novozymes range. Kalundborg is a research course for the company and here Anne Mette Dahl Jensen, Danish Institute of Agricultural Science, presented results from trials held at the club. Skovbo is a five year old course and boasts 100% fescue greens. With a massive 75% restriction on the use of fungicides, Danish greenkeepers have found the use of biological products vital in their quest to maintain their courses.

"The visit was designed to further explain and highlight our products to the people selling them. They can then relay this information to the customer and point out the benefits of using biological products on sports turf. I think the trip has been very effective in doing this as we look to expand in the UK," said Hugh.



GTC BACKS HARROGATE WEEK

The GTC is encouraging greenkeepers and their employers to get the most out of Harrogate Week 2006, including an impressive education programme.

Harrogate Week, which starts on January 22 2006, is the place to be to discover new and innovative ideas. It has an outstanding training, workshop and seminar programme, which the GTC is supporting. There is also a Careers Fair, Job Shop

and Forums running throughout the week.

"We are delighted to be supporting the education element of Harrogate Week. While people might think that the BIGGA's BTME & ClubHouse Exhibitions and education programme are just for greenkeepers, I would recommend that employers consider attending because there are many workshops and seminars to benefit from," stated David Golding, GTC Education Director.

NEW CHALLENGE FOR CHIVERS



Chivers Sport & Landscapes (CSL) has started trading and will specialise in the construction, management and maintenance of high quality sports surfaces. The family run company, founded by

Martin Chivers, former Head Groundsman at Fulham FC, pride themselves on the level of skill in fine turf that they have achieved through years of experience within the trade.

"This is something that I have wanted to do for many years and now I can give others the quality services I have trained to do for many prestigious companies in my career so far. The times ahead are very exciting and I look forward to many more years of the same," said Martin.

SHEFFIELD HELP HOSPITAL

BIGGA Sheffield Section President, Neil Maltby, presented a cheque for £500 to Rachel Thorpe, from Weston Park Hospital, donated by the Sheffield Section recently. The money goes to the Million Rose Appeal Charity, which is for a new day and stay ward for chemotherapy patients. This will be created by totally refurbishing an unused ward within the hospital.



Sheffield Chairman Neil Maltby, right, hands over a large donation to the hospital

LECTURER HEADS FOR THE STARS

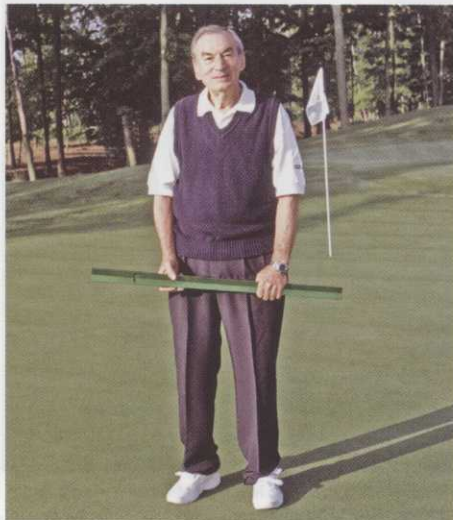


Andy with TV presenter Penny Smith

An Oaklands College lecturer beat off stiff competition from thousands of college tutors all over the UK to be short listed for the title of Further Education Tutor of the Year 2005 in the prestigious STAR Awards competition run by the Department for Further Education.

Andy Wight spent 12 years as a horticulturalist and Groundsman before bringing his skills to Oaklands College, where he has been an inspiring tutor to learners and trainees at the St Albans Smallford campus for over a decade. Andy is nationally recognised as a leading trainer by Lantra (LBI Sector Skills Council) and the GTC. This year Andy has also been awarded a City & Guilds medal for Excellence for his outstanding contribution to the Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care sector and was described by judges as "an enthusiastic champion for the sports turf industry."

"I am delighted to have been short listed from the thousands of entries. It is an honour to be considered for the title of Tutor of the Year," said Andy.



COURSE CONSTRUCTION DOES 360

Barreffield Golf and Barreffield Construction, two of the UK's golf course management and construction companies, have announced their merger to form one organisation - 360 Golf.

The creation of 360 Golf will place both companies' expertise under one brand, allowing a single senior management team to offer a portfolio of solutions to the golf industry - featuring a full range of golf management, design and construction and consultancy services.

"This is an exciting development for a company which has been supplying successful and innovative business advice to the European golf market for 15 years. By forming one new company, we expect 360 Golf to grow even faster and it makes

it easier for the senior management team to market our services," stated 360 Golf Director Melvin Thomas, one of the founders of Barreffield Golf.



360 Golf Directors, L-R, Mel Thomas, Robert Clive and Peter Townson

NORRIE WHYTOCK TROPHY

It's was that time of year again when the Sections made their way to Auchterarder Golf Club as they fought for the Norrie Whytock Team Trophy. The nine year old tournament has been won six times by the North Section, so the others were desperate to wrestle the Trophy from them.

This was not the case however, as the North Section once again ran out the winners with 93pts. In second place was the East Section on 91pts, with the Ayrshire Section also scoring 91pts but the East won on a count back with the best fourth score counting. Mention should be made of Steve Higgins, scoring 40 of Ayrshire Section's points, but unfortunately not enough to earn a place in the prize list.

The North Section team comprised Team Captain, John Geddes, McDonald GC, 25pts; Neil Kidd, Keith GC, 34pts; Dean Mitchell, Cruden Bay GC, 28pts; Mark Main, Moray GC, 31pts. The runners up, East Section, team comprised

Team Captain, Stuart Crawford, Kenneth Main, Steve Nicol and Stuart Martin.

The Scottish Chairman, Iain Barr, proposed a vote of thanks to Bayer and David Drummond for their support in sponsoring and providing the excellent prizes. The Association is grateful to them and look forward to continuing the relationship in the years to come.

Iain also passed on thanks to the Captain and Committee for granting use of the facilities and courtesy of Auchterarder Golf Club. Warm praise was due to the green staff and Head Greenkeeper, Archie Dunn, for the superb condition of the course.

Next year's event will once again be played over Auchterarder Golf Club on August 23 2006.



The successful North Section with Chairman Iain Barr, middle

DOCTOR SET TO RECEIVE AWARD

Joseph M. Duich, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Turfgrass Science at Pennsylvania State University, has been selected to receive the 2006 Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). The award will be presented during the Opening Session of the 2006 GCSAA Education Conference, February 9 2006.

As GCSAA's most prestigious honour,

the Old Tom Morris Award is presented each year to an individual who "through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf has helped to mould the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris."

In a break with tradition, the GCSAA Board of Directors has selected an honouree who has influenced the game of golf through long hours spent in university classrooms and laboratories in addition to some time on the links. Duich has devoted a lifetime to improving the game of golf by breeding new turfgrasses and teaching hundreds of future golf course superintendents and turfgrass researchers.

CHARTERHOUSE TEE OFF

A golfing foursome from Charterhouse Turf Machinery has helped raise £5,750 for two baby care hospital facilities in the south west of England.

The Charterhouse team comprised Lee Strutt,



The Charterhouse team, L-R, comprised Lee Strutt, John Ryan, Paul Bacon and Nick Darking

John Ryan, Paul Bacon and Nick Darking. They were among 22 grounds care equipment manufacturers and dealers who participated in a Memorial Golf Day at Caversham Heath Golf Club, Berkshire.

The event was staged in remembrance of Taylor James Moore, a newborn baby who sadly died in August. Funds raised from entry fees, a raffle and an auction during the Golf Day have been donated to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at St Michaels Hospital in Bristol, and the Special Baby Care Unit at The Great Western Hospital in Swindon. These will put the money towards new specialist equipment.

"We were delighted that so much has been raised for such a good cause. It was nice to actually be able to play golf - usually we visit golf courses to demonstrate Charterhouse machines," said Nick Darking, Sales Manager.

TURNING TO SALES



23 years' experience of greenkeeping make Mark Leman ideally suited for his new role as an Area Sales Representative with turf machinery

specialists Campey Turf Care Systems. Mark will have responsibility for an area that includes the south west of England, the south Midlands, South Wales and Ireland.

For the previous nine years, Mark has been Course Manager at Henbury Golf Club, near Bristol, so he fully appreciates the demanding workload of modern turf professionals and the need for high work rate equipment. Away from work, Mark's hobbies include motor cycling, snooker and, not surprisingly, golf.

FOUR!



L-R: Toro's Larry Pearman, Simon Hodsdon, MD of the four clubs, John Colebrook and Steve Vogels, John Shaw Machinery, and Matt Macklin, the group's Course Manager, with the Woldingham greenkeepers.

Toro dealer John Shaw Machinery has won a five-year Toro machinery deal with four golf courses owned by Ron Noades, past chairman of both Brentford and Crystal Palace football clubs. The courses are at Surrey National GC, Woldingham GC, Westerham GC and newly opened nine holer, Godstone.

"We are very pleased to have won this order, particularly as the main selection criteria focused on customer support and service levels, as well as equipment performance. We look forward to working with and supporting the greenkeeping teams over the coming years," said Steve Vogels, John Shaw Machinery Executive Director.

EXTENDED PRACTICE

Work has got underway on an extension to the St Andrews Links Golf Practice Centre which will incorporate a golf academy equipped with the latest digital analysis and ball-tracking technology. Muirfield Construction has been appointed by St Andrews Links Trust as the lead contractor to carry out work on the GPC extension.

The new construction will be built on land to the west of the existing GPC

building and will incorporate the new golf academy, the R&A's external ball testing centre and a club-fitting facility. It will also see the creation of an additional 14 indoor bays, taking the total to 51.

"Golf teaching and technology have taken huge strides forward. We have embarked upon this extension to ensure that the St Andrews Links practice centre remains at the forefront and provides world class golf tuition," said Alan McGregor, General Manager of St Andrews Links Trust.

The centre will remain open throughout the construction period. It is due to be completed next spring.

A WIN FOR THE EAST

The East of England Greenkeepers claimed a superb victory over the Secretaries at Woodhall Spa recently. A resounding win to the BIGGA Greenkeepers was sealed by Mr Firman and Allan Walker, who came back from the death from 5 down with 6 to play to claim the match. For more details see Around the Green.



Walker, left, and Firman celebrate victory

NEW DIRECTOR AT TURFMECH



Carl Grattage

Carl Grattage has been appointed Finance Director of the Turfmech group of companies. He takes over from Sabine Jarrett, who has been responsible for the company's financial affairs for the past 15 years and now will be taking more of a back-seat role in a company

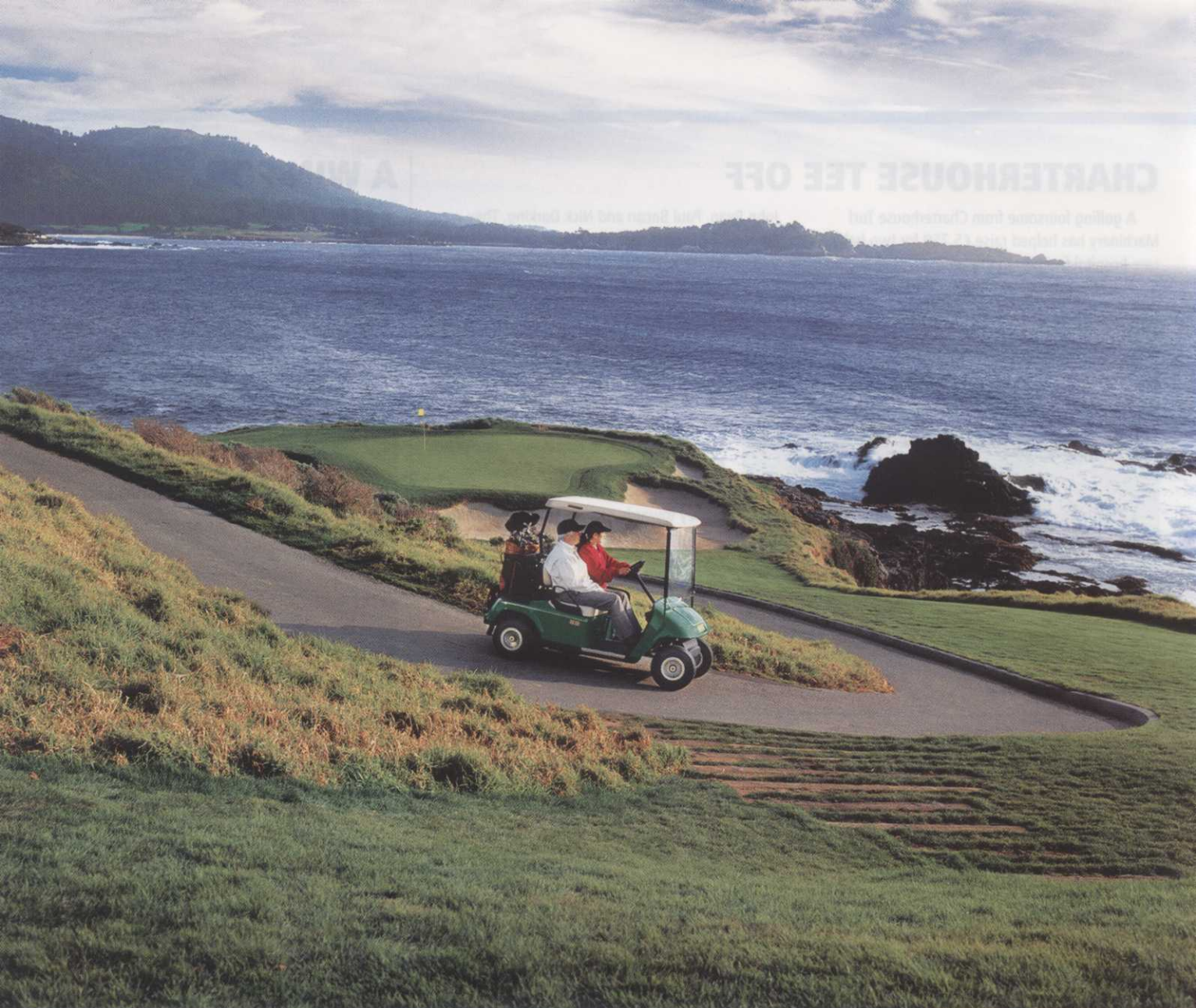
that she and her husband, Austin, founded in 1990.

Graduating in accountancy and finance from Lancaster University, Carl qualified as a chartered accountant in 1994 while working for KPMG in Manchester. Prior to joining Turfmech, he had been financial controller and finance director for major companies in the manufacturing sector, including GKN Automotive.

Meanwhile James Till has marked six years' service with Turfmech by gaining a Graduate Diploma in Purchasing and Supply. Equivalent to achieving an Honours Degree, the award has enabled James to become a member of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply. With a Certificate and, now, a Graduate Diploma under his belt, James has risen to the position of Operations Coordinator for the manufacturing arm of Turfmech.



James Till



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KENDALL TO COORDINATE



Rhian Kendall has been appointed as Marketing Coordinator for the Tractor and Groundcare division of Kubota UK Ltd. Based at the company's headquarters at Dormer Road, Oxfordshire, Rhian's principal role is to support Sales and

Marketing Manager, David Roberts, in raising awareness and appreciation of the Kubota product ranges.

"I am already planning a more prominent role for e-commerce as a means of highlighting and strengthening Kubota's long-term position. Kubota has a superb product range backed by first-class customer service and support, and it is my job to ensure that these facts are known by the maximum number of potential customers," commented Rhian.

A ROYAL VISIT

His Royal Highness The Duke of York visited the Sports Turf Research Institute in November accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant for West Yorkshire, Dr Ingrid Roscoe. The royal visitor was greeted by Dr Gordon McKillop, STRI's Chief Executive, along with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Dr David Marsh and Mr Ian Campion. Local dignitaries were represented by the Lord Mayor of Bradford and the Leader of Bradford Council, Margaret Eaton.

His Royal Highness was keen to learn more about STRI's work, in particular the key roles turf science and new technologies in design and construction now play in supporting today's constant demands for sustainable, high quality sports surfaces and golf courses. Before stepping out onto STRI's extensive trials grounds, The Duke of York spent time in the Construction and Development Departments.

CELEBRATION



Antony Newland, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Tavistock GC with wife, Tracey Evans. Tracey is the daughter of Steve Evans, Course Manager of Yelverton Golf Club

BOBCAT DEALERSHIP

Barloworld Handling Ltd has been appointed as the new Bobcat dealer in London, Hertfordshire, Kent and Sussex. Barloworld has earmarked substantial investment in new Bobcat equipment and recruited additional sales and service personnel to run the new dealership. It complements the company's existing Bobcat dealership in East Anglia, covering Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire.

"We are delighted to have appointed Barloworld as the new dealer for this important part of the UK. Barloworld has an excellent track record as a Bobcat dealer in East Anglia and is totally committed to maximising customer value

through ongoing investment, continuous improvement and service excellence," said John Burton, Regional Manager for Bobcat in the UK and Ireland.



FINISHING THE JOB

Remedy Oak's new golf course, in Dorset, is in the last stage of completion as the final touches are added to the championship course. For the Project Management, Trevor Smith, this is second new

build golf club that he has started from scratch. Between 1993 and '98 he managed the creation of Canford Magna Golf Club's 45 hole golf complex.

"They say that if an aircraft looks right it flies right - well we are putting the finishing touches to Remedy Oak now but it looks as though it has been established here for years. Everyone involved can be very proud of the achievement," said Trevor.

Trevor started his career as a trainee greenkeeper in 1969 having studied modern turf management at Bingley. His interest in golf course development started at Bramshaw GC, where he was asked to remodel the course.



AMENITY FORUM FIRST

Safeguarding the environment, complying with regulations and following best practice are the themes for the first conference organised by the Amenity Forum. 'The Weed and Pest Control Challenge' takes place on March 1 2006 at Warwickshire County Cricket Club's Edgbaston ground in Birmingham.

"Regulatory compliance and standards of weed and pest control in the amenity have been criticised in a number of recent reports. Senior managers in

the amenity sector have a duty to protect the environment, and those with responsibility for pesticide use, need to understand the regulations and ensure their staff and contractors comply with the law and follow best practice. This conference will be a great opportunity for all the stakeholders in the sector to discuss the issues around environmental protection," said Jon Allbutt, Chairman of the Amenity Forum.



David Golding, Education Director, highlights the education and training opportunities now available to both golf club employers and greenkeepers.

It is no coincidence that I note that the Professional Golfers Association (PGA) have now followed the greenkeeping sector by offering qualifications within the Government's national framework and the Association of Golf Club Secretaries (AGCS) are considering a similar route for their training programmes. It is encouraging that, as with BIGGA, these other professional bodies within golf are now seeing the benefits of formal qualifications for their membership.

BIGGA does have the added benefit of working with the employer bodies within the GTC and therefore ensuring they have an influence on the content of all the qualifications ranging from N/SVQ's (work based training) to the M.Sc.Degree. It is important that golf's employers have an input to the qualifications, albeit much of the technical input does come from the industry's leading Course Managers and educationalists through the GTC technical committee and specialist working groups.

Employers have taken to the more work based skills type training and each year the GTC is happy to report increased numbers of trainees on formal education and training qualifications. The Apprenticeship is available at two levels incorporating N/SVQ Levels 2 and 3 plus key skills, including numeracy and literacy. What must also be appreciated is that short courses, offering both training with or without certification, can also play a vital part of the staff development.

Despite a very mild start to the winter there will be time when Course Managers can review staff development, including their own in association with the employer. Why not discuss all the options with the staff either by way of a formal appraisal or informally with those staff members who have never seemed keen on education or training.

There are so many options available and there is no better time to plan ahead and prepare the staff for the season ahead than during the winter period and especially during the season of goodwill! Linking training and in particular qualifications to salary reviews is an excellent incentive and when employers are considering the Recommended Wage Scale circulated by the Committee for Golf Club Salaries at least they can see where the individual staff member fits within the guidelines.

Please take advantage of all the various options now available to improve your own personal development and in turn your employers golf course. A good start to the year is often a visit to the Harrogate Week, where there are many education options available for all levels of greenkeepers and employers.



Leading the horse to water: Clubs must promote education to their employees

Why not come and visit the GTC Stand, where representatives from all the organisations within the GTC will be present together with staff from Plan-it Training, the company who deliver the trainer and assessor training programme.

On behalf of the GTC may I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy and prosperous 2006.

The GTC can be contacted on 01347 838640.

GTC is supported by:





Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

BIGGA GOLDEN KEY and SILVER KEY MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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Education Update

Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, details the extensive Continue to Learn Programme at Harrogate Week 2006.

As 2005 draws to a close, Sami and I are looking ahead to Harrogate Week, when we present Continue to Learn, the largest, targeted education experience in Europe for those in the fine turf and golf club management industries. We are also planning the launch of the BIGGA Training and Development Manual and a new initiative on leadership and management training.



Many greenkeepers have now booked their GTC supported Continue to Learn Workshop Sessions, although you could still book your place if you contact BIGGA HQ before the January 11 booking deadline.

The two-day and one-day workshops have been designed to meet the needs of specific groups of greenkeepers and they are as follows.

Two-day: Basic Health and Safety for Greenkeepers, The Greenkeepers Guide to Project Management, Taking the Fear out of Financial Management, An Introduction to Golf Course Design (Sold Out) and the Knowledge Element of the A1 Assessor Award.

One-day Workshops are: Customer Care, Managing Water, Managing Performance, L12 Coaching Award and an A1 Assessor Update.

The Continue to Learn Programme continues throughout the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibition, commencing on Tuesday January 24 with the Presentation of BIGGA Awards, followed by a motivational keynote presentation given by Colonel John Blashford-Snell. This is followed by the first Continue to Learn Seminar, presented by Brin Bendon. Brin will endeavour to show you how to influence others through better communication.

Thanks to sponsorship from Ransomes Jacobsen, we have introduced a series of half-day workshops during BTME & ClubHouse, beginning on Tuesday January 24 with Environmental Management and, running at the same time, The Basics of Microsoft Word. Wednesday January 25 will see the introduction of a day of seminars aimed at golf club managers, golf club secretaries, and golf club officials.

These seminars are presented jointly with the English Golf Union and the Association of Golf Club Secretaries. Running alongside these Seminars will be two more Ransomes Jacobsen sponsored Workshops, The Basics of Microsoft Excel and Media Skills and Strategy Training.

Thursday January 26 will be the busiest Continue to Learn Day, with three Seminars - Managing Poa Annua, An Holistic Approach to Disease Management and The Competent Person. The third half-day Microsoft Workshop, The Basics of Powerpoint, will also be running. Thursday afternoon sees the start of the conference and debate on Maintaining the Sustainable Golf Course that is presented jointly with the R&A. The Conference continues on Friday morning with an open discussion.

Hopefully by now, you will have noticed a massive increase in the amount of education available during Harrogate Week. However, it does not end there. Thanks to the introduction of the Queen's Suite at Harrogate International Centre, the location of all of the above sessions, we are able to present a wide variety of fringe session that will be open to all visitors free of charge.

Details of all of these sessions will be included in the fringe events brochure that you should have received with your copy of Greenkeeper International.

FRINGE SEMINARS

Half hour fringe seminars will be presented on Tuesday January 24 by Toro, WBB Minerals, Headland, Rigby Taylor, STRI, Sheltons, Complete Weed Control, Otterbine, Lloyds of Letchworth and Scotts.

On Wednesday by Toro, Tower Chemicals, Vitax and Even Products. On Thursday by Fairway Credit, Briggs & Stratton, Circle Insurance, WRAP, Symbio, Grovewood Publishing, OptimizeGolf, Terrain, Headland and Toro.

STUDENT FORUM

Thursday January 26 is a special day for students. Not only will they be able to gain entry to Seminars free of charge and attend a Toro sponsored Student Forum; they can also attempt the Student Quiz and win a first prize of an Apple iPod.

Two old favourites return for 2006 when the Careers Fair and Job Shop, sponsored by Toro, run throughout BTME & ClubHouse and the Women's Forum takes place on Wednesday January 25. There is definitely something for everyone at Harrogate Week 2006. It is bound to be a popular event and places on Workshops and Seminars need to be booked early.

ACCOMMODATION

An indication of the popularity of Harrogate Week is that BIGGA has sold all of its allocated accommodation. Anyone wishing to book accommodation for Harrogate Week should contact our appointed accommodation agent, Reservation Highway, at www.reservation-highway.co.uk, using the access code 'bigga'. They can also be contacted by telephone on 01423 525577.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Another BIGGA member has reached the required standard for the award of a Diploma in Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Congratulations to Iain MacLeod, Course Manager at Tain Golf Club.

A Diploma in Continuing Professional Development is awarded to those members of BIGGA who have been awarded five consecutive Certificates of Continuing Professional Development. A Certificate of Continuing Professional Development is awarded to those members of BIGGA who have earned a minimum of 10 CPD Credits in the calendar year July to June each year. Credits are awarded for a wide range of education and training courses, seminars, workshops and conferences.

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THE OPEN

ROYAL LIVERPOOL GC (HOYLAKE), JULY 20-23, 2006

This is your opportunity to work at the first Open Championship to be played at Hoylake since Argentinian, Robert de Vicenzo, won in 1967. As a member of the BIGGA Support Team you will assist Course Manager, Craig Gilholm and his team, in the preparation of the course before and after each day's play and be a part of the on-course team which accompanies each match ensuring bunkers are raked in a correct and professional manner.

It will be your responsibility to get to the venue but after that transport to and from the golf course, accommodation and meals will be provided during the Championship. You will be expected to report for duty by 5pm on Wednesday, July 19, and be available until the close of play on Sunday - bed and breakfast will, however, be supplied for the Sunday evening.

This year we are also looking for a team of drivers for the four mini buses used during the week. So please indicate on your application if you are able to be a nominated mini bus driver. To do so you must have held a full driving license for three years and be over 25 years of age.

This opportunity is open to full BIGGA members only.

To apply write to: Scott MacCallum, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF. For further information contact Scott on 01347 833800 or email scott@bigga.co.uk.

Closing Date for applications for The Open Team February 1, 2005.

BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

THE WENTWORTH CLUB, MAY 25-28, 2006

BIGGA will also be providing a Greenkeeping Support Team for the BMW PGA Championship at The Wentworth Club, May 25-28.

As a team member you will be involved in walking with a match and raking any bunkers found by the players as well as aiding Chris Kennedy and his staff, should adverse weather occur.

You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course while there is no overnight accommodation provided.

Being a member of this team will not be detrimental to your chances of making The Open Championship team.

Applications should be sent to:

Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator, 34 Howard Close, Walton-on-the-Hill, Tadworth, Surrey, KT20 7QF.



Rachael and Gemma would like to welcome 34 new members to the Association and wish all our members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Membership Update



BIGGA welcomes...

SCOTTISH REGION

David Anderson, East
Andrew Barrett, West
Ian Butcher, Central
David Williams, North

NORTHERN REGION

Gareth Evans, North West
Daniel Fairfax, North West
Michael Ridley, Cleveland
Lee Rimington, Northern
Gary Thomas, North West
Iwan Williams, North Wales

MIDLAND REGION

Andrew Brassington, Midland
Nicholas Cooper, Midland
Simon Hart, Midland
Christopher Stilgoe, Midland

SOUTH EAST REGION

Simon Humphrey, Sussex
Darren Jones, Surrey

SOUTH WEST/SOUTH WALES

Darren Burfitt, South Wales
Stephen Chappell, South Wales
Thomas Day, South Coast
Christopher French, South Wales
Spencer Giffard, South Wales
Raymond Meakin, South Coast
Brychan Phillips, South Wales
Tim Steel, South Coast
Scott Taylor, South Coast
Marcus Weaver, South Wales

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Kenneth Andersen, East Scotland
Robert Baker, London
Nigel Coultish, Northern
Nigel Lloyd, North Wales
Mike Finney, Sussex
Graeme Francis, Surrey

STUDENT MEMBERS

Neil Davey, North West
Chris Hodgkinson, North West

Membership Renewals

Everyone with a December renewal should have received their renewal packs, so please call us for a replacement if you haven't. The January packs are due to go out shortly and again if you have not received yours by Christmas then please give us a call.

We have decided to remove the golf club stamp requirement from the renewal forms so this should make it far easier for everyone to renew. The Regional Administrators will instead be doing random checks to ensure that everyone renewing greenkeeper membership is still working as a greenkeeper.

If you have any further queries as to why the stamp was removed then please consult your Section Secretary or Board Representative, who have been kept fully informed. We have also developed an email renewal form so if you have lost your form and would like one emailing then please contact us via phone or email rachael_p@bigga.co.uk or gemma@bigga.co.uk.

Privilege Card

The privilege card benefit is discontinuing at the end of December due to lack of use. Please do not use your cards after this date.



DECEMBER'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. The radio can stand alone or can be clipped onto a belt with headphones for when your on the move. Our congratulations go to Nick Miles of Market Harborough Golf Club.

Quick Guide to Parental Leave

WHAT IS PARENTAL LEAVE?

Parental leave is a right for parents to take time off work to look after a child. Parents can use it to spend more time with their children.

WHO CAN TAKE PARENTAL LEAVE?

Parental leave is available to employees who have or expect to have, parental responsibility for a child. Employees need to have one year's continuous service with their current employer.

HOW MUCH PARENTAL LEAVE CAN I TAKE?

Employees get 13 weeks in total for each child. Parents of disabled children receive 18 weeks.

WHEN CAN PARENTAL LEAVE BE TAKEN?

- Parents can take leave up to their child's 5th birthday.
- Adoptive parents can take leave up to the 5th anniversary of the date of placement (or the child's 18th birthday if that is sooner).
- Parents of disabled children born after December 15 1981 can take leave up to their child's 18th birthday.

CAN I RETURN TO THE SAME JOB AFTER PARENTAL LEAVE?

An employee is guaranteed the right to return to the same job as before if the leave was for four weeks or less. If a longer period of leave was taken then the employee is entitled to return to the same job but if that is not reasonably practicable then he is entitled to a similar job, which has the same or better status, terms and conditions.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

Employers and employees can agree their own procedures with a workforce or collective agreement or an individual agreement. These agreements will only apply if they are part of the employee's contract of employment. If there is no written agreement then the following provisions apply.

- In most cases leave must be taken in blocks or multiples of one week, except parents of disabled children who can take leave in blocks or multiples of one day.
- A maximum of four weeks leave in a year can be taken for each child.
- 21 days notice must be given.
- The employer can postpone the leave for up to six months where the business would be particularly disrupted.
- Leave cannot be postponed when the employee gives notice to take it immediately after the time the child is born or is placed with the family for adoption.

IS PARENTAL LEAVE PAID?

The right to parental leave does not include any statutory pay. However agreements can be made between the employer and employee.

This information should not be treated as a complete and authoritative statement of the law. For further information go to the department of work and pensions website www.dwp.gov.uk.

Need a Check Up?

One of the best investments a greenkeeper can make is the investment of time - time to review the performance of the golf course's existing irrigation system. By taking time to inspect and evaluate the irrigation equipment, a greenkeeper can learn what works and what doesn't, and what needs repair or adjustment. Necessary repairs or replacement - preventive maintenance - can be carried out and the irrigation system should perform to its full potential.

Preventive maintenance consists of improvements that can be made to any course at any time. The goal is to maximise what you have and minimise (or prevent) what could go wrong. What follows is a review of the equipment and what to look for when inspecting each element.

SPRINKLERS

Sprinklers, which have numerous items to be checked, are extremely important as they must operate at their peak to provide the best performance and results. Look for sprinklers that:

1. Are too low (they have sunk below grade)
2. Are tilted (and should be raised and made flush)
3. Are not popping up all the way
4. Have leaks
5. Have bad or inconsistent rotation (which means the sprinkler should be disassembled, checked for damaged parts or excessive debris, then cleaned or repaired)
6. Have nozzle problems. These can include plugged or worn nozzles, or broken stream straighteners that cause visibly poor nozzle performance and should be examined, cleaned and, if necessary, repaired.

Poor nozzle performance may lead you to find other system issues that require repair, such as low pressure or pump problems. Sprinklers are the items that most commonly require maintenance.

Check the items listed above every three months during the watering season, and at the beginning and end of the season if your climate includes a winter season. Conduct a visual check and watch a sprinkler complete a full rotation.

VALVES

If control valves don't work, then sprinklers cannot apply water. Fortunately valves are simpler than sprinklers. They must open, close and not leak.

To inspect a valve, first remove the lid from the valve box and do a visual inspection for static leaks. Next, operate the valve manually and automatically to check for leaks. Then, check for proper operation and closure in both manual and automatic modes.

Any existing problems are usually visible during these simple observations, and the steps to resolve an issue are: disassembly, cleaning, repair or replacement of any failed components. Check valves at the same intervals as sprinklers.

FIELD CONTROLLERS OR SATELLITES

First perform a visual inspection for external physical damage, water damage inside any compartments or to any exposed components. Next, do a functional test by verifying the operation of each feature and each station or zone of sprinklers.



For these items, you may need to contact a product manufacturer for assistance in resolving issues. These may require you to troubleshoot whether it is a controller, wiring or valve/sprinkler issue, in terms of turning on and off.

Then check the electrical connections. First, look for anything 'not normal', then, with power off, ensure each wire is tightly connected. Any worn or frayed wires or wires with degrading insulation should be replaced or repaired.

GROUNDING EQUIPMENT

Most semi- and fully-automatic systems have specifications regarding the level of grounding required for the system to be safe and to maximise lightning and surge protection. Grounding and its connections to the system will degrade over time.

First verify that the 'earth ground resistance' of your grounding system still meets the manufacturer's specifications and has not degraded since the last check. Correct any problems immediately. Depending on the type of system, there could be several grounding points or just a few.

Once the earth ground resistance has been tested and approved, all connections and wiring back to the controller should be checked. Loose, frayed or corroded elements should be replaced. Grounding equipment should be checked at the same intervals as controller elements.

WIRE AND WIRE SPLICES

Realistically, wire buried underground either works or it doesn't. When it stops working, employ normal troubleshooting techniques to locate and repair problems. Also conduct basic system tests for voltage drop and resistance on A) power, and B) communication cables. With the power on, test available voltage at the farthest point of the system to learn whether the load or resistance is increasing. If it is, a failure condition may be developing, even if it is not yet evident.

With power off, measure the same points for resistance. If annual records are kept, you will identify the start of a trend toward a potential failure. Look for voltage declines or increases in resistance.

PIPE

You should always stock an adequate supply of repair couplings and a few lengths of pipe in each size used on your golf course. One test that you can perform is a pressure leak-down test. Place a gauge on the system (preferably at the highest point) and pressurise the system.

You'll be able to read any drop in pressure hourly. While one data point may not be significant, this information, accumulated year after year, may help you locate and repair a problem before catastrophic failure.

Kenne James explains what to look for when closely inspecting an irrigation system.

LATERAL AND MAINLINE ISOLATION VALVES

These are specialty valves that must open, close and not leak. First, inspect them visually for leaks. Each valve should then be closed completely, checked to ensure that flow has stopped, then opened. It is extremely important that valves undergo this testing at least twice a year because they spend 99.9 per cent of their lives in the 'open' position, and may become prone to not closing properly.

Finally, the correct position for a valve left 'open' is actually about a half-turn from full open. Take the valve to 100 per cent open, then turn back slightly. This will help prevent the valve from getting 'stuck' in the 'open' position.

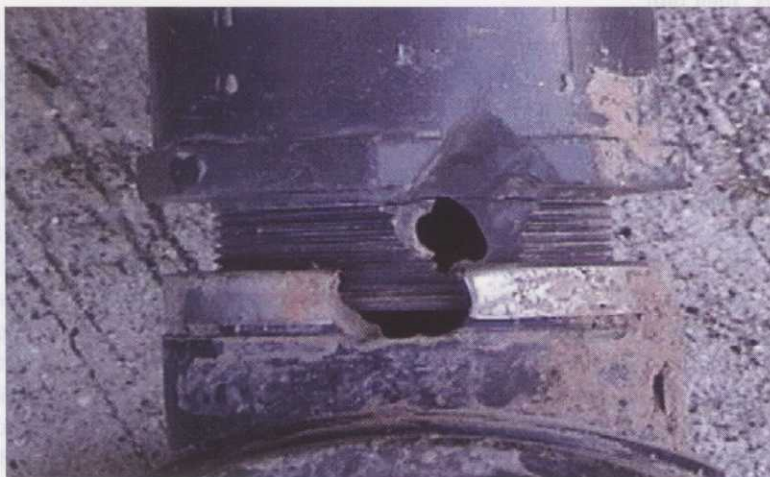


An example of good wire splices made using waterproof splice kits. Now they need to be placed in a valve box for protection and so they can be easily located later for troubleshooting if necessary

PUMP STATIONS

These are probably the single most complicated pieces of equipment on a golf course and among the most expensive. They require attention commensurate with their importance and expense. Here are some basic thoughts regarding pump station maintenance - as provided by ITT-Flowtronex International:

- Pump stations last longer in a building with proper ventilation.
- Heat kills and is a problem in a pump station when the building is not properly ventilated, motors are not positioned to receive cooling air flow and electrical connections are not maintained.
- A pump station's vibration will cause electrical connections to loosen and burn, which can cause catastrophic panel failures, VFD failures and single-phase motor damage.
- Debris entering the pumping system can create premature wear on the pumps. Sand or silt build up in the lake, and will show up in the pump head area. Whatever you pump will be deposited in the pump head reservoir. Keep it clean and when you start moving silt, it will show up.
- Through daily visits to the pump house a greenkeeper becomes familiar with 'normal' sounds and smells. Once any unusual smells or sounds are noted, take action at once.
- Extensive service visits should take six to eight hours on a four-pump station, not including filter replacement. Filters are hard-working elements and must be maintained properly.
- Regular maintenance can extend the life of a pump station by 30 percent.



An example of how a small leak left untreated can turn into a larger problem later. Now the fitting, pipe and valve must all be replaced

BENEFITS OF PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

A good preventive maintenance programme will help you minimise resource costs and repair and replacement expenses. Preventive maintenance also results in improved playing conditions, less ground under repair, more efficient sprinkler performance, fewer wet and dry spots, fewer customer complaints, healthier and more beautiful turfgrass and a more efficient use of your resources - both staff and financial.

Think 'preventive maintenance' rather than 'reactive' maintenance.



A loose wire connection can lead to failure, a safety hazard or expensive fire damage if not repaired. This one caused the failure and destruction of a pump motor, a very serious issue

Kenne James is Senior Marketing Manager - Golf Irrigation, International Business, The Toro Company.



Golf Environment
Competition

Forget the Myths

Andrew Wood summaries this year's hotly contended BIGGA Environment Competition and dispels the myths that discourage clubs from entering.



Creating markets for recycled resources

Congratulations go to Thorpeness Golf Club, near Ipswich, who in 2005 has joined the list of legendary clubs who have won the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, sponsored by Scotts UK, Syngenta Professional Products, Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and Waste-2-Water. For some keen followers of this prestigious award the result could be used to fuel the fire of the most common myth about the competition. This promotes the idea that clubs need to serve a kind of apprenticeship in the competition by entering year on year until it is "their turn".

However though the Thorpeness Club has been in among the regional prize winners for the past six years we can categorically state that the theory that persistence has presidency over performance is nonsense. Anyone who visits the course at Thorpeness and sees just how much work has been carried out in terms of ecological and environmental management over the past year would agree that they are worthy winners.

Greenkeepers at many clubs tell us they don't enter the competition because they feel "they aren't in with a chance of winning". This attitude unfortunately denies many good clubs the chance of winning one of the many prizes on offer. We, as judges, are on the look out for much more than the overall winner, including potential winners of the Best Newcomer Award, five Regional Prizes and a host of clubs that receive 'Highly Commended' status.

Other clubs are chosen specifically on the basis that they may be a strong contender for the 'Best New Initiative' or the 'Best use of a Recycled Product' awards. With these facts in mind the applicants for the 2005 competition were agonisingly whittled down to 27 regional finalists, which Lee Penrose and I felt were well worth a visit.

Another common perception about the BIGGA competition is that if there is a strong club in a region that enters perennially, other clubs within that region may as well not bother. This myth is easily disbanded; firstly there are a number of additional prizes which are awarded without consideration of which region the club comes from - indeed four clubs from within the South East Region have won prizes in 2005.

Secondly, while some clubs are undoubtedly further advanced in terms of ecological management than others the scoring system is set up so that it favours clubs that have made the greatest progress during the past year. Therefore a club which has a course of a high ecological value but that is not working hard to improve it further will more often than not lose out to one of lower ecological value but which might be working harder to improve matters.

After visiting all the finalists it was decision time. This was a difficult exercise due to the high quality of competition for each award and the sheer number of awards to decide upon - nine in total. This large roll of honour is made possible by the generous support from competition sponsors Scotts UK, Syngenta Professional Products, Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and Waste-2-Water.

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND

The competition in the South East region was easily the strongest this year. In the end it was the vast amount of work undertaken out on the course and the dedication of the entire golf club staff that gave Thorpeness Golf Club the title. Course Manager, Ian Willet, and his team have pulled out all the stops this year making large-scale improvements both on and off the course.

Work has included the development and installation of holistic greens clippings composting programme, extensive habitat enhancement - i.e. heather, gorse, grassland management - and a vast improvement in the environmental credentials of the associated clubhouse and hotel. Recording all of the wildlife on the course and the creation of a visitor's wildlife 'scorecard' have assisted in raising the profile of the club locally and now nationwide.

Waste and water management feature as integral parts of all decisions made at the complex with novel initiatives such as the re-useable plastic storage crates instead of traditional disposable ones within the clubhouse kitchen. This makes a small but important contribution to the club's holistic environmental approach.

Rookwood Golf Club came in a close second in this Region, this is a rare species in itself, in that it is owned by the local council and managed by a private company, British Ensign Golf. This club's high ecological credentials are a key part of its marketing strategy, indeed few clubs in the UK promote the greener side of golf in a more positive way.

South Essex Golf Club was a new club to the competition this year and indeed a club that none of the STRI's ecology team had visited before. It was therefore very exciting to add a new name to the growing list of clubs carrying out work which would convince any sceptic that golf courses can, if managed correctly, have a great ecological benefit. The creation of the 'South Essex Environmental Development Strategy' within the golf club gives real focus and definition to holistic environmental management and make the club well deserving of the 'Best New Entrant' award.



L-R, Vic Barnard, Stephen Blake and Stuart McDowell, happy with the progress of Rockwood Golf Club's composting programme



Proof of a successful environmental project as a young Badger is spotted foraging for food

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TORO Count on it.



Great crested newt breeding pond at Caldy Golf Club

NORTHERN ENGLAND

Another new entrant to the competition won the Northern Region title. Caldy Golf Club's entry, compiled by Carl Crocher, Course Manager, impressed the judges from day one. The environmental course policy document gives real cognisance to the sound ecological management of this important coastal site, recognising the value of the course for important wildlife species, such as great crested newt.

The development of a new rough grassland creation and management strategy combined with the re-introduction of the rare but important western gorse were also projects which set this club aside from the rest of the pack.

MIDLANDS

The progress at the Notts Golf Club (Hollinwell) continues at pace through a strong team effort between Phil Stain, Course Manager, and the Club's Green's Committee, Chaired by Ian McLachlan. Tree thinning remains the biggest ecological management task for the club. This work is



Creation of one of five giant hibernacula (hibernation chambers) in land cleared of trees at Notts Golf Club. These are constructed by burying sections of cut trees and brushings with one end being left open at the south side of the mound

to some extent aided by the flock of Hebridean sheep that remain on parts of the course to prevent the invasion of birch saplings in areas of heath previously cleared of trees.

Heather restoration continues although a Koro field top-maker has been found to produce much better results than the scarifier used previously. Off the course improvements have been made in terms of composting, recycling of waste and energy saving in the clubhouse.



The state of the art irrigation system installed at Bath Golf Club will reduce water usage dramatically

SOUTH WEST ENGLAND AND WALES

At Bath Golf Club the Course Manager, Andy Boyce, and his team have got an excellent long term management plan in place to further enhance this already outstanding course. The grassland rough in some parts of the course has been improved to such an extent that the National Trust are now bailing the vegetation following cutting.

The bales are then spread on other local National Trust sites with the aim of increasing the diversity of wild flowers species to the same high standard of the golf club.

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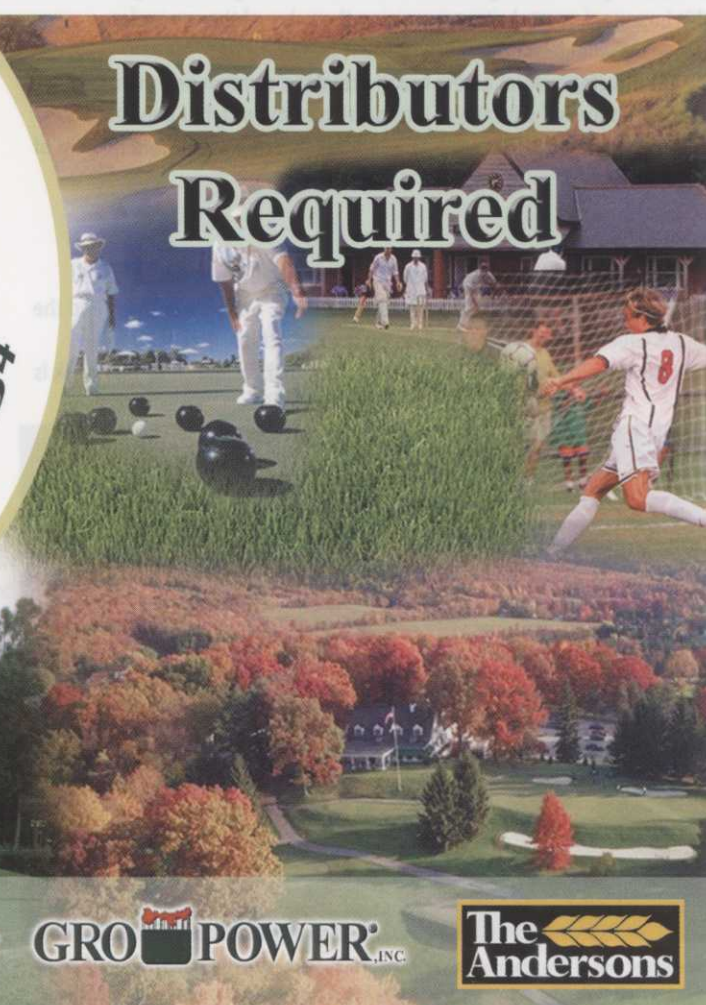
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Thorpeness' extensive environmental programme earned the club the overall winner award

SCOTLAND

In Scotland it was Brighthouse Bay Golf Club that took the regional prize for the second year running. The golf club and associated caravan site have an environmental policy that is second to none.

From the installation of solar panels through to the information leaflets on the golf course to the management of grasslands for their butterfly and bird interest, this club truly considers the ecological impact of every operation. The club also support numerous other environmental accolades including the David Bellamy Conservation award (GOLD - 10 years running!), the Green Tourism Award and are currently in the process of applying to the Scottish Golf Environmental Excellence Award.

Brighthouse Bay Golf Club is a great example of a small club which has good credentials and commitment. Through entering the BIGGA environment competition for the last three years its work has been recognised and it has won two prestigious awards and £1000 prize money.



Colour coded recycling bins at Machrihanish Golf Club, one of the Scottish Clubs to receive 'Highly Commended' status in 2005



Ecological information sign erected by green staff at South Essex Golf Club

If your club deserves recognition for carrying out similar work, then don't be put off entering by the final myth about the competition which is that the entry form is a hassle to get hold of and is too long and laborious to fill in.

Well, there may have been an element of truth up to and including the 2005 competition but the good news is that for the 2006 competition there will be a new streamlined and simplified entry form. What's more, the new form will be included with the January 2006 issue of Greenkeeper International Magazine.

So with the negative myths about the competition dispelled, the easier entry guaranteed and the prizes as good as ever for 2006 get your entry form in and claim the credit you deserve!

CATEGORIES, WINNERS AND PRIZES

Overall winner - Thorpeness Golf Club - £2,000 & A Scott's Weather Master Station

Regional winners

- Scotland - Brighthouse Bay Golf Club - £500
- Northern - Caldry Golf Club - £500
- Midlands - Notts (Hollinwell) Golf Club - £500
- South East - Rookwood Golf Club - £500
- South Wales - Bath Golf Club - £500

Best Newcomer - South Essex Golf Club - £500

Most Impressive Initiative - Notts (Hollinwell) Golf Club - £500

Best use of Recycled Products - The Berkshire Golf Club - £500



Atlanta Here We Come

Gareth Jones unveils the 10 members of the BIGGA Delegation, who are travelling to the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in the USA courtesy of Bernhard & Co.

Organising any Exhibition is a complex and arduous task, but when it is on the massive scale of the GCSAA Industry Show, it is just that bit tougher. So spare a thought for the Association as they were forced to move the location of the Show not once, but twice, within the final months leading to the event. Originally scheduled for New Orleans, the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina saw the City's Conference Centre used as a base for those left homeless by the storms.

The GCSAA had no option but to search for a new base for their annual Show and Houston was chosen. Fear rose again as Hurricane Rita locked its radar on the City. Surely lightning wouldn't strike twice? Houston survived the natural disaster, but the GCSAA's luck was still not in - Houston's Convention Centre could not deliver the facilities originally promised.

Starting to think that the entire GCSAA staff had walked under a ladder or driven over a litter of black cats, the Association commenced their third search. Atlanta came to the rescue, offering the required facilities on the same dates for the Show as originally planned for New Orleans - the GCSAA Conference on February 6-11, with the Show 9-11.

Once again 10 BIGGA members will be flown to the United States to experience this incredible event, thanks to sponsors Bernhard & Co. The BIGGA Delegation will not just visit the GCSAA Show and Conference, it will also been taken to some of the most prestigious golf clubs in the State and gain a first hand view of how turf professionals do it the other side of the pond.

THE DELEGATION

Greg Skinner only started his greenkeeping career in 2003, when he joined Lingdale GC. Previously Greg had taken the guise of a National Account Manager for construction company Ingersoll Rand. After wishing to find a new career that he found both enjoyable and rewarding the new man has not looked back since becoming part of the greens team at Lingdale.

"The fact that I made a huge life changing decision to enter the exciting world of greenkeeping demonstrates my enthusiasm and desire to learn. I feel the Delegation will increase my knowledge of the profession," commented the First Assistant.

Matthew Plested has been a BIGGA member for eight years and is currently Deputy Course Manager at Old Fold Manor GC. An ex employee of both Lee on the Solent GC and Hendon GC, Matthew has achieved his NVQ Level 3 in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management and aims to become a Course Manager in years to come.

"It is a wonderful opportunity to see how golf courses are managed in the US. I plan to look for ideas to improve my own skills. It will be a great chance to meet and share experiences with other greenkeepers," said Matthew.

Born in 1984, Alastair Higgs will be the youngest member of the Delegation. He is Deputy Course Manager at Blue Mountain GC, where he

has worked since 2004. An NVQ Level 3 at Sparsholt College led to him all the way to the 2004 Toro Student of the Year final. A young and ambitious individual, Alastair is always looking for ways to improve his knowledge and skills.

Fred Deamen is Course Manager at Alton GC, where he has been for over 20 years. A member of BIGGA for 16 years plus, Fred dreams of achieving Master Greenkeeper status in the future. As a senior greenkeeper on the 2006 Delegation, he will have a lot to offer younger members.

Course Manager at Felixstowe Ferry, John Houston has headed seven clubs in total. When John took on his first headship in 1981 at Dorking GC he was the youngest Head Greenkeeper in the Country at the time. Felixstowe were rewarded the Best Newcomer Award in the 2004 BIGGA Golf Environmental Competition.

Speaking about his BIGGA membership John commented: "It gives me great confidence in knowing that there is a great team of people which support greenkeepers. Their help and guidance can support learning and education to help our careers."

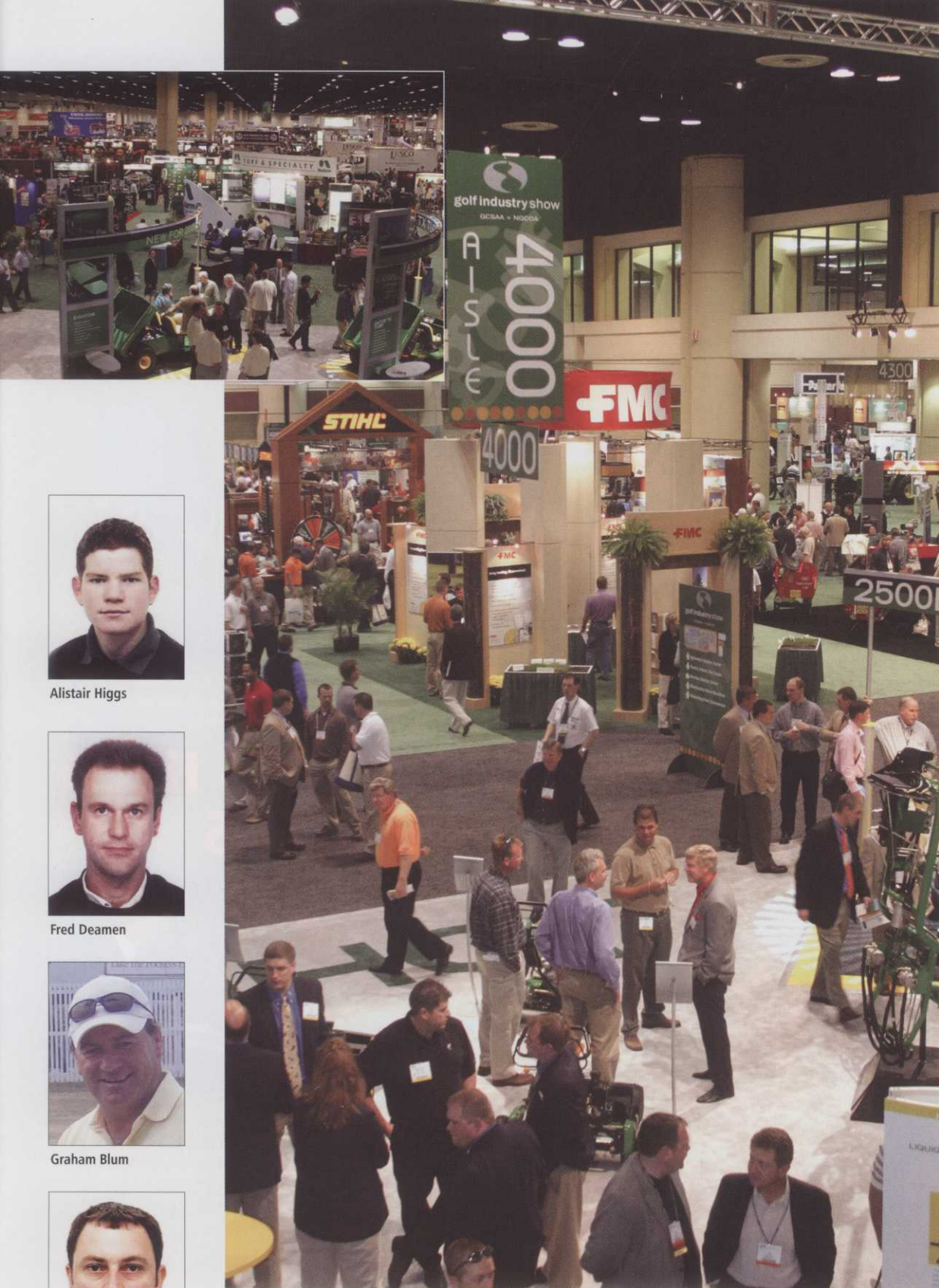
Ian Kinley boasts St Andrews and Royal Birkdale on his CV and is presently the top man at Glen Golf Club. Ian believes that a higher profile within the golfing sector would provide the opportunity to present the greenkeeping profession in such a way that the golfing community would be more educated as to why and when certain operations are necessary on the course.

"The trip to Atlanta will provide the opportunity to represent British greenkeeping in such a high profile delegation and ultimately I hope to employ the knowledge gained to raise the standard of British golf courses," said Ian.

Marc Haring is Course Manager at Cumberwell Park GC, a position he has held since 1993. A regular at Harrogate Week, Marc is an enthusiastic and knowledgeable character who plans continued professional development by taking on more responsibility with his company.

Justin Austin has been the headman at Windwhistle GC for the past five years. He thinks more knowledge should be passed to school leavers about greenkeeping. More detailed job descriptions should be placed at school job fairs to highlight that it is a forward thinking career. Justin is looking forward to comparing the American courses with the likes of Troon and St Andrews.

A former caddie on the Ladies European Tour, where he caddied for current Solheim Cup Captain Catrin Nilsmark, Graham Blum is now Course Manager at Trefloyne GC. After 25 years in the fine turf industry the Aussie is now tackling his NVQ Level 3.



John Houston



Justin Ausin



Keith Ratcliffe



Marc Haring



Matthew Plested



Alistair Higgs



Fred Deamen



Graham Blum



Greg Skinner



Ian Kinley

"I think I will benefit by attending the Conference and speaking to other greenkeepers in America about how we can make our Association a more harmonious and stronger one," explained Graham.

The 10th member of the BIGGA Delegation is Keith Ratcliffe, Course Manager at Wychwood Park. He has recently passed his Master Greenkeeper Certificate and is an NVQ Assessor. Before taking on a role in golf, Keith spent 21 years in the British Army.

"With my background in the Army and 12 years in greenkeeping I'm equipped to get the most out of the Delegation. I will fly the flag for greenkeeping in the UK," said Keith.

Undoubtedly, despite three moves, the GCSAA Show will be another great success and all 10 members of the BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard & Co, will greatly benefit from their experiences in Atlanta.





In 1998 BIGGA's Golden and Silver Key members donated £44,000 to equip the training room in the newly built BIGGA HOUSE



At his peak, Comedian Lee Hurst entertains the banquet in 1998



Guests get into the 60's groove in Millennium year



Inspirational: Keynote speaker and Olympic Silver Medallist, Rodger Black, wows the crowd in 2002



1999 witnesses Mr Motivator, Frank Dick OBE, deliver his Keynote speech

GI REMEMBERS THE GOOD TIMES HELD AT HARROGATE IN BYGONE YEARS

In 1999 Showaddywaddy strut their stuff at Harrogate



Current BIGGA Vice Chairman, Richard Whyman, is presented with his plane tickets as part of the Canadian Scholarship by Stephen Bernhard in 2001

Linda Nolan performs in 1998, much to the delight of BIGGA's first Executive Director, the late Neil Thomas



The Bootleg Beatles headline a 60's influenced Exhibition in 2000



John Pemberton, now BIGGA's Chief Executive, joins The Searchers on stage in 2001

Harrogate week

Preview



Do What's Good for You!

We can all recall being told what to do and exactly what was good for us as youngsters. Whether it was to eat our greens; wash behind our ears or not sit so close to the telly because it would ruin our eyes, they came in a steady stream and you and I all know what we thought of them.

With that in mind, and with the risk of sounding like your mother, I hesitate to suggest to you that you should get yourself to Harrogate Week because it is exactly what is good for you.

As an opportunity to develop professionally and keep on top of industry developments there is no better place to be in the third week in January. You will have an unrivalled opportunity to quiz world renowned experts in their field if you are suffering a particular problem on your course, or attend workshops in areas you feel you'd like to brush up on your knowledge and skills. Add to that the chance to investigate first hand and thoroughly a new piece of machinery or turf or soil application which might be just right for your course.

Then again there is the Apres Show when you can share experiences, tips and solutions with colleagues and friends in a town which offers you as much as Harrogate does. Can you see the pros out weighing the cons massively yet?

Speak with anyone who has taken the plunge in previous years and headed for Harrogate and you will find someone with no regrets and who has been enriched by the experience.

You know it makes sense and it's more fun than eating your greens!



EDUCATION 22 - 27 January 2006
EXHIBITION 24 - 26 January 2006

BTME & ClubHouse Opening Times:

Tuesday 24 January	9.00 am - 5.00 pm
Wednesday 25 January	9.00 am - 5.00 pm
Thursday 26 January	9.00 am - 4.00 pm

www.harrogateweek.org.uk

Out and About in Harrogate

The most important event in the fine and sports turf industry and club management world is not just about the three day BTME & ClubHouse Exhibitions. There's so much more to the entire week, including seminars, workshops, presentations, receptions and dinners, to name just a few.

Included in this is Harrogate itself, a Yorkshire town that has become interwoven into the whole BIGGA event. So Gareth Jones went exploring to see what Harrogate has to offer both visitors and exhibitors alike.

WHERE TO EAT

Damn Yankee

This fun and lively restaurant has made its name serving freshly prepared American food, from burgers and ribs to steak dishes and fajitas. The walls are adorned with memorabilia and images from The States, with an authentic US atmosphere.

Cattleman's Association

The only Texan restaurant in Harrogate is famous for its hearty steak and chicken dishes that will satisfy the biggest appetites. The flavours are authentic 'Old West' and Mexican, and all the dishes are prepared fresh to order from the highest quality ingredients.

Chez la Vie

Chez La Vie offers a range of classical Mediterranean dishes from their basic menus and blackboard specials. The restaurant offers a wide range of wines from throughout the world. A classic French restaurant with the informality of a Parisian bistro.



Loch Fyne

The menu offers a wide array of delicious entrees, comprising a selection of the freshest seafood and shellfish, the majority of which is sourced direct from the shores of Loch Fyne, Scotland. The restaurant has a contemporary design that creates a light, bright ambience.

Lords

Modern English cuisine with game and seafood specialities. The menu reflects a commitment to producing creative and attractive food using fresh seasonal ingredients resulting in a special blend of English and Continental cuisine.

Salsa Posada

Salsa Posada's reputation is for Mexican food prepared on the premises using authentic Mexican recipes, served by friendly staff in a vibrant atmosphere. A wide range of cocktails, shooters and Mexican beer are available.

Wing Wah

Wing Wah breaks from the traditional expectations of a Chinese restaurant with its contemporary decor set on two floors, giving a light and airy feel. The menu is authentic and extensive including a wide choice for vegetarians.

The Jinnah Spice Club

Offering a menu designed from several different Asian cultures, the venue provides a dramatic setting for diners looking for a broad menu of dishes. After dinner, guests can relax in the luxurious coffee lounges.

WHERE TO SOCIALISE

Muckle's

Muckle's is a large one room operation, comprising a bar area, restaurant and a beer garden. The pub holds a weekly quiz and good quality food is served daily, including sandwiches.

Coach & Horses

Known as one of the last 'Proper English Pubs' in Harrogate, the Coach & Horses is a genuine Free House and serves a wide variety of championship ales, guest beers and superb wines.

Blues Bar

The Blues Café Bar has a most unusual stage backdrop - a full size shop window with a panoramic view of Harrogate's Montpellier Gardens. The bar has hosted such luminaries as Van Morrison, Jools Holland and John Martyn.

Christies

Christies is a very welcoming pub. It is an excellent place to watch your favourite team play with all major matches shown on the big screen. Snacks such as burgers and toasties and specials are available every lunchtime.

Old Bell Tavern

This comprises an atmospheric period bar linked to the adjacent non smoking Farrah Room and also an upstairs Brasserie Dining Room. The bar offers a varying range of eight real ales, two Belgian draught ales and draught Erdinger Weissbier.

Albert's

Only opened in 2005, Albert's offers a comfortable and relaxed space to enjoy a few drinks or a meal. From a latte to one of the unique beers, to a cocktail or a bottle of wine from an extensive list, it has it all.

Montey's Rock Café

Montey's has an earthy, dark feel, with a music policy of pre recorded rock. The bar boasts a large cocktail and shooter list. Opened in 1996, Montey's has become a cornerstone of Harrogate nightlife.

Montpellier

This bar has undergone an extensive refurbishment and now offers a range of hand pulled ales and home cooked food. With its open fire and traditional surroundings, food is served seven days a week.



WHERE TO PARTY

Revolution

It is a multi environment concept designed to deliver all aspects of eating, drinking and entertaining with style and glamour. You will find cool, comfortable and contemporary surroundings, with distinct and modern furnishings.

Time

Each of the venue's four rooms has been indulgently designed with the clubber in mind. Music ranges from Soul, funk, and disco and House to chart, party and pop anthems to R'n'B and Hip Hop.

Carringtons

Carringtons is the ideal venue for any taste for a night out. Entertainment includes DJs, Comedians, themed events, VIP function area and live tribute bands. The club boasts four bars and two dance floors, so get your dancing shoes ready.

Cardinal Sins

This is one of the busiest club's in Harrogate. Cardinal Sins DJ's include Tony Walker, Danny Whitehead, Jay Floyd and Tim Lyall, who play a mix of R'n'B and Hip Hop.

Po Na Na

'Po Na Na' means Magical Market Bar and is brought to life with the use of candlelit alcoves, subtle North African original textiles and lanterns. The dance floors are not specifically drawn out allowing customers to sit and chat or dance where they like.

WHERE TO GO - WHEN NOT AT BTME & CLUBHOUSE

Betty's Café Tea Room

Once inside the world famous shop you'll be spoilt for choice with over 300 breads, cakes and chocolates, as well as 50 different teas and coffees. The Café overlooks the Stray and colourful Montpellier gardens.

Traditional Turkish Baths

Treat yourself to a relaxing few hours at the original Victorian Turkish Baths. It includes a Steam Room; three inter-connecting Hot Rooms of varying heat; Tepidarium (warm), the Calidarium (hot), and the Laconium (very hot); Plunge pool; and Frigidarium (Relaxation Room).

Mercer Art Gallery

The Gallery is home to Harrogate district's fine art collection, which consists of some 2000 works of art, mainly from the 19th and 20th centuries. The collection includes works by William Powell Frith, Atkinson Grimshaw and Sir Edward Burne-Jones.

Valley Gardens

The famous Gardens are specially cultivated and are a delight to the eyes and nose, with floral displays leading to pine woods. The Valley Gardens also contain a boating lake, sun pavilion, mini golf, tennis courts and a playground.

Harrogate Theatre

Showing during Harrogate Week 2006 is Bouncers. Lifting the lid on the Friday night experience, this is a send up of the disco scene. Under the watchful eye of the Bouncers, a gaggle of gorgeous girls, a smooth talking DJ, a group of likely lads collide with outrageous results.



Spoilt for Choice

The BTME & ClubHouse Exhibitions are the heartbeat of Harrogate Week and they combine to form a One Stop Shop for all fine turf professionals' and club management needs. There will be over 250 Exhibitors at Harrogate Week, all showcasing their latest products and services.

BTME is Europe's largest indoor specialist turf Show. It serves the sports turf professional and provides solutions to meet their challenge to produce and maintain top quality turf. ClubHouse contains everything to fulfil the desires and wants of the club official, no matter what sport they apply their trade.

You can check out www.harrogateweek.org.uk for more information on exactly who will be at the Show. The dedicated website details everything you'll ever need to know about Harrogate Week, including who will be at BTME & ClubHouse, where their Stand will be located and what they will be exhibiting, plus much, much more.

Here's a taster of just some of the 250 companies who will be at Harrogate Week.

AFT TRENCHERS

Stand: B11

AFT Trenchers has been manufacturing trenchers for nearly 40 years, and our products are well known to turf professionals the world over. On display is the AFT 45 chain trencher suited to compact tractors plus the AFT WizzWheel 55 wheel trencher for installing slits from 50 to 125mm wide, to a depth of up to 550mm. We also have the revolutionary AFT Sandbander, which installs 25mm wide and 250mm deep slits with consolidated sand, even if wet and to complement this, we have recently launched our Multi-Use Trailer which offers users a very versatile machine.



AGCO LIMITED

Stand: M11

AGCO Limited is delighted to be Golden Key Support of BIGGA's Education & Development Fund. There is no doubt that the Golf Course Manager demands the same degrees of sophistication and operator friendliness, as does the modern Contractor/Farmer. With the Massey Ferguson brand you can choose a model to suit your own specific needs. Tractors from 16.5 to 290hp, there is a model to suit you. Front cuts and Diesel Garden Tractors complete the line up.

The Massey Ferguson UK & Irish distributors are all geared up ready to give you the sales, service and spare parts back up you richly deserve by choosing AGCO.



BARENBRUG

Stand: A20

Barenbrug is unveiling a new traditional mixture for golf tees, fairways and roughs called BAR 20. Introduced to provide customers with a 100 per cent fescue mix, which is increasingly specified for links and heathland courses, it contains Bardur for improved drought tolerance and sward density.

Also new is an improved formulation of BAR All Bent, for fine turf applications. It now contains 50 per cent BarKing, an outstanding new cultivar which offers superb winter colour and wear tolerance. The company is also showing a new formulation of BAR Extreme, which has been strengthened for wear tolerance with the addition of Bareuro.



BRITISH & INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Stand: Q123

No visit to Harrogate Week would be complete without a visit to the host's own Stand Q123. Well it would be rude not to wouldn't it?

It is the perfect opportunity to put a face to the voice on the phone, renew or take out membership or simply collect some of the literature or membership forms you have misplaced at home.

Whatever the reason that brings you to the stand you are sure of a warm welcome from everyone. It will also give you the chance to ask that question. You know, the one you've always intended to ask but have not been too keen to from the audience of a seminar or conference. If no-one can help straightaway they will guarantee to get it for you - or, better still, arrange for the relevant person to provide you with the answer personally - as soon as possible.

Or you can simply use the stand as a meeting point for you and your colleagues. With two shows - BTME and ClubHouse - it is easy to become distracted, wander off in the wrong direction and become detached.

Whatever the reason make sure you make a point of visiting BIGGA on Stand Q123.



BIOIBERICA

Stand: Q13

Bioiberica is a Spanish company which produces biomolecules for the pharmaceutical, agricultural, veterinary and animal nutrition industries.

In the Golf Course market, Bioiberica has 10 years of experience in US and seven years in UK, where it has pioneered the development of Amino Acid based biostimulant fertilisers for the stress management of turf grass plants. The products Amino-Sorb F and R have become a reference in the UK market to help greenkeepers better manage their problems such as drought, heat, cold, waterlogging, anaerobic conditions, shadow, traffic, etc. Bioiberica welcomes you to know more about how these products will help you better manage your turf stresses.



Extending Your Learning

With the completion of the Queen's Suite within Harrogate International Centre BIGGA has vastly expanded its Continue to Learn Programme for 2006, which means that it really does offer something for everyone. Greenkeeper International takes a peek at the upcoming Education highlights at Harrogate Week 2006.

Sunday 22 & Monday 23 January 2006

Two-Day Workshops

The Greenkeepers' Guide to Project Management - Powerful Lessons in Planning and Performance

Presented by Frank Newberry, Director of Enjoyable Seminars Ltd. This fully interactive workshop uses the delegates' personal experiences of planning and organising complex tasks.

Taking the Fear out of Financial Management

Presented by Brin Bendon, Director of Vector Training Ltd, and Andy Campbell MG, CGCS, Golf Courses and Estates Manager, De Vere Carden Park. Focuses on the manager's role in effective budgetary control on the golf course.

Monday 23 January 2006

Customer Care - Avoiding the Machete

Presented by Michael John, Managing Director of Kielder Newport West Ltd. This will examine the various aspects of Customer Care in a totally practical and amusing way.

From Rain To Drain - Managing Water

Presented by Dennis and Adrian Mortram. They will explore various methods of managing water in the rootzone from application of water by natural precipitation and irrigation, water relationships in the rootzone and the removal of excess water by drainage.

Tuesday 24 January 2006

Opening Session and Keynote Speaker

The session will include the Chairman's Address, the presentation of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition prizes and Master Greenkeeper Certificates. The presentation of awards will be followed by the Keynote Speaker, Colonel John Blashford-Snell. Entrance to the Opening Session and Keynote Speaker is Free of Charge to all visitors.

The Fairway to Better Communication - How to Influence Others Without Getting into a Fight!

Presented by Brin Bendon, Director of Vector Training. This seminar will give attendees guidance on how to project a confident and positive self-image, giving them the knowledge to be able to influence those around them, while helping to build and maintain productive working relationships.

Environmental Management

Sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen



Led by three leading experts in the field of environmental management of golf courses - Jonathan Smith, Committed to Green Foundation, Lee Penrose, STRI, and Carolyn Hedley, SGEG. This will enable you to find out just how much of an environmental steward you are. You will be assisted in identifying the strengths and weaknesses of your current approach to environmental issues.

Wednesday 25 January 2006

Working Together in Golf Club Management

Presented jointly by the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, BIGGA and the English Golf Union, this programme of seminars is aimed at golf club officials, golf club secretaries, golf club managers and golf course managers. Presentation titles include How to set up your Course for a Championship; The EGU Community; What is in the Legal Pipeline for Secretaries?; and Security and Risk Management for Greenkeepers and Golf Clubs, plus much more.

Taking the Lid off the Box - Media Skills and Strategy Training

Sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen



Presented by Roger Greenwood, Television Producer/Director, Goodwood Productions Ltd. This will help delegates to understand and appreciate the power of the media and the importance of handling it well. Offering practical skills on how to deal confidently and successfully with the various styles of media.

Thursday 26 January 2006

Managing Weeds to Tournament Standards - Managing Poa Annua

Presented by Peter Jones MSc, MBPR, Managing Director, Peter Jones Associates Ltd. Here the view held by some purists that poa annua is a weed and has no place on a golf green will be challenged. This will explain many of the important maintenance principles that can be used to get the best from greens that are dominated by poa annua.

Thursday 26 & Friday 27 January 2006

Maintaining the Sustainable Golf Course

Presented jointly by The R&A and BIGGA, this session will focus on promoting sustainable golf courses, concentrating on grass species selection. A Thursday afternoon of presentations will be followed by an open debate on Friday morning.

Speakers include Steve Isaac, The R&A; Chris Haspell, Hørsholm Golf A/S, Denmark; Alistair Beggs, STRI; and Gordon Irvine MG, Golf Course Consultant.

Fringe Seminars

These will run from Tuesday to Thursday and will be presented by exhibiting companies on a number of interesting and varied topics. These half hour sessions are totally free for all attending the Harrogate Week.

On the Look Out

There's plenty going on within the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibitions - the heart of Harrogate Week. Here are some of the things to look out for while you're exploring the vast array of Stands at the Exhibitions.

Museum

Take a walk back in time through the History of Turfcare. See the tools and equipment that were used in yesteryear.

Internet Café

The successful BIGGA Internet Café, sponsored by Pitchcare.com, will help you to keep in touch with the outside world while you are away from home.

Relaxation Zone

Judy Holroyde ITEC, AOSM, will be at BTME & ClubHouse offering Acupressure, Reflexology and Indian Head Massage. A short therapy session will not only relax you but will also revitalise you.

BIGGA Manx TT Motorbike Racing Competition

Sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen



Take part in a competition to be the fastest around the track. Sit on a Manx TT motorbike simulator and wait for the adrenaline to start pumping. Fly through the streets and get your knee down for those tight Manx bends.

BIGGA 9 Hole Competition

Win £1,000 in holiday vouchers by picking up a scorecard at an entrance to the Exhibition. Visit the stands shown on your card, have it stamped, pop it in an entry box and your in the draw for a dream prize - simple.

International Lounge

The International Lounge is available for all International visitors and exhibitors. This will provide a relaxed atmosphere in which to do business or chat with fellow travellers.

Exhibitors' Business Lounge

The Exhibitors' Lounge is available to all exhibitors. A comfortable place to discuss business or relax and chat with fellow exhibitors.

The BIGGA Stand

Hall Q, Stand Q123

The BIGGA staff will be on hand to give advice and information on all Association matters. Why not visit the BIGGA Stand for a chat and the chance to put a face to the name of the person you only ever talk to on the phone?



Careers Fair

Supported by the Toro Company



Follow in the footsteps of the many greenkeepers who have used the services provided to find that next job, improve your prospects in your current job or to negotiate your salary package. Short seminars and individual consultations will be available to give you the skills and confidence to produce a meaningful CV and much more. Best of all - it's all free!



Students' Forum

Thursday 26 January 2006

12.30 pm - 1.30 pm

Supported by the Toro Company

New to Harrogate, this event brings together students, trainers and employers, and includes the Student Quiz, with the winner receiving an iPod.



Short presentations will be given by Euan Grant, Head Greenkeeper, The Old Course, St Andrews Links; Peter Mansfield, Lely UK; and David Golding, The GTC.

Women's Forum

Wednesday 25 January 2006 - 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm

Its aim is to keep the few women there are in the fine turf industries in contact, to join in lively debate on relevant topics and to enable them to network. The Forum is open to anyone who wishes to attend, not just women.

BIGGA AGM

Wednesday 25 January 2006 - 5.15 pm

The BIGGA Annual General Meeting is open to all Greenkeeper Members of BIGGA. A current BIGGA membership card must be produced to gain admission.

The Banquet

Thursday 26 January 2006, The Majestic Hotel

A highlight of Harrogate Week is the very popular Banquet, held in The Majestic Hotel. This year's event will feature The Rat Pack's Back who will sing and dance up a storm. Following a sumptuous dinner you will be entertained by one of the UK's up and coming stars, Terry Alderton.

WORTH GROWING GRASS FOR

World renowned brands, unparalleled groundscape expertise and nationwide dealer support. It doesn't matter where you decide to grow grass. Together we help you care for beautiful places – today, tomorrow and for generations to come.



SEE US AT BTME STAND A23

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Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd is the first groundscape equipment manufacturer accredited to ISO14001



EAGLE PROMOTIONS

Stand: C43



Eagle is the best choice for your club's marketing collateral – Signage, Course Guides, Scorecards. Eagle is the leading provider of quality marketing collateral for over 1,500 golf clubs. Superior course and clubhouse signage – timber or rock, with zinc, bronze, and now our new range of polished granite tee plates. The most innovative yardage guides – from the new Eagle Eye photographic style to traditional designs. The widest range of scorecards – from tailor-made to off-the-shelf in 4, 6 or more page formats. Bag Tags and green fee tickets – designed to project your club's branding. EGU approved course measurement and certification.

JOHN DEERE

Stand: M9/M10



JOHN DEERE

A new version of the Aercore 800 pedestrian aerator is being unveiled at BTME 2006. This features a more powerful 25hp engine, smoother and more efficient operation and easier maintenance. Drive wheel core deflectors are now available as standard, and new electro-hydraulic controls halve the time needed to lift and lower the coring head, which also helps to improve the quality of the entry and exit holes. In addition to the Aercore 800, John Deere's new T-Series utility vehicles will be on display. Designed for general transporting, loading, hauling, dumping and materials handling duties, these models are faster, more powerful and more comfortable, with increased payloads.

LASTEC UK

Stand: C40



Lastec UK returns to Harrogate with a comprehensive display of the Articulator range of rotary mowers. The line-up includes the best-selling 721XR, 621ER and 325EF rear and front mount models with cutting widths of 11' (3.35m), 10'6" (3.2m) and 6' (1.83m) respectively.

The 3696 ride-on Articulator has a cutting width of 8' (2.44m) and cuts an area of 6.79 acres (2.75 hectares) per hour. Latest addition to the range is the lightweight, zero-turn ride-on 3372, making its first appearance at BTME, fitted with grass collection system and striper roller. The 3372 is priced substantially below any comparable machine in the UK and European markets.

RANSOMES JACOBSEN

Stand: A23

Ransomes Jacobsen is delighted to be sponsoring some of the educational seminars during Harrogate Week including those dedicated to basic IT skills and the Media skills training.

Also, we are sponsoring the BIGGA Manx TT challenge, located in Hall Q, where you can test your biking skills against your friends and colleagues. Visit our stand to collect your entry form.

As you would expect from one of the market leaders in turf maintenance, you'll find virtually everything for the grounds care professional on our stand; from walk-behinds to ride-ons, aerators to top dressers and much more.

**RANSOMES
JACOBSEN**
A Textron Company

GAMBETTI

Stand: A1



Gambetti are the UK's leading Sprayer manufacturer, selling innovation, technology and quality. Our sprayers are still being perceived as the most prestigious on the market.

Our Range of Rotomec finishing Mowers has been very successful this year. Rotomec is a very high quality and reliable product. The cut is second to none and this is not compromised by high forward speeds and undulations. The new Woodbay Greensiron 3000 is now available. Although similar in looks and the end result, it is now Hydrostatic, making the operation effortless and smooth. The 'Greensiron' is the only machine to achieve speed and consistency without creating compaction.

KUBOTA (UK) LTD

Stand: A13



A number of important new products are being shown for the very first time by Kubota at BTME. These include high performance diesel ride-on mowers and a new mid-range compact tractor that will appeal to golf course users, public authorities and growers alike.

Also on show will be representative examples from Kubota's current tractor and mower ranges and the new RTV900 all-terrain utility vehicle launched last summer. Powered by a 22hp diesel, the RTV900 has a top speed of 25mph, rugged suspension and a three-range hydrostatic transmission giving dynamic braking and an automatic torque boost when climbing slopes.

MOX UK LIMITED

Stand: M13



Mox UK is a golf related vehicle management company, part of Leaseplan, the largest vehicle management company in Europe. Mox leases buggies and turf equipment to various industries, mainly golf, but any other that either manages turf or requires transportation of people over a widespread site, such as airports and large industrial areas.

With distribution nationwide for long-term leasing we also have probably the largest short-term hire fleet in the country, catering for those special occasions. We also have a wide selection of used vehicles for lease or purchase. Please visit the Mox stand (M13) to see how we can help you.

RIGBY TAYLOR LIMITED

Stand: C22



Rigby Taylor will be featuring their Mascot Grass Seed range, containing many exclusive and highly STRI-rated cultivars. Also on display will be Mascot Speciality Range products including Magnet, a chelated iron product, Profile for improving water percolation, Activate R+ERD for improving root development and their Breaker Triple wetting agent.

The Mascot Fertiliser range of conventional and controlled release products will be featured, and also the Mascot Chemicals range including the selective turf herbicides Bastion T and Greenor, Qualgex biocide and the fungicides Rimidin and Fusonil Turf. Staff will be on hand to answer individual queries on the company's full product portfolio.



World Renowned

Colonel John Blashford-Snell is one of the world's most renowned and highly respected explorers. He has been involved in and led some of the most impressive and toughest expeditions in history.

In 1968 he trained and headed a team of 60 from the British Army on the first ever descent of the infamous Blue Nile. More difficult assignments included the first vehicle crossing of the complete Darien Gap in 1971/2 and, in 1974/5, navigating almost all of the 2,700 miles of the great Zaire River.

In 1984 the Colonel launched Operation Raleigh and by 1992 over 10,000 young men and women from 50 nations had taken part in challenges and worthwhile expeditions all over the world. Raleigh International, as it is now known, inspires people from all backgrounds and nationalities to discover their full potential by working together on challenging environmental and community projects around the world.

With his indefatigable energy, John has found time to write 13 books, including his autobiography 'Something Lost Behind the Ranges' and 'Mammoth Hunt' on the quest for the giant elephants of Nepal. He also broadcasts and appears on a variety of wildlife and entertainment programmes.

No doubt the Colonel will have an enthralled and intrigued audience hanging on his every insightful word at Harrogate.



Back with the Pack



The Rat Pack's Back has taken the concert world by storm in a tight, polished cabaret act evoking the style of the infamous American Rat Pack. Starring some of the UK's brightest talents the performers sing some of the world's most loved songs made famous by the likes of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jnr.

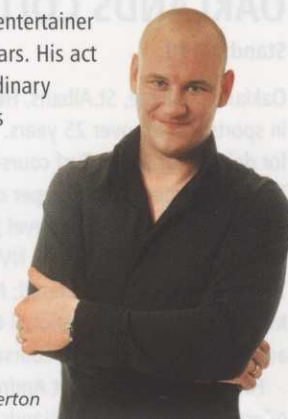
Dressed to the nines, the Rat Pack's Back recreates the sound of the Big Band era in a dazzling show. Each of the singers in the Rat Pack's Back has worked extensively all over the world in major musical productions, concerts and corporate events, television and film, including The Phantom of the Opera, Les Miserables and Grease.



Terry Alderton

A former Southend United goalkeeper and holiday camp entertainer Terry Alderton has burst on to the comedy scene in recent years. His act is a riot of exuberant, loose-limbed physical comedy, extraordinary caricatures and stunningly acute impressions. Terry leaves his audience exhilarated and exhausted with laughter.

The stand up will be familiar to many, as he starred in ITV1's London Burning in 2002 and has also hosted his own radio show, Terry's Turnstiles, on London's Capital Radio FM. Terry has hosted the National Lottery programme on BBC 1 and has made appearances on various TV shows, including Holby City, Ian Wright's Friday Night's All Wright, Stupid Punts and The Stand Up Show.



Terry Alderton



SCOTTS

Stand: B34



Scotts and Syngenta are launching Primo Maxx, an innovative new turf management tool for golf and sport. The product uses unique chemistry which makes turf stronger, healthier, more resistant to drought, more vigorous at lower cutting heights and better able to survive in stressful conditions. Visitors to the show are invited to attend a presentation on Primo Maxx in the Queen's Suite at 3.30pm on Tuesday 24 January.

Also new is a range of Greenmaster liquid fertilizers for fine turf, and Scotts' improved website (www.scottsprofessional.co.uk). The company is running a special giveaway at the show for those registering with the new site on the stand.

SYNERGY PRODUCTS/ULTRA SPREADER

Stand: A10

Synergy Products brings together a range of proven products from Ultra Spreader International, Locke and Groundsman Industries. Ultra Spreader will display its multi-purpose spreader range which gives greenkeepers and contractors a machine that is able to carry out spin spreading, bunker loading and drainage back filling. Information will be available on the stand on other products in their range.

Locke will display both the GT-126, with its 26" 14 blade cylinder, and the Commercial Series mowers, both with full floating heads to give that perfect cut. The revolutionary V Reel will be displayed.



TORO

Stand: M12



Toro is introducing a new generation of Sand Pro bunker rakes that make it easier than ever to maintain world-class bunkers and tackle landscape maintenance jobs all across the golf course.

The new Sand Pro 5040 and 3040 - which join the existing 2020 model - have an 18hp Briggs & Stratton engine, three-wheel series/parallel drive for optimum traction and, unlike the 2020, the added benefit of power steering.

Attachments are new, or redesigned, to make them easier to attach and remove. These include spring rake, tooth rake, spikers of various widths, a manual or hydraulic blade, a variety of mats, a finish grader and leveling bar.

TOWER CHEMICALS

Stand: C42



From the USA, the latest technology in localised dry spot management is available through Tower. Whether it is in pellet, liquid or granular form, the solution to your problem is just one conversation away! As always all products carry a 100% money back guarantee.

The products that have brought us such huge success over the years, such as Line Marking Aerosols, spray pattern indicator, PH reducers, fertilisers to name but a few will also be on show. Hear about OARS, an organic acid removal system which after two applications removes up to 27% of humic acid in sand soil surfaces.

TURFCARE SOLUTIONS

Stand: B4



TurfCare group will be represented by TurfCare Solutions & TurfCare systems. TurfCare Solutions provide technically advanced turf grass nutrition and maintenance products. The company is a distribution partner for Floratine, Andersons, Gro-Power & Plant Marvel.

TurfCare Systems is European main distributor for Finn Hydroseeders, The Finn range of consumable products as well as wood fibre mulches from Canadian Forest Products, supplying the amenity and public sectors. As part of its group activities, TurfCare is European main distributor of Gro-Power and Plant Marvel and will be inviting distribution enquiries from around Europe.

GREENKEEPERS TRAINING COMMITTEE

Stand: Q131

The GTC represents golf clubs and greenkeepers in relation to qualifications, training providers and all associated matters including assessor and management training.

Visit our stand and view the latest learning materials which are used by the GTC Approved Training Providers. You can now purchase these together with the internationally acclaimed Training Manual.

The GTC Staff and representatives from the organisations within the GTC will be pleased to offer independent advice.

The GTC is supported by: BIGGA, English Golf Union, European Tour, R&A, Scottish Golf Union and the Welsh Golfing Union.



OAKLANDS COLLEGE

Stand: Q110



OAKLANDS COLLEGE

Oaklands College, St.Albans, Hertfordshire, has been delivering courses in sports turf for over 25 years. The college has an excellent reputation for delivery of Sports Turf courses. The Greenkeeping section has won The Toro student Greenkeeper of the Year three times and is a GTC recognised Management Level provider.

Part time courses offered: NVQ Level 2 Sports Turf, NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf. Full time courses offered: National Certificate Sports Turf Management, Higher National Certificate (subject to accreditation). In addition a range of NPTC courses are also run.

For information contact Andrew Wight on 01727 737000 or email andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk.

WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE

Stand: Q129

Warwickshire College provides a range of turf qualifications. Our NVQ Level 2 is oversubscribed, proof of the confidence local employers have in the college to deliver training and education. Our NVQ Level 3 enables candidates to learn the skills and technical knowledge vital for carrying out a Level 3 position, not just pick up a certificate. The HNC/FdSc equips successful candidates to fulfill a professional role in turf management, with a grounding in soil and turfgrass science and business management. Combined with a full range of NPTC qualifications,

Warwickshire College can meet all your training and education needs.





Life-long Learning in the Workplace

BIGGA and the Greenkeepers Training Committee are fully committed to vocational qualifications for greenkeepers. Key parts of these qualification is the learning of Knowledge and Skills plus the assessment of those skills in the work-place.

Plan-It Training and Consultancy has worked for more than ten years, in collaboration with the GTC, to introduce successful life long learning for golf greenkeepers.

The provision of work place assessors and work place trainers has been Plan-It's core activity but they are now developing a range of management and professional development courses within the golf industry These courses will give greenkeepers the opportunity to gain professional management qualifications such as the Diploma in Management Studies and the Certificate in Management Studies.

Other industries, throughout the UK, have benefited from working with Plan-It with many of the projects being supported by the European Social Fund.

Although currently working with over 450 greenkeepers in England, to develop their at work assessor and trainer skills, Plan It are actively spreading the good news on work-based learning and assessment to the United States.

Moreover, Plan-It, the GTC and BIGGA are working together to create even more opportunities for life long learning by holding Workshops during Harrogate Week 2006.

Further information about all the courses and programmes operated by Plan-It Training can be obtained by calling the Plan-It HQ on 01606 558666 or 01270 528 338. Alternatively contact Plan-It by emailing them at training@plan-it.net.



"what we think, we become" ...Buddha

At Plan-It Training, we recognise that every organisation is a collection of individuals who have come together to pursue a common objective. The success of our organisation will depend upon the success of the individuals within it, and as such, we are dedicated to the effective identification and delivery of your training needs, and hope to contribute to the success of your organisation.

We also recognise that your skills and talents are important to the business or people that you support. How you see yourself is reflected in your performance and how you perform is reflected in both your recognition and your personal satisfaction. That is why we want to deliver bespoke training, tailored exactly to your requirements; in a setting which is both comfortable and acceptable to all.

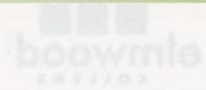
Plan-It Training offers Nationally Recognised qualifications in Training, Assessing, HRD, Internal Verification and Management along with the Certificate and Diploma in management studies 'CMS' and 'DMS'

"desire is the starting point of all achievement" ...Napoleon Hill

For more information contact Iain on:

Email: training@plan-it.net

Tel: 01606 558 666 or 01270 528 338 (after 10th Jan 06)



QUALITY ASSURED

23 JAN

GREENKEEPER TRAINING



BIGGA is actively involved in raising the Standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.

The range and quality of training now available throughout the UK means that there is a training course for every greenkeeper. This should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards. This begins by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC. There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.

Ken Richardson
Education and Training Manager
British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
Tel: 01347 833800
Email: education@bigga.co.uk
Website: www.bigga.org.uk

SCOTLAND



ELMWOOD COLLEGE Cupar, Fife, KY15 4JB **Contact:** Sam Letham **Tel:** 01334 658842 **Fax:** 01334 658888 **Email:** sletham@elmwood.ac.uk **Web:** www.elmwood.ac.uk
Information: Full time National Certificate Greenkeeping: Block Release SVQ Level II, SVQ Level III Sportsturf block release and Outreach available, and SVQ Level IV, HNC/D Golf Course Management available as full-time and distance learning. HNC Golf Facility Management, HND Golf Facility Management, PDA for football and cricket available Outreach. FEPA and COSHH, chainsaws, tree climbing and rescue techniques and Health and Safety short courses also available.



GOSTA TRAINING LTD 50 Brook Street, Glasgow, G40 2AB **Contact:** Chris Bothwell **Tel:** 0141 556 3999 **Fax:** 0141 556 4999
Email: learn@gostatraining.co.uk **Information:** SVQ II, III and IV also Modern Apprenticeship in Sportsturf including other options and GTC Training Manual. Attendance Day release from November - March. Distance Learning also available. Short courses with certification include Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Risk Assessment, Abrasive Wheels, Full Range of Machinery Courses, Manual Handling and Fire Extinguisher training. Consultancy service for Health and Safety Policy development, Site Risk Audits, Machinery Permit to Use system, COSHH and Noise Assessment.



LANGSIDE COLLEGE Rutherglen Campus, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen, Glasgow, G73 3PF **Contact:** William O'Neil **Tel:** 0141 272 3823 **Email:** woneil@langside.ac.uk
Information: SVQ, SGA, HNC, HND. Full time and part-time courses in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Golf Course Management, Horticulture, Land and Environment and Applied Ecology. Short courses for land-based industries including Pesticides.



OATRIDGE COLLEGE Ecclesmachan, By Broxburn, West Lothian, EH52 6NH **Contact:** Steve Miller **Tel:** 01506 864800 **Fax:** 01506 853373
Email: info@oatridge.ac.uk **Web:** www.oatridge.ac.uk **Information:** Full-time National Certificate in Greenkeeping: SVQ Level II and GTC Manual (Day and Block Release); SVQ Level 3 Sportsturf & SVQ Level 3 Fast Track (Day and Block Release) SVQ Level III in Service Engineering, full range of Amenity Horticulture, Landscaping and other land based subjects at HND and HNC, National Certificate and SVQ Levels; Short Course - FEPA, Chainsaw, Forklift, First Aid.



SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL GREENKEEPING COURSE Chief Executive's Department, Training & Development Centre, 15 Links Road, South Ayrshire
Contact: Gordon McGinn **Tel:** 01292 678861 **Fax:** 01292 671790 **Email:** gordon.mcginns@southayrshire.gov.uk **Information:** SVQ Level 2 Amenity Horticulture: Sportsturf, SVQ Level 3 Amenity Horticulture: Sportsturf and the Modern Apprenticeship in Amenity Horticulture

WALES



PENCOED COLLEGE Pencoed, Bridgend, Cardiff, CF35 5LG **Contact:** Paul Discombe or John Sullivan **Tel:** 01656 302672 **Fax:** 01656 302601
Email: pfdiscombe@bridgend.ac.uk **Web:** www.bridgend.ac.uk **Information:** NVQ Sportsturf Level 2-3, HNC/HND Turf Management. National Certificate/Advanced National Certificate - Sportsturf Management. Short courses: PA1, PA2, PA6a and Chainsaws. NCH National Certificate in Horticulture. Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture.

Training providers guide

Available courses guide

This guide is not exhaustive and a full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of training providers offering greenkeeper training courses. Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeeper Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, Tel: 01347 838640 or visit their website at <http://www.the-gtc.co.uk>



ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire, YO23 3FR **Contact:** Central Admissions **Tel:** 01904 772211 **Email:** enquires@askham-bryan.ac.uk **Web:** www.askham-bryan.ac.uk **Information:** First Diploma in Horticulture, Higher National Certificate in Horticulture (Golf Course Management): Part-Time Study, Foundation Degree Horticulture or Landscape and Garden Management, Foundation Degree Horticulture, all available full or part-time. Block release courses: NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance, NVQ Level 4 Amenity Horticulture. Short courses: FEPA spraying, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.



BERKSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 6QR **Contact:** Deborah Smirfitt **Tel:** Freephone 0800 0711 666 **Fax:** 01628 824695 **Email:** enquiries@bca.ac.uk **Web:** www.bca.ac.uk **Information:** Located in the Thames Valley, BCA has excellent resources for horticultural based training including a six-hole golf training facility opened by HRH The Duke of York. Programmes include the First Diploma, National Certificate and National Diploma in Horticulture, with Landscape Design and Greenkeeping options plus Apprenticeships, Higher National Diploma/Certificate programmes. Part-time programmes include NVQ Level 2 and 3 Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf. Residential accommodation is available and free parking on site.



BRIDGWATER COLLEGE CANNINGTON CENTRE FOR LAND-BASED STUDIES, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2LS **Contact:** Course Enquires **Tel:** 01278 441234 **Fax:** 01278 444363 **Email:** enquiries@bridgwater.ac.uk **Web:** www.bridgwater.ac.uk **Information:** National Certificate in Horticulture (Sportsturf), Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture (Sports Turf), Certificate of Higher Education in Golf Course Management, Foundation Degree in Golf Course Management, NVQ Level 2 Sports Turf, NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf, FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics. Note: The Certificate of Higher Education and the Foundation Degree are available as part-time options.



EAST DURHAM AND HOUGHALL COMMUNITY COLLEGE Houghall, Durham, DH1 3SG **Contact:** Ian Lacy **Tel:** 0191 375 4754 / 0191 375 4740 **Email:** enquiry@edhcc.ac.uk **Web:** www.edhcc.ac.uk **Information:** Full-time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship - 1 year; National Diploma in Horticulture Turf Option - 2/3 years. Part-time courses: Greenkeeping and Sportsturf maintenance NVQ Level 2 - Day Release. NVQ Level 3/4 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance Day Release. Short courses: NPTC Modules, Chainsaw certification, Tree inspection, Horticultural Machinery, Safe Lifting and First Aid.



MERRIST WOOD CAMPUS OF GUILDFORD COLLEGE Worpleston, Guildford, Surrey, GU3 3PE **Contact:** Joe Paulin **Tel:** 01483 884088 **Fax:** 01483 884001 **Email:** jpaulin@guildford.ac.uk **Web:** www.guildford.ac.uk **Information:** Part-time courses: NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf college day release and work place visits/assessments at Merrist Wood, Crawley and the London Golf Club in Kent, Level 2 First Diploma college day release for those without qualified workplace assessors, NVQ Level 3 Sportsturf on-line, Level 3 National Award college day release for those without qualified workplace assessors, HNC Turfgrass Science and Management college day release over 2 years, HND day release 1 extra year plus a Top-up BSc Degree for HND graduates part-time over 2 years, plus various short courses including BTLIA Irrigation Certificate Course, throughout the year. Please contact us for up to date listings, qualifications and advice. Open evenings are held regularly at the campus.



MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0RY **Contact:** Wayne Roberts **Tel:** 01995 642222/642305 **Fax:** 01995 642333 **Email:** mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk **Web:** www.myerscough.ac.uk **Information:** Full-time courses: BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science, Foundation Degree Sportsturf Science - online option by distance learning, ND Turf Science & Sportsground Maintenance: National Certificate in Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping, also Sports Turf Mechanisation option: First Diploma in Greenkeeping; Turf Science: NVQ 2, 3 & 4 Greenkeeping Management delivered both in the work place and over the internet using the colleges 'Mollnet System'. Part-time courses NVQ Level 2 & 3 Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Maintenance (Day/block release or fast track work-based training qualification). All higher education courses can be accessed on a part-time basis: FdSc / BSc Turf Science: FEPA Short courses. NPTC Certificates of competence in the safe use of mowers and turfcare equipment. Careers mornings monthly on Saturdays.



OAKLANDS COLLEGE St Albans Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL4 0JA **Contact:** Andrew Wight **Tel:** 01727 737080 **Email:** andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk **Web:** www.oaklands.ac.uk **Information:** Full-time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. HNC in Sportsturf. Part-time courses: leading to NVQ Level 2 & 3 Greenkeeping, Apprenticeship Training. Foundation degree starting in September '06. Short Courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw.



PLUMPTON COLLEGE Ditchling Road, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE **Contact:** David Blackmur **Tel:** 01273 890454 **Fax:** 01273 890071 **Email:** enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk **Web:** www.plumpton.ac.uk **Information:** Foundation Degree in Horticulture (Sportsturf specialism) with effect from Sept 2006 start (subject to approval). National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture, National Award (Garden Design), First Diploma in Horticulture. Part-time courses: NVQ Level 1; NVQ Level 2 in Landscaping and Sportsturf; NVQ Level 3 Landscaping and Sportsturf; NVQ Level 4. Also available are RHS Certificate and RHS Advanced; IOG National Technical and Intermediate National Diploma. Short courses are also available for FEPA spraying and chainsaw.



RODBASTON COLLEGE Rodbaston College, Rodbaston, Penkridge, Stafford ST19 5PH **Contact:** John Renshaw **Tel:** 01785 712209 **Fax:** 01785 715701 **Email:** john.renshaw@rodbaston.ac.uk **Information:** NVQ Amenity Horticulture (Sportsturf) at Levels 1-4. Part-time and flexible study options. Short Courses: Pesticides, Chainsaws and safe use of equipment.



WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE Moreton Morrell Centre, Moreton Morrell, Warwick, Warwickshire, CV35 9BL **Contact:** Andrew Turnbull **Tel:** 01926 318285 **Fax:** 01926 318300 **Email:** aturnbull@warkscol.ac.uk **Web:** www.warkscol.ac.uk **Information:** Greenkeeping Courses: Foundation Degree Sports Turf Management (3 year part-time with the option of an HNC after two years, some distance learning units) NVQ Level 2 & 3 Day Release and Workbased Option. City and Guilds Advanced National certificate Sports Turf - A level 3 qualification, 2 year day release. BTEch First Diploma Sports Turf. Short Courses: Spraying Certificates (PA1, PA2, PA6), Chainsaw Certificate; NPTC certificates; Tractor Driving, Mowing Equipment, Turf Maintenance Equipment. All training and assessment carried out in the workplace.



WRITTLE COLLEGE Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR **Contact:** Registry **Tel:** 01245 424200 **Fax:** 01245 420456 **Email:** info@writtle.ac.uk **Web:** www.writtle.ac.uk **Information:** SPORTS TURF PROGRAMMES: Foundation Degree - Sports Turf and Golf Course Management, Honours Degree - Sports Turf Science & Management, NVQ Level 2 & 3 - Sports Turf. OTHER PROGRAMMES: BSc (Hons) & FdSc Horticulture, BSc (Hons) & FdSc Landscape & Amenity Management, BSc (Hons) Horticulture with Business Management, BSc (Hons) International Horticulture, BSc (Hons) & FdSc Horticultural Crop Production, FdSc Landscape Construction, MSc/MA International Horticulture, MSc Horticulture (Crop Production), MSc Postharvest Technology, MSc Landscape Management, First Diploma, National Certificate, National Diploma - Horticulture, NVQ Level 2 & 3 Landscaping, NVQ Level 2 & 3 Service Engineering (Agricultural & Groundcare Machinery), C&G Service Engineering Progression Award. SHORT COURSES: NPTC Chainsaw, Health & Safety plus many more.

Get the credit you deserve!

Foundation degree sports turf management

Starting from September 2005, you can gain an HNC in two years or add on an extra year to gain a foundation degree.

Suitable for those aged 21+ in a supervisory or management role, the course runs for one day each week from 2pm until 8.30pm.

The course provides technical knowledge of sports turf management, and management of sports facilities. Modules include plant and soil sciences, turfgrass science, and physical resource management.

There are no formal entry requirements, but you should be able to demonstrate knowledge of turfgrass/horticulture management and a commitment to part-time study programmes.

For more information please contact us on 01926 318318, email us on enquiries@warkscol.ac.uk, or write to us at the address below.



ATTENTION ALL COURSE MANAGERS, HEAD GREENKEEPERS & DEPUTIES

Are you involved in training your greenkeeping team?

Do you have trainees registered on a National/Scottish Vocational Qualification?

Do you hold the trainer and assessor qualification?

3 TRAINING DAYS ARE TO BE HELD DURING HARROGATE WEEK FOR BOTH AWARDS

Course 1

TO BECOME A QUALIFIED ASSESSOR – A 1 TRAINING COURSE will be held on Sunday 22nd & Monday 23rd January.

Course 2

If you currently hold the D32/D33 assessor award and if it is some time since you have been involved in assessing staff a 1-day updating session will be held on Monday 23rd January.

This session is only available to assessors currently holding the D32/D33 award.

Course 3

Coach Award (L12)

This 1-day training session will be held on Monday 23rd January and qualified assessors would benefit from this course.

For further information on the above courses contact Fiona at the GTC on Tel 01347 838640 or email fiona@the-gtc.co.uk

Bookings for the above courses are by completing the booking form from the Harrogate Week programme. Available from BIGGA HQ.

The grass is greener with Myerscough Sportsturf!



Further Education Courses

- NVQ Level II, III & IV* Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping
- First Diploma in Sportsturf
- National Certificate in Sportsturf
- National Certificate in Sportsturf Machinery
- National Diploma in Sportsturf
- National Diploma in Landbased Technology

Higher Education Courses

- BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science
- BA Top Up in Sportsturf Facility Management
- Foundation Degree in Sportsturf
- Foundation Degree in Sportsturf Online - (by distance learning)
- Foundation Degree in Landbased Technology
- Foundation Degree in Sportsturf Construction Management*

Developing both Sportsturf and Mechanisation training and education to Degree level, Myerscough College provide first class facilities with the opportunity to study and enjoy placements at the world's most prestigious sporting venues.

Now recruiting for online Foundation Degree and BSc Turfgrass Science*

We also provide various short course programmes and our own turf management consultancy service. *Subject to validation

For a prospectus and details of our regular Open Mornings call Course Enquiries on

01995 642211

Email: enquiries@myerscough.ac.uk
Website: www.myerscough.ac.uk

Myerscough College, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY



Myerscough College

Providing opportunities for all

DEVELOP A CAREER IN GREENKEEPING AND IMPROVE YOUR GOLF

At Oaklands College our Greenkeeping courses are supported by excellent practical resources including Golf Greens and Tees built to commercial specifications.

We have outstanding work-based pass rates and have won the BIGGA National Greenkeeper of the Year Award 3 times in the last 5 years.

National Certificate in Horticulture - Greenkeeping & Sports Turf Management

National Diploma in Golf Studies

Higher National Certificate in Golf Course Management

Contact **OAKLANDS COLLEGE** on 01727 737 080 : www.oaklands.ac.uk



TOWER
CHEMICALS LTD
the right formula

FREE Seminar Monday 23rd January 2006

The Majestic Hotel, Ripon Road, Harrogate.

You are invited to attend a seminar starting at 10.30am to be hosted by Jim Turner. Jim is a regular speaker on the GCSAA circuit, with a wealth of both technical as well as hands on experience. Jim will be discussing the following:

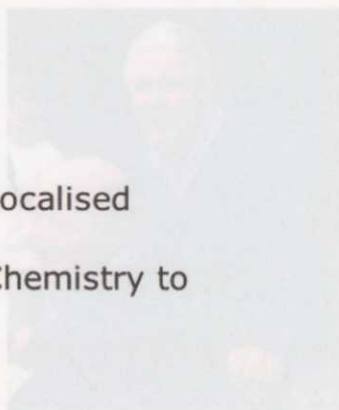
- Management of Water Repellent Soils in Turf
- Water Movement in Repellent Soils for Turf.
- Management of Localised Dry Patch
- Use of Surfactant Technology for Management of Localised Dry Patch and Water Repellent Soils
- Combining Cultural Practices with Soil Surfactant Chemistry to Manage Water Repellent Soils

Coffees and Teas upon arrival

Lunch will be served at approx 12.30pm

Seminar to close at approx 2.15pm

Could you please reply by **Thursday 22nd December 2005.**



Name	Representing	Lunch Required

I look forward to seeing you shortly.

Regards

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Following the Danish Model

The R&A's Golf Course Committee is keen that more golf clubs follow the lead of Denmark in achieving more fescue dominated sustainable golf courses and when Nick Park spoke with Scott MacCallum he explained what they are doing to help the process along.

There is such a thing in life as the "Eureka Moment". The first person to experience it, and utter that immortal cry, was Greek mathematician, Archimedes, for whom a puzzle was solved when he spotted water being displaced from his bath as he climbed in after a long day doing equations.



Nick Park, seated, with Tim Taylor

I'm not saying that Nick Park emulated Archimedes in running naked around the room in excitement, but when he read Chris Haspell's article in the March 2003 issue of Greenkeeper International he may well have cried "Eureka!"

Nick is the Deputy Chairman of the R&A's Golf Course Committee and the man who is chairing the "Maintaining the Sustainable Golf Course" seminar on Thursday and Friday of Harrogate Week. He is also the man who, along with his father

Eddie, wrote the first, and possibly only, series of articles on golf course management to feature in a mainstream golf magazine. Those articles appeared in *Golf Monthly* in the early '80s and attempted to educate the general golfing public in the ways of sustainable golf and the benefits of a fescue-dominated sward.

At their own club, Lindrick, near Sheffield, under the guidance of the club's agronomist, Jim Arthur, and along with their Course Manager, Kevin Hazlehurst, Eddie and Nick reintroduced fescue to the previously Poa-dominated greens, but while the greens improved markedly, patches where the Poa had died off stubbornly refused to fill in with fescue.

Almost 20 years later Nick read Chris Haspell's article, "Fescue, Forgiven and not Forgotten", outlining the work he and his colleagues, who call themselves 'The Sons of Golf', had undertaken on golf courses in Denmark and the success they had enjoyed in introducing fescue to their greens. Eureka!

"After I read the piece I said to Steve Isaac (Assistant Director to the R&A's Golf Course Committee) that we really should get over to Denmark and have a look because even if it was only half true it would be fairly extraordinary," recalled Nick.

"I then bumped into Jack McMillan at the launch of the R&A's Best Practice Website and he told me he'd been to Denmark the previous month and that he'd not seen anything like it in 40 years of greenkeeping."

Having a man of Jack's experience say such a thing fuelled Nick's desire to jump on a plane to see it for himself.

"Steve and I at last visited in May 2004 and as soon as we walked on to the first green Chris showed us - at Smorum GC - I asked for a putter. The green was so good I just had to putt on it immediately," recalled Nick.

They visited half a dozen courses, all closely grouped in the

Copenhagen area and built on a range of soil conditions. They all had fescue-dominated greens thanks to a combination of a low fertility programme, keeping the surfaces as dry as possible and overseeding.

Nick had found the missing link. The one element which he and his father had not fully considered at Lindrick.

"We knew that we should not be shaving greens and we knew how to produce fescue, just not consistently enough, but we were certainly lacking the overseeding technique," admitted Nick, who added that Jim Arthur had not really then been an advocate of overseeding, feeling instead that bare patches would fill in naturally.

Having found that fescue could flourish in a range of conditions Nick reported back to the Golf Course Committee on his findings and plans to assist golf clubs to go down a more sustainable golf route were put in place, backed enthusiastically by the Chairman, Tim Taylor, who has led the R&A interest in golf courses since 1988.

But why had Denmark succeeded where the rest of the world had failed?

"Chris Haspell and Ian Tomlinson, at Rungsted, and their colleagues are committed, knowledgeable Course Managers who had the bottle to go ahead and do it. Though under the current climate I don't think, unless they were at a proprietary club, they could have necessarily created a similar network in the UK," admitted Nick.

"Then again, Rungsted is actually a traditional member-owned club and Ian is proving that where there's a will there's a way. In the UK, members' clubs like Ganton, Royal St Davids and Temple have stuck at it and produced good results. The Old Course has been very good since Walter Woods' tenure - they're now over 60% fescue - and Kingsbarns is even better botanically. And let's not kid ourselves about lack of play: the Old Course takes over 40,000 rounds a year plus lots of extra foot traffic from caddies," he said.

"Leaving aside the technical issues of growing fescue, the Danish-based greenkeepers have been driven by pesticide legislation. If you take away fungicides, as they have done on public land, you can't run Poa. That's one of two major differences to the situation in the UK.

"Another difference is that many Danish courses are pay-and-play, owned by a proprietor, so the greenkeeper doesn't have members to answer to. If the proprietor is convinced that going down the fescue route is the right approach the greenkeeper has a solid mandate - and a realistic timeframe," said Nick, who added that some herbicides might still be used on Danish fairways as many are built on older, fertile agricultural land and they want to be able to kill off the weeds.

One of the main roles of the R&A's Golf Course Committee is a



commitment to enlightening golf clubs to Best Practice, the sustainability of golf and the three strands to it - economic, environmental and playing quality.

"Economically we don't yet have the comparative data on the cost of running a Poa/bent sward, a creeping bent sward or a fescue sward but we are gathering information all the time and working on being able to present a range of costs for running these different swards. Hopefully we will end up with a cost per green and a cost per fairway. The added benefits of courses being able to stay open longer in the year can also be built into the final figures.

"I think that's a year or two away but we will put the comparative figures on our website so that clubs can make up their own minds."

The environmental argument is easier to sell.

"Less water, less nitrogen, less pesticide and in some cases zero pesticide and, yes, that does mean zero fungicide! That's all good news and helps golf with its image outside of the game itself," said Nick.

The playing quality criteria is possibly the most difficult in which to bring some objectivity but the R&A is working to remedy that.

"It's all very well saying 'firm, fast and true' but the only objective tool we currently have is the dreaded stimpmeter and it is more misused with



every month that goes by. Ok it does measure speed but it must be used in conjunction with other measures. Over the last year, however, the R&A Equipment Standards Committee and its resident physicist, Steve Otto, and Steve Isaac, in conjunction with the USGA have done a lot of work in developing a firmness meter."

This was tested at this year's Open Championship and if used in conjunction with a moisture meter will provide another objective measure of how greens are improving.

The third tool on which the boffins are working is a trueness meter.

"We want to be able to give the greenkeeper a suite of tools which if used regularly will give him objective measurements that his greens are improving and thus a defence to golfers who think the opposite," explained Nick, adding that the STRI is also working on DNA analysis of grass clippings which will give clubs a print out telling exactly the composition of the greens - e.g. 70% fescue/30% Poa, etc.

Nick believes that many of the problems can be traced back to the early '60s with Arnold Palmer's arrival in Britain to play in The Open, coupled with the advent of colour television and the televising of the Masters for the first time.

"Palmer's appearance was a wonderful boost - golf really took off, memberships doubled and money poured into the clubs. What did they spend it on? Making their courses look like Augusta by throwing on water and nitrogen."

But he feels there is currently a more serious threat to golf courses than over-fertilising and over-watering.

"Anyone who thinks that greens which are cut to 12 on the stimpmeter are not going to die the next week is out of order. I think the cult of low cutting could be more serious than any of the other crimes that have been perpetrated in the past because chemicals are the only things keeping those greens alive. That and the fact that weather conditions have been in our favour for the last few years. When we have a bad winter the devastation will be huge."

But he doesn't believe change will be as painful, and as dangerous to the country's greenkeepers in employment terms, as it once might have been.

"What used to be known as 'Arthritic' - the painful five year change over process - isn't as much a factor nowadays as reconstruction and reestablishment techniques are getting so much better. Hans Beurling, a Swedish greenkeeper working in Denmark, has pioneered a process of stripping off thatch and Poa and going straight in and sowing fescue. Greens

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have been brought back into play in about nine months. He has 27 holes so was able to do this on one nine and it is not something which could be done on every site - but it shows what is possible."

Although desperate to see change Nick does advocate caution however.

"We don't want anyone jumping off a cliff, as I call it, and going down the fescue route until or unless they have got all their ducks in a row. By that I mean have the objective, measurable arguments in place - and the backing of their club."

The pace of any change will, he believes, be driven by external influences by which he means EU legislation.

"If we get a fungicide ban as they did in Holland and have in Denmark and Sweden you've got to change. By the same token, when the UK is hit by the Water Framework Directive, water supplies will be increasingly and rigorously controlled - you've then got to change if you can no longer run a Poa sward. The sensible clubs will be the ones who say that they don't want to wait until they are overtaken by external events but who start taking steps earlier."

Nick has high hopes for the Harrogate Week seminar and is looking for a constructive debate on the fescue programme and is keen to see who will be in attendance.

"There is a certain amount of information to share with the delegates and we also want to discuss what's been happening, how it's happening and the impact it might have on the future in the UK and elsewhere," said Nick.

"British greenkeepers are very interested and very committed and we owe them a better way forward. The R&A Golf Course Committee intends to play its part in that."



Sustaining the Future

Steve Isaac discusses the first steps of working towards the sustainable golf course.

Now, and in years to come, golf course management for the majority will necessitate the use of less water, less fertiliser and less pesticide. It will also have to see golfers being offered more for their money as the competition to attract green fees and members becomes increasingly severe.

For northern Europe, there are feasible options that can meet all of the demands the future holds in store. These already exist and are being put into practice by enlightened course managers, who realise the days of big budgets and the consumables safety net have gone.

The work of greenkeepers in Denmark has been very much in the news over the last 18 months and they look to be leading the way when it comes to sustainable course management, defined by The R&A Golf Course Committee as: "Optimising the playing quality of the golf course in harmony with the conservation of its natural environment under economically sound and socially responsible management"

We believe there are plenty of UK greenkeepers who follow the same principles based on minimising inputs and creating an environment to favour less demanding grasses.

The R&A, in partnership with BIGGA, are hosting a conference at Harrogate Week 2006 on the sustainable golf course. The concept and how it can be implemented will be the focus, but the problems faced by Course Managers who want to do the right thing but are pressurised by the demands of golfers and the golf business cannot be ignored. We may be able to satisfy their demands for colour at the moment but this is not sustainable through intensive programmes based on fertiliser, water and fungicide.

There is a need to promote sustainability to those sectors of the golf industry that currently have significant control over greenkeeping practices, yet little understanding of the consequences of the policies they force on greenkeepers. No greenkeeper should be expected to put his reputation, and often his job, on the line unless his club is fully supportive of the course management policies being implemented.

The R&A are developing tools, data sets and case histories to reinforce our stance in respect of inputs, finances and playing quality and these will be presented during the conference.

Hopefully, the conference will attract a large audience of greenkeepers and club officials who want to implement sustainable policies or who wish to develop their current programme based on this theme. It is possible to reduce inputs while retaining playing quality. Discuss how this can be achieved with course managers who have actually done it!

The shortage of water in southern England and much of southern Europe this year may be a climatic blip rather than a trend. The process of active ingredient removal as a result of EU review of pesticides, which has already claimed 50% of available chemicals since 1991, may not impact on your ability to control disease. The requirement for improved water quality by 2015 under the EU Water Framework Directive may not affect your use of potential water pollutants such as fertiliser and pesticide. Or you could live in the real world.

Take the initiative, join those who are dealing with these issues now. Sign up for the conference, take part in the debate and together we can influence the future direction of course management.

Visit and register to The R&A course management best practice website, www.bestcourseforgolf.org.

Steve Isaac is Assistant Director - Golf Course Management, The R&A.



A New Perspective

Graeme Francis investigates the changing attitudes toward irrigation.

For many years new irrigation product development has concentrated on providing precise and accurate watering. The major manufacturers have worked on control systems developed with the emphasis on irrigation linked to turf water requirements. The development of communication between controllers and pump stations to allow accurate pump operation based on demand is another major area of attention with the aim of reducing power costs and to allow actual water use monitoring.

A survey of the US irrigation industry indicated that 82% of respondents believe 'smart' controllers that apply water based on actual or historic climate data will out number those based on time within 5 to 10 years. This trend is also being seen in the UK. Other peripheral technology such as weather stations measuring ET and other environmental data that download this information to control systems are growing in popularity.

We now have sprinklers with variable arc, trajectory, radius and pressure features all designed to place water uniformly and in the right place while making adjustment and servicing as simple as possible.

Much has been written about irrigation technological advancement, but how much of this technology, particularly the more sophisticated control systems and pump stations are actually being installed? Is our understanding of why we need these products and how to use them good enough? Too many golf courses are still being provided with irrigation systems that don't even use technological innovation, such as individual head control, that has been available for over 20 years let alone the state-of-the art products being introduced at present.

Why is this happening? Is it because irrigation is considered unimportant and therefore it suffers when clubs consider capital expenditure projects? Is it because technological innovation is not being promoted? Is it because clubs are not given advice on the benefits that these irrigation products can bring? Does precise irrigation practice based around water conservation matter?

Clearly the point is, in some cases, being missed, but it does matter and matters now. If the assumption that golf cannot survive without water is correct, then be prepared for sustainable water availability becoming the most single important aspect of golf course maintenance.

GOLF AS A WATER USER

In a recent report from an international forum, the United States was reported as the most wasteful water user in the world. Golf was mentioned as a key reason for this wastefulness. The golf industry is considered in some quarters as a highly inefficient user of water. Some environmental organisations list statistics comparing global golf course irrigation water use with global water available for drinking.

While it is true that the US model does not entirely compare with the situation here, we do see examples of similar criticism in the UK. Whether such criticism is justified or not, the golf course industry has to be aware that it is perceived a wasteful water user.

WATER RELATED LEGISLATION

A more direct reason, than this public perception, why we need to review water use for golf is legislation. The Groundwater Directive 80/68/EEC and Groundwater Regulations 1998, the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC and the Water Act 2003, The Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) and the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Island) 2003 are the most important examples of current water related European initiated legislation that has a direct impact on all golf courses in the UK.

It is expected that water legislation will become more restrictive in years to come and that water availability will be on a prioritised basis with the drinking water supply as the highest and leisure as the lowest. The UK population continues to grow and hot spots of population growth such as London will put increasing demand on our water supplies. Obtaining water for golf from the drinking supply will become restricted, expensive and ultimately could be prevented.

WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES

It is certain that to sustain golf, clubs will need to prepare and implement a course water management programme. Some course managers already have such plans, but every club needs to create its own programme.

Implementing such a programme provides an opportunity for us to demonstrate that water conservation is a crucial and essential part of golf course management and that the industry is making attempts to use water as efficiently as possible.

The development and implementation of a course water management programme with full investigation of areas alternative sources of water, treatment of borehole water previously unsuitable for irrigation, the use of grey water, treatment and recycling of wash down water and the provision of water efficient irrigation systems is not only good management, but is a tangible example of how golf is dealing with the water issue.

IRRIGATION SYSTEM EFFICIENCY

How do we measure irrigation system efficiency? It is likely that few course managers could put an accurate figure on the efficiency of their system. Carrying out a system audit allows this to be established and is a key part of any water management programme. The audit will produce calculated figures for operational factors such as uniformity of coverage and define water requirement.

This information then provides the basis upon which the need for system modification, adjustment or replacement can be assessed and allows the development of schedules to improve efficient water use. Golf course irrigation audits are still extremely unusual in the UK, but they should become part of a club's water management plan.



ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF IRRIGATION WATER

Courses with fairway irrigation still represent a small proportion of total number in the country. The number has grown at an accelerated rate over the last 15 years with many clubs and operators recognising that the ability to water fairways has a serious commercial benefit. Availability of adequate quantities of water for this, however, is becoming increasingly difficult.

It has long been known that alternatives to potable water for irrigation have to be sought. It will become prohibitively expensive and probably unavailable.

The normal alternative to potable water has been to obtain a licence and sink a borehole or take water from a watercourse during the winter for use during the summer. However, in parts of England the Environment Agency will no longer issue abstraction licences for water to be used to irrigate fairways regardless of the abstraction or storage method. It should not be assumed that boreholes or winter abstraction will provide irrigation water in the future.

Other sources of water are becoming more prevalent. There are a number of cases in the UK where the effluent water from an onsite facility, such as a hotel, is now being used. Treatment plants and water storage systems have been put in place to make this water available for the course. These courses have facilities to generate sufficient effluent, but the grey water option should not be dismissed if you do not have a hotel on site.

One golf club has worked with the Environment Agency and installed a system to treat effluent water from the clubhouse. In return, the Environment Agency will grant a licence for the balance of the water required for irrigation. The provision of a relatively small treatment plant of this type has major financial and environmental benefits. The willingness of the club to invest in an alternative water source has created a sensible and viable way in which to work with the Environment Agency to provide a solution to the problem.

The installation of effluent water treatment plants at golf courses to provide irrigation water should now be seriously considered as a practical and real part of golf club management.

In certain parts of the country the borehole water available to a course may be unsuitable due to its pH or high soluble iron content. Once again, clubs are beginning to invest in equipment to bring this water up to an appropriate quality. Progressive course managers are taking a wider view of water sourcing and recognise that the capital investment in modifying available water will reap huge future benefits.

WATER RECYCLING

Water farming, where surface water is collected and stored from irrigation use has been used here for many years and is still a consideration. But the most widely seen example of water recycling, while using smaller quantities, has been the installation of biological wash down water treatment and recycling systems that are proliferating. For some years, clubs have been installing these systems to ensure compliance with The Groundwater Regulations that make it illegal to wash substances such as diesel, oil and chemicals into the ground and surface water systems.

The fact that these systems recycle water and reduce wash down water consumption by as much as 90% will grow in significance, as the use of drinking water for wash down operations will become unacceptable and prohibitive expensive.

SUMMARY

Very little of the subject matter covered in this article is new. In every case, the methods outlined here for obtaining and conserving water have been utilised to some extent in the UK. Much of this has been driven by necessity or because large quantities of water are needed, but every club needs to take a look at its position. An 18 hole course using 5400m³/1.2 million gallons of water annually to water greens and tees will find that assessing the benefit in reducing its dependency on potable water is a very worthwhile exercise, because one day the tap may simply stop running.

The time has come for much greater emphasis on water on the golf course. The use of innovative irrigation products within a well designed, well installed and well maintained system is an important part of water management, but unless they are utilised and water is available the best products are worthless.

We have to appreciate that the issues relating to water availability for golf course irrigation will become increasingly acute. Plans and policies within a course water management programme need to be put in place now so that water will be available for golf course irrigation in the future.

Graeme Francis, at Hydroscape, can be contacted on 01425 476261.



The JA Legacy

Tim Lodge examines the Jim Arthur philosophy to see if it is really possible to achieve in modern golf.

With the loss of Jim Arthur goes the foremost evangelist for greenkeeping traditionalism. Jim espoused his ideas so passionately and for so many years that the whole process could be, indeed is, referred to by his name; the Jim Arthur approach to golf green maintenance. There is probably not a golf course in the UK on which he has not been mentioned and where 'his' debate has not taken place.

A great man for sure but I believe there is now a need to progress and develop his philosophy of sward management. The truth is that, although technically sound, his ideas are poorly adapted to the realities of course maintenance in the harsh commercial environment in which most clubs now operate. Also, the manner in which his ideas are pursued within some clubs seems to cause at best heated debate and at worst serious distress and anxiety, particularly among greenkeepers.

There really is no need for all this. What is required is a wider understanding of what processes are actually taking place and a clear indication of whereabouts a particular golf course lies within this range of processes. All golf courses are different and no single approach is suitable for them all.

The JA approach revolves around the minimal use of fertiliser to promote the growth of fescues and bents and to limit the growth of annual meadow grass. This brings improved playing quality and the major advantage of not being susceptible to the problems associated with annual meadow grass; excessive thatch, anthracnose, fusarium, discolouration, irregular growth patterns and so on.

In essence, what is being created is the natural environment of our two favourite grasses (although they have been cross-bred to an extent that some of their natural characteristics have been lost). So, red fescue is '...abundant in short grassland, on dunes, moors and mountain slopes...' and brown top bent is '...widely distributed on heaths and moors' (CE Hubbard, 1984). These are very barren environments. The only fertiliser source is likely to be rainwater (which contains a tiny amount of nitrogen) and the occasional droppings of rabbits or sheep.

They are also very dry environments. Although rainfall may be high in mountain regions, the fescues in particular survive on very sandy soil through which water flows rapidly and which is able to retain comparatively little moisture. These are of course the characteristics of sand dunes or links environments. The JA philosophy also stipulates the minimal use of water.

But when we consider UK golf courses in general we have a number of points of departure here. Firstly, most use fertiliser on their greens, some quite a lot of it.

Secondly, most courses have an automatic irrigation system even though fescues and bents are almost certainly able

to survive with only a fraction of the output of which such systems are capable. Thirdly, most golf courses do not have especially free draining greens. At least 40 % of them are established on clay soils and almost all of them do not have a form of green construction that allows drainage

"A great man for sure but I believe there is now a need to progress and develop his philosophy of sward management"

(infiltration) rates even remotely similar to that of a typical close-cropped turf on, say, a sand dune.

This would appear to narrow the number of courses on which the JA philosophy might

successfully be applied to a very few. These would be the great links and heathland courses, which are the first to be cited by the JA evangelists.

As an agronomist I have made it my business to visit all forms of golf course. On site I frequently hear the opinion that while the JA approach is theoretically sound the philosophy is impracticable on that particular course. With a sward that may be dominated by annual meadow grass the commercial imperative is to maintain a suitable playing surface come what may. Let's face it, most golfers don't care what species of grass they are playing on.



"I frequently hear the opinion that while the JA approach is theoretically sound the philosophy is impracticable"

So, many clubs are content to spend on fertiliser and water, and to pay the subsequent costs associated with disease and thatch control. Most people will appreciate that this is hardly a 'sustainable' or environmentally sound approach but at this particular moment in time it may well be the most economical. Membership is up and the golfers are happy. The idea of 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it' prevails very widely.

Also, in the larger scheme of things, the environmental damage purportedly done by the golf course through its use of fertiliser and water, and possibly even pesticides given the restrictions on their use now in place, is probably far less than that done by the golfers who drive their



cars, and sometimes even fly, to the club in order to play. For a commercial golf course especially, taking a strong environmental position on greens maintenance could put you out of business. Who would be prepared to jump first?

Faced with these arguments, I find it very difficult to be evangelical about the JA approach. What I would advocate is a maintenance regime that involves the use of fertiliser and water appropriate for the condition of the greens at the time and given the restraint that golf must continue to be played on satisfactory surfaces throughout as much of the year as possible. In practice this usually means achieving a gradual reduction in fertiliser use alongside a suitable and intensive programme of aeration, top dressing and a carefully considered irrigation, scarification and mowing regime. Quite simple really!

Altering the maintenance of greens will bring about changes. The speed of transition towards a more JA type of surface is related to the degree to which you are prepared to impose the necessary regime. So an abrupt reduction of fertiliser and water use to the sort of rates applied to a links course, carried out on an annual meadow grass dominated parkland green, coupled with plenty of overseeding, will bring about a massive alteration in sward composition within a year or so. It could also reduce membership to zero and result in the sacking of the entire greens staff.

A more subtle approach is therefore essential. Indeed, the whole package of operations needs to be assembled very carefully after taking a good look at the existing conditions.

In addition, it is necessary to assess the general zeitgeist of the club's attitude to these things. For example, the membership of many clubs is made up of more elderly individuals who are not prepared to sit at home while a lengthy and potentially damaging process is taking place on their golf course. Even though the end result will be a marked improvement, these people consider, quite fairly, that they may not be around to enjoy it so they would rather play golf on reasonable surfaces now, thank you very much.

One golf course is never the same as the next and it is with regard to these, rather complex, things that the experienced eye of an independent agronomist can be most advantageous. In practical terms, the end result of all of our work is the achievement of deeply rooted, healthy grasses that provide good playing surfaces.

Very often, it is the annual meadow grass that makes the most of these circumstances but it is also possible to shift the sward composition gradually towards a greater content of 'the finer grasses' that brings all the advantages of that condition. The main thing is not to get too tied up in knots about the actual species that you are working with. Chill out, people, chill out!

Agrostis is founded by Dr Tim Lodge and is an independent sports turf consultancy. Dr Lodge is a registered expert witness in the area of sports turf, a founder member of RIPTA and a member of the BASIS Professional Register. Further information is available at www.agrostis.co.uk or on 01359 259361.



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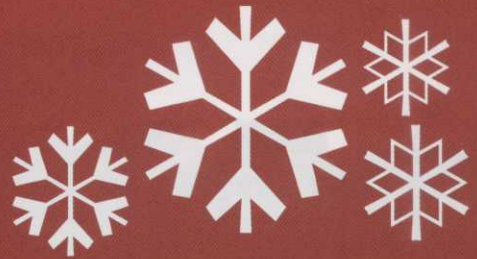
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In the Shed



Greenkeeper International's puzzle page has a festive theme this month to keep you entertained during the cold snap.

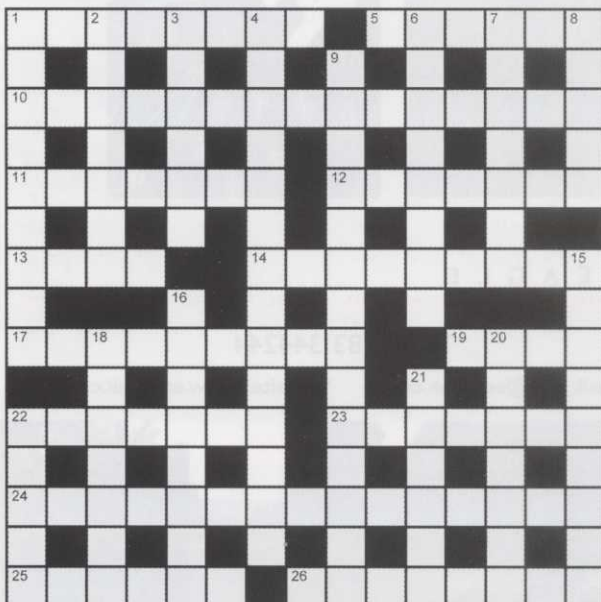
CROSSWORD - Compiled by Anax

ACROSS

- 1 No 1 hit for The Supremes in 1964 (4,4)
- 5 Having a pH of less than 7 (6)
- 10 Australian folksong whose title refers to the swaying motion of a backpack (8,7)
- 11 Viscera, entrails (7)
- 12 In German folklore, the siren who lured boatmen to destruction (7)
- 13 Bartholomeu ---, Portuguese explorer who navigated the Cape of Good Hope in 1488 (4)
- 14 Cricketer who became Pakistan captain in 1982 (5,4)
- 17 Type of merry-go-round which turns on a tapered steel point (9)
- 19 Egyptian goddess of fertility (4)
- 22 In isolation, not referring to related evidence (2,5)
- 23 Israel's largest city (3,4)
- 24 Scottish waterway linking the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean (10,5)
- 25 Snow vehicle mounted on runners, usually pulled by horses (6)
- 26 Con trick used to cheat people of money (4,4)

DOWN

- 1 Building feature also called an oriel (3,6)
- 2 American singer, --- Carlisle (7)
- 3 Reptile similar to but smaller than a crocodile (6)
- 4 Place on horizon where parallel lines meet (9,5)
- 6 Provision of food (8)
- 7 Samson's betrayer; name applied to any femme fatale (7)
- 8 Omnivorous mammal native to Central and Southern America (5)
- 9 Expression of smug self-satisfaction (2,3,5,4)
- 15 Tennessee's state capital (9)
- 16 Political column of the Mail on Sunday (5,3)
- 18 Necessitate, require (7)
- 20 Tropical or subtropical flat grassland (7)
- 21 Small glass bottle, usually for perfume (6)
- 22 Bone of the ear also called the anvil (5)



ANAGRAM

As it's Christmas, can you work out these two festive songs?

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CLAMS THIS STAR

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. Which golfer, a LPGA or PGA tour member, became the first to win the same tournament five times in a row?
2. What proportion of Britons spend Christmas abroad?
3. Which national football team, who have qualified for the 2006 World Cup, are known as 'the Hawks'?
4. Which celebrity chef is setting up a cannabis treatment course for workers at his restaurant?
5. Shirley Webb has been selected for Scotland's Commonwealth Games team in which event?
6. Which national newspaper editor found herself making the news after a "silly row" with her Eastend husband led to her arrest?
7. Which Guinness Premiership team does Mark Van Gisbergen play for?
8. Which pop star has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Gloucester?
9. Who did Chicago White Sox beat in the World Series?

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

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

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!



ANSWERS TO ALL THE PUZZLES ARE SHOWN ON PAGE 59

The Grass is Whiter on the Other Side

Chris Dyke dons his wellies and takes a look at Riederalp Golf Club in Switzerland.

Most greenkeepers I meet have a mixed attitude to snow. On the one hand it is one of the few things that brings mowing to a halt. On the other, snow lying for some time brings its own crop of diseases and can knock a hole in the club's finances. So this winter give a few moments thought to the greenkeeping team at Riederalp in Switzerland.

Riederalp lies at 8,000 feet on the south facing side of the Alps, not far from the world renowned ski centre of Zermatt. From sometime in early November their course will disappear under snow not to be seen again until next May. This is not a sprinkling. At its worst we are talking about three metres of snow. The top is used for six months by skiers and snowploughs going to and from the ski runs.

Riederalp is a pointer to the boom in golf in Switzerland, which has seen the number of courses treble in recent years. This expansion is riding on increased numbers of summer visitors wanting to pursue their golfing hobby while in the Alps. It also offers an extra source of income to skiing resorts in the relatively lean summer months.

The nine hole course lies in a shallow basin in the middle of the village with an amazing view of the mountains across the valley. Created out of former grazing land the course includes several converted Swiss style farmhouses and a nuclear bunker for storing equipment and stores. The idea of a course was put forward in the early 1990s by a local hotelier who enjoyed playing golf.

Along with several others, he bought up the by then redundant farmland and began the transformation. As usual there was some early resistance but now most residents see the course as having saved the centre of the village from hotel developments.

"The best situation is when the snow falls in early November and stays there until the spring. The snow blanket protects the greens in the winter. The real problems come in the spring. It is best if the snow melts in one rush and stays away. We then start a programme of oversowing the greens and feeding to get a quick recovery," explained Willy Kummer, Head Greenkeeper, regarding his approach to coping with the snow.

"This is a very sunny position so growth can be very quick, especially with the ground quite wet and good rainfall. The problem is the spring weather can be very unreliable. We can have good initial germination and then two nights of minus 20 deg C and we lose everything. In a bad year this can be repeated several times."

Contrary to what I expected, there is no policy of treating the greens with fungicide before the winter. Willy has seen no appreciable difference when he tried this in earlier years. It is really a case of intensive renovation, fresh seed and luck.

I was surprised at this quick recovery since a few years earlier I visited a museum several hundred feet above the village and was shown how slow grass and trees grow in this area. The tracks of a small bulldozer used in a building job were still visible after three years, painfully slow growth by the grass trying to cover the bare areas.

There are also hundred years old pine trees barely two metres tall. The reason the greens recover so well is the exceptional sunshine and good rainfall in the village itself, which in summer is more like Italy. Having said that this region can get snow in any month of the year, which brings a different meaning to sweeping the greens.



The equipment and resources used by the club are the same as anywhere else in Europe. Golf is fairly new to Switzerland so there are very few home grown manufacturers of equipment and supplies. For example it is only in recent years that seed has been available from local suppliers. The next oddity is that the village and the course are in a vehicle free area. There are no cars and no usable road to the valley below.

All supplies, including equipment and even bunker sand, are brought up slung under the cable car. Imagine how long it took to stock the bunkers with 25kgs sacks and a maximum load of one ton at a time. At least the cable car station is only a few yards from the clubhouse and depot.

"Transport adds 40% to the cost of all our materials, which only travel two miles on the lift," said Willy.

For training and expertise the club had to look to Germany in its early days. The staff were trained in Northern Germany with the first national training course only recently started. Not surprisingly Willy and his team like to travel to pick up ideas. This year they were in Ireland for a few days. The course has five greenkeepers working full time in the playing season.

That brings us to the final difference to UK courses. There is a limit to the amount of machinery maintenance and equipment polishing you can do in the winter. Especially if the course's shut down period lasts five months. Come December Willy and his team switch hats. Willy manages the local ski school and most of his staff are either skiing instructors or lift attendants.

Talking to Willy I could appreciate what this means when we talked about holidays. In the summer the course is going flat out. In the winter the skiing takes up all your time. As a result the staff usually look to take their holidays in November or at the end of the ski season. That is assuming the snow melts on schedule and not a month early!

Recent changes to employment rules in Switzerland mean British greenkeeping staff can now work in Switzerland without too much hassle. So if you are tired of our grey skies, here is a country crying out for experienced staff. Just don't forget to find something else to do in the winter!

NEW PRODUCTS

THREE IS THE MAGIC NUMBER

The expanded range of Kioti compact tractor, which now includes 10 models from 21hp to 90hp, will be featured by the UK distributor Rustons Engineering at BTME 2006.

The three latest models to join the line-up have 55hp, 75hp and 90hp engines with selectable two/four wheel drive and mechanical transmission through 12-speed gearboxes with synchromesh forward/reverse shuttle. The 75hp and 90hp models have four-cylinder Perkins engines.

Among the standard features are twin double-acting spool valves, a two-speed rear PTO, tandem hydraulic pumps, power steering and high-capacity hydraulic lifts with draft and position control. A high-specification flat-deck safety cab includes an adjustable steering console, air conditioning, integral sound system and cool box.

For technical information Tel: 01480 455151; Web: www.reco.co.uk.



TWIN BLADE

Bomford has introduced a new range of rotary toppers, the Twin Blade, which is available in three different widths and two formats - inline or offset. Twin Blade is available as an inline topper with working widths of 1.8 metres, 2.4 metres and 2.7 metres, while the offset version is only available with a working width of 2.4 metres.

As its name suggests, the Twin Blade features two interlocking rotary arms, each fitted with a pair of heavy-duty free-swinging blades for an even cut. The inline versions feature a floating headstock to ensure an even cut on undulating ground, and on all models each of the rotary arms counter-rotates to leave an even spread of cut material.

For information Tel: 01789 773383; Web: www.bomford-turner.com.

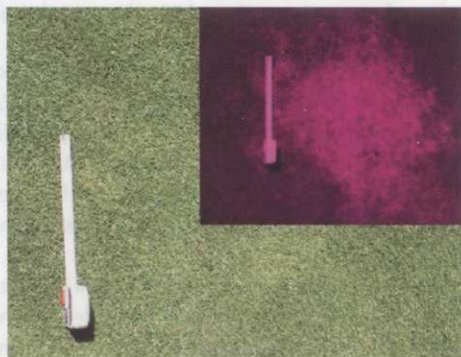


STRESS DETECTION GLASSES

Bomar Technologies has announced a breakthrough in turf stress detection with new special lens filter technology for early detection of disease, water or pest related problems.

Technology developed by NASA scientists and Dr. Robert Brock, now lets greenkeepers spot stressed turf close up or at a distance, with plenty of time to react to correct unhealthy conditions. These lenses block out green colour range, any off colour will stand out against the black background as glowing red, coral, pink, or other hue allowing turf to be quickly identified.

For technical information Web: www.bomartechologies.com.



PBS 150

PBS150 represents new technology for long-term surfactants used for turfgrass and is available through Tower Chemicals. Unlike older surfactant chemistries that are applied at higher rates to achieve longer lasting performance, PBS150 uses a new surfactant molecular construction to address the source of performance loss – biodegradation of the surfactant molecule by soil microbes.

The PBS150 Polyfunctional Branched Surfactant Technology brings a new dimension to long-term surfactant performance. PBS150 is surfactant specifically designed to compensate for rapid natural molecular breakdown by microbes in the soil profile.

For technical information Tel: 0113 256 8111;

Web: www.towerchemicals.com.

BOOSTING RANGE

The Makita line trimmer and brushcutter range has been increased with the introduction of three new 2-stroke models and two further 4-stroke brushcutters.

The new straight shaft RST210 and RBC2110 line trimmers both feature a low-emissions 21cc petrol engine that delivers 0.83hp and with electronic ignition is rated at 620watts. Both trimmers come with 2-line head, protection hood and tool kit and the RBC2110 model is delivered complete with a working harness to support the machine in operation.

The RBC2510 is a powerful 24.5cc machine with 1.3hp. This rugged 980watt trimmer has three optional auxiliary attachments that make it a very versatile machine around the grounds. A polesaw attachment gives lopping power and coupled with the 170cm shaft length provides ample reach and is capable of pruning 4inch diameter timber.

For technical information Tel: 01908 211678; Web: www.makita.com.



CORE PRODUCTS

Charterhouse Turf Machinery offers two new high work-rate core collectors designed for maximum efficiency. The CC3000 model is a self-propelled pedestrian machine, while the CC2000 is a tractor-mounted version. Both feature a fully floating pick-up head and a stainless steel bottom blade for efficient collection even in wet conditions.

The CC3000 has a conveyor belt lift system that ejects the cores into the 7.06 cu ft capacity hopper. The tractor-trailed CC2000 features a rotary impeller collector head that throws the collected material at great velocity into the hopper. This speed of delivery helps shatter the cores and enables a greater volume to be collected before emptying.

For technical information Tel: 01428 661222;

Web: www.charterhouseturfmachinery.co.uk.



COMPRESSING THE JOB

IngersollRand portable compressors form the core of an innovative range of new radio controlled, hydraulic track-mounted compressors now available for hire or purchase from Hirecorp UK.

The new range of track-mounted compressors has been designed to solve the problem of delivering and moving compressors about sites with very restricted access, such as sites with very soft or muddy ground and uneven terrain. Hirecorp UK has mounted Ingersoll-Rand compressors on vulcanised rubber tracks to provide the manoeuvrability and low ground bearing pressure needed to deliver the compressors to these inaccessible sites. The design helps to avoid the costs of project delays and equipment downtime and other costs associated with damage recharges and the reinstatement of the areas of ground and turf.

For technical information Tel: 0191 5279740; Web: www.drillcorp.com.



NOT JUST FOR KIDS

If you're mad about John Deere, then the company's new 2005/06 Collection Catalogue is an absolute must. Birthdays, Christmas, work, rest and play – there's a leaping deer logo for every occasion and every generation.

Popular party items include flags and pennants, cups and plates, even lollipops and balloons, and the latest die-cast model toys from Ertl feature a new HPX 4x4 Gator and 7820 tractor. The two seater electric ride-on Gator has been a firm favourite for the last couple of years, and is now joined by a new off-road 4x4.

But if you think it's all just kids' stuff, you'd be wrong – check out the wide range of hard-wearing work clothes and stylish leisure wear for men and women, and the usual vast array of caps.

For information Tel: 01949 860491; Web: www.johndeere.co.uk.

AMINO ACIDS LAUNCHED

Biobierica, based in Spain, has launched its new range of amino acids, Amino-Sorbs, after their successful experience in the USA and, more recently, in Japan.

Biobierica participated in Symposium, organised by the Spanish Greenkeepers Association, in Galicia, Spain, in November.

The Technical Director of Biobierica, Dr. Rafael Piñol, made a presentation about the benefits of amino acids products in turf grass submitted to stress conditions.

For technical information Web: www.bioiberica.com.

BEYOND THE PERIMETER

Tildenet has unveiled their brand new lattice-work fence design with a 15m high perimeter fence installed at Vale of Glamorgan Golf Club. The new lattice-work design allows huge spans of up to 50m between each tower enabling the high fences to almost disappear.

The towers can allow fences as high as 30 meters and the structure means that the fence can withstand extremely strong winds. The new design is environmentally friendly and it will make it far easier for clubs to achieve planning permission for high fencing, which is necessary for safety, according to the company.

For technical information Tel: 0117 9669684; www.tildenet.co.uk.



DELIVERING POWER

The Viking MB 858 mower delivers power, robust design, superb handling and innovative details claim the company.

With its 11.5 HP OHV Briggs & Stratton engine, the new machine achieves rapid, high quality cutting performance - even in difficult conditions and on tough terrain. The engine's overhead valve design (OHV) ensures quiet running, good power efficiency and low fuel consumption - with a large external fuel tank (5.5 litre) enabling around four hours running time without needing to re-fuel.

Its robust 3-speed gearbox allows precise control of the drive speed. An additional reverse gear and differential rear axle promote handling and true manoeuvrability further aided by the traction of rubber profiled tyres.

For technical information

Tel: 01276 20202;

Web: www.stihl.co.uk.





News from the Chief Executive

Plans for Harrogate Week 2006 continue to evolve and the booking forms for the education programme have already come into the office in improved numbers when compared with this time last year. The completion of the Queen's Suite has enabled the Association to offer exhibitors the opportunity to run fringe workshops and seminars and this has been well received. A separate booklet detailing these should have been delivered with this edition of Greenkeeper International.

BIGGA continues to place a great emphasis on education and in the 2004/2005 financial year it contributed £38,000 by way of individual member career development grants and subsidies to Region and Section education events. We never know everything and none of us should become complacent about continuing professional development (CPD).

I have now the opportunity to write in Golf Club Management, the official monthly publication of the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, and provided a broad background to BIGGA in their October edition. My next article, in January, will concentrate on the need for the employer to support ongoing education. All too often I find that the clubs that do nothing about developing the skills of their staff are those where the staff do not fully commit to ongoing education.

My congratulations also go to the 10 successful applicants who won a place on the trip to the GCSAA Show in 2006, as sponsored by Bernhard & Co. Sam McLean, from Bernhard, and I recently interviewed 22 members who we had short listed from the many dozens of applicants. The overall standard was extremely high and I hope that those who did not make the Delegation will try again next year, assuming of course that Bernhard & Co continue their sponsorship.

One of the 10, Keith Ratcliff, has good reason to feel pleased. Keith recently passed his final exams to become BIGGA's newest Master Greenkeeper. Keith, like many others, came into greenkeeping as a second career and has demonstrated that with hard work and determination it is possible to progress quite quickly to a high level.

November has seen me put quite a few more miles on my car in an effort to visit some of the Section and Region activities, as well as incorporate visits to trade companies in an effort to improve communications. It is clear to me that many members still do not appreciate the value of being a member or understand just what benefits they are eligible to receive. We will continue to promote these through Greenkeeper International, at Harrogate Week and at the Section Secretaries' meetings. If any member is in doubt about their membership benefits then they should contact either Rachael or Gemma in the Membership Services office at HQ.

Finally, I would remind members of the importance of supporting Harrogate Week. Many of you may be tired of reading my 'call to arms' for Harrogate, however I cannot stress too strongly the importance of this event to the finances of the Association. The exhibitors will come if the visitors come. This is YOUR Association and so I hope YOU will support it.

BIGGA has helped bring greenkeeping and greenkeepers a long way, now its future success rests with its members. Remind your Secretary/Club Manager that their Association (AGCS) also has a presence at the Show and encourage them to accompany you. There really is something for everyone!

John Pemberton

SCOTTISH REGION

The Scottish Region has several changes to announce in relation to Harrogate Week 2006. It has been decided to withdraw travel to and from the Conference venue at Harrogate. Having taken everything into consideration the Board has decided it is no longer practical or cost effective to continue with this service.

As in previous years Harrogate Week will provide Seminars and Workshops. Two day, one day and half day workshops will be available. The cost of these will be intimated nearer the time but it should be noted they are not part of the Scottish Region package. However there will be a series of Seminars run by Trade firms at which everyone is welcome to attend free of charge.

The Regional Administrator will continue to arrange and book accommodation for anyone who wishes to attend. The accommodation will, as usual, be the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate. The cost of three nights accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis in en-suite rooms on January 24, 25 and 26 2006 costs £155.00.

Once all accommodation has been confirmed the Regional Administrator can provide names of all attendees, this will allow members to contact each other, make travel arrangements and perhaps share the cost of travel. The Regional Administrator has already contacted the National Rail Help line, 0845 7 225 225, and has confirmed that competitive rates and lower cost travel is widely available.

Booking forms for accommodation at Harrogate Week 2006 are available from the Regional Administrator.

Peter J. Boyd, Regional Administrator

Ayrshire

Hope you're all keeping well and the weather has been kind as you start to tackle your winter work programmes. The AGM was held at Irvine GC on Thursday October 27 with a dozen in attendance. Derek Wilson was strong armed into staying on as Secretary. Marshall Sloss begins the second of his two year term as Chairman with Vice Chairman, Stephen Higgins, doing likewise.

Patrons' Award winners for the year are Dale Norquoy, Irvine GC, and Alistair Storrie, Beith GC. So, on the behalf of the Section, well done and enjoy your learning experience at Harrogate Week.

I can also report that our golf outings for 2006 will be held at Southernness GC and Western Gables GC respectively.

Lauder College, in Dunfermline, will host the Scottish National Conference on March 8. Peter Boyd has arranged for some of the best in the business to speak and I encourage all who can attend to so as it is well worth it!

Thanks to Derek for lying on a few beers at the meeting and the sweets were nice too! Any news, call me on 07939104701.

Denis Tweddell

North

Well here we go the last Section news of the year, and my last Section news as Robert Patterson, of Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, is taking it over. So this leaves me to get on with my secretarial duties.

I was disappointed (from a greenkeeping point of view) to hear that some of my friends were leaving the trade and moving on to other things. They are Martin Cameron, from Moray GC, and Mike Reid, from Peterculter GC. So I would like to wish them both the very best of luck in their new ventures. I do hope this is not the start of a trend.

Some other members moving up the greenkeeping ladder are Mark Angus, who has stepped up from Assistant to Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Peterculter. So I would like to wish him all the best in his new position. It is especially pleasing for me as Mark is a good friend and also an ex-employee of mine at Newmachar.

We had some changes last month at my own club, with George Mitchell and Patrick Wood being made up to Head Greenkeepers. George on Hawkshill and Patrick on Swailend after a very successful six months trial. So all the best to them in their new positions. Also best wishes to Stephen Brown and Ross Macrae, who moved up to Deputy Head Greenkeepers, Ross with George on Hawkshill and Stephen with Patrick on Swailend.

There were a few changes this year at our AGM. Steve Sullivan has taken over from John Geddes as our Chairman with Hugh McLatchie as Vice Chairman. So I would like to wish them all the best of luck in their new position. Speaking about our new Chairman, Steve recently got married to Rosie so I would like to wish them all the best for the future and I believe they are on honeymoon in Portugal.

Two new members to welcome on to the Committee. Robert Patterson, who I mentioned at the start of the report, and Robert Hardie, of Craibstone. So good luck to them, we haven't found a job for Bob Hardie yet but we will.

Well that is about it, I would just like to again thank Ian Gunn for all his hard work with the Section news for most of the year.

Just one last thing, as this is the December report I would just like to take this opportunity to wish everyone at BIGGA HOUSE and all my fellow Section news reporters from all over the country a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. All the best for now.

Dale Robertson

East

October 2005 arrived in Scotland with a vengeance with record rainfalls being the order of the day. In the Borders during a 24 hour period the River Tweed burst its banks to cover 80% of St. Boswells Golf Course. When the floodwaters receded, bunkers had been washed out and the course was covered in debris washed down by the rain. A major clean up operation is currently underway.

Continuing with the water theme Melrose Golf Club has been busy during the past year with course alterations. Over the last decade the course has become progressively wetter and the drainage system, based on clay tiles in a rig and furrow system, simply has not coped. As a result the club asked the advice of the Scottish Golf Environment Group on how best to improve course drainage.

This request was made a couple of years ago and SGEG provided a report for the club. SNH and SGEG provided advice on bodies who could provide funding towards the costs and the first part of the plan, to drain the 5th hole, was jointly funded by SGEG and Melrose Golf Club. Since then drainage work has been carried out on the 9th hole.

In general all the works are there to slow down, attenuate, soak away and retain as much of the surface water run off as possible, rather than the direct positive systems that existed before. Swales and holding ponds, together with the correct inlet and outlet levels throughout the schemes form a type of cascading water feature, creating several environmental and biodiversity improvements as well as being pleasing on the eye.

All the excavated material from the ponds was used by forming gentle mounds and landscaped areas, some of which have been seeded with a wild flower mixture. The club would like to thank Head Greenkeeper, John Christie, for his enthusiasm and patience during these major renovations.

During October the annual Stewarts' Match between the East and the North East of England Sections was played at Eyemouth Golf Club. This resulted in a 4-2 win for the East team. Our thanks go to Eyemouth Golf Club, Mark Pagan and his team for presenting the course in first class condition and Stewarts Turf for their continued support of this match.

The East Section held their AGM on Wednesday November 2 with all roads leading to Wintetfeid Golf Club in Dunbar. The new committee is as follows: Chairman, G. Wood; Vice Chairman, I. Bell; Secretary/Treasurer, K. Hodges; General Committee, G. Greenwood, S. Ferguson, F. Forrest, T Murray and J. Neilson.

At the meeting two long serving members of the committee, Chris Yeaman and Stevie Dixon, announced that they would not be standing for re-election and with that came the end of an era. Chris and Stevie's involvement stretches back to CIGGA days and they have contributed 25 and 26 years respectively to the Association. On behalf of the Section I would like to thank them for all their hard work and effort over the past two and a half decades.

After the AGM a Texas Scramble was played for the Richard Aitken Trophy.

The winning team on the day was Chris Yeaman, Kenny Mail, Kevin Hodges and Gary Rodgers.

Finally if you have any news or views give me a call on 07831 855182 or email info@thorntreesamenity.co.uk

Mike Dooner

West

Well back to the same old wet weather but we can't complain after our fantastic summer. Our autumn outing was held over Cardross Golf Course and after a wet start the weather improved in the afternoon and I must admit it was the best round of golf I've played this year - I actually finished.

Once again there was a first class turnout with approximately 48 members in attendance. The course was in first class condition and congratulations to Davy Gall and his team. To the Captain and Committee for allowing us courtesy of the course and to the clubhouse staff for keeping us fed and watered, many thanks.

The results on the day were: Scratch winner. S Taylor, Kilmount. First Class. 1. A. Peace, Port Glasgow; 2. S. Balintyne, Cowglen; 3. J. Wilson, East Kilbride. Second Class. 1. D. Mckechnie; 2. S. Copland; 3. J. Steadward. Third Class. 1. C. Scott; 2. D. Reid; 3. S. Sheehan. Trade. D. Duthie. Very well done to all the prize winners.

The Greenkeepers played the Clubmasters in the annual challenge match at Helensburgh Golf Club during October. Gavin Jarvis was the captain on the day and he led his troops to victory. The match was nearly called off, as there was a lack of numbers, but after a few last minute phone calls we managed a team of 12. Thanks to Helensburgh for the use of the course and to Gavin and his staff for the good condition on the day as well as playing in the match.

The AGM was held at Haggis Castle on Thursday October 27. There were 48 members and trade in attendance. I was unable to attend due to other commitments, many thanks to Dougie McIntosh for standing in on the day. At present we are two members short and in need of an Education Convenor. If anyone is interested in joining the Committee please get in touch.

The day was sponsored by Rigby Taylor and Fairways. Rigby's had a first class presentation in the morning covering all aspects of their company. I would like to thank Davy Carson and his team for their continued support. To Fairways I would like to apologise for not being able to carry out their presentation, we will arrange something in the new year to make up for this.

During November we held an educational day at Renfrew Golf Club. There were 32 Greenkeepers in attendance. Many thanks to Richard Aitken for sponsoring the day.

There was a first class line up of speakers with John Hughes, from DLF Trifolium, on the many different grass seeds and their use within the fine turf market. Second up was John Grindrod speaking on Aquadine drainage systems, a new product on the market. I have used the product myself and it is working very well. It created a lot of interest during the talk with a few greenkeepers carrying out trials. Last but not least was Rex Kimberly, from Terralift, a company which has been around for a few years now. Rex spoke on the use of soil enhancers and their place in the market. These ranged from soil conditioners, organic products, etc.

My thanks to all the speakers for giving us a first class day. Hopefully we can arrange more of these for the future. Also a word of thanks to Derek Duthie, from Aitkens, who put the wheels in motion and to his hard work on the day setting up the room.

A quick word to Danny Samson, of Nairn and Brown. Danny hasn't been well recently but is now recovering. The Section wishes you all the best and hope to see you back at the outings, etc as soon as possible.

Harrogate Week 2006 is just round the corner. Peter Boyd is once again arranging the package for the Scottish Greenkeeper. As you have read the set up has changed slightly but is still a first class way to attend. Places go very quick so contact Peter as soon as possible if you want to attend.

Well I have just finished my first year as West Section Chairman and I must admit I've had a very enjoyable year. I would like to thank my Committee for their help and back up throughout the year and for their continued hard work running the Section for the members. Also to Peter Boyd for his support, which has been a great help.

As I have said in the past it's not easy doing Section reports when there's little input. So please, if you have any items you want in don't hesitate to get contact - 07970 366 355. That's all for now, more news next month, hopefully.

Fraser Ross



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



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
 Tel: 01476 550115

NORTHERN REGION

North East

Well we have good news and bad news for the Section. Firstly the good news, congratulations to Graeme Lauder, Head Greenkeeper at Slaley Hall, and his wife, Karen, on the birth of their first baby. Other good things have happened for the pair, while Graeme was working on the course he was approached by Family Dining Survey to appear in the advert for Bisto, ahh.

Now for the bad news. Those of you who know Steve Pope will hope that he makes a quick recovery as, while he was playing golf at Tyneside GC, he slipped and broke his ankle pretty badly. Looks like no golf for a while.

The spring competition will be played at Prudhoe GC on April 27. Tee off time 10.45 to 11.30am, so be sharp as we do not have much teeing off time. Presently the green staff are constructing the 12th green, so we are unlikely to be playing it then, instead a temporary green will be in operation.

The autumn competition will be played at Stocksfield GC in September, date TBA shortly. Postcards will be sent out as usual. The match against the East of Scotland will be played at Bamburgh Castle GC on October 11. Anyone who is interested in playing please let me know either in the spring or autumn competitions.

Anyone who has any news they want put in let me know, bearing in mind I have to have it by the 5th of the month. So its not easy providing news if you don't have any sent to you.

Jimmy Richardson

North West

As I write, Bert is in sunny Africa, I bet he has better weather than us. We have not had much in the way of information this month, except to say that I will be compiling the Section notes from now on.

This will ease the burden on Bert and enable him, hopefully, to continue as Section Secretary for a little longer. By the time you read this we will have had our AGM and can look forward to next year's tasks.

If you have any information or gossip that you would like other members to share please contact me as follows. Tel: 0151 2894625; email: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk.

On behalf of all the North West Section Committee I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and successful New Year.

Chris Sheehan

Cleveland

Not too much to report this month. Firstly, don't forget to get in touch with Pembo or Jamie Applegarth, of Rigby Taylor, if you fancy a paintball experience. Secondly, the TSL quiz will take place at Mount Oswald Golf Club on Wednesday December 7 starting at 7.30pm. A drink, a hot snack and a warm welcome awaits. Please come along and help defend the title we won last year.

A correction from last month's notes - Barry Walker's quiz at Teesside Golf Club is Wednesday February 8 - not the 5th. I hope all you lads with tree-lined courses are coping with the perennial problem of the falling leaves - they are such a pain!

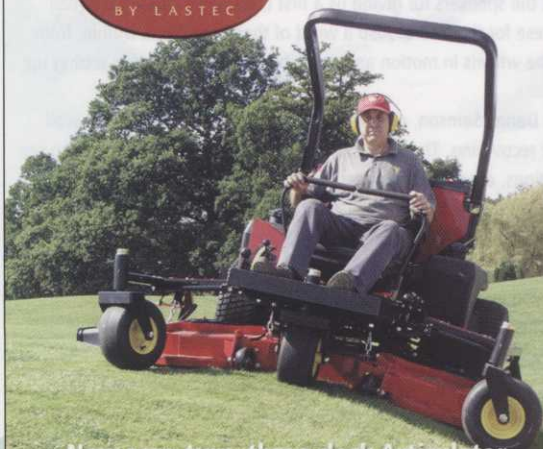
On behalf of the Committee, may I wish all Section members a happy and contented festive season and a successful New Year. Once we get through the turkey and brandy pudding Harrogate Week, including the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibitions, will soon be upon us. In my opinion this is an excellent Show at a good time of the year, so let's support it please. Anyone wishing to get a lift down on the Turfcare

THE Articulator

Stand C40 BTME

721XR
BY LASTEC

3372
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If Pembo's nephews are still in the 'mix' on The X Factor when you read this news please keep voting for the two lads who perform as Journey South - support the North-East! All the best.

Terry Charlton

Sheffield

On October 24 we held our seminar at Rotherham Golf Club, once again we would like to thank Rotherham Golf Club for giving us the use of their facilities. There was an excellent attendance from greenkeepers with 50 attending, plus guests and sponsors, so it was a good turnout overall.

The first speaker of the day was John Holt, Green Chairman of Clitheroe GC, who gave an interesting lecture on course presentation, which I think gave us some interesting points. Our thanks go to John for giving an excellent lecture. Our second lecture was given by Martyn Jones, from the National Turf Foundation. Martyn gave a very interesting speech on the perception of greenkeeping throughout the world. There was some amazing points made in this lecture. Our thanks go to Martyn for giving everyone something to ponder. We then broke for our lunch, which we would like to thank Rotherham catering staff for providing an excellent buffet that was enjoyed by all.

Our third speaker of the day was Jonathan Gaunt, from Gaunt & Marnoch, Course Architects. Jonathan gave us a very interesting lecture on the creation of a new course design at Silkstone Golf Club incorporating new holes while still keeping some of the existing course. Our thanks go to Jonathan for giving us this very interesting lecture. The final lecture of the day was given by John Stirling, Past Captain of the PGA. It was a very interesting and very humorous speech on his experience of being involved within the game of golf all over the world. Our thanks go to John for a fantastic speech.

Once again I would like to thank all the lecturers for their presentations, which I am sure were enjoyed by everyone present. I would also like to thank all the sponsors for the day that helped make it a success. They were Rigby Taylor, Yorkshire Turf Machinery, Gem, Campey Turf Care, Hunter Grinders, Mansfield Sand, Jenko UK Ltd, Farmura and Aitkins.

After the lecture our Chairman presented our President with a cheque for £500 to give to charity. A few days later Neil presented Rachael Thorpe, from Weston Park Hospital, with the cheque to go towards their million pound Rose Appeal Charity. This charity appeal will open a day and stay ward for chemotherapy patients, which will totally refurbish an unused ward in the hospital with the money from the appeal.

Congratulations go to Paul Neve, from Brough Golf Club, who got married recently to Fiona Jewitt at All Saints Church, South Cave, followed by reception at Cave Castle Hotel. All the best and I hope you both have a very happy life together. Hope to see you soon Paul. Congratulations go to Dave Chappell on becoming a granddad. His daughter, Jenny, gave birth to a lovely daughter named Imogen recently. All the best to you all. I would also like to wish Mark Kelsall a speedy recovery after a recent operation. All the best Mark.

Finally I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and we hope to see you all at our events next year. As usual any news you all know where I am, either 07793111845 or jv.lax@tesco.net.

John Lax

North Wales

Ian Farrell, Deputy Course Manager at Caldly GC on the Wirral, was on his way out mowing on the 6th and 7th fairways when out of the sea mist came a space ship with a very loud turbine jet engine. It continued towards Ian and decided to land itself on the 7th fairway, was it the men from the moon or lilo & stitch or Mr Glazier on the back route to Man Utd?

No, it was just some guy in his Bell Augusta Helicopter who got a little lost in the poor light and thought he would just drop down and ask for directions with his map. Ian kindly pointed him across the Dee estuary where he was headed for Caernarfon to fuel up, so off he went on his merry way, Ian got back on the mower and continued with his cutting. All in a day's work on the Caldly links.

As this magazine drops through your door our Christmas golf tournament on December 7 may well be underway, hopefully we will see many of you there and attending the AGM. We are always in need of committee members/volunteers to



Jane Jones
SOUTH WEST AND WALES
Tel: 01454 270850

carry the Section forward though next year. So if you can afford an hour or so of your time about five times a year and you would like to get involved just get in touch and we will advise you of the rest.

Next year is our Spring Seminar to be held once again at Carden Park, the date will be February 24 and all details will be in the January Issue of Greenkeeper International. The main topic is Woodland and Environmental Management within the golf course. We will be having speakers from around the country along with those passing on their own experiences of how they manage the trees, etc and guest speakers from the PGA on rules and the preparation of a course to PGA specification for Tournament play.

As Harrogate Week, including the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibitions, fast approaches the Section is interested to know if there are any of you who wish to go up by coach, as last year we had a total of 47 people and the coach was full. So please contact Jez on 07876 776 265 at your earliest convenience.

The Section has run a Patrons' scheme for any companies wishing to donate funds to promote not only themselves, but also education and training for greenkeepers and help with prizes for golf days, and sponsor junior greenkeepers, etc. I would like to thank the following companies for commitment to North Wales and for their continued support. Amenity Technology, Acorn Golf (UK), Rigby Taylor, Alpha Amenity, David Williams, GEM Professional, ALS, LT Print, Carden Park & BMS Europe Ltd.

Golf Days in 2006 have been pencilled in as Oswestry, Nefyn & District and Royal St David's. The team match will hopefully be at Sutton Hall GC, confirmation of venues and dates will be out shortly.

Well as another year draws to a close and we all look forward to a well earned Christmas break, it just leaves me to wish you and yours all the best and hope Santa brings you all you wish for down the chimney.

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn - andrew@acornmgolf.co.uk

MIDLAND REGION

East Midland

This year's Rigby Taylor sponsored golf match against the Midlands Section was hosted at the delightful course of Stratford on Avon GC on October 20. The game was played in lovely autumn sunshine in perfect conditions on a well manicured course.

After the morning fourball the Section were trailing by the massive margin of 4 1/2 points to 1/2 point with only Chris Brown & Maurice Hume gaining any success for the Section. After refreshments of soup and sandwiches came the afternoon singles, with a strong team talk of must do better, which we did. The afternoon matches were tied at five games all, with our successes coming from Stuart Raybould, Danny Branson, Gavin Robson, Craig Watt and myself. This unfortunately was not good enough after our morning disaster. The rest of the team included Russell Allen, Frank Kempster and Nigel White.

The course was presented in excellent condition by Howard Middlebrook and his staff. Also thanks should go to the catering staff and, of course, our very generous sponsors Rigby Taylor.

On November 2 our Section travelled North of the Region to Norwood Park GC for our AGM, which also consists of a three ball Texas scramble golf match. 10 teams commenced battle against the weather conditions, which turned difficult towards the end of the day. Several good scores were posted, with the eventual winners as follows.

1. Nigel Colley, Birstall, Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, Tim Allard, Charnwood Forest, 66 4.4 61.6; 2. Adie Porter, Greetham Valley, Mark Carter, Norwood Park, Asa English, (Charnwood Forest, 66-4.0 62); 3. Mark Chamberlain, Tacit, David Smith, Mansfield Sand, Craig Watt, Glen Gorse, 68 4.4 63.6.

Our thanks should go to everybody at Norwood Park for their generous hospitality, especially the course owner, Henry Starkey. The course was set up in excellent condition by the green staff, in very difficult conditions due to all the rain. Our many thanks should go to Vitax who sponsored the day.

Onto the serious business of the AGM. The following were elected into office. Chairman, Frank Kepster; Vice Chairman, Tim Allard; Secretary/Treasurer, Richard Barker; Committee Members, Andy Marsh, Craig Watt, Nigel White and Dan Rodgers.

Antony Bindley

Midland

Our Autumn Tournament was held at Shirley GC. The weather was as excellent as the course, as produced by A. Smith and his very fine team. Yet again we were blessed to play such a wonderful venue. Our greatest of thanks go to Shirley GC and, of course, their very fine greenkeeping team.

The results of the day were: Best Gross. M. Hughes. Nett. 1. M. Hughes; 2. D. Croton; 3. G. Cunningham. Nearest the Pin. M. Hughes. Longest Drive: P. Woodham. Our greatest of thanks go to our old friend John Hammond, Bathgate, for so kindly sponsoring the main prize table.

For many years now we have as a Section enjoyed playing the East Midland Section in an annual golf match. This year's match was held at Stratford GC to which was unsurprisingly in great condition as produced by Howard Middlebrook and his superb team. I have the great pleasure of reporting that our Section was victorious to the tune of 9.5 - 5.5. Our thanks to Tony Cheese, Rigby Taylor, and his counterpart for sponsoring this greatly contested event. I look forward to playing you next year Gavin.

As you may be aware, over the last few months Paul Woodham has been organising and indeed running training courses at Gay Hill GC. These have proven to be very successful, indeed some courses have been over subscribed. Paul has been asked by our Committee if he would take the roll of Training Coordinator for the Section. I am pleased to say that he has accepted such. I shall be informing you of future training opportunities via these lines as and when. Should you have any thoughts regarding future course types please contact Paul on 07880 734 197.

For sometime now it has been suggested that we run a five aside football event. This will take some organising, but if we can put a few teams together I think such could be good fun. To add further interest I hope the trade can present a team. Those interested, please call me on my new mobile phone number, 07908 421 015. You can also use this number to inform me of any news. That'll be the day!

And finally, it is with a tear in my eye that I must report that my old drinking partner, Craig Beet, has gone and got engaged to Simone. His lovely fiancée is an accountant. However I think Simone's work shall be cut out organising his finances, particularly after eight Stella's and the undying need for curry followed by duvet Nan kebab. Congratulations mate.

Just time to wish all a very Merry Christmas.

Sean McDade

East of England

Sorry for the lack of report in November's issue, very little news about. There's a wee bit more this month. I will start with Greenkeepers v Secretaries at Woodhall Spa, with the Greenkeepers resplendent in their squad colours.

A resounding win to the Greenkeepers was sealed by the greatest escape you have ever seen by Mr Firman and myself. 5 down after 7, then 5 down with 6 to play, an eagle 2 on the 17th to half the match (courtesy of yours truly), then a simple par to finish them off. What a match! Sorry to blow my own trumpet, but it's not often my name is mentioned in despatches.

Our sincere thanks go to P. Wisbey and the Committee of Woodhall Spa for allowing us the courtesy of the course - though they could have provided some grappling hooks for bunker exiting. See the picture of our winning moment in the News Section of the magazine.

The Section was admirably represented in the Combined Services v BIGGA match. R. Welford, I. Mawer, D. Coupland and G. Macdonald, the old war horse himself, all played a major part in a solid hammering. Considering last year's result, quite a feat. Well done lads.

The AGM was held at Newark Golf Club with a bit of a cabinet reshuffle. Adi and Les stepped down with A. Walker and R. Welford picking up the mantle as Chairman and Secretary respectively. A big thank you must go to both these lads for the sterling work they have done during their time in office.

A hard act to follow, but they're still on Committee, so I'm sure myself and Rob

will be picking their brains - well Adi's anyway - sorry Les only joking, cheers for all your help and advice. Steve Beverley has also joined us on the Committee.

The format of the golf for the day prior to the AGM was Texas scramble, with a draw for partners. The winning team consisted of Bruce, Dave, Russ and Peter Larter, who won by a short mile.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank Jeff Anguige and all the Toro lads for looking after us so well in Spain. It was a fantastic trip and thoroughly beneficial to both sides. Should they need the benefit of my experience again, particularly for Minneapolis, I'm only a phone call away. On a more serious note, if anybody gets the chance to go on one of these fact-finding trips grasp it with both hands - you will not be disappointed. It's not all drink and Puerto Binus. The scenery was quite good as well. Wasn't it Simon?

Allan Walker

BB&O

November, November, remember the fifth of November. Not for the bonfires or fireworks, sky rockets or loud bangs at midnight, nor for oil burners on the go and heaters on full blast, but for the Spanish weather, with mild conditions and sunny days with temperatures soaring through the record books, short sleeves and the occasional golfer spotted dancing down the fairways with short trousers and taking a large slice of carpet every 100 yards. Not always a pleasing sight to the divot repair team.

Anyway, the Rigby Taylor Pairs Final will be played between Matt and Michael from Goring & Streatley and Section Chairman, Sid Arrowsmith and Barry Holt. Congratulations on making it to the final of this most enjoyable competition.

Vince Riches, known as Bob the Builder for the Ely Company, is leaving the Section and making a fresh start in Southern Ireland, where his building skills will come in handy as he hopes to build his own house. Vince has served on the Committee for the past year and will be stepping down as Handicap Secretary. Vince has put in a sterling effort in arranging the scorecards on the golf days and keeping and monitoring the handicaps for the Section. We wish you and your family good luck and the very best in Ireland.

Congratulations to Jim at Lambourne GC who has joined the first time dad club and is the proud father of Henry Kevin, who weighed in at 7lb. Dartmouth Tiger, Craig Earnshaw, has moved to Oak Park GC and is looking forward to his new challenging role as he replaces Mathew Weatherstone, who takes Craig's place as Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Lambourne GC.

This year's Annual General Meeting and Turkey Trot is to be held at The Berkshire GC on December 13 and kicks off with a shotgun start at 9.30am. So, if you have not sent in your entry form you must be quick as numbers are limited to 72. Any members not playing golf on the day, but who wish to share their views at the AGM, can contact John Scoones on 07880 550 380 for full details and proposed agenda.

Finally, from all the serving BB&O Committee and your Chairman, Sid Arrowsmith, have a great December and fantastic Christmas.

Mark Day

Mid Anglia

October 6 saw 22 entrants into the autumn event held at Heydon Grange. The weather was kind and a good day was had by all. At this point I usually say how great the course was, but seeing as we were playing at my track I'll just thank my staff for their hard work in making the day a success.

So if you bear with me, well done Alex Porter for your work on the day and thanks to John Porter for your work leading up to the event, John was in hospital on the day. Thanks also to all the staff at Heydon who catered to everyone's needs and to Seoul Nassau who sponsored the day.

The results were as follows: 1. K. Armstrong, JOG; 2. S. Mason, Stocks; 3. C. Slimm, JOG. Trade & Nearest the Pin. S. Crossdale. Longest Drive. P. Sheather.

After the event it was time for the enthralling AGM, which everyone took part in with gusto! The voting of the Committee took place and resulted in the following.

Chairman, Frank Scullion; Vice Chairman, John Gubb; Sec/Treasurer, Gerald Bruce; Match Sec, Richard Saunders; Committee Members, Bob Butfoy, Colin Robinson and Steve Mason.

A note of special thanks should go out to Steve Mason, who had come to the end

of his sentence, sorry time, as our Chairman. He did a splendid job and the Section thanks him wholeheartedly!

During hours of debating it was discussed that we may be able to attract more members to events if a postal reminder was sent. After medics attended to the Treasurer, it was agreed that it just might be possible if each mail shot was sponsored. So keep an eye on your mailbox next year for event reminders.

Well, that's about all for this year. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone. Let's all pay the credit card bills next year, hoo-ray!

Bob Butfoy

SOUTH EAST

Surrey

Some members, like me, when reading the November edition of this magazine, went searching through the Around the Green section in anticipation of my usual entertaining and factual report. My ramblings had been mislaid at Aldwark, but never fear, as this month you get my usual helping.

Many of our members have been very busy earlier in the year and the result of this endeavour has brought forth a host of fledgling greenkeepers. Indeed if a cold snap in winter is relevant, Hindbead GC appears to have been particularly chilly, for both Steve and Adie's wives have given birth recently. Tracy Locke is the proud mother of Alfie Finley, 9lbs, born on September 9 and Kerry Holmes followed up a month later with Thomas, 8lbs 9ozs, on October 16. David Victor is the proud son of his mum and dad, Adrienne and Daniel, on August 21 and weighed in at 8lbs 19ozs. David's dad is a greenkeeper at Woodcote Park, the venue for our Turkey Trot.

Murray Long, the new Course Manager at Sunningdale GC, phoned the hospital when his wife started having contractions and was then greatly surprised when his son, Charlie, 7lbs 1oz, arrived on the living room floor a few minutes later. Congratulations to Penny Long and all our Surrey wives.

Brian Willmott

Kent

Welcome to winter! Although it's not the arctic conditions the tea-leaf and seaweed forecasters lead us to believe, it's still a massive change from the weather I got used to in Chicago recently! I think I told everyone! Now I'm suffering from flu as a result. Oh well, it was worth it.

Big thanks to a couple of guys who I had great fun with during that week, Paul Gould, of Thetford Golf Club, and Pete Obi-Wan Knight, who suffered the indignity of "crossing to the dark side" on more than one occasion. Thanks also to all at John Deere for being such genial hosts.

Back to reality now though as the flu may prove to be the very least of my problems after what I've been told to expect at next week's Sussex versus Kent football match at Brighton's Withdean Stadium. Rumour has it that the Sussex boys are worried and have roped in several ringers to their team who have little, if anything, to do with greenkeeping and more to do with kicking people up in the air! Results to follow next month, if not check the obituary column in the Telegraph.

Best wishes to Kev Morris, our Team Captain, who recently suffered a bad back injury - anything to get out of playing eh! Also to his daughter, who was seriously ill but, thankfully, is recovering.

Your Committee has been busy planning a full fixture list of events for 2006. The programme of free winter seminars at Hadlow College is now in full swing and well worth a visit. There is one seminar a month with a number of top speakers. If you haven't got details already, go to the website address below for more details and directions.

Team golf and football events shall continue at venues all around the South East Region with anyone brave enough to take us on as well as the usual golf days spread right around the county where, as we always say, everybody is welcome.

We shall mail shot a fixture list as soon as possible, but the quickest way to access news, events, results, etc is by logging on to kentgreenkeepers.co.uk. While you're there please use the message board to chat with your fellow professionals

around the county or indeed, to tell us what we should be doing differently for you. The website is constantly improving and being updated as often as we receive news, so it's well worth a look.

Finally, on behalf of all on your Kent Section Committee, a very Happy Christmas to you and yours and sincere best wishes for a fantastic 2006.

Rob Holland

East Anglia

The Section 'Comp' at Gt Yarmouth & Caister started iffy, improved in the middle and ended iffy! I'm talking about the weather not my golf, although come to think of it perhaps that's not a bad description after all. The day was aptly sponsored by Tomlinson Ground Care and the prizes were presented by Robert Tomlinson in the absence of the Club Captain.

The receivers of the prizes were: 0-9 Section. 1. Mike Virley, 39pts; 2. Robert Whiting, 37pts; 3. Rob Boyce, 35 pts. 10-18 Section. 1. Gavin Fox, 35pts; 2. Neil Walker, 35pts; 3. Ian Willitt, 31pts. 19-28 Section. 1. Robert Ransome, 41pts; 2. Richard Mitchell, 36pts; 3. David Driver, 34pts. G&T. 1. Mark Clements, 36pts; 2. Steve Crosdale, 35pts; 3. Ray Forman, 34pts. The Longest Drive won by Mark Henderson. Nearest the Pin won by Steve Davidson. The loo seat went to Alan Mitch, who spilled beer over Stuart Patterson, what a waste.

The course was very well presented, thanks to David Holmes - Elementary. Our thanks to our trade friends: Aitkins; Bartram Mowers; Ben Burgess; Collier Turf Care; Consultant Clarkson; ETT; Headland Turf; Rigby Taylor; Sisis; Symbio; Tacit; Textron and Tomlinson Ground Care. Thanks also to Gt Yarmouth & Caister Golf Club for a great day.

Mick Lathrope

**SOUTH WEST
& SOUTH WALES**

South West

£13.50, that doesn't sound so much to me. Three or four pints down the local. A couple of gallons of petrol. A month's subscription to SKY, or a day out at a quality course like the Players Club, bacon rolls & coffee before a free driving range, 18 holes, followed by a three course meal.

So why were there only twenty something members at the AGM back in October? Your Committee really would like to know the answer to that one. Spare a thought for Nobby Knight, 250 odd invites in the post - less than 30 replies. Can't we support him any better than that?

We had a great day out. Nick Perkins had this challenging golf course in sublime condition. Yours truly started with yet another confidence sapping low hook, but after a penalty-drop out of the gorse and a brilliant approach, almost salvaged a par. The fescue greens were at their best, smooth, true, and very reasonable pace, the water hazards were at their most inviting.

If there'd been a prize for the most golf balls lost in a round, my partner could well have been it. Unfortunately he'd completely run out after nine holes, and then started on mine.

Results were: 1. Tim Needham, Chipping Sodbury, 37pts; 2. Nobby Knight, Marlborough, 36pts; 3. Paul Godwin, Kendleshire, 36pts. Nearest the Pin on the 13th. Andy Parker, Cumberwell Park, 13 inches. Nearest the car park on the same hole. Paul Worcester. Most determined persistent (worst) player. Mike Harris, TH White, 3pts. Many thanks to the Players Club for hosting the day and making us so welcome into their busy club.

At the AGM, Nobby Knight signalled his intention to stand down as Secretary after this coming year. We will be looking for someone in plenty of time to take his place, so please could anyone remotely interested get in touch with Chris Sealey, so that full on-the-job training can be offered. John Keenaghan stood down as Team Captain and was replaced by Adrian Bennett. Marc Haring came on to the Committee as Education Officer in place of Guy Woods, who stepped down with the grateful thanks of the Committee.

Several ideas were put forward from the members present to overhaul and improve fixtures, such as introducing an eclectic or aggregate prize for the year

based on performance and attendance - this and other ideas will be debated and implemented where appropriate by your Committee.

Not all the dates for next year's fixtures are confirmed but will include North Wilts, Chipping Sodbury, The Kendleshire, Minchinhampton, Shirehampton Park, Ogbourne Downs and Bath Golf Club. Another race night is also on the list following this year's success. As soon as the dates are confirmed, an official list will be dropping onto doormats.

Don't forget your chance to win the expenses paid trip to Harrogate Week 2006. Just drop a letter in the post to Nobby Knight, 17, St Marys Gardens, Hilperton March, Trowbridge, Wilts BA14 7PG telling us why you're the most deserving guy for the trip, and follow in the footsteps of Samantha Kennedy (2004) and Wayne Vincent (2005). Thanks to all our Patronage Partners for the sponsorship.

At Cotswold Hills, Wayne and the team are well into rebuilding the second green and improving the bunkers. At Minchinhampton, Kevin Green and his company Greenscapes Imaginative Design, are busily rebuilding four sets of greenside bunkers on the Avening Course. Matt Maryon is assisting and an awesome job is being carried out. Unfortunately 112mm of rain in the 10 days they've been working has been "a little bit of a challenge", but it just goes to show that you can't beat having the right tool for the job.

Kevin has utilised a 15 tonne slew with a swivel/tilt bucket, the bucket part alone costs 10 grand. This machine can reach into every little corner at every conceivable angle without having to move too often - it really does have to be seen to be believed. So much better than the three-tonner from the local hire centre that most of us opt for.

Look forward to seeing lots of you at Lansdown for the Christmas tournament - Jon Jarvis is really looking forward to showing the course and improvements off. The caterers are pulling out all the stops for Christmas Dinner and the raffle will be well supplied as usual. So please support Jon and the Section.

Finally, there's no escape from the pressures of work. I dropped into the local for a well earned couple of pints the other night. No sooner had I got through the door than someone bellowed "Oi. I want a word with you". It turned out to be Bob the barman. Not much of a golfer Bob the barman - loads of enthusiasm but precious little skill.

"I was playing your Common Course the other day," he screamed across the bar at full volume. "Your blokes were there shovelling off cow muck - every hole, there they were, putting me right off, until the 9th where I got in that nasty deep quarry at the side of the green. I had about four shots and still hadn't got out, and one of your guys handed me this grotty old shovel - black it was and dripping with cow dung and said 'Ere, have a go with this' They all fell about laughing and I couldn't hit a thing after that."

Keep the info coming in, have a great Christmas and New Year, and lets see some better-attended meetings in 2006.

Paul Worster. Tel: 01453 837355; Mobile: 07768 394593.

South Coast

I have some very sad news to pass onto you first in this month's news. Chris Parsons, Assistant Greenkeeper at Barton-on-sea Golf Club, passed away suddenly while on holiday, aged just 45. Although Chris had been unwell for some time his passing came as a great shock to everybody.

I was fortunate to go to college with Chris, so knew him well. He was a modest man, hard working and one who took a great pride in everything that he did. He was respected by all who knew him and will be sadly missed by all in the Section that had the privilege to know him.

Although he didn't attend our golf days Chris was always at our seminar and enjoyed them enormously. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Chris' family and friends at this very difficult time.

I failed to report on our Section AGM last month but can report it went very smoothly and was over in record time. I would like to think that the reason it ran so quickly was because the Committee continue to do a tremendous job on behalf of the Section and we have had another very successful year.

However the sceptic in me leads me to believe apathy reigns among us and this, at times, shows itself throughout the Section. It's easy to bury our heads, do nothing and make no time for attending Section, Regional and National events. But our Association is just like life, the more you put in, the more you get back.

I can't think of a time when we're not busy now, our golf courses and members are all demanding, so it's a question of making time and making a difference. Our Association depends on support from all of the membership, which includes you.

If you're one of the members who rarely attends Section, Regional or National events and only reads the back pages in our magazine, then turn over a new leaf in 2006 and help make the difference. You can make that difference by attending Harrogate Week, including the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibitions - January 22-27. Details have been sent out to you and there are a number of packages to suit all pockets. So let's see some new faces at Harrogate Week 2006.

It seems somewhat strange writing these Section notes, talking about 2006 with six weeks to go to Christmas. I would like this opportunity to thank all our sponsors for their outstanding generosity again this year, without them we just wouldn't be so successful and our golf days just wouldn't be half as good.

I would also like to pass on the Section's thanks to our president, Jim Fry, for another generous donation to Section funds. Also I would like to pass on our best wishes to him, particularly as he is unwell at the moment.

Many thanks also to all the staff at HQ that have helped me and our Section over the last year. We tend to forget the staff at HQ, who work so hard on our behalf; they really do make my job so much easier.

Finally to you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope the festive season is a good one for you all.

Alex McCombie

Devon & Cornwall

I can't believe that our Section meetings have commenced again; where has the time gone? In the Devon & Cornwall Section our meetings commence in October and continue through to March, with a mid-summer meeting in June.

Mullion Golf Club was the venue for our first meeting in the depth of Cornwall, not far from the Lizard, which meant a long drive for some of our members. Ray Day, the Head Greenkeeper from Saunton, had a three hour drive, lads from Torquay and Dainton Park Golf Clubs a two and a half hour journey. That's what I call dedication to BIGGA and our Section.

The golf match was for the D. O. Hunt and Roffey Ltd Trophy, a Stableford format, the winners were as follows: 1. Tim Ellis, Mullion Golf Club, 37 pts - must be local knowledge; 2. Simon Coombes, Dainton Park Golf Club, 36pts; 3. Stephen Green, Torquay Golf Club, 34pts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gordon Tamlyn, the Head Greenkeeper at Mullion, for all his hard work with his staff for presenting the course in such excellent condition. When I drove down to Mullion on the day before the rain was horrendous, so much so that I was beginning to think that the course would be unplayable, not to mention the very thick fog - not so. Gordon, with a lot of hard work, made sure the course was in tip top condition, that was until the non golfers went on the course walk and the heavens opened again. Never mind, the catering staff produced an excellent meal all washed down with a drop of the amber liquor and everyone was more than contented.

Congratulations must go to Steve Evans, Head Greenkeeper at Yelverton, and his lovely wife, Lyn, who have just celebrated their silver wedding anniversary. Also congratulations to their eldest daughter, Tracey, who was recently married to Anthony Newland, the First Assistant at Tavistock Golf Club, and guess what, rumours have it that there is a little greenkeeper on its way.

Now I am sure you have all heard of Richard Whyman, well your Vice Chairman has also just celebrated with Denise their silver wedding anniversary. Many congratulations to you all.

Quite recently we have suffered some terrible gales in the South West, not to mention the floods, now I am beginning to put two and two together. Steve spent a week in Weymouth with Lyn in his caravan, and the weather changed dramatically, when it was perfect the week before, and Richard and Denise celebrated their silver wedding anniversary in Mexico and we all know what happened when they returned, makes you think.

I have also been asked to inform all the members in our Section that a certain greenkeeper by the name of Keith Kellow, from Falmouth Golf Club, is about to celebrate his 50 birthday, my word how news travels.

On Thursday November 3 I arranged a Soil Science Workshop at Padbrook Park Golf Club and Hotel. The day was a great success with nearly 70 delegates

attending. My thanks go to Roger Davey, of Irritech Limited, for their Sponsorship, assisted by PSD Agronomy's Jay Dodson and Andy Cole.

The facilities at Padbrook Park were such that we were able to hold four different lectures in the same room all at the same time. Unfortunately the weather was very wet which prevented us all from going on the course which was the original intention for one of the workshops mainly for Roger to demonstrate the GPS System. I suppose we can't expect weather to suit our demands in November.

I look forward to seeing you all at our Christmas Party in December at Okehampton Golf Club
Donovan O Hunt.
Events Co-ordinator

South Wales

Our AGM took place at Raglan Park GC, a respectable 35 attending. A big thank you to the club for allowing us to host our Autumn Tournament and AGM there, if you ever get a chance to play this lovely scenic course take it up. Thanks to the General Manager, Haydn Wood, for making us feel welcome and for preparing the course, great condition and we would like to thank him for making the whole day go smoothly.

We were honoured to have our Chief Executive, John Pemberton, to our Autumn Competition and AGM. I know he is a busy man, especially at this time of year as I am sure most AGMs around the country are taking place. He gave us all an interesting insight to the goings on at HQ. It was also lovely to see our Regional Representative, Jane Jones. I had the pleasure of playing golf with her that day.

Russell Anderson has taken over the Chairman's role from me. I would like to wish him all the best for the next two years. It was a tremendous honour and a privilege to represent the South Wales Section as Chairman. I met some wonderful people and made some life long friends. To be honest I was not looking forward to taking up the roll, when then Chairman, Julian Bartlett Jones, asked me to be his Vice, almost four years ago. But I accepted it and I loved every minute of it and will cherish the memories. To be truthful, I was quite reluctant to hand over, but I am handing over to a worthy Chairman. Our Section is in good hands.

A huge thank you to Peter Lacey, our Section Secretary. I don't know when his long suffering wife, Debbie, gets to spend any time with him, as he seems to be always on duty for the Section. We are indebted to him and it was a pleasure working with him.

Committee standing for 2006: Chairman, Russell Anderson; Vice Chairman, Kerry Jones; President, Henry Stead; Vice President, David Ward; Secretary, Peter Lacey; Committee, Angus Macleod, Adrian Panks, Julian Bartlett Jones, Peter Holmstrom, David Ward and Andy Roach, Match Captain; Regional Board Representatives, Julian Bartlett Jones, Angus Macleod and Peter Lacey (reserve).

Around 36 played golf, congratulations to the winners, high scoring, where's Andy Roach (match captain) when you need him? Big thank you to the sponsors, Keith Morgan Mowers, for their continued support and prize table, represented by James Morgan and Ray Harris.

Winner of the Keith Morgan Trophy. Daryl Jones, 40pts. Runner up. Colin Thomas, 39pts. 3. Richard Patterson, 39pts. Longest Drive. Lyndon Brown, with a monster drive. Nearest the Pin. David Gladwin, got lucky. Trade Prize. Adrian Masters, last seen knocking out BIGGA ties at a car boot sale - he has made a clean sweep of ties at all our fixtures so far this year.

The Rigby Taylor Final was played over a rather windy Tenby GC. The Chairman reported back saying the course was in excellent condition. Thanks to Course Manager, Chris Jenkins, for his

preparation work and to Tenby GC for allowing us to host our Blue Ribbon event there.

Congratulations to both finalists, although there has to be a winner and Daryl Jones and Leyton Seymour beat Adrian Panks and Gary Humphries. Big thanks to Rigby Taylor for their continued sponsorship and in particularly Dave Carvey and Roy Barker for their help organising and for looking after the finalists.

The 53rd Annual Dinner of the Wales branch of the IOG was held on Friday October 7 at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff. Almost 30 Greenkeepers and partners attended. A great night was had by all and we are hoping to make this an annual get together.

The Winter Evening Lecture Series 2006 has been finalised and is as follows. January 11 - Alex Edwards, Inturf, 'From start to finish the production of custom grown turf from soil preparation through to delivery'. February 8, Martin Ward, Symbio, 'Composted Tea - a novel approach to brewing your own'. March 8, Chris Briggs, Avoncrop, 'An update on amenity pesticides and relevant legislation'. April 12, Celtic Manor Resort, Maintenance Facility visit - A tour of this state of the art maintenance complex by Course Manager Jim McKenzie. April 27, Annual Spring Seminar, Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, sponsored by Headland Amenity Products. All these nights are free.
Angus Macleod

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.
Word limited for Section notes: 500-600.

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1. Annika Sorenstam in the Mizuno Classic
2. One in 10, according to a survey for Thomson Holidays
3. Togo
4. Jamie Oliver
5. Hammer
6. Sun Editor Rebekah Wade
7. Wasps
8. Yusuf Islam - formerly known as Cat Stevens
9. Houston Astros

ANAGRAM

- ENGLISH TINT - Silent Night
CLAMS THIS STAR - Last Christmas

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7	5	4	9	1	8	2	6	3
8	1	3	7	2	6	5	9	4
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GULLANE GOLF CLUB

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An exciting opportunity has arisen for an outstanding individual to fulfil the role of Course Manager at a major golf complex.

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The successful applicant will be responsible for the management of a well motivated and dedicated Greenkeeping team and possess the following key skills and attributes:

- Ability to lead and motivate a large team of Greenkeeping staff.
- Relevant experience as a Senior Greenkeeper or Course Manager.
- A relevant qualification which includes Course Management and Health & Safety.
- Experience and understanding of conditioning Links courses.
- Proven organisation skills encompassing effective preparation and management of budgets.
- Good reporting and communication skills.
- Proactive planning ability.

The salary and conditions are negotiable depending on experience and qualifications. Relocation assistance will be provided if required.

Please apply in writing to: The Secretary, Gullane Golf Club,
West Links Road, Gullane, EH31 2BB
by the 31st December 2005 and enclose your CV.

STOCKPORT GOLF CLUB

Greenkeeper / Mechanic

Stockport Golf Club has a vacancy for a greenkeeper who has also attained skills as a mechanic to join a committed course management team.

The successful applicant will report to the Course Manager and be fully conversant with modern greenkeeping methods. The applicant should also possess good mechanical skills in order to take on the responsibility for all aspects of machinery maintenance and repairs on our modern fleet of equipment.

Salary dependent on experience and qualifications.

Applications in writing including a full CV to:
Mike Goodhind, Course Manager, Stockport Golf Club,
Offerton Road, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire SK2 5HL

Greenkeeper

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Recruitment



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The successful candidate will be given full ongoing training, an attractive salary depending on experience, a company car & pension.

Please apply in writing with your current C.V to:
R E Feltham, Managing Director, Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd, Northfield, Station Road, Winscombe, North Somerset. BS25 5NX.

Closing date for applications Friday 6th January 2006.



invites applications for the post of:

DEPUTY GOLF COURSE MANAGER

The successful applicant will be responsible to the Golf Course Manager and should possess the following attributes;

- The ability to supervise the greenkeeping staff in the daily maintenance and development of the golf course.
- Effective communication and management skills
- A comprehensive understanding of turf management, irrigation and equipment maintenance
- An understanding of modern health and safety legislation

Salary and conditions are negotiable depending on experience and qualifications.

Written applications including CV to:

**Daniel Lightfoot, Golf Course Manager,
Bearwood Lakes Golf Club,
Sindlesham, Berkshire RG41 4SJ
Email - d.lightfoot@bearwoodlakes.co.uk**

Closing Date for applications is 1st January 2006.



MIKLAGARD GOLF

Miklagard Golf Course is situated approx 15 miles North of Oslo, Norway and is only a 10 minute drive from Oslo international airport. The principle function of the course is to be the premier facility of its kind in Scandinavia. The course was designed and constructed by the Robert Trent Jones II Corporation and measures over 7300 yds in length. It comprises of 18 championship golf holes with a further 6 hole academy course to serve as a warm up to the main round. It has extensive practice facilities and is a member of the European Tour Courses Ltd.

We are currently seeking:

GREENKEEPERS AND TRAINEE GREENKEEPERS

We are seeking ambitious individuals to take on these challenging roles in developing the Course Maintenance Team.

Working alongside the Courses Superintendent to promote a professional attitude to golf course management, these positions will entail maintaining our golf course to the highest possible standards. The positions are key within a large team.

Employment to commence April/May 2006.

If you are interested in the above positions then please apply via email or post by the 31.12.05 attaching your C.V. to:

Miklagard Golf
Postboks 87
2041 Kløfta
Norge

E mail: tore@miklagardgolf.no www.miklagardgolf.no

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Please apply in writing or by e-mail with full CV to:

Debbie Baker, Personnel Officer, Mere Golf and Country Club,
Chester Road, Mere, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6LJ

Telephone: 01565 830155 Email: debbie.baker@meregolf.co.uk



CHIGWELL GOLF CLUB

FOUNDED 1925

This renowned 18 hole Essex course built in 1925 to a Hawtree Taylor design is some 10 miles north east of London and is recognised as being one of the finest in the county.

Applications are invited for the following positions:-

DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

Reporting to the Course Manager, the successful candidate would be expected to assist in the management of staff and resources as well as undertaking routine greenkeeping tasks. The Club places an emphasis on high standards of course presentation and therefore you should be able to demonstrate a proven track record with a minimum of 5 years experience in greenkeeping. In addition, you must possess recognised qualifications: ideally HNC or NVQ level 3 with spraying certificates. A current knowledge of Health and Safety legislation would be an advantage.

ASSISTANT OR SENIOR APPRENTICE GREENKEEPER

Experience essential. Applications are invited from ambitious individuals who are either qualified by experience or currently in a training programme for an NVQ. Further formal training would be encouraged and assistance with this would be available.

Salary package for both positions will be negotiable according to experience and qualifications, and will include a generous contribution to the Club's personal pension plan.

Please apply in writing or by e-mail with a full CV to:

Perry Lowe, Course Manager, Chigwell Golf Club, High Road, Chigwell, Essex, IG7 5BH

E-mail: info@chigwellgolfclub.co.uk

Website: www.chigwellgolfclub.co.uk

Closing Date for Applications: 6th January 2006

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Hayling Golf Club



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HEAD GREENKEEPER

To supervise and lead its greenkeeping team in the maintenance and continuing enhancement of this superb 18 holes traditional links golf course which in 2006 is to host three major Championships including the EGU Logan Trophy.

The successful applicant must have the proven experience and motivation to manage, maintain and develop the golf course and conservation area which has SSSI accreditation.

The following skills are required:

- Significant Golf Course Management Experience
- Proven Man Management & Motivational Skills
- Professional qualifications to NVQ Level 3
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- Experienced at Working within an Approved Annual Budget
- Sound Communication Skills

A Competitive Package is Available to the Successful Candidate, which May include Accommodation if Required.

Applicants should send a full CV and a
hand written letter of application to:

The Secretary Manager, Mrs C Davison, Hayling Golf Club,
Links Lane, Hayling Island, Hampshire PO11 9AA

Closing Date for Applications: Friday 30th December 2005.

Recruitment



Morlais Castle Golf Club
Pant, Merthyr Tydfil CF48 2UY
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Requires a fully qualified and experienced

HEAD GREENKEEPER

to look after this progressive clubs' 18 hole golf course.

Salary negotiable dependent on experience and qualifications - A1 Assessor and L12 Trainer.

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Closing date: Saturday 31st December 2005.

For job description and further details please contact:

The Secretary, Morlais Castle Golf Club,
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Lincoln, Lincolnshire LN6 9QJ
Tel. 01522 868714
email:
gillian.lambourne@bshlincoln.co.uk



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GREENKEEPER

To join a team of 5 green keepers to maintain an 18-hole golf course with newly constructed USGA specification greens.

The right candidate will possess an NVQ Level 2 or equivalent with a minimum of 5 years greenkeeping experience and a good knowledge of the game of golf.

The successful applicant will be highly motivated and enthusiastic.

Salary dependant on experience and qualifications.

Please apply in writing with a CV and current salary details to:
Peter Garnett, Course Manager
Northenden Golf Club, Palatine Road,
Northenden, Manchester M22 4FR

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Recruitment



WOODBIDGE GOLF CLUB

(Established 1893)

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COURSE MANAGER

Woodbridge Golf Club is one of the oldest members' clubs in East Anglia.

We have an 18 hole traditional heathland course and a further 9 hole heathland course, established in more recent times.

The presentation and maintenance of both courses presents a real challenge for the aspiring and ambitious Course Manager.

Our aim is to have two of the finest heathland courses in England

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, plus pesticides handling and chain saw operations
- 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 communication and planning skills

A competitive package is available to the successful applicant.

Closing Date: 31st December 2005.

Application forms available by either telephoning or writing to:

Mr Tony Theunissen - Secretary Manager, Woodbridge Golf Club,
Bromeswell Heath, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 2PF.

Telephone: 01394 382038 email: woodbridge@anglianet.co.uk

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We are currently recruiting for:

• **Assistant Greenkeepers**
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Please apply to HR Department, Marriott Forest of Arden Hotel, Maxstoke Lane, Meriden, Warwickshire CV7 7HR.

To learn more about us, visit our website at www.marriottcareers.net

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WYKE GREEN GOLF CLUB

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Wyke Green Golf Club is seeking an experienced greenkeeper to become its Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

Applicants must have a minimum NVQ 2 qualification together with PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates. The successful applicant will be responsible for the day to day operational management of the greenstaff team and will need to demonstrate self motivation as well as an ability to lead a team.

This is an excellent opportunity for an individual wishing to progress a career in greenkeeping.

Please apply in writing submitting your CV and details of current salary to:

The Secretary, Wyke Green Golf Club,
Syon Lane, Isleworth, Middlesex TW7 5PT



THE ADDINGTON GOLF CLUB

Are looking for a

QUALIFIED GREENKEEPER

This prestigious golf course is looking to extend our Greenkeeping Team with the addition of an experienced Greenkeeper. The successful candidate will have NVQ Level 2 and hold all current spraying certificates.

In return we can offer competitive salary, first class working conditions and the opportunity of working on one of the best inland golf course in the South.

Interested? Send in your CV to: Mr R A R Hill, The Addington Golf Syndicate Ltd,
205 Shirley Church Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 5AB

Closing date 31st December 2006.



MORTONHALL GOLF CLUB

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

- Qualified to SVQ level 3 with PA1 and PA6
 - PA2 an advantage
- Must have the ability to work as part of a team and to a high standard

Applications in writing with CV to:

The Club Manager, 231 Braid Road, Edinburgh EH10 6PB

Closing date: 19 December 2005



Feature listing from December 2003

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; Comrie GC; CV Advice; 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; Hellidon 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; Mini Excavators; Disease; Finance; Scholarship

August 2005; Ramsey GC; Open Review; Quad Bikes; Top Dressing; BIGGA Golf Day; Anthracnose; National Championship Preview

September 2005; John O'Gaunt GC; Drainage Special; Security; Student of the Year; Massey Ferguson Profile

October 2005; Laleham GC; Dollar Spot; Utility Vehicles; Bio Oil; Pneumatic Fracturing; Best Practice

November 2005; Chipping Norton GC; National Championship; Course Construction; Fertilisers; Servicing

Christmas Message

With Christmas just around the corner my year as Chairman will soon be over. Predictably, it has flown by, so before I take my leave I thought I might share with you some of my reflections on BIGGA 2005. I thought I would start with the last verse from a popular seasonal song, which has always rung true for me.



*'I could have been someone, well so could anyone
You took my dreams from me, when I first found you
I kept them with me babe, I put them with my own
Can't make it all alone, I built my dreams around you
The boys of the NYPD choir were singing 'Galway Bay'
And the bells are ringing out for Christmas Day'
(Kirsty MacColl and the Pogues: Fairytale of New York)*

The lines, 'I could have been someone' and 'Can't make it all alone' seem relevant to our own search for advancement and our understanding that together we can achieve it. They hint at the reasons why we are all part of our Association.

During my year as Chairman I have heard every conceivable point of view from 'The Association should become a union and strike in support of down-trodden greenkeepers everywhere' to 'The Association should not waste its time and money trying to support and educate those who refuse to help themselves. Put the subs up really high and let's have an Association which provides high quality assistance to those who will pay for it.'

I stress that these are the extremes, the dogmatic stances of the few. The vast majority of members I have had dealings with lie somewhere in the middle. They believe in the general principle that the Association should be accessible to all and provide the same level of benefits and opportunities for all. There are of course varying opinions on how best to achieve this.

I would just like to thank all those who have given their opinion either in person or through letters or the bulletin board. Your passion, whether in support of or against what we are trying to do, is much appreciated. Just knowing that BIGGA can arouse such passion augers well for the future. People care and that's what matters. When people care there are grounds for optimism and hope.

'I can see a better time, when all our dreams come true'. From the very start of my year as Chairman I left no one in any doubt as to what my ambitions were. I wanted to bring more opportunities for support and advancement to core greenkeepers. I have geared all my energies towards this goal and successes to date include major additional funding for education at Section level, the introduction of targeted education for greenkeepers and deputies at Harrogate and a new initiative on a mediation service for greenkeepers in trouble at work.

We have recently set up a 'bulletin board' for Section administrators, Regional administrators and HQ staff to talk directly to each other so the old problem of poor communication and remoteness can be addressed. As the policy review takes shape, I am confident that further assistance to core greenkeepers is on the way.

'I've got a feeling, this year's for me and you'. While core greenkeeper advancement remains my primary goal, I have discovered that it is also imperative that we dream big and are not afraid to push forward with youthful vigour and energy. As Vice Chairman, Richard Whyman has shown the type of drive and ambition that gives me even greater confidence of major advancements in the future.

What has also become crystal clear to me and should be made plain to all is that we are unlikely to achieve significant progress on our own. The whole industry is strained by the current economic climate and it affects all who have a vested interest in golf.

The Pro's, the Secretaries, the house staff, the course staff, the R&A, the Golf Unions, the STRI and other agronomists, the architects, the constructors, the GTC, the colleges and the trade. We are all in the same boat and we need to help and support each other. The amount of cooperation between these bodies is constantly increasing and the joint initiatives at Harrogate Week bear testimony to this fact. Like the boys from the NYPD choir, we all need to sing in harmony from the same hymn sheet.

I had not appreciated just how much our prosperity and strength lies in the close bonds we have developed with all of the above. Our futures are interdependent and neither we nor anyone else can afford to be insular and ignore the needs of others. I was fortunate enough to attend the Secretaries Association conference in Liverpool this year. I was struck by the similarity of their problems with ours such as the interference and lack of respect from some members, the low budgets and the resistance to change.

The recent initiatives for us both to share a platform on golf club wages and to draft a joint document on risk assessment are massive steps forward. We all go through ups and downs but as long as we can share our difficulties we can maintain our optimism and rise above the humdrum.

It is the greatest folly of any Chairman to start giving advice, so here goes. I would advise that this Christmas you park yourself on your most comfortable sofa, get yourself a bottle of your favourite tippie and plug yourself in to Kirsty MacColl and the Pogues most joyous celebration of the frailties of the human condition. It is our basic need for acceptance and the necessity of our dependence upon each other, which in the end unites us all.

'The boys of the NYPD choir still singing 'Galway Bay'
And the bells are ringing out for Christmas Day'
Happy Christmas, have a good one!

K. Daly

Chairman

Recruitment

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Remedy Oak Golf Club

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COURSE MANAGER

Reporting to the Chairman of the Directors

The newly built course is set in an environmentally sensitive ancient deer park located on the South Coast and built to full U.S.G.A specification. With sand rootzone fairways and a fully automated irrigation system, the greens are sown to Creeping Bent Pen A4/G6 mix.

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

The applicant must have worked for at least 5 years as Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper and hold qualifications to N.V.Q level 3, or equivalent with the appropriate professional certificates in pesticide applications.

Environmental management skills and knowledge of modern machinery and irrigation systems are essential.

Salary negotiable. No accommodation.

Closing date: 16th December 2005.

Please apply in writing with full C.V to:

Mr. T. Smith, Projects Manager, Remedy Oak Golf Club,
Woodlands Manor Farm, Woodlands, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 8ND
www.remedyoak.com / info@remedyoak.com



Tandridge Golf Club

www.tandridgegolfclub.com

Applicants are invited for the position of

COURSE MANAGER

at this classic Harry Colt designed golf course situated in a most pleasant part of Surrey.

Tandridge is a members' golf club and we are seeking an experienced Course Manager who can develop the full potential of our course and its surroundings.

The applicant will be enthusiastic, self motivated, hard working and will possess good man management abilities. It is likely that the successful candidate will have a minimum of 10 years experience in Greenkeeping and be either a Manager or active Deputy Course Manager in their current employment.

The remuneration package will be market leading subject to experience and qualifications. Applications can be submitted in writing or by email to: The Secretary, Tandridge Golf Club, Oxted, Surrey RH8 9NQ. Email secretary@tandridgegolfclub.com

Closing date for CV's is Friday 6th January, 2006

and ideally the successful candidate should be available for employment in the Spring of 2006 when the present Head Greenkeeper retires.

Shortlands Golf Club



Require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

We are looking for a Head Greenkeeper to look after a 10 hole parkland course, first established in 1894. The successful applicant will be fully experienced, suitably qualified, and capable of supervising two assistants.

Closing date 15th January 2006.

Applications to:

Peter May, Club Manager, Shortlands Golf Club,
Meadow Road, Bromley, Kent BR2 0DX
Telephone: 020 8460 8828.

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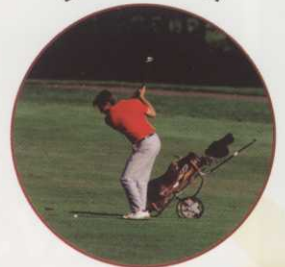
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