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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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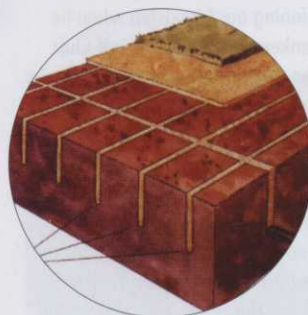
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Welcome

YOU KNOW WHERE TO COME

Do you ever listen to those radio phone-ins that give football supporters the opportunity to vent their spleen and proffer advice to their club's Chairman or Manager?

It always sounds so simple. Drop so-and-so; buy Roy of the Rovers; change from the conventional 4-4-2 formation to the more fluid 3-4-2-1 and Robert's your uncle. It's all so easy how can anyone not see the sense in it? Surely it would be dereliction of duty if the Old Trafford Board weren't to sack Sir Alex and appoint Kevin, a Manchester United supporter from Islington, in his place?

However, those at the sharp end might have already explored Kevin's, and many other, options, but for one reason or another discounted them. What Sir Alex and the Board agree will have emerged as the best course of action, given the set of circumstances they had at the time.

It is easy to sit on the sidelines and criticise without being in full possession of the facts. It's all part of the fun of being a sports fan, but we should never become so arrogant to presume that we are all knowing and those in charge are completely incompetent. No matter how black and white it appears from the outside.

It's a bit like a jigsaw. You may know everything about one part of it. You may even know how that one piece fits onto those next to it, but the only person capable of completing the whole picture is the one in possession of all the pieces.

You can see similarities with BIGGA. Running an Association is a complicated business with many, often conflicting, interests to juggle. But just like those football fans there are people who think they know the answers and could come up with something more in tune with the needs of the industry. Some of these people do so with the best wishes of the Association at heart, but others are perhaps looking after number one.

I hear it when I'm out and about, sometimes first hand but more often than not second or third hand. Why does the Association do this? Why doesn't it do that? The magazine is this, or the magazine should do that.

Some concerns are justified and cover areas we are already working to improve. Others are laudable in isolation but become less valid if viewed in possession of all the facts. Then there are others which are just so far fetched as to stretch credibility to breaking point.

The BIGGA staff are more than happy to chat with everyone, member or non-member alike who comes up and offers suggestions, raises concerns or even has a jolly good moan.

If people have ideas about improving BIGGA, or the industry generally, there are opportunities and avenues available to them within the Association at Section, Region and National level which give them every chance of being adopted.

You know where to come.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

DEREK GREEN 1946 - 2005



The sad death of Derek Green has been devastating not only to his family, close friends and the Royal Liverpool Golf Club but to the greenkeeping profession as a whole.

I had the great pleasure of knowing Derek for over 20 years, beginning our friendship when he was still Head Greenkeeper at Woburn Golf Club. A short time later he moved to his beloved Hoylake, just a few miles down the River Dee estuary from my own club at Heswell and we became even closer.

At Derek's funeral, Mr Brian Gourlay, who spent many years as Green Chairman at Hoylake, said that when he walked the course with Derek for the first time he stopped on the 18th green to ask: "Do you think we could get The Open back at Hoylake?"

Derek's answer was swift and to the point: "How much do you want it?"

It was not long before Derek's expert greenkeeping knowledge began to transform the famous old links. New greens, re-lined fairways, tees rebuilt, bunkers all revetted. Royal Liverpool began to look Royal again.

Then came the great news that The Open would be played at Hoylake in 2006, 39 years since the last Hoylake Open. Derek and I spent many hours in discussion - two good friends talking about greenkeeping and how he would present the course for The Open.

I was fortunate to spend a lot of time with Derek when he was in hospital. He would talk about his time at the Welsh College of Horticulture and of students who had gone on to become Head Greenkeepers - always telling them: "If you need me, phone me." It was typical of this generous man.

Derek's other great passion was steam trains. His great knowledge of the steam engine meant he could rebuild some of the old engines, which hadn't worked for years, and many of these he drove at weekends after work.

In the last few years he went to Beijing and South Africa to see steam trains making their last journeys before going on to diesel power. Derek's passion is now being kept going by his son, Richard.

Time spent with Derek was never wasted. We would walk over each other's course and talk about football, cricket and, for me, fishing, but we would always get back to greenkeeping.

I will always remember the help I had from him. It was always dressed up as a suggestion - he would never make you feel inferior.

Over 200 people attended the funeral and all were invited back to the Royal Liverpool Golf Club. I think it says a lot about what our profession thought of him while in the clubhouse's Derek's Green Chairman had put a tribute to him on the noticeboard.

Tragically, Derek will not be with us to witness the world's finest golfers pit their wits against a links which represents his professional lifetime's devotion and achievement. But his lasting legacy to the world of golf is a links in outstanding order for present and future generations.

I will be at Hoylake for the 2006 Open. I have no doubt the links will be fantastic but at the back of my mind I will think - If only...

Derek Green. It was a pleasure to know you.

Bill Lawson

OATRIDGE GREENKEEPER HOPPING OVER THE POND

A former Oatridge College student will soon be moving across the Atlantic to take up a job as a greenkeeper at the Pinehurst Resort, North Carolina.

Danny Murray, who completed his Modern Apprenticeship studies at the West Lothian College just 18 months ago, will arrive in the United States in time to help prepare Pinehurst's legendary number two course for the 2005 US Open Championship in June.

Danny, from Archerfield Golf Club, will leave his Edinburgh home to follow his dream on March 21. "I have been guaranteed a job for 12 months, but if it works out well, that could be extended," said Danny.

Danny's apprenticeship was spent at the 12 hole Gogarburn course, in Edinburgh, and he moved to the 36 hole Archerfield Links, in East Lothian, when it first opened in 2002. By choosing a career in golf he is following in the footsteps of his father Tom, Course Manager at Ratho Golf Club.

Another Oatridge trained greenkeeper, with longer term ambitions to work with the sun on his back, is Brian Toall, but right now the 24 year old is fully occupied by his new job as Head Greenkeeper at the Deer Park course, in Livingston.

Brian has worked his way through the ranks to become the Headman, but remains modest about his development at such a young age. "I just got my head down and did the job and, when my Manager was promoted, he was looking for someone who could take over the day-to-day running of the course. That just happened to be me," he said.



Danny Murray will be busy preparing for the US Open Championship

MULLARKEY TO CAPTAIN ROLAWN'S FLAGSHIP

Stephen Mullarkey has joined UK turf grower Rolawn to manage a new turf and topsoil distribution depot at the company's Head Office site at Elvington, York.

Stephen, 38, has lived in Pocklington for 10 years with his wife, Clare, and daughter, Beth.

Having been previously employed by two local firms, Stephen has an established reputation amongst the local landscape community and has extensive first hand experience of the trade.

"I am really pleased to have secured the job because my depot will be based at the Head Office site and has the potential to become a 'flagship' operation for the company," said Stephen.



HILL HAS COMPLETE WEED CONTROL



Steve Hill has joined Complete Weed Control after purchasing the franchise for the West Pennine area.

Based in Halifax, Steve will cover contracts in and around Bradford,

Brighouse, Huddersfield and parts of the Yorkshire Dales.

The former Customer Services Manager is looking forward to the outdoor life after working in an office for many years and believes his previous job will help him to provide excellent service to his new customers.

"I'm 42 and was made redundant quite recently. I've always wanted to run a franchise and looked at many different opportunities. Complete Weed Control have a network of franchisees across the UK and the training and support I've received has been superb."

FARMWAY AMENITY APPOINT PEARSON

Farmway Ltd has formed a new amenity division after entering into a long term business partnership with Sherriff Amenity. Clive Pearson has been appointed as Sales Manager for Farmway Amenity.

Clive, who joins the company with a wealth of experience within the amenity arena, will be responsible for covering the north east of England, Cumbria and the Scottish borders.

SWAN GAIN APPROVED PARTNER STATUS

Swan Plant Services has been granted APSE Approved Partner status by the Association of Public Service Excellence. To achieve this award the company had to demonstrate its experience and commitment to providing quality cost effective groundcare services and supplies to the public sector.

"We are delighted to have passed the stringent application process, to become fully approved APSE partners. This is an important status for Swan as we work closely with over 240 public sector organisations in raising the standards and profile of groundcare services," said Tim Jones, Chief Executive of Swan Plant Services.

To date, Swan is one of only 12 approved partners and is the only specialist groundcare company to be included in this scheme.

Swan has also announced that it is expanding its range of grounds equipment for hire by partnering with JCB. The company has developed a range of dedicated equipment directed towards the professional landscaper.

HUNTER REWARDS CONTRACTOR'S CONTRIBUTION

Representatives from irrigation systems company Hunter Industries attended BTME & ClubHouse 2005 to present its 'Trailblazer' Award to Martin Hinchliffe, from North Staffs Irrigation.

A scenic framed painting was presented to Martin and this recognises the effort made by the Midlands based firm to raise the profile of Hunter products in the UK and Europe.

In 2004 the family run company completed major installations using Hunter products at Griffon Forest Golf & Country Club, Bovey Castle and at Burnley Golf Club.

AWARD FOR BATCHWORK PARK GREENKEEPING TEAM



Course Manager, Andy Garland (far right), and Deputy, Luke Turner (right), with their award winning team

The Crown Golf Management Team has announced a number of prestigious awards for 2004, with Batchworth Park Golf Club winning 'Greenkeeping Team of the Year', Chesfield Downs Golf Club claiming 'Food and Beverage Team of the Year' and South Winchester Golf Club taking the title of 'Retail Team of the Year'.

Batchworth Park, in Rickmansworth, was voted 'Greenkeeping Team of the Year' with judges commenting that the team, which is headed by Andy Garland, had taken the course to a new level in 2004, when the course was in the best condition ever during the club's nine year history. The quality of the greens attracted high praise from club members and visitors alike.

STRONG START FOR GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW

The 2005 GCSAA has reported record breaking numbers attending their Education Conference and inaugural Golf Industry Show, in Orlando, February 7-12.

The first Golf Industry Show itself united the Trade Shows of the GCSAA and the NGCOA, and combined with the GCSAA Education Conference and NGCOA Solutions Summit an overall attendance of near 23,000 was projected.

830 Exhibitors were on hand to showcase their newest products and services, breaking the record

of 759 set at the 2001 GCSAA Conference and Show, in Dallas.

The GCSAA Education Conference, which ran concurrently with the Golf Industry Show, at the Orange County Convention Center, also drew strong interest. At the week's end 7,329 seminar seats had been processed.

During the week Timothy T. O'Neill, certified Golf Course Superintendent at Country Club of Darien, was elected GCSAA President at the Association's annual meeting.

TORO ACQUIRES HAYTER

The Toro Company has announced that it has acquired the assets of Hayter Limited.

For over five decades, Hayter has been producing lawn and landscape equipment and is known as the pioneer of the rotary lawnmower in the United Kingdom. Today, the company holds a strong brand presence throughout the UK and has become recognised for its wide array of mowers, including its strong product offering for the city and municipal market.

"The acquisition of Hayter Limited aligns with our international growth strategy," said Ken Melrose, The Toro Company Chairman and CEO. "The United Kingdom is a significant turf market and Hayter's product line will complement and enhance Toro's solution set. I am confident the

pairing of Toro and Hayter will strengthen our position in this market and provide new growth opportunities."

Under terms of the agreement, Toro will acquire Hayter's operating assets, intellectual property, manufacturing operations and approximately 200 employees, all of which will continue to operate under the Hayter name. Hayter's Managing Director, Derek Boulton, will also continue to oversee the company's operations.

"This acquisition is very positive news for our employees, suppliers, dealers and end line customers. This relationship will provide new opportunities for both Toro and Hayter and we are very optimistic about the future," said Derek.

NEW RECRUITS AT SGM

Scottish Grass Machinery has boosted its sales team with three new appointments.

Ewan Peddie has been promoted to Sales Manager, taking over responsibility for the SGM sales team in Scotland. In his eight years with the company, he has worked in warehousing, parts and as a demonstrator, before joining the sales team in 1997.

After nine years with the company, Graham Taylor has been promoted to the role of Sales and Service Manager, covering the north of Scotland from SGM's service centre in Aberdeen.

Ronnie Younger has been appointed as Area Sales Manager, covering Ayrshire and the south of Scotland. Ronnie joins SGM after many years' sales experience in the distribution and hire sectors.

The SGM sales team in Scotland is supported by Brian Goudie, who has recently taken up his new role as Business Development Manager, Scotland, for SGM Hire, the contract hire operation which is expanding across the UK.

David McNroy, Chairman of the SGM Group, commented: "These appointments reflect our total commitment here at SGM to providing a sales, service and support network that offers nationwide coverage.

RIPTA ACCEPTS ITS FIRST NEW MEMBER



Peter Jones (right) is accepted onto the Register by Andy Cole

The Register of Independent Turfgrass Agronomists has accepted Peter Jones, of Peter Jones Associates, as its first new member since the Register's inception in January 2002.

This is a big step forward for the industry with advisers recognising the value of the Register and working towards qualifying for the entry criteria.

Peter Jones, who has advised the golf course industry for the past ten years and recently gained his MSc stated: "I am proud to be accepted as the first applicant for inclusion on the Register."

Andy Cole, PSD Agronomy Ltd, has taken over as Keeper of the Register for 2005 from Tim Lodge, STRI.

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David Golding explains the GTC's efforts to broaden both the skill and knowledge base in work-based training.

Many greenkeeper readers of this magazine will have arrived at this page having worked their way through back to front, having looked at the job pages first. Am I right?

Nothing wrong with that but did you notice that the majority of job adverts request a certain level of formal qualification?

Much of my Committee's work in recent years has been in educating the employers to recruit staff using the national framework of qualifications. So we must view the use of qualifications by employers in job advertisements as a positive step forward.

The Standing Committee for Greenkeeper Salaries has also included in its literature the importance of qualifications when, as an employee, you are looking for a fair salary review by your employer. Enhanced pay for staff, who have achieved the trainer/assessor awards, is an example of how the importance of having qualified work-based senior staff to assist with the development of the other greenkeeping team has finally been recognised by enlightened employers.

If you are an experienced greenkeeper who may be looking for a career move but feel that you can't, due to not having a formal qualification for your years of work on the golf course, please do not despair - the GTC can help!

It is all about showing that you can carry out a number of tasks in accordance with a nationally agreed set of standards and that you have the knowledge relating to the task. The content of each level of qualification has been agreed with employers and greenkeeping representatives and therefore relate to maintaining and managing a golf course.

The GTC's involvement in the development and implementation of the various qualifications is ongoing and at all times based on the best traditional principles for maintaining a British golf course.

The inclusion of some elements, such as the identification of five flowery plants, are not always popular however our working group are constantly looking to ensure that our industry does not get locked into a very narrow skill and knowledge base.

We have ensured, in recent years, that the range of turf qualifications are relevant to employment needs, while giving the learners at the various levels both the skill and the knowledge.

So what of the Training Providers? Mainly land based colleges have been the GTC's approved suppliers of education and training for many years and, as I have stated in previous articles, it really has been a very difficult period for college staff.

It has to be said that after nearly 10 years of the colleges trying - some trying harder than others - to implement the Government's programme of apprenticeships and vocational training many are still struggling with the system.

For vocational training to work the workplace has to be at the heart of the learner's programme and in our experience two major obstacles prevent VQ's from being implemented successfully.

The first obstacle is when the golf club expects the chosen training provider/college to carry out both parts of the qualification, i.e. the practical skills training and the delivery of the theory. The obvious answer to address this problem is to have a committed Course Manager who understands the vocational qualification system and this is usually recognised by them holding the trainer/assessor qualifications.

I do still hear stories from some college staff that an assessor holding the recognised qualification is too busy to "play his part" in the training and assessing of their learner.

On closer investigation it is more often that not that where the provider has not explained the role of the assessor properly and has not provided simple documentation that both the learner and their boss understands! The actual time involved in carrying out formal assessments is negligible, say 10 minutes a day maximum.

The second obstacle is when the provider is still trying to make the work-based system operate from the college base, with few if any workplace visits made.

With many of the colleges still struggling to implement the VQ's and sadly some college staff - paid to deliver the programmes - rubbishing work-based training, clearly the GTC has to address the various problems.

Please be assured that the GTC will be addressing this problem, as there are overwhelming reasons why vocational training should be adopted by our sector.

If you talk to those providers both in our sector and in others who have excellent success rates it is largely down to the learner's boss being involved and at the helm of the training programme.

Clearly we need several colleges approved to offer the more academic qualifications, such as the excellent HNC and Foundation Degree qualifications, but with all the changes in the land based colleges in recent years the GTC is currently seriously reviewing its approved trainer network.

A working group has been established and you can contribute to the current review by contacting the GTC with your views.

At all times the GTC will be working in the best interests of the industry and, although we have an excellent range of turf courses/qualifications, we will continue to work to improve the quality of both the content and delivery of the various programmes.

**The GTC can be contacted at Aldwark Manor, Near York, YO61 1UF
Email: golf@the-gtc.co.uk Tel: 01347 838640**



Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

BIGGA GOLDEN KEY and SILVER KEY MEMBERSHIP

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

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Education Update

Ken Richardson, Education and Training Manager, discusses plans for both future education programmes and competitions

Now that the dust has settled from a very busy BTME & ClubHouse and Sami is back from the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, we are starting to revise our education and training programme for the spring, plan our programme for the autumn and planning Continue to Learn 2006 at Harrogate.

BITMC

As you may have read in previous articles, the BIGGA Board of Management decided to make changes to the Education Conference by moving it from Harrogate and by pitching it a higher level than before. This 'new' conference was called the British and International Turf Managers' Conference. It was due to take place on 19 and 20 March at Staverton Park.

Unfortunately, bookings have been very slow to arrive at BIGGA HOUSE and we had to decide whether the Conference should go ahead.

We decided, after consulting the Chairman, that it was not going to be viable and that we should, therefore, cancel the event.

I can only apologise to those members who had booked a place and say sorry to the eleven speakers who had confirmed their attendance.

It is now 'back to the drawing board' and I would be grateful for your ideas on when, where and if a conference should take place in the future.

Regional Training Courses

Most Sections and Regions now bid for BIGGA Education and Development Fund subsidised education and training courses. Three courses are running this spring, all of which were requested by a Section, had guaranteed numbers and were at a suitable location.

We are now beginning to plan for the autumn and if you want us to arrange education and training courses in your Region/Section, now is the time to put in your request.

The information we require for us to organise a course on your behalf is:

1. Course Subject e.g. Essential Management Skills, Tractor Driving, Managing Health and Safety etc.
2. A suitable location for training e.g. a Golf Club.
3. A guarantee to fill the course.

For further information on the types of course available and the numbers required for each course please contact Sami on 01347 833800 or sami@bigga.co.uk, by June 30 2005.

Toro Student of the Year Award 2005

Alex Shore, from Woburn Golf and Country Club and Oaklands College, winner of the Award in 2004, has successfully completed the Toro Scholarship at the University of Massachusetts and has visited the Golf Industry Show and Toro Headquarters during the early part of this year.

Application forms for the 2005 competition have been sent to colleges and need to be completed by the individual and their College Tutor and returned to BIGGA HOUSE by May 6 2005.

If you require further copies of the application form and brochure please contact Sami on 01347 833800 or sami@bigga.co.uk.

BIGGA Golf Environment Competition 2005

Following the success of the 2004 Competition, when Minchinhampton Golf Club were the National Winners, we are pleased to announce that a further sponsor, Waste2Water, has joined Scotts UK Professional, Syngenta Professional Products and WRAP for 2005.

The additional sponsorship will allow us to visit more golf clubs than ever before.

Invitations to enter the 2005 competition are being sent to all golf clubs in Great Britain during March 2005. A range of prizes will ensure that all clubs, large or small, will have a chance of winning.

BTME & ClubHouse Seminars

Audio copies of the BTME & ClubHouse Seminars are now available on CD.

Keynote Session - Lesley Everrett

Session 1 - GolfGIS - For Better Golf Course Management - Jan Kemi and Ian Phythian

Session 2 - Integrating Old with New - Jim Nix

Session 3 - Join the National Register of Sprayer Operators - Tamarind Davidson

Session 4 - The Leadership and Motivation of People - Dennis Beard

Session 5 - Over the Edge - Has Course Conditioning Gone Too Far - Jon Scott

Session 6 - The Use of Recycled Materials in Golfing Applications - Louise Hollingworth

Session 7 - Energy Conservation in Golf Facilities - Jonathan Smith

Session 8 - New Groundwater Regulations and their Impact on Golf Courses - Tim Earley

Session 9 - The Road to Aphrodite Hills - A Case Study of Working Abroad - Peter Bradburn

Session 10 - Why Healthy Soil is Essential for Excellent Sports Turf - Martin Ward

Session 11 - Construction Materials for Golf Greens - Ann Murray

Session 12 - Current Trends in Fertiliser, Pesticide and Water Usage on Australian Golf Courses - Andrew Peart

Each seminar session costs £2.50 including VAT and postage.

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Tip of the Month

By Lee Strutt MG
Course Manager - Richmond Golf Club



VALVE BOX DIGGING

When working in and around irrigation pop-ups and valve boxes that are sat in heavy soil, when excavated we dispose of the awkward heavy soil and refill with a rootzone or sand material.

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Rachael and Gemma, from the Membership Department, would like to welcome 47 new members to the Association this month and discuss the unique chance of being part of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team.

Membership Update



BIGGA Needs You!

As you may have seen in the News Section of the February magazine we are currently looking for volunteers for the Greenkeeping Support Team that BIGGA will be providing at both the Open Championship, at St Andrews, and the BMW PGA Championship, at The Wentworth Club, this year.

This is a fantastic opportunity for you to help out at a major golf event, get close and personal to all the action and represent your Association.

BMW PGA Championship The Wentworth Club, May 26-29 2005

BIGGA will once again be providing a Greenkeeping Support Team for the BMW PGA Championship, at The Wentworth Club, May 26 - 29.

Chris Kennedy and his team will have the West Course in a testing state for the cream of the crop, and you can be there to witness it all from inside the ropes.

As with the Open Championship, a BIGGA Support Team member will be involved in walking with a match and raking any bunkers found by the players, as well as aiding the Wentworth green staff should a typical British summer do its worst.

Your involvement may well stretch further than you think, just ask David Miller, of Merrist Wood GC, after being allocated with Scott Drummond last year, on the third day. After having such a great third round the Scotsman, being the superstitious type, asked David to team up him and his caddie again for the final day. Swapping allocations for the final day's play allowed David to complete the request and aid in history as Drummond went on to shoot a 65 and claim a superb PGA Championship victory.

As a Team member at this event you will be responsible for your own transport to and from the course and there is no overnight accommodation provided.

Helping at the BMW PGA Championship will not hinder an application to be part of The BIGGA Open Championship Support Team.

Applications for the BMW PGA Championship Support Team should be sent to: Clive Osgood, BIGGA Regional Administrator, 34 Howard Close, Walton-on-the-Hill, Tadworth, Surrey, KT20 7QF

Or for more information, contact Clive on 01737 819343.



The Open Championship St Andrews, July 14-17 2005

As always, the Open Championship is the golfing highlight of the year and the 2005 Tournament, which is the 134th Open, is to be held at St Andrews, the home of golf.

Ewan Grant, Gordon Moir and their St Andrews' greenkeeping team will be at the heart of the action and you can be a major part of it all by becoming a member of the BIGGA Greenkeeper Support Team.

Members of the team will be involved in all sorts of activities during the Championship, including course preparation, such as raking the course's 112 bunkers before the start of play each day, evening course repair and aiding the St Andrews' greenkeeping team as and when needed.

The major responsibility of a BIGGA Support Team member is to walk with a match and rake any bunkers found by an unfortunate player.

The team all meet the day before the Tournament starts and each member is given their kit, which normally includes polo shirts, caps, waterproofs and the magic armband that allows you inside the ropes. Once all stocked up for the four days ahead the entire team are taken to the course to meet with the greenkeeping team and learn in which style to rake the bunkers during the Championship.



When not out with a match, BIGGA has its own marquee, where greenkeepers and guest can relax, watch the action on TV and get refreshments.

Transport, accommodation and meals are all provided during the Championship, but it will be the team member's responsibility for travel to and from their home to St Andrews.

Only full BIGGA members are eligible for selection onto the Support Team and to apply write to: Scott MacCallum, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF.

For further information contact Scott on 01347 833800 or via email: scott@bigga.co.uk.

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Kenneth Imrie, Ayrshire
Benjamin Lindsay, Ayrshire
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Sang Oh, Ayrshire
Brad Russell, Ayrshire
John Golby, East Scotland
Nicholas Connell, West Scotland
Snorri Vilhjalmsson, London

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Jerel Reynolds, USA

MARCH'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 FM DIGITAL SCAN RADIO/ALARM CLOCK, with a detachable speaker and headphones.

Our congratulations go to Marc Rossiter, from Tall Pines Golf Club, who wins the last 0.5 litre isolating flask.



NEW PRIZE

Course Feature



▲ Course Manager, Philip Taylor (left), and Head Greenkeeper, John Goldthorpe

An Old Master

Scott MacCallum visits Alwoodley Golf Club, a superb heathland course with an impeccable pedigree.

There are some jobs where you wouldn't be thanked for any supposed improvements you might like to introduce. For example the Director of Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, USA, would be fed to the grizzly bears if he were to install a roller coaster straddling the Old Faithful geyser, while the Curator of the Louvre Gallery, in Paris, would face the guillotine if he brought the Mona Lisa "up to date" so she sported low slung jeans, a cropped top and a pierced bellybutton and eyebrow.

Philip Taylor and John Goldthorpe, Course Manager and Head Greenkeeper respectively of Alwoodley Golf Club in Leeds, know better than to fall into those traps.

Like the enigmatic portrait which hangs in that Paris gallery, Alwoodley is a masterpiece which requires little or no tweaking. That said, finding the delicate balance between meddling and neglect is not always an easy task although, in Philip and John, Alwoodley has a team that instinctively knows what is best for a course which has a pedigree to match anything in the country.

Ask any given group of golfers which one course in the world they'd love to play more than any other and I can guarantee that the name "Augusta National" will crop up.

Well, Alwoodley was laid out by Harry Colt, a highly respected golf course architect from around the turn of the last century, and Alwoodley's first Secretary, Dr Alistair MacKenzie. If his name rings a bell, it should because a few years after making his name as a golf course architect in the UK he left for the United States where he linked up with Bobby Jones to design Augusta National.

Although Alwoodley was one of the good doctor's early forays into golf course architecture it is one of the finest courses in the country. Regularly ranked in the top 50 by national magazines, it is also rated the sixth most difficult course in the country.

"We're not particularly long but it is very tight. There is a lot of gorse in close proximity to the fairways and greens as well as a lot of heather. The greens are very well bunkered and once on them there are many slopes. We're also easier in winter than in summer when the rough comes up to chest height in some areas," said Phil, by way of explanation.

Former Ryder Cup Captain Mark James often practised at the club when he lived locally and he played with Phil not long after he took over as Course Manager 15 years ago.

"He said that he could always tell when he was in the rough at Alwoodley. If, when he got down over a shot, it was tickling him under the chin, he knew he was there," laughed Phil.

Occasionally members ask him to cut areas back but if they were to remove too much it would water down a course which showed its teeth to BIGGA's finest at last

year's National Championship. However, Alwoodley is not so cruel to its members as to have them play a course which they can't get round. As well as the traditional tee complexes certain holes have Veteran/Junior Tees which take the longer carries over heather and gorse out of play.

"When you get in the rough at Alwoodley, Ganton or any really difficult course, if you've got any sense, you just take a sand iron and hit out sideways," is his advice.

In his time at the club Philip has completed two major projects, neither of which has impacted on the look of the course but both have significantly improved the playability.

The first was to overhaul the entire drainage network as the original drains had either collapsed or were full of tree root.

"I remember walking down the 8th with the then Chairman of Green and it was like a lake and you couldn't do a thing with the greens. It was there for all to see," recalled John.

Drainage consultant Barry Cooper was brought in and he designed a programme which White Horse Contractors carried out in conjunction with Philip, John and the team.

An expensive operation but the club had been extremely shrewd and sold off the nine acre practice range to a house developer and purchased some agricultural land adjacent to the course for a replacement range.



"The old range was soft and in need of draining itself so it made sense to get rid of it and the money the club made was then put to good use," said John, who added that the first thing that the club did with its financial windfall was to build a new maintenance facility.

Carried out in an eight week period during one of the wettest summers for years, the new drainage included a 100mil pipe to every green which was left so the team could plug into it where they discovered a need.

With the work done and the members being extremely patient while the course was disrupted everyone moved on in a spirit of genuine optimism only for the winter months to provide a real shock.

"We were twice as wet as we had been before the work was done, the reason being that the new drainage hadn't started working coupled with the fact some of the old drainage which hadn't been seen had been damaged," said Philip

"We had to dig holes and connect the old drainage to the new and once the soil got some structure back it started to pull," he explained.

He also recalled an attempt to speed up the healing process to the turf which didn't have the desired results.

"We tried some liquid sod - pregerminated seed mixed with fertiliser, fungicide and papier mache - which we sprayed over the drainage lines and which, if kept moist, is supposed to germinate within four days.

"We thought it would be ideal so we sprayed it on. Then we had such a thunderstorm that it all washed away into a big pile. So that was no good," he sighed.

Now the course drains beautifully and as Philip puts it: "You could walk down the 1st in carpet slippers and still have dry feet by the time you'd finished."

The second project, carried out hard on the heels of the drainage work, is perhaps an even better example of the careful way the stewardship of Alwoodley is carried out.

The greens were thatchy and in need of work and while Philip's initial wish had been to improve them by the tried and trusted mechanical approach it soon became apparent that a more drastic approach would be needed.

"We decided that we needed to rebuild the greens to a USGA spec and we also agreed that we would put them back as close to how they were as possible apart from the 15th which had been altered anyway and where we tried to get back to MacKenzie's original design.

"It was never an issue. Nobody could fault the way he'd designed them. We and the members thought that it was such a special course that we didn't have a reason to change as I don't think we could have made them better," explained Philip.

"We could have made them easier from a greenkeeping point of view and given ourselves more pin positions but, for example, when you get onto our 11th green which goes from front to back and you've a putt across the green which you've got to hit up there to get down there it's different isn't it?" said Philip, pointing out the line of his imaginary putt.

Jonathan Tucker, the STRI's architect, was contacted to engineer the project - as Philip said there was no real designing involved, while Global Surveying lazer measured every green at one metre intervals to ensure they could be re-laid as accurately as was possible. The rootzone was supplied by Mansfield Sands after a frustrating long search to find a product which met USGA specifications.



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Course Feature

The success of the new greens comes from the fact that, one, they don't flood like they used to, but also that you certainly can't see the join.

The pair, in conjunction with then Chairman of Green, Peter Gilbert, have also been instrumental in the removal of many of the trees on the golf course to return it to its heathland roots and improve some of the vistas on the course.

"Peter Gilbert was a strong person and an excellent Chairman of Green and he had a lot of input into the major jobs," said Philip.

John has taken care of the bracken while the heather regeneration is another on-going job.

Peppering the conversation with Philip and John comes references to the Alwoodley members and what a fabulous place Alwoodley is to work. John is proof of this, having just two weeks before taking delivery of a carriage clock to recognise 25 years with the Club.

"It is one of the best clubs in the country and they are absolutely superb people to work for," said Philip, a point reinforced by John.

"We had the same Chairman of Green for 16 years and the only thing he asked us to do in all that time was to put in a stile and remove a few thistles."

The club, which has a membership of just over 450, know that if you have the right people in post saying little is the best way to get results.

"The responsibility to look after the course does put pressure on you more than having someone telling you what to do. We try not to give people anything to complain about," said Philip, and the two of them obviously have a great feel for the golf course and an eye for detail when it comes to preparing it.

"If you have an eye for detail and keep on top of the job you are not going to have much grief," said John, who retires in a couple of years, fittingly, in the Club's centenary year.

To mark the centenary the Club will host the British Mid Amateur Championship and by then the bunker renovation programme should be near completion - another occasion when Dr MacKenzie's work is being polished rather than changed.

"In the 60s the Club decided to roll the bunker faces over. I don't know why but a few more people are doing it now but we go to the stage that we feel it is wrong. Take the 1st for example. You can stand on the tee and although you can see the face of the fairway bunker you can't see the sand and you should be able to because that's what puts the terror into you," said Philip.

"It was Mackenzie's philosophy that you should see some sand so we started to redo the bunkers around three years ago. John did some of the smaller ones and we will get contractors in for the larger ones. I always like to get experts in wherever possible."

It's that sort of attention to detail which ensures Alwoodley's place near the top of the golfing tree to the extent that perhaps, rather than call Alwoodley the Augusta of Leeds, we should be describing Augusta as the Alwoodley of Georgia!



▲ View of the Clubhouse from the 17th



A Penny Saved...

It's still early in the new year, but if you are a greenkeeper or Golf Course Manager, it's likely your workload already seems to match the busiest time of the past year - and you are not alone. Being extremely busy even in what could be considered the 'off-season' is a trend that has been developing in most golfing countries around the world over the past 12 years.

*Continue
to learn*



Greenkeepers and Course Managers are being asked to do more and more with fewer resources, and are expected to maintain top-quality golf courses that meet the consistently high and rising, I daresay expectations of paying golfers and private club members.

This is a significant challenge that can be examined by starting with the question: "How can you maintain your golf course and operation at a high standard, while required to work within budgets that are flat or declining each year?"

Unlike your resources, golfers' expectations have not diminished. They still want and demand a great 'experience' or 'value' for their money. What has diminished is the amount of revenue golf courses are able to generate. The reason for this revenue decline varies from one country to another, but among the factors affecting golf course revenue can be the economy, societal or political issues, or demographic shifts of a nation's golfers.

Whatever the reason, the result is that you are left facing the challenge put forth above. Lower revenues translate directly to lower operations budgets, which can directly impact how well you do your job and, in the end, the appearance and playability of the golf course.

So our focus here will be on **'How to do more with less.'** This will involve a close look at where irrigation budgets are spent and will include identifying opportunities for improvements or savings.

GOLF BUDGETS: A DOWNWARD TREND

The National Golf Foundation (NGF) has published data supporting the conclusion that there has been a general trend of declining budgets over the past 10 years. Most greenkeepers I've spoken with have had to come up with creative ways to deal with this. Additionally, the worldwide golf construction industry has seen a shift from new golf course construction to increased renovation construction on existing courses. Today, approximately

two-thirds of all golf course construction is remodeling or renovating.

This naturally makes us ask Why? Why less new construction today and, instead, increased investment in renovation of existing irrigation systems? In short, the answer is supply - the number of courses and demand - the number of rounds being played.

While the number of rounds of golf played has stayed relatively constant over the past 25 years, the number of golf courses has increased greatly in that time. This has resulted in a reduced need for new courses, and it has brought about greater competition between the existing golf courses for golfers' business. In many cases, this competition has led to price battles, which makes it harder to show operating profits and leads to tightened budgets. Working within tighter budgets, greenkeepers face greater challenges in maintaining great looking, great playing golf courses.

EFFICIENCY: A BUDGET STRETCHING TOOL

It can be extremely difficult to generate additional revenue, especially in such a competitive marketplace where golfers can 'price shop' for the best perceived golf value.

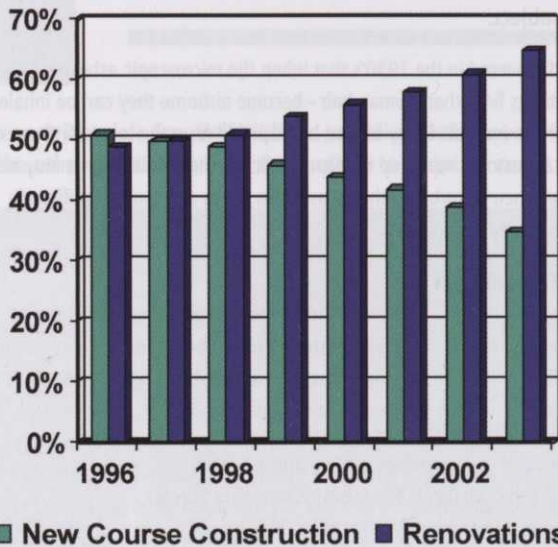
So instead of seeking greater revenue, I suggest you initially focus on maximising the return on your expenditures. I recommend that you find ways to 'stretch' your budget to its fullest, and the primary way to achieve this is through efficiency.

Efficiency is the main benefit produced by the renovation of a golf course's irrigation system. Increased operating efficiency reduces operating costs and lowers the consumption of resources such as water and electricity.

Improvements in golf irrigation efficiency can be measured and are reflected favorably in a greenkeeper's budget. This measurability is a significant reason why more and more courses are considering, or pursuing, irrigation renovation.



Kenne James looks at how making the most of your resources can have a significant impact on the bottom line



Consider: A renovation of a golf course's irrigation system may result in the single largest savings and also be the most productive change that can be made to a golf course.

Hard to believe? Well, most of us either don't have the time to evaluate our course's irrigation system thoroughly, or we think our systems are fine and operating effectively. What we may not realise is that if an irrigation system has not received good annual maintenance, or is 10 years old or older, it is most likely not to be as efficient as new technology and practices allow.

Yet many would ask: "So what? How much difference can there be between my aging system and a renovated, more efficient irrigation system?"

Take your pick of answers, choosing from among 'significant', 'dramatic' and 'quite possibly amazing!' Take a look.

MEASURABLE SAVINGS

When you consider that nozzle efficiencies have improved 10% or more in the last 10 years, and computerising a non-computerised system may result in another 15 to 25% savings due to improved efficiency, the difference made by renovation can be substantial. In fact, for many golf courses, it may be the difference between profit and loss.

Let's look at an example of what just a 15% gain in efficiency can provide. Here are eight possible benefits that could result from optimising sprinkler system efficiencies.

Start with water consumption. A 15% more efficient coverage pattern due to upgrades in sprinklers, nozzles, spacing, etc., can result in a 15% reduction in the (1) COST of water. Using 15% less water will result in saving approximately 15% of the (2) COST of the electricity required to pump the water.

Next, consider the maintenance expense of the entire irrigation system. One could argue that if you

use the system 15% less, the maintenance expenses, including pipe breaks, nozzle clogging, valve rebuilding, pumps, etc, will be about (3) 15% lower. A benefit to the golfer is that 15% less maintenance could result in (4) greatly reduced 'Ground Under Repair' issues. A further benefit to the greenkeeper is that his (5) labour cost will be lowered and his time will be freed up, allowing him to work on the many other projects that await him. The golf course itself benefits in many ways, the first of which is that the same irrigation system being used 15% less will probably last 15% longer. (6) This translates to getting more for the same investment.

The last two benefits are probably the most important. Higher efficiency watering patterns mean that you are not over-watering or under-watering as much - which is critical to promote the (7) optimum health of the turfgrass. Isn't this what our work is really all about? Isn't it our goal to produce and maintain the best looking, most playable golf turf? Efficiency helps us to achieve this goal, and it's efficiency that allows us to achieve it, while reducing our operating costs.

Finally, healthy turfgrass, the elimination of wet and dry spots and less 'Ground Under Repair' all contribute to a better looking, and most likely, a better-playing golf course. The golfer who enjoys a better experience on your course will be more likely to play more rounds at your course. This golfer is also more likely to compare your course to other local or regional venues and to tell his golfing friends about the high-value experience your course provides. (8) This may result in your course's ability to charge higher fees and get more rounds, producing more favorable financial results.

By assessing your golf course's irrigation system, you focus on - and, I hope, improve - its efficiency. You can see by the benefits listed why the topic of efficiency is not just very important, it can be the critical difference between success and failure. Efficiency is all-important when it comes to a proper irrigation system. It can also be a measure of the greenkeeper's success. It's hard to do anything but compliment a better looking golf course that is maintained on a lower budget.

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



Asbestos - What's that got to do with golf?

Tutorial Nine

I mention asbestos and I am sure all of the greenkeeping fraternity and Secretary/Managers are thinking, "what's that got to do with me". Well let me see if I can shed some light on the subject.

LEGISLATION

Just over six months ago, on May 21, 2004, tough new asbestos regulations, Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002 (CAWR 2002), came fully into force in England and Wales. This followed an 18 month lead in period designed to encourage and cajole commercial property owners, tenants and managers to assess proactively the risks from residual asbestos in their buildings.

DUTY

So where does a golf club fit in. Each and every golf club in the country has a legal bound duty to develop an 'Asbestos Register' which is designed to list all contents of asbestos in their premises and the type of asbestos it is.

SOME BACKGROUND ON ASBESTOS

Asbestos is not always an immediate hazard. In fact, if asbestos can be maintained in good condition, it is recommended that it be left alone and periodic surveillance performed to monitor its condition. It is only when asbestos containing materials (ACM) are disturbed or the materials become damaged that the risk to exposure is increased. When the materials are damaged, the fibres can separate and may become airborne.

It was discovered in the 1930's that when the microscopic asbestos fibres - up to 100 times finer than human hair - become airborne they can be inhaled. The fibres are so inert that they cannot be dispelled from the lungs, and can cause cancer. Asbestos is made up of microscopic bundles of fibres that may become airborne when disturbed. Inhaled asbestos fibres can cause significant respiratory health problems.

TYPES OF ASBESTOS

Chrysotile	White asbestos - Not as highly dangerous.
Amosite	Brown asbestos - Highly dangerous.
Crocidolite	Blue asbestos - Most dangerous type.

WHAT DO GOLF CLUBS NEED TO DO?

1. Find out if your premises contain any asbestos.
2. Assess the risk (i.e. Is the asbestos releasing fibres?).
3. Make a plan to manage the risks.
4. Generate the asbestos register and keep it on file.

Jerrard Winter, Haztek International.

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Greens Go Hollow Core



Tony Mears, Course Manager at Dinsdale Spa GC, and Henry Bechelet, Turfgrass Agronomist, STRI, look at the establishment of a new green from hollow tine cores.

This year at Dinsdale Spa Golf Club we established the cover of a newly constructed USGA type green using hollow tine cores taken from the other greens. We used this method to maintain consistent playing surfaces across the course.



▲ Digging out the pit in ideal conditions

By way of background, Tony has been a Greenkeeper for 29 years and Course Manager at Dinsdale Spa Golf Club since 1981. Henry has been in the industry since joining the STRI in 1991 and Agronomist to Dinsdale Spa GC since 2001. Over the years, we have developed a good working relationship. We maintain regular contact and discuss all aspects of the course maintenance. This case study is a good example of how the relationship between a greenkeeper and agronomist works.

Dinsdale Spa Golf Club was formally founded in 1910, although the course had been in existence for some years before. The course is relatively flat, parkland in nature, and is set upon a heavy clay loam soil. In recent years, a great deal of developmental work has been undertaken to improve the condition and quality of the course. The club has embarked on a rolling programme of greens reconstruction to improve their year round playability and additional land has also been purchased to increase the yardage of the course.

THE PREVIOUS PROGRAMME OF GREEN REPLACEMENT

Tony and his team have been reconstructing the greens since 1997. Each year at least one of the original clay based greens has been replaced with a new sand based construction. The new greens have all been constructed according to the USGA Method for Golf Green Construction (1993).

Tony has managed to source the same materials over the years to keep the new greens consistent with each other, the rootzone came from Bathgates. The work is always carried out in-house apart from bringing in a single contracted digger driver for excavation and placement work. The Dinsdale greenkeeping team are now highly skilled at new green construction. This has enabled the successful development of the new

greens at a reasonable cost. The reconstruction costs have always been around £15,000 - £16,000 per green.

Until now, the new greens have all been surfaced using the turf lifted from the existing green. This was done mainly to retain a consistent set of surfaces across the course. The sward comprises a good blend of bent and annual meadow grass species. This provides good playing surfaces and is quick to establish on a sand based rootzone, if managed correctly. If laid in October the new greens are ready for play by the following May.

In general, this programme of replacement is proving very successful and will continue until all of the soil based greens are reconstructed. The all round quality of the new greens is far superior to the ones they replaced.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW LAND

As already mentioned, the length of the course has been an issue - 6090 yards, Par 71, SSS 69. To improve the layout and yardage it was decided to extend into an adjacent field. A golf course architect was engaged before purchasing the land to outline the potential for its development and the necessary work and costs involved. After consultation with the members, the 4.5 acre field was purchased in 2003 to be used in the development of two new holes.

The new land development required the construction of two new greens with the luxury of a couple of years for establishment. Once again, they would be constructed to the USGA guidelines but since both greens were totally new, we did not have any existing turf to use. We had a problem.



▲ Spreading the rootzone



▲ Laying the cores



▲ Rolling the surface



▲ The early stages of establishment in April

All the new developments have held consistency as the top priority. On the face of it, our options were to establish the greens from seed or from imported turf and both these methods would bring inconsistency and neither appeared particularly attractive. We were both left chewing on the problem of how to establish the new surfaces and retain consistency.

The initial suggestion to establish the greens from hollow tine cores was provided by Dr Ian McClements, Senior Agronomist for STRI covering Ireland. Henry asked his colleagues for input, via email, after explaining the problem. The suggestion to use cores was then backed up by Steve Gingell, STRI Agronomist, who had seen the results of using the technique while on an exchange visit to the New Zealand Sports Turf Institute.

Apparently, this technique is commonly used in both the USA and New Zealand to establish turf nurseries and, in special cases, playing surfaces. Henry got in email contact with Alex Glasgow, Agronomist from the NZSTI, who was extremely helpful and provided a detailed explanation of the procedure.

We discussed all the possible options for development between ourselves but in the end, the decision to proceed using cores was made by Tony. Throughout the decision making process Tony always received full support from the Chairman of Green, Dennis Armstrong, which was a great help.

It was always quite a risky decision, being a new technique, but Tony felt confident enough in the sense of the advice and the support provided by STRI to go ahead. Above all, we wanted to maintain consistency and so it was considered the best option. In any case, with two years to establish, it was felt that we had plenty of time to iron out any potential problems should they arise.

THE METHOD FOR ESTABLISHING A GOLF GREEN FROM HOLLOW TINE CORES

So, the construction of the first new green began in September 2003, which you'll remember as being ideally dry. Once again, the work was carried out using the USGA method, using suitably tested and approved materials. The surfacing work was carried out in March 2004. The procedure reads as follows:

CORING

Specific greens were cored at the end of March 2004, using 16mm tines set at 75mm spacings. We took the cores from the nine newer sand based greens to limit the level of organic matter and prevent the contamination of the upper profile with soil. These cores were a good mix of organic matter and sandy top dressing rather than being thick with thatch. The cores were stockpiled for a couple of days before use while the required quantity was gathered.

PLACEMENT OF CORES

The cores were barrowed onto the green and evenly sprinkled onto the surface with a shovel to a depth of 25 mm. Raking was not any help, as it tended to drag clumps of cores around. The cores were moist when laid and not easily moved around.

OVERSEEDING

Once the cores had been laid, the green was overseeded with pure bentgrass. Top quality cultivars were chosen based on their ratings in the Turfgrass Seed booklet. The seed was applied at a rather liberal rate of 35g/m².

ROLLING

The green was then rolled using a hand roller. This served to settle the surface down.

FERTILISATION

Based on soil analysis and discussions we agreed to concentrate on growing-in initially with monthly applications of balanced fertiliser - 12-3-9 at 35 g/m². The common mistake that people make when growing in new turf is that they begin to maintain it as fine turf too early. We would save the greenkeeping for later.

IRRIGATION

Early spring 2004 was dry for a time and the cores quickly became dry and dusty and needed to be watered. The organic matter in the cores makes the surface prone to drying out extremely quickly. We made sure to irrigate as much as possible to keep the surface moist and bring the new sward through.

MOWING

It was recommended that mowing be undertaken as often as necessary at an initial cutting height of 12mm. Very soon, this turned into every other day.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

From then on everything went pretty much as planned. Tony took full charge of the maintenance operations and Henry popped in at regular intervals to discuss the progress. It was a very interesting time for us both.

The cores began to regenerate and establish a cover almost immediately. In using cores we are sowing mature plants. This was mainly the annual meadow grass rather than the bentgrass component of the sward. Tony commenced mowing within the month using a hand mower set at 12mm boxing off the clippings.

Next came the bentgrass establishment from seed, which was truly amazing. By early June, the base of the sward was thick with newly emerging seedlings. It seems that the protective cover given by the annual meadow grass coupled with the contact with the moist cores below provided the ideal environment for the establishment of the bentgrass seedlings.

Our discussions from this time emphasised the need to keep growth moving with regular fertiliser and irrigation inputs. We kept the irrigation input high and, during the day, through the dry May/June weather to keep the establishment moving and prevent wilting of the new seedlings. The monthly fertiliser applications also maintained good growing conditions. Mowing at 12mm was required four times a week. An additional overseeding was made in June to ensure the establishment of a balanced sward dominated by the finer grasses.

It is interesting to note that the turf base was never actually thatch by nature. Even though we were irrigating regularly from the outset, the cores seemed to break down nicely right from the start. The turf base was nice and open and the cores were well integrated with sand and so broke down well. The use of cores from established greens may have brought with them a fully functioning microbial environment. There seemed to be no adverse affect from using the cores. Rooting was strong and down to 10cm by the start of July.

From then on, it was all very straight forward. Through the summer we kept growth moving and continued mowing at 12mm. We weren't really tempted to fine down too early and just kept concentrating on growing in. We had to hold back Tony's greenkeeping instincts through this time.

Irrigation wasn't necessary in the summer of 2004 but regular feeding was required as and when. There was some minor Fusarium patch disease activity but no Take-all. We used fungicide to keep disease activity at bay.

It was such a good establishment that the decision was made to change the emphasis this autumn. We double verticut and topdressed in mid September to begin the greenkeeping. The green was also overseeded at this time and an autumn feed - 4-6-8 + fe at 35 g/m² - applied to sustain healthy, rather than lush, growth.



▲ The green at the start of August



▲ The sward at the end of the first year

The surface was already very fine by now and could have easily been brought into play. The sward comprises a tight and even mix of predominantly bent with annual meadow grass species. The strange thing is that it already looks mature rather than being new. It appeared consistent with the others and I am sure will play the same given time. We have the whole of 2005 for the greenkeeping.

Up to the end of October, the green was being mown three times a week at 10mm. The plan for the upcoming winter was to sustain turf health and harden off the sward by using low NK + Fe turf tonic type products. Mowing will be undertaken when necessary at a cutting height of 10mm. Frequent switching will be carried out to remove dew. We will keep monitoring for disease activity and treat when necessary.

CONCLUSION

We are both very pleased with the initial results of this method. The second new green was surfaced in the same way in autumn 2004 without any qualms. We used this technique for a specific reason - to retain consistency. It was the right option for our situation because we had time on our side. It will be interesting to see how long it takes for the autumn sowing to fully mature. Overall, this is certainly a good method for establishing turf nurseries and in special cases playing surfaces.

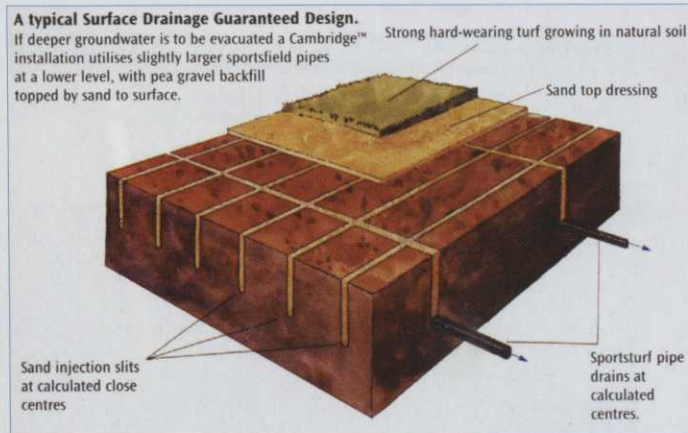
Tony Mears is Course Manager at Dinsdale Spa Golf Club and may be contacted via the club. Henry Bechelet is an STRI Turfgrass Agronomist covering Eastern England. Henry and the rest of the team may be contacted on 01274 565131, email: info@stri.co.uk, or visit the website, <http://www.stri.co.uk>.

DRAINAGE

- The Intensive Key

Geoffrey Davison unlocks the science behind effective sportsturf drainage.

It's Simple - You put in pipe drains and they take away the water! But, how many pipes, of what sizes, at what centres, at what depths and with what backfill? And, crucially, how does surface water reach the pipes and how quickly can it get there?



▲ A typical surface drainage installation

A decades long history of failures and shortcomings showed that achieving the high drainage standards needed for sports activities is not at all simple but, in fact, is a demanding challenge.

Films and photographs from only, comparatively, a few years ago show football, rugby, golf and racing taking place on badly waterlogged ground. We wallowed in mud and accepted that it was an inevitable part of outdoor sports activities, especially during winter. Pipe drains were often under the ground but even a moderate rainfall led to a mud bath on a soaked and slippery surface.

The advent of televised sport brought about a fundamental change, due to two factors. The viewing public wanted to see good green turf on their screens, and money on a previously undreamt scale became available to sport from television rights.

There was an urgent need for superior drainage and also funds to pay for it. But the necessary 'know-how' just did not exist. Existing drainage was traditionally 'agricultural' - satisfactory for farming, but totally incapable of providing the rapid drainage rates required for fulfilling fixture lists on good green turf no matter what the weather.

A new science and technology had to be created. Research and development produced valid theories and from these a practical technology has been evolved, but it has been a trial and error process. Mistakes and shortcomings were inevitable and some of the lessons have not yet been universally appreciated.

We now have formulae which provide a mathematically calculated basis for designing fully cost-effective sportsturf drainage schemes. The calculations can be applied to all aspects of any installation; the required pipe sizes, depths, lengths, gradients and spacings can all be accurately stated. The stated permeability rates for each and every one of a scheme's component elements needed for water to reach the pipes rapidly is another very essential part of a properly calculated design. Hence 'The Intensive Key'.

So many installations have not been calculated - in fact they have been installed on a hit and miss, hope to get it right, basis. Almost invariably they do not cope with the amount of rainfall, which is bound to occur, and the excuse is always that the rain has been exceptional, when in fact it was just typically

heavy, as should have been expected. With more drains and better permeability, that is if the scheme had been more intensive, it would have provided a higher drainage rate.

In designing any practical sportsturf scheme there is a choice between just two alternative principles - either a 'Designed Profile' or a 'Drainage Matrix'.

The most common use of the very expensive Designed Profile technique is in golf green construction, although in recent years some major stadia have had such installations. The existing soil is removed and replaced by layers of gravel, sand and pre-mixed permeable rootzone material. Pipe drains are placed under the gravel layer and efficient irrigation is essential. Installation is a major disruption and subsequently, very high standards of maintenance are required.

The precise composition and depths of carefully tested materials are crucial. All too often, in order to keep down costs, more 'convenient' and/or cheaper materials have been employed. Unfortunately, even minor deviations in particle size content or material depths can cause serious defects.

Golf greens constructed precisely to proven standards, such as the USGA Green specification, can be excellent, whereas there have been a number of greens which purport to be to this standard but which have been very disappointing because detailed proven specifications has not been fully complied with.

The Drainage Matrix is a valid lower cost alternative to the Designed Profile, providing that the 'Intensive Key' is applied. With appropriate variations, the Matrix principle can be successful for all types of sportsturf, including golf greens and fairways, football, racing and rugby.

A calculated drainage facility is imposed into what may be a fertile but fairly impermeable in-situ soil. Instead of water being required to pass through the soil to get to the pipe drains, it is provided with a very effective and quick bypass route. Again an appropriately intensive design is the key to success.

On a golf green, a good scheme would provide not less than four linear metres of drainage for every one metre of surface area. A similar degree of intensity may be needed on areas such as soccer goal mouths, centre circles,



▲ Cutting wheel for neat narrow trenching

AN OUTLINE OF THE MATHEMATICAL BASIS OF DRAINAGE DESIGN

MAXIMUM LENGTH OF PIPES TO DISCHARGE POINTS

$$M = \frac{F}{V S}$$

M = maximum length in m
 F = pipe manufacturer's flow rate in L/hr
 V = scheme design rate mm/hr
 S = distance between pipes in m

DESIGN BASIS

Accepting the established formula

$$S = \sqrt{\frac{h^2 4K}{V}} \therefore V = \frac{h^2 4K}{S^2} \therefore K = \frac{V S^2}{4h^2}$$

The notations which are applied must be varied for each component part of a drainage design and varied again for each different type of design

APPLYING THE FORMULA FOR SUB-SOIL EVACUATION

S = distance between pipes
 h = depth of pipes (or depth at which the permeable back-fill over the pipe meets a different soil)
 4 = a constant
 K = hydraulic conductivity of the in-situ soil
 V = designed drainage capacity

APPLYING THE FORMULA FOR SAND-SLITS

When applied to the slits of an inter-connecting sand/or sand-gravel matrix, the same equation requires the notations:
 S = distance water travels laterally in the slits to reach discharge
 h = depth of slit
 4 = a constant
 K = hydraulic conductivity of slit back-fill material
 V = designed drainage capacity which needs to be adjusted by the fraction of the width of slits in proportion to the distance between them, ie

$$V = \frac{\text{width of slit}}{\text{Distance between slits}}$$

THE SIZE AND SURFACE AREAS OF SOIL PARTICLES

Particle type	Diameter (mm)	Approx number of particles per gram	Surface area of particles in 1g (cm ²)
Very coarse sand	2.00 1.00	90	10
Coarse sand	1.00 0.50	700	20
Medium sand	0.50 0.25	6,000	50
Fine sand	0.25 0.10	50,000	100
Very fine sand	0.10 0.05	750,000	250
Silt	0.05 0.002	6,000,000	500
Clay	less than 0.002	90,000,000,000	8,000,000

Note the huge difference in size between clay and other particles



▲ Profound aeration creates countless millions of tiny cracks and fissures

the bends of race courses and individual wet patches, whereas areas such as fairways may generally need rather less intensive treatment.

A high proportion of the Drainage Matrix schemes which have been installed have not been sufficiently intensive to achieve the hoped for results. There are examples where, under the general description of sand-slitting and without any calculations being made, trenches at perhaps 3m or even 5m centres have been dug across existing drains at 10 or 20 metre centres and then back-filled with building sand, selected because of a low price and without regard to its permeability.

There may be some little benefit to the drainage, but this does not start to compare with the performance achievable from a correct design. Unduly, low budgets certainly have often prevented fully effective installations being carried out, but two other factors have also been responsible; namely the lack of relevant expertise and the non-availability of suitable specialised equipment.

Technology has moved on. Effective machines are now available and there is a much better general understanding of the problems and remedies. The crucial importance of the right sand is now recognised. Some machines cannot place and consolidate sand into narrow trenches and therefore the manufacturers have claimed that grit or granules can be used.

This may be good sales talk but it is not sound technology. The short term drainage benefits rapidly decline as fines easily infiltrate into the larger pore spaces of such materials. Furthermore, the addition of grit, fine gravel or granules is seriously detrimental to a soil's texture, whereas the systematic addition of good sand steadily improves it.

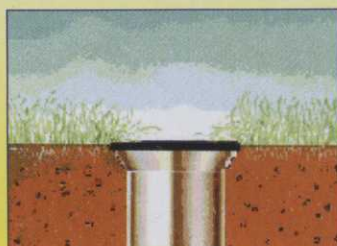
All schemes need an intensive key to be successful; under-design makes performance shortcomings inevitable. Whether it is a £1,000,000 stadium pitch, a £30,000 USGA specification green, a £10,000 improvement to a playing field or a £5,000 high capacity drainage installation in a golf green, they all need to be based on sound, suitably intensive designs which exactly state what detailed measures are required to create a defined drainage capability.

Sportsturf Drainage has been and still is my life-long work and interest. I am always happy to have a telephone discussion about any aspect. My number is 01568 797024.

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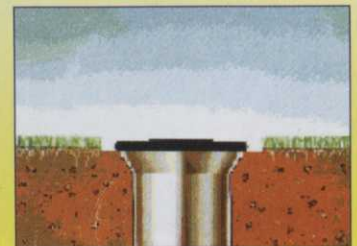
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When You Just Can't Reach

James de Havilland looks up and assess the best tools to use when cutting branches and trimming hedges from ground level.

Back in the 1960's, a children's television programme featured a character by the name of Twizzle. Able to extend his arms and legs to reach tall and obscure places without the aid of a ladder, a real life Twizzle would no doubt find a lot of work cutting tall hedges and lopping branches from trees. Fortunately, there are tools that can tackle this type of work with its non-fictional operator remaining firmly on terra firma.

Pole saws and hedge trimmer blades on the end of extension poles can make lopping small branches and cutting tall hedges much easier. There are a range of different makes and models available, but it does pay to do a bit of research beforehand, particularly when it comes to the use of pole saws.



POLE SAWS OR POWER PRUNERS

Chainsaw accidents can typically be traced back to poor operator training and not paying full attention to the job in hand. No modern saw is in itself dangerous and when used on a golf course, with the appropriate protective clothing, risks are minimised. Removing branches from a tree, however, is a different matter.

Height, ropes, chainsaws, ladders and even front loader buckets were once called in for 'DIY' tree surgery. Combining height and saws used to provide the ideal ingredients for a trip to casualty or worse. Thankfully, modern risk assessment rules these practices out. Some courses will also have trained chainsaw operators who know how to lop branches at height safely. But what about those circumstances where an overhanging branch needs tackling and there is no one on site with the training to deal with it?

It is here where a pole saw or power pruner can be useful. Used with care, these tools can remove a substantial branch without damaging the tree and, more importantly, with far less risk to the operator than using a chainsaw.

Most chainsaw and brushcutter manufacturers produce what is essentially a brushcutter power unit and pole with a chainsaw head in place of a blade or line trimmer. Indeed a number of manufactures can supply multipurpose units with hedge trimmer, brushcutter, chainsaw and other attachments.

The two main types of dedicated pole saw on offer are fixed length units with a reach to the tip of the saw to just under 3.0m or telescopic units that may extend to perhaps 4.5 to 5.0m.

The saw element, incidentally, will typically comprise a bar of 10, 12 or possibly 14". Professional backpack engine units, with a hydraulically powered saw, are also offered. These go up to 6.0m, but are not cheap at around £950 plus.

Telescopic pole saws are likely to be more versatile but also more expensive. A high quality rigid pole saw will be priced from £400, telescopic units carrying a premium of at least £50 to £100. Reach, incidentally, should not be confused with actual cutting height. For safety, the pruner needs to be operated at 60 degrees to the branch. This is to allow the latter to fall and not land on the operator.

Pole saw two-stroke engines tend to span 20 to 30cc and 0.6 to 1.5kW output. In most cases, a body harness is supplied to help support the weight of the tool when moving it around, but a support harness may also be supplied for use in work, more of which later. In terms of how they

Powered by a 23.6cc two-stroke engine, the 6.2kg Echo PPT2400 power pruner, from Countax, has a telescopic shaft that will reach from 2.74m to 3.83m. The 12" cutting unit can reach up a further 1.59m fitted with an additional extension. Price £399 plus VAT



Using a power pruner to lop a branch is both safer and easier than using a chainsaw. It would be better to cut a large branch, as pictured, in shorter sections, leaving a long stump to be cut correctly by someone who knows what they are doing.



▲ When fully extended, a power pruner can access branches that would otherwise be difficult to reach. Light trimming is easy with this type of tool and helps keep tree branch growth under control economically.

work, think of a brushcutter, with a right angle gearbox transmitting drive to the saw.

Shaft strength on telescopic pole pruners is a point to consider. Some use flexible steel shafts, others, like STIHL, using a lightweight alloy. The way the shaft slides is similar to a PTO shaft; the difference is that the outer sections are strong enough to support the weight of the cutting head. To prevent the driveshaft fouling the tube, movable bearings support it as the tube is extended.

It takes practice to use these tools, and knowing where to start a cut is every bit as important as being able to use the machine to avoid getting tired. A key is using the harness as much as possible; it is possible to work without one, but the operator will soon get arm and back ache.

The basic shoulder strap that typically comes as standard is only really aimed at providing limited support. This is fine for occasional use, but it will not be as effective as the more complete harness designs that can be supplied by some manufactures as an option. These bear the weight of the engine and allow the operator to pivot the saw from the attachment point and onto the branch. A big advantage of this system is that it spreads the weight of the pruner across both shoulders. When dealing with higher branches, however, the saw will still need to be raised out of the support to provide the necessary reach.

Working a pole saw is straightforward for thin, lighter branches. These can be cut in one action from the top down. Thicker and heavier branches need cutting with care. It is best to cut back towards the trunk progressively in sections to reduce both the weight and volume of material falling. This will help protect the tree and prevent a long branch swinging back and clouting the operator.

£95 plus VAT circular saw for larger branches



For a clean cut at the trunk, larger braches should be undercut by a third before sawing through from the top. The aim is to produce a clean cut that allows the 'wound' to heal quickly and prevent disease entering the tree. As a guide, keep the cut close to the trunk but retaining enough branch bark at its base to grow over and heal the 'wound'. In practice, getting a clean cut from a pole saw is not easy simply because the saw element is a long way from the operator.

Capacity wise, most pole pruners will tackle a 40cm diameter branch if the saw chain is sharp. Tackling a branch of this size is not necessarily recommended, but it does show engine power is not the key issue but a good sharp chain is the key. As a rule, it is always better to prune lightly and leave a cleanly cut truncated large branch. In most cases it is best to leave cutting branches right back to the trunk to a trained arboriculturist, particularly on specimen trees.

EXTENDED HEDGE TRIMMERS

Although it is stating the obvious, the two key elements to a good hedge trimmer are the power unit and the blade. But a vital aspect that turns an effective tool into one that is easy to use and not over tiring is good ergonomics. This assumes added importance when it comes to using an extended unit; a heavy, poorly designed trimmer will soon fatigue the operator.

It is tempting to simply list a range of extended trimmers on offer, but the key to choosing a machine is to look to its potential versatility. The ability to adjust the cutting head to a different angle enables one unit to be used to cut the sides' top and possibly the upper reaches of the offside of a hedge with one unit worked from the same positions.

Dedicated extended reach hedge trimmers will come with a choice of double or single sided blades and cutting widths of up to about 0.60m or 24 inches. The length of these trimmers will vary, but as a guide 150 to 250cm is typical, with retail prices ranging from £400 to £500 for a dedicated unit. A longer blade will weigh more and may not be more productive.

MULTI-PURPOSE UNITS

Arguably the best option to look for is a unit that has interchangeable tools; these can include a saw, trimmer, brush and light cultivator, the latter possibly being an ideal tool for fluffing up a bunker. Such units are priced from around £400 and make a versatile choice for a golf club.



£110 plus VAT rotary blade trimmer that can cope with a less formal hedge.



Echo HCA 2400 hedge trimmers, at £399 plus VAT, can be fitted with attachments that include a 0.45m multi-position double bladed hedge trimmer. This is ideal for use of well maintained hedges; the same power unit also accommodating...

Your Letters...

Derek Green 1946 - 2005

The tragic death of Derek Green, after a devastatingly short illness, which he bore with a characteristic lack of complaint, has brought many words of praise from those at all levels - with many more deservedly to come. One ventures to comment that life, like golf, is not a fair game.

I add my tribute, not just because he was one of the greatest 'keepers of the green', but because we became a team in 1973 when he came to Woburn to take charge of the new project. Our friendship has lasted from these early days and we made a great team, debating and discussing but never falling out. He was always happy in his quiet unflappable way to help all whom he felt had the interests of traditional greenkeeping and the highest greenkeeping standards at heart.

When he went to Royal Liverpool, in 1985, at my instigation, that friendship continued.

Days at Hoylake were amongst the happiest and most rewarding of times, and not just because the links were always in superb condition. Not only did I, with countless others, enjoy the fruits of his vast experience and skill and his unfailing help given to all, from novice to top men, but he had many other shared interests, from steam locomotives to the wild life of his beloved links, as well as deep involvement in education, including his invaluable direction at North Wales College. He was also a very skilled engineer.

I have always maintained that he had no equal as a producer of supreme quality links turf all year round. I am perhaps better placed than most to give him this accolade, as I was working in parallel as a team with those looking after virtually all the larger links within the UK.

He was indeed a legend in his own lifetime, and few would quibble with my belief that he was the best all-round links manager of his generation. It was largely due to the consistent top quality all year round, which he achieved, year in year out, that earned his beloved Hoylake their forthcoming Open Championship which sadly he will not be there to see.

Goodbye to an old friend and team mate, with all my thanks for his unfailing support and endorsement of traditional greenkeeping, which I know from our last recent talk that he was pleased to see regaining strength and acceptance. He was once asked about the use of fungicides on the Hoylake greens. After consideration he thought that the last time any were applied was five years earlier while he was on holiday (watching steam locomotives, of course) when his assistant had played safe and treated one or two greens. That says it all.

Jim Arthur, Life Member

Never to be Forgotten

A Man with the precious commodity, time. Time for anyone who asked for advice, support or even a friendly chat.

How fitting that the choice of music at the funeral was Handel's 'Zadok The Priest' for Derek, as it was Derek who was the one many of us turned to.

Gone yes, forgotten never.

Andy Peel, Bull Bay Golf Club

A Significant Greenkeeper

It was complete and utter shock when I heard the death of Derek Green, after years of complete dedication to getting the British Open back to Royal Liverpool he will not be there in person.

Derek was a man who gave me his backing, which gave me the strength to take up the Chairmanship of the North Wales Section in very turbulent times and he was always available whenever I phoned for advice. I learnt a lot from him sitting on the Golf Liaison Panel at the Welsh College of Horticulture.

An astute man, he didn't want his words in print in case he was 'misquoted', he was a mind of information!

If ever in the history of the game of golf that a Major Championship should be dedicated to a greenkeeper it is the 2006 British Open at Hoylake in the memory of Derek Green, one of the most significant greenkeepers of the 20th Century.

Dave Goodridge, Head Greenkeeper,
Denbigh Golf Club

A Tribute to Derek Green

Anyone who has had the pleasure to meet Derek Green will agree with me that he will be sadly missed not only as a Course Manager, but also as a great friend to many people throughout the UK.

I first met Derek 20 years ago when he became Course Manager at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club. My first impression of him was this wild man with a beard and a pipe sticking out of his mouth. 20 years on and that is still the impression that comes into my mind when I think of him and I am sure that all the people he has met over the years will know what I mean.

He was the most knowledgeable greenkeeper I have ever met and he was always willing to pass the time away with you sharing this knowledge. The one thing he always told me was that in this game you are always learning something new everyday, no one knows everything.

In 2006 he was to have reached the pinnacle of his career by hosting the British Open. Sadly this is now not to be. Whatever happens between now and the Open, I hope that all concerned will realise that Derek and his men have completed almost all the work required and that they will host the event in his memory.

My thoughts go out to his family and friends at what is a very sad loss. I will never forget what he did to help me in my career, and I am sure there are many people out there who feel the same.

I am not a religious person, but if there is life beyond this world then it is now going to have the best golf course ever.

Derek, Rest In Peace.

Chris Peddie, Head Greenkeeper,
Wallasey Golf Club

YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

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

Letters continued on page 33...

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NEW PRODUCTS



ALLEN INTRODUCE FIRST STRATO-CHARGED CHAINSAW

The first Chainsaw to be powered by the Komatsu Zenoah Strato-Charged engine has been announced by UK KZ distributors, Allen Power Equipment Limited.

The GZ4000 is an easy-to-use semi professional chainsaw with a 40.1cc engine powering a 16in (40cm) sprocket nose bar.

Strato-Charged engines provide up to 30% fuel savings over conventional engines along with a 30% decrease in emissions. This engine design is already fitted to numerous KZ brush and hedge cutter models and now the benefits are available to the chainsaw user.

The new saw has a fuel tank capacity of 0.27 litres ensuring a minimum of refuelling down time and a dry weight of just 4.3 kgs means more cutting less tiring.

For further information Tel: 01235 515400.

KUBOTA UPGRADE MINIS

Kubota has enlarged its top-selling KX-3 Series with the introduction of two new machines. On display at BTME for the first time, the 2.6 tonne KX61-3 and the 2.8 tonne KX71-3 models replace the -2 Series machines.

Both new machines come equipped with a longer dipper, fitted as standard, for greater reach and extra dig depth. They are powered by a Kubota V1505-E2-BH engine, providing economical and environmentally clean power and a full tank gives 10 hours of continuous work.

The new models have bucket cylinder hoses routed through the arm, and boom cylinders shielded by a thick steel plate, for extra protection and safety. They are available with either a quiet, luxury cab or canopy, both of which meet ROPS/FOPS specification. Both machines are loaded with all the features necessary to tackle the most challenging of jobs.

The KX61-3 has a long arm fitted as standard to provide a 4600mm reach and maximum arm digging force of 12.4 kN (1265 kgf). The digging force of the bucket is 21.5 kN (2190 kgf).

The KX71-3 also has a long arm as standard to provide a 4770mm reach and maximum arm digging force of 16.2 kN (1650 kgf). The digging force of the bucket is 25.2 kN (2570 kgf).

The variable displacement pumps provide the optimum

hydraulic oil flow and pressure according to the workload. The result is an engine that delivers higher fuel efficiency coupled with less vibration and noise.

They are also equipped with the Kubota Intelligent Control System. This features warning indicators for engine, fuel, temperature and oil; a service mode that enables accurate troubleshooting, and standard indicators that display current working conditions such as engine rpm and hour meter, etc.

A larger cabin delivers maximum comfort. It provides more legroom, an adjustable suspension seat, a radio installation kit and improved all round visibility.

For further information Tel: 01844 214500.



AN EAGLE EYE

As part of a new range of course guides Eagle has launched Eagle Eye, which is designed to present dramatic yet completely realistic views of holes, and for using photography to market a golf course.

What makes Eagle Eye different is the use of aerial photography, angled to reveal the true nature of the challenges facing the player on the tee.

Using photography to show a hole's layout and features transforms how a player sees and understands the hole and the shots to be played. Key features such as bunkers, swales, mounds, slopes and bushes are all seen in their correct context, and the way a hole may be angled from the tee is much simpler to appreciate.

Pictured is an example of the technology, using Sunningdale's famous short, Par 4, 11th hole on the Old Course, which shows what can be achieved. Standing on the tee, the tee shot is in fact partially blind but with the Aerial Sky Guide the shot-making requirements are immediately clear. A view from the fairway helps the player to see the next part of the challenge, and with minor computer-based enhancements, features that photography tends to flatten - like sloping greens - can be accentuated.

For further information Tel: 01883 344 244.

The Drive
A classic short Par 4. The drive must be long enough to make the fairway, but kept well clear of the trees on the right and the bunker on the left.

Approach shot
A short shot that must find the surface of the green, which is raised by some 5-6', and is relatively small.

HOLE 11
PAR 4
▶ 325 yds
▶ 304 yds
▶ 285 yds

NEW SHIBAURA GREENS MOWER

SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) LTD has been appointed Sole Distributor (England & Wales) for the new Shibaura Greens Special mower.

Designed specifically to cut golf greens to a high standard, the Greens Special has an 11-blade cutting reel, grooved front roller and groomer as standard. The fixed head design gives a true cutting height between 3.5mm and 25mm, with optional tournament blade available to achieve a minimum cutting height of 3mm, if required.

Cutting width is 560mm (22ins), with a 4.4kw, 6hp, Robin EH17-2B petrol engine which provides a traveling speed of 8.45km/hr. The rear Aluminum roller is 190mm in diameter and the front roller is machine steel and has a 60mm diameter, the collectors box capacity is 3.2kg.

For further information
Tel: 01625 503030.



TECHNEAT SHOWCASE SPRAY UNIT

The new Multi-100, from Techneat Engineering, has created a flexible spray unit with a whole host of applications throughout the groundcare and amenity industry.

The Techneat Multi-100, launched at BTME 2005, features a self contained 12-V pump capable of delivering over 11 litres per minute at a constant pressure that can be precisely regulated from 0-4 bar. The unit can be adapted for many specialist uses, including as an amenity sprayer, with up to 2.5 metre boom, or fitted with a boomless Boominator nozzle. Other applications include use as a skid unit with hand lance, a wetting kit for dust suppression or as a watering unit.

Alongside the 100 litre capacity water tank the unit also includes an integral 16 litre rinse tank for cleaning out after spraying operations. The Multi-100 can be supplied as mounted or trailed machines, with push or pull options. It can also be mounted on an ATV or utility vehicle.

For further information Tel: 01353 862044.

POWERHEAD SLASHES SPRINKLER TRIMMING



New to the UK, Powerhead is a high speed cutting attachment, designed to shave hours from the tedious job of trimming around sprinkler heads.

Fitting all commercial trimmers and brush cutters, Powerhead can save up to 4/5ths of the time this job usually demands, and ensures that irrigation systems operate at maximum uniformity and efficiency.

Preliminary trials on over 1,200 sprinklers at The London Golf Club's two golf courses resulted in the first UK order of this new arrival.

Powerhead is manufactured in America and distributed in the UK by Lastec Ltd. For further information Tel: 01622 812103.

DRAIN CHAINS FOR SPORTSTURF

Geoffrey Davison is an internationally recognised authority on Sportsturf Drainage. A long term, Cambridge based, research and development pioneer in the theory and practice of effective methods, his original techniques have now come into general use worldwide. This is particularly true of intensive sand-slitting, which he started to install in the 1960's using a converted Fisher-Humphreys rotary hedge cutter.

Over the years, he has given many talks and had numerous discussions on all aspects of drainage problems. Recently he has compiled a short booklet, 'Drain Chains For Sportsturf', which summarises some of the questions he is often asked and gives valid answers. Always determined to be truly accurate and without commercial bias, his recommendations are entirely reliable.

Sportsturf Drainage continues to be his profound life-long interest.

For a complementary copy of this booklet and for further information
Tel: 01568 797024.



STRESS BUSTERS

Headland introduced two new revolutionary liquids at BTME. Turfite, the first formulation to incorporate Phosphite, which is a soluble form of phosphorous mobile within the plant, and Turfcomplex, a Biostimulant that combines seaweed with humic acid.

The combined effects of Algifol, within Turfcomplex (a concentrated extract of brown algae which is dried during a low temperature process), and activated humic and fulvic acids, not only improve root mass but also stimulate anti oxidant production, thus relieving stress.

Turfite's stress relieving qualities include the product's ability to trigger the plant's immune system and aid the energy conversion process.

Both new liquids can be tank mixed with existing Headland products, but they have different applications. Turfite, due to its ability to trigger the immune system, is at its most useful during periods of high disease pressure in autumn, winter and spring. As an available form of Phosphorous, the product is also ideal for use during over-seeding, to stimulate new root development.

Turfcomplex, which has been formulated as a root drench, also for use in spring and autumn, has a second application as a foliar feed during the summer. In this case, the product can be tank mixed with a wide range of Headland's liquid and water soluble fertilisers.

For further information Tel: 01223 597834.

ARTICULATOR GETS BIGGER AND BETTER

Launched at BTME by Lastec, the 3372 Turbo Diesel Articulator is a three-deck machine with a 72" cutting width.

The deck configuration places the middle blade to the rear of the outside blades rather than forward of the outside blades. This, along with articulating wings, allows the mower deck to deliver much greater accuracy in extreme cutting areas.

The three-wheel design and non-rigid deck allow the 3372 to travel over hills, mounds and ditches where machines with rigid decks would scalp the surface or become stuck.

An adjustable suspension seat comes as standard, while cutting heights are easily adjusted in 1/4" increments. The engine is a three-cylinder, liquid cooled, 33hp Kubota diesel. Ground speed is 10mph in forward and reverse and twin six gallon tanks are fitted.

For further information Tel: 01622 821103.



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Your Letters...

Every One A Winner

I was very flattered to read your (the Editor's) kind words about Minchinhampton GC and our environmental endeavours, in the Editor's Column no less, in last month's Greenkeeper International. There is an air of professionalism firmly attached to BIGGA and it is a very great honour to be a part of that.

I cannot overstate the importance of the team ethic in dealing with the environment - it is such a complex and large subject, not to mention one of the utmost in importance. Delegating the coordination of our efforts within our team was very important, and has made an enormous contribution to any success.

I certainly would not go so far as to say that we have all the solutions - more perhaps that we understand the problems, and are actively seeking the solutions. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the greenkeeping team and the members at Minchinhampton for their efforts and support.

Congratulations to every single club that took part in the competition - I hope it doesn't sound banal to say that we are all winners in the end. Golf is a great sport, and one which will continue to provide pleasure and relaxation for millions for generations to come.

Intensifying our environmental efforts is a natural progression for the game and one which, hopefully, may just make a little difference to the larger picture within our lives.

Paul Worster, Courses Manager,
Minchinhampton Golf Club

BTME & ClubHouse - Exceeding Expectations

I would like to thank all the staff at BIGGA for helping to make my week at Harrogate so enjoyable.

I found the 'Continue to Learn' programme at BTME and ClubHouse very informative and I know that I have benefited from the experience.

I feel privileged to be a member of BIGGA and any event that I have been fortunate enough to attend has exceeded my expectations.

James Canham
2004 Toro Student of the Year
Runner-up, Weston Park Golf Club

YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

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

A Benefit For Years to Come

Having been fortunate enough to be selected to represent our Association at the recent GCSAA conference and show in Orlando, as part of the Bernhard sponsored BIGGA delegation, I would like to express my thanks to Bernhard, our hosts, for their outstanding hospitality. The whole experience was fantastic and I know that I will continue to benefit from being a part of this delegation for many years to come.

I would also like to thank my fellow delegation members for their camaraderie and for helping to make the week a true success. Many friendships were made and renewed with the group making the most of every opportunity available to them both within and outside of the conference and show.

Thanks must also go to our Association, to John Pemberton for his work in the selection process and all at BIGGA HOUSE who help out in so many ways. We have a fantastic industry with many dedicated and professional individuals within it. Steven, Sam, the whole Bernhard's team and especially Kim put together a fantastic package and I would urge everyone to apply to take part in this fantastic opportunity in future years.

Chris Maynard, The London Golf Club, Kent



News from the Chief Executive

Firstly, a welcome back to Marie who returns to the office having taken maternity leave following the birth of her daughter, Jessica, in August. I am sure that by the time you read this Rachael, in our Membership Department, will have given birth to her second child, which is due at the beginning of March. I hope all has gone well for her and that the new arrival is as much a model baby as her first.

Now on to an issue that is a cause of concern. Having just returned from the GCSAA Show, in Orlando, where Superintendents queue up to enter all-day seminars that start at 8am, I was disappointed to learn that the take-up for our own conference in March has been poor to say the least. With only a handful of registered delegates we have had no option but to cancel the event. It seems that we have failed to provide what our senior members are looking for in terms of education and serious thought must be given to our provision of education in the future.

There are going to be those who say: "I told you so", however, the Board and Staff arranged this event following criticism of the 2004 Conference at Harrogate. It would be helpful to have some feedback from Course Managers as to why they have voted with their feet. Is it the cost, the timing, the venue, or the subject matter? Or is it just apathy? I would welcome your views and in the meanwhile we will try to rearrange use of the facilities at Staverton Park for a later date, by which time we hopefully will have devised a seemingly more attractive programme.

The fact that there has been virtually no support is very disturbing and is becoming a worrying feature of so much of what we do these days. I am well aware that the pressure is increasing at many golf clubs, however those who say that they get little for their subscription may well be proved right if trends continue.

Sponsorship is becoming harder and harder to obtain and since a great many golf clubs, and some members, do not seem to be able to grasp the concept of Continuing Professional Development, and the true cost of providing such education, then there is only one eventual outcome. A reduction in services to members.

An enthusiastic management team at Headquarters has just experienced its first taste of failure and it is not good for morale, especially as it comes so soon after a very successful event at Harrogate. It goes against my nature to be pessimistic and I, and my fellow members of staff, will continue to strive to provide the appropriate benefits for both members and golf clubs, while working with other bodies in the industry to progress the 'lot' of the greenkeeper.

Perhaps in some ways we are trying to move too quickly for some, however, as the Chairman has written in his column, times are changing and we must be pro-active rather than re-active. With this in mind the Board will be involving a wider range of people in Board sub-committees than has been the case in the past.

This will enable the Association to benefit from the wealth of skill available in order to help shape the future. Whatever your background, if you feel that you have something to offer then I would be pleased to hear from you and I emphasise that this need not be a permanent commitment and can be on an ad hoc basis.

On a more positive note, my colleagues and I at Headquarters look forward to meeting many of you in 2005 as the new golf season slowly emerges from winter. While in Orlando I had a series of very worthwhile meetings with other related bodies from around the world, in particular Europe and America. There is an increasing willingness and a great need to work together and I am sure that 2005 will see much progress in this direction.

John Pemberton

SCOTTISH REGION

Ayrshire

Hello everyone, not really much happening at the moment I'm afraid. Harrogate seemed to run smoothly once again and I know I enjoyed my trip, as part of the Patrons Award, immensely.

The spring outing has yet to be confirmed so there will be an update next month.

Largs Kelburn have secured the services of Brian Aitken in the position of First Assistant. Brian moves on from Turnberry after being there for four years. Enjoy your long lies Bri!

Our rematch against the West Section is planned for mid to late March, so any interested players please contact Marshall Sloss or call me on 07939104701. The more the merrier as the lack of fitness proved to be our undoing last year!

Denis Tweddell

Central

We begin this month's report by welcoming five new members to the Section and they are Mark Inglis, from Muckhart GC, Steven Paul, James Clement, Ross Anderson and Craig Wilson, all from St. Andrews Links Trust. As usual we extend a very warm welcome to you all and hopefully we will get the chance to meet you at some of our forthcoming events.

Congratulations go to our Section Chairman, Stuart Cruickshank, on his appointment to General Manager at Deer Park Golf and Country Club, his life was busy enough before this appointment, with all the developments that are taking place there at the moment, but it will be even busier now, no doubt he will still find time to keep the Section Committee on their toes! Every success in your appointment Stuart, from everyone in the Section.

A meeting took place recently between a number of members to discuss some of the problems which appear to exist at all levels within the Association at the moment and how they can be overcome for the benefit of every member, some of the subjects covered were Communication, Training and Development, Raising Our Image, Education Services, Magazine Content, The Role of The Section, Committee/Regional Administrators, Members Benefits, Members Participation in Section/Region and National Events, the list goes on, hopefully further meetings will take place in the not to distant future, which will take a number of the points discussed a step further forward. It is also intended to involve as many members as possible in future meetings, so if you are interested in taking part, please get in touch with any member of the Section Committee.

Several educational courses will be organised for your benefit this year, some of which will have subsidised funding and some will not, but hopefully you will give your support to the ones which are of interest to you, even if you, or your employer, have to pay a small fee to help cover the costs of organising the particular course.

Entry forms for the first golf tournament of the year, at Elie Golf House Club on Wednesday April 27, should be arriving with you soon, so if you intend to participate in this event please return your form in plenty of time to avoid disappointment, and that includes you P.A!

John Crawford

North

No new members to report this month.

The conference at Harrogate went well again this year with quite a few of the North members making the trip down. As yet there are no incriminating stories been put to me, but no doubt in due course they will unravel. The Scottish Conference at Dunfermline College will just have gone ahead by the time you read this report, and I will report on it next month. I hope there will be a good turn out as there are many excellent speakers chosen again this year.

One member who has just served 25 years service is Jim Morrice, of Cruden Bay GC, Jim received a presentation from Cruden Bay GC to mark the service and he hopefully will carry on for many healthy working years yet. He is a very well

respected member of staff and has put up with the current Course Manager for about 13 years, so he must be made of stern stuff.

Another member with something to celebrate is Phil Don, of Kemnay GC. He and his wife had an addition to their family and on behalf of the Section I hope everyone is well.

The outing for the spring is at Murcar GC and hopefully the weather will be good and a good turnout will occur.

I recently did my spraying course at Moray GC and was very impressed with the set up there. The course was looking great, the sheds were very impressive and eight Celtic supporters in the squad, Martin seems to have things well sorted there.

The 200 Club is ongoing and if you have decided not to renew your ticket please send it back to Hughie as soon as possible so as he can sell them on again.

That's all to report now but if you have any news at all to report then you can phone me on 01997 420155 or 07766 956521 and leave a message if you do not get me.

Iain Gunn

West

Welcome to this month's report. I hope everyone enjoyed Harrogate, as once again it was a first class show. I attended through the Scottish package, which is great value with bed and breakfast at the Moat House and entry into the seminars.

I met up with a few old friends and had a first class week. If you haven't yet attended Harrogate you should make an effort for next year, as it's a wonderful experience. It was great to see Cecil George attending as he wasn't too well earlier last year.

There are three new members this month, Craig Black, Straven, Barry McCulloch, Williamwood, and Allan Rodgers, Windyhill. Welcome to the Section, I hope to see you at some of our Section events.

The spring outing will be played over at Ranfurly Castle, on April 21. This will be in a Stableford format, after discussions at last year's AGM to change the format.

Deposits for this year's annual night out will be taken on the day. Members will also have the chance to do this at the autumn outing. This will be over at Cardross, on September 22, and will be stroke play. A venue for the dinner has still to be finalised, information will be available at the spring outing.

Congratulations to Robert Bruce on his new post with Greentech. Robert has been in the trade for many years and is well known throughout the Section, it's great for the trade that we haven't lost a man of his character. Once again all the best for the future.

We hope to visit WBB Minerals at the back end of the year as we got great feedback from our last visit, information will be available nearer the time, so book up early, as there are very few places.

Well that's all for now, I hope the spring brings some good weather to get the season off to a good start. Anyone with any stories etc. please get in touch.

Fraser Ross

07970 366 355

NORTHERN REGION

North West

I have just received the sad news of the death of Derek Green, the Course Manager at Royal Liverpool Golf Club. This is particularly sad as next year the Open Championship is to be played at Royal Liverpool, and this would have been the icing on the cake for a man so dedicated to his profession. Our thoughts are with his family.

I am also informed of the sad news of the death of the daughter of Danny

Tomkins. His daughter's name is Ella, and she is only two years old. The thoughts of the Section members are with Danny and his wife at this sad time.

At the time of writing these notes the weather is dry and reasonably mild, hopefully giving you all the chance to catch up with your winter programme. Since last August I cannot remember a full week without rain, and from October onwards the ground has not had a chance to dry out, making maintenance work very difficult. The repercussions, of course, are less societies playing due to bad weather, and less income coming into the club meaning cuts in budgets. Lets hope this year gives us the opportunity to make up the shortfall.

Did you go to BTME at Harrogate? If not you missed an excellent show once again. Apart from the Trade stands and the ClubHouse stands, which exhibited the best and latest of everything you require, there were workshops and seminars available with excellent speakers. The Exhibition was better than ever so if you missed this year, put it in your diary for next year.

The match against N/Wales is to be played at Wilmslow GC, on April 5, and if you are available and would like to play, contact me. Let us see if we can win the GEM trophy back. I am hoping to complete the fixture list shortly, but if you have any queries about Section events please contact me on 0151 724 5412 or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross

Northern

I'll start this month's report with the news that after three years of being together I'm going to make an honest woman out of the lovely Joanna, so keep an eye out for the date of the stag do, because everybody is invited! You have around 18 months notice so start saving your pennies now!

Don't forget that the Spring Tournament is going to be held at Northcliffe Golf Club, on Wednesday April 20, and the first tee off time will be 10am. The date for President's Day has been set and will take place at Scarthingwell Golf Club, on Wednesday June 15, first tee off will be at 1pm.

The price for golf days this year is £17 and I need to have your names and payments at least one week before the event. Anyone who wishes to pay on the day will be charged £20 for the day of golf and their meal. You may pay by cheque to any committee member, or send cheques by post to me at the address at the bottom of my notes.

Anybody who hasn't given their name at least one full week before the event will not be allowed to play, so please ensure you get your names down early to avoid disappointment.

Yet again, this year's BTME show held in Harrogate was a great success and I hope you all found it useful and enjoyed your days out. A large thank you must go to Amenity Technology and Kubota UK, as I know many of you took part in their excellent after show festivities. Thanks also to John Dobson and Midlube for their refreshments in the afternoon. Lets hope 2006 will be as good as 2005!

I'm certain that you'll all join with me in thanking all the staff at BIGGA, all the show organisers, and all the exhibitors who make Harrogate such a fantastic three days.

We are currently in the process of organising both a barbecue night, for sometime in July, and a seminar which is likely to be held nearer the end of the year, so keep an eye out here for further details. These events are for you guys and really are superb occasions, so please try to make every effort to get to them. You won't be disappointed!

Adam Speight

16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford, BD2 4EB

Tel: 01274 638366 Mobile: 07739 319060

Cleveland

Well, another BTME has come and gone and another successful one it was. Good numbers attended so the Trade members I spoke to were very happy. Some excellent new products and innovative machinery were on show and I look forward to attending some machinery demonstrations and trying new fertilisers and chemicals. Some members enjoyed the TSL bus trip on the Wednesday. Thanks to Allan Morton for organising the annual homage!

There have been some changes within the Section Committee. At the last



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



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
 Tel: 01476 550115

meeting Barry Walker handed over the Secretary's post to Ian Pemberton, of Bedale Golf Club. We need a new Treasurer, as family life has resulted in Martin Woods' resignation. May I take this opportunity to thank Barry and Martin for all their help over the years.

Some behind the scenes contact is planned in order to try and fill the Treasurer's position. However, Martin and Barry are still happy to organise the golf outings. The spring outing will be at Cleveland Golf Club, Redcar, on Tuesday April 19. Tee time is from 11am.

The new committee is keen to get a new programme of events organised. Social events and some educational presentations have been suggested but please let Ian know of any new ideas.

One very successful outing was a visit to the dogs. There is another one planned for May 20, at the Regal Stadium, Sunderland. If there is enough interest from the Middlesbrough area we can again organise a minibus.

A newsletter will be sent to all members to keep you up-to-date. If you don't receive one by mid March please ring me. Please try and support the Section and the Committee.

Baz Walker's quiz night is planned for Wednesday March 9, 7pm. The venue is Dinsdale Spa Golf Club, ring T.C. or Pembo if you need any more information.

We already know that the Wearside crew will win because Barry tells them the answers beforehand but who will be second - that is the real challenge? The committee has invited the Teesside branch of the Institute of Groundsmanship along to the quiz. Both groups are in favour of 'dual support' to talks, quizzes etc.

Some Section members attended a retirement dinner for George Malcolm at Middlesbrough Golf Club, in February. We all hope that George enjoys a well earned retirement. He served the Association with great enthusiasm throughout his greenkeeping career and we sincerely thank him for that. Good Luck George!

Don't forget - any news to El Prez on 07831 214879
 Ian Pemberton on 07989 508878, home: 01642 316416
 Terry Charlton

Sheffield

Hello everybody, once again I am doing the notes for the Section. Having taken over from Geoff Wells, who has stood down from the committee to give more time on becoming Captain at Gainsborough Golf Club in the future. Good luck Geoff.

Once again we held our winter golf competition at Rotherham Golf Club, in late November, we were very fortunate with the weather as we had a very nice day. Our thanks go to Rotherham Golf Club for letting us hold this competition year after year. Thanks also go to Dave Chappell and his staff for the excellent condition of the course!

A big thank you has to go to Mike Brear, from Rigby Taylor, for being the main sponsor of the event again, also thanks to all the other trade members who provided prizes. There was some very good golf played, but the eventual winner was G Britton, with 26pts; 2. T Simpson 25pts; 3. K Ashton, 25pts. Well done Gary! The winner of our guest prize was Rotherham Golf Club Greens Chairman, D Elliott, I think with a little bit of local knowledge there.

A special mention as always to the catering and bar staff for an excellent meal, which was thoroughly enjoyed.

Dates for your diaries: Spring Competition, Bondhay GC, May 10; Summer Competition, Renishaw GC, June 27; Autumn Competition, Notts GC, September 12; Sheffield Section Vs Northern Section, Hillsborough GC, July 13.

While I am on the subject of competitions, could all trophy winners please get in touch with Chris Astle about the trophies, as the committee want to have all



Greensmaster 3250-D

This highly-productive ride-on Greensmower with three DPA (Dual Point Adjust) cylinders, is recognised the world over for producing the best quality of cut for tournament play.



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the trophies returned so we can see what we actually have, and if anyone has one or knows who has one which has been missing for numerous years could we also have that one back please! Chris Astle's number is 01709548759.

If anyone has any news they want putting in the Section notes please feel free to get in touch with me either on 07793 111845 or via email, jv.lax@tesco.net.
 John Lax

North Wales

For this month's notes I would like to dedicate them as a tribute to the lives of two people that recently passed away. Ella Tomkins, 2, and Derek Green, 58, two people not known to each other but known by many people in the industry who died either side of the last weekend in January.

Firstly Ella, daughter of Danny Tomkins -Tomo - from Amenity Technology, was just two years and three months old, she was a bright and happy little girl who made everyone she saw smile and with the floral tributes and the amount of people present at the funeral you know she touched many people's hearts along the way, even those that only met her briefly in her short life.

Collete asked for all coming to the funeral to wear bright colours, as they did not want to see dark colours or black ties. I know Danny, Collette and her sister, Lilly, will miss Ella very much and the void in their lives will be hard to fill, our thoughts will be with them along with many from the North Wales Section with their loss.

Derek Green, Royal Liverpool GC (Hoylake). I first met Derek in the late 1980's, he was first and foremost a Brummie, he was from the Kings Heath Acocks Green area of Birmingham, an area I had worked around for many years. We had common interest in places from the start, Derek was greenkeeping at Gay Hill GC, then later at Woburn, before moving up to Hoylake in the mid eighties.

For many of you that knew him he had that warmth of person around him, he always had time to talk with you no matter how busy or how much work he had in front of him, he would take you out on the links and explain what was being done, where and how it was being done and the work involved, he did not have the stress levels the modern greenkeeper seems to work under or maybe he did but never showed it.

Derek's passion was away from the links, and to his beloved steam trains on the lines beyond Welshpool, where he spent much of his spare time. He travelled around the world to drive the trains, two years ago he went to South Africa and more recently to Inner Mongolia. He and I had planned to visit the Isle of Man, last October, so he could see the train systems around the island while we called in at the golf courses. Work on the links and his excursion to Mongolia came at the same time so we re-planned a visit this spring, sadly not now to be.

I got a phone call from Paul Gardner, Derek's First Assistant, in early January to say Derek had not been well since Boxing Day and was admitted to Arrowe Park Hospital with stomach pains, I decided to go and visit him that day, just a week before the BTME show, he was asleep on his own when I got there in Ward 16 and I sat by the bed for a few minutes.

I thought I would just write a note, but then he woke, sat up and said hello Andrew, how are you? I said never mind that Derek what are you doing in here? We chatted for a while about many things, I was glad I had that time, and along with many others will miss the chats with Derek, a real top greenkeeper and a real top bloke.

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn - BATgolf@tiscali.co.uk



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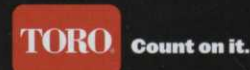


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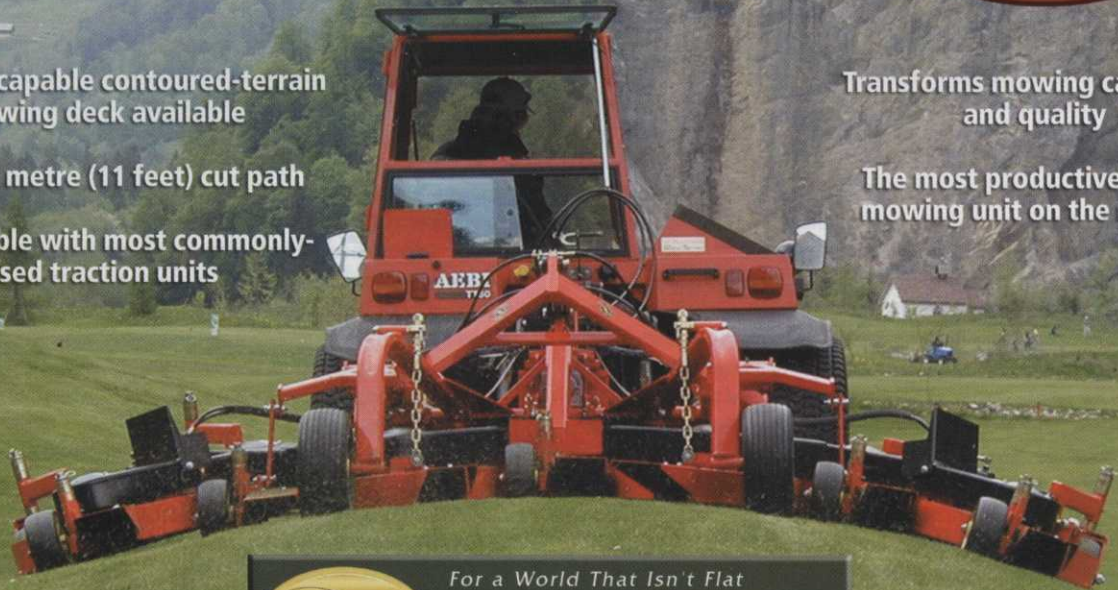
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MIDLAND REGION

Midland

Well as you may have noticed throughout the last couple of years of my reporting our notes, I occasionally have slipped in the odd word from a language other than English, we are an international organisation after all. Unfortunately I wrote February's notes in invisible ink, must have been in a 'Bond' guise. I'll have mine "shaken not stirred," "Campi".

For most of my life I have held an interest in the natural world, of which has been accelerated by working in what many consider to be the sterilisers of nature. I obviously refer to the golf course and greenkeeping. How naive society can be! Congratulations must go to Kim Blake, CM Fulford Heath, and his long suffering team, for being awarded the EGU/STRI Environment Certificate for their achievements. Obviously such achievements could only come to pass with the Club's backing. Surely a proud feather in one's proverbial cap.

Now for a chap who has, to the best of my knowledge, been within greenkeeping for over 40 years, and during such time has been an avid supporter of the organisation. He has also held Tournaments with great success. The Midland Section would like to wish David Brazier, HG Robin Hood GC, a very long and well deserved retirement. We hope to still see you at our events David.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome eight members to the Section this month. Such being: J. Humes, J. Asrew, C. Hartley, L.A. Wood, P. Dalton, J. Butler, J. Merchant, and finally an old dance partner of mine, B. Wood. Sorry Barry!

Finally it gives me great pleasure to be able to report that our Section Chairman, Ed Stant, and his fiancée, Tracy, have had a little baby girl, Isabelle. Would you believe it, little Isabelle was late. Well there's a surprise, just like her father. Congratulations to you both.

Well here's hoping that spring decides to join us sooner rather than later. Speak to you next month, just so long as I haven't had my P45.

Sean McDade

BB&O

Harrogate, how did my cup run over! Rioja, Rioja, Rioja, as my lips slowly turned purple, my diet shot off the rails, with a glass of Spanish delight, fantastic company and with friends new and old to pass the time away, unbeatable BTME. Long live the show!

Golfing events in 2005 have now been confirmed and some great venues to look forward to with East Berks GC hosting the Spring National Qualifier on April 7.

Henley GC is taking the Summer Tournament in mid June, followed by the Autumn Invitational at Southfield GC, and finally the Turkey Trot, at The Berkshire, in December to finish off the year.

On the social calendar, after popular demand, another Clay Pigeon Shooting Day will be planned, also on the agenda a chance to be Speedy Gonzales for the day at the Go Karting Club, and topping it all off, Paint balling - a chance to shoot the boss - details and forms will now be well on the way to you with the entry forms for the first event.

Education Seminars are in the early stages of development, and on the agenda are plans to approach interesting and varied speakers to stimulate the grey matter, also making these venues enjoyable with topics that will motivate a wider audience throughout the BB&O Section.

If you need any further information, John Scoones is always available and can be contacted on 07880 550 380.

Mark Day

SOUTH EAST

Surrey

Stuart Sheppard is leaving Cuddington GC after 25 years. Stuart will be starting his new job on May 1 and we all wish him every success in his new challenge.

Bert Watson was hot off the mark letting me know of the birth of his first grandchild, only two hours after the happy event. Bert and his wife, Lesley, sounded overjoyed and were already wetting the baby's head with champagne. Congratulations then to his son, James, daughter-in-law, Caroline, and, of course, granddaughter, Eloise Rose, 8lbs 5oz, born on February 4 at 18.30.

News of a new piece of equipment was too late for last month's magazine. It will surely be of great interest to all Golf Clubs with water features to hear of the latest Cushman with its revolutionary submarine style abilities. The first club to use it was the Drift and Paul Weston said it was a great success, for when they recovered it from the lake, its headlights were still shining brightly.

It is understood, however, that the driver, who was not wearing the recommended wet gear, dismounted prior to its exploratory dive. Any enquiries regarding Cushman spare parts, please contact Mark Bellamy.

The fixture list for 2005 has been sent to all members and dates include: March 11, Gentleman's Dinner, Walton Heath GC; March 31, Texas Scramble, Dorking GC; May 17, National Qualifier, Benstead Downs GC; July 18, McMillan Tankard, Sunningdale GC; August 11, Cresta Cup, Tandridge GC; September 21, Autumn Tournament, West Surrey GC; November 30, Greenkeepers versus Secretaries, The Berkshire GC; December 1, Turkey Trot and AGM, Woodcote Park GC.

Surrey versus Sussex will be at the Dyke GC and England versus Scotland at Walton Heath GC, both dates to be announced.

Brian Willmott

Kent

Firstly, Kent Section welcomes five new greenkeeper members to our fold. They are Robert Dillon, Peter Spicer, Andrew Hampson, Tom Mutch and Daniel Hampshire. They are all from Sundridge Park Golf Club. We hope they will all become active members of our group.

It was good to see a few Kent members at BTME and I noticed you all had your BMS calendars! Happy viewing!!

I can't believe spring is upon us already, what happened to winter? I hope you've all finished painting your tee markers and are prepared for the usual: "Why doesn't our course look like that?" comments when Augusta is on the telly.

Anyway it's time for us to be dusting off the clubs and preparing for what promises to be a great year for the Section. We have three golfing events planned and at least one course walk and seminar in the planning stage. If anyone is interested in Section non golfing events such as football, karting, etc then they will be planned in the future, but as we are still in the early stages of reforming the Section we need to establish ourselves properly first. Fixture lists are to be produced when all dates are finalised, so no excuses!

The trade are providing great support again and several companies deserve a big mention at this early stage for their pledges. At the time of writing they are: Sherriff Amenity, CMW Equipment, Greenkeeping Services, Construction Materials Limited, Banks Amenity, John Shaw Machinery, Collier Turf Care and T Parker and Sons (Cookie).

News is definitely a bit sparse at the moment so apologies for not writing a longer article but I can't write about things you haven't told me, or a rep, about. Any information is welcome. You can contact me directly on 07843 410755.

With your support this will be a very successful year. I look forward to seeing you all at our first golf day.

Rob Holland

London

Welcome once again to another edition of Around the Green for the London Section.

This is usually a very quiet time of the year, so any news or gossip is a bit thin on the ground, a bit like my greens sward really!

Harrogate has been and gone and it was great to meet up with a lot of greenkeepers who we might only meet once a year. To me it seemed quieter than previous years but I'm sure official figures will prove me wrong.

The London Committee will be meeting up in the next couple of weeks so next month's notes should have some more news about our plans for the rest of the year. I can tell you all that the golf fixtures for 2005 are almost confirmed and it looks like the venues will be South Herts, Welling Garden City and Porters Park. This will all be confirmed with dates in the next magazine.

We will also be looking at a number of education options to suit the requirements and needs of our members, so if any greenkeepers have any particular ideas that would suit, then please let us know as soon as possible and we will do our best to put something into place.

I am struggling to write any more here so please help me with some news before next month's edition. It is actually quite hard to fill any space, especially when you read the magazine and it looks like you've only written two lines!

Anyway, before I sign off I must mention a Happy Mother's Day to my beautiful mother, that must be worth some brownie points, Mum? Have a lovely day.

Alec MacIndoe
07780 955 817

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

South West

It seems that hardly a winter passes by these days without some sort of new bizarre weather record being created. Do you remember all that junk touted around by the Met Office last autumn, about "the unmistakable signs of a hard winter," tons of berries on the bushes, ladybirds nesting early, squirrels frantically mating in the treetops and so on. This year it has been so mild hawthorn buds were starting to burst into leaf during February.

I don't know about your courses, mainly because I'm not getting much news, but throughout the entire winter Minchinhampton has been closed for two days due to light snow, three half days because of rain, and no days whatsoever on temporary greens. Yes, the temps are looking perfect, which is more than can be said for some of the actual greens, but hey, you can't have everything.

The guys have been flat out outdoors building tees, renovating bunkers, stone walling, building ponds and thinning pine trees. Note: if you're intending to fell more than five cubic metres of measurable timber above 7cm diameter, in any calendar quarter, you need a Felling Licence, and you must contact the Forestry Commission tree licensing officer to get one.

We've only had time indoors to tidy the shed, lose the annual Christmas golf match against the committee and oil half-a-dozen benches. Even the tee markers have had to be sent away for painting, otherwise they wouldn't get done. I sincerely hope spring has sprung by the time this goes to print - my nerves won't stand much more.

Harrogate has come and gone and even that wasn't the relaxing excursion it usually is. Things got off to a bad start at the hotel check-in, the Secretary and I booked in OK, but when our Club Chairman, Barry Vanstone, presented his details, there was 'no room at the inn', due to some electronic cock-up with the booking system. I must admit I was expecting the Manager to say: "Hard luck sir - next please". But no, before you could say Super breaks dot com, Barry was booked into five star accommodation just up the road at no extra expense, with maid service, a telephone in the loo, and his own snooker table.

Giving a short acceptance speech at the award ceremony was the most stressful thing I have done for ages - particularly as I seem to have developed two left feet recently when it comes to public speaking. So I lay awake fretting all

the night before, with very little sleep, until it was time to get up that is, and then I soundly overslept. Waking up in a cold sweat, with about half an hour to get there, I then discovered I hadn't brought my suit trousers. That entailed a frantic sprint up to NEXT to buy a new pair, I did think about taking them back afterwards but no. After the speech and the awards were over, I was too relieved to care.

Back in the Section, our Patronage Partners for 2005 have been joined by Countrywide Farmers and Bredy Irrigation, taking the total to 11. The full list is, in no particular order, MJ Abbott, ALS, Amenity Technology, Avoncrop, Bredy Irrigation, BS Mowers, Countrywide Farmers, Irritech, Rigby Taylor, Rufford and Symbio. Many thanks to all these companies for their invaluable support - do give them consideration in all your business activities.

This year's fixture list will be distributed very soon, but a golden ball to all those that spotted the deliberate mistake in the list published last month. The Forest Hills date is Wednesday April 20 - my apologies for any inconvenience.

Congratulations to Chipping Sodbury Golf Club for reintroducing golf on the old Common. A joint initiative with the local District Council has provided six golf holes, which can be used, free of charge, by local people who are not necessarily members of the main club. This golf is administrated by the golf club to ensure some structure and organisation, and will be a superb facility for the community, hopefully attracting many new players to the game. Good luck with the Risk Assessment guys!

But am I disappointed. No one writes, my phone hardly ever rings, my fax is silent. No news is good news right? Not in this column. Remember the alternative - Yep, my holidays. Actually, we did Le Touquet, August 24 - 28 last year, for the French Amateur Championship.

For those that don't know Le Touquet, it is a very friendly, compact town with a large frontage onto a beautiful sandy beach, plenty of shops, bars, restaurants and hotels, and is conveniently located about 60ks south of Calais on the north-west coast of France.

There are two great golf courses on the edge of town - Le Mer, a superb 6900 yard Championship Links, designed by Harry Colt, which winds its way through the dunes right on the coast, and La Foret, 6300 yards, set in a semi-parkland situation with magnificent pine trees, slightly more inland.

Sounds good so far - the beach, the bars, and the golf tournament, but there was also the hotel, the weather and the French.

Things got off to a bad start when the hotelier fixed us with a knowing stare - "Hah, Ingleesh - you want ze car park view or ze factory view. Oh, so sorry, all ze nice quiet car park rooms are taken heh heh - 'ave a nice day." Cocky git - mind you he didn't sound quite so perky at 4am the next morning when I rang room service and ordered a bacon sandwich. What was I doing up at 4am? Simple - outside the window, the night shift was just going off duty.

The Tuesday was the first day of the tournament on Le Mer course. Unfortunately we quickly discovered that "Touquet" in French obviously means 'A cold and windy place', and the golf course was no exception. By mid morning, the wind was so strong that the players were having difficulty keeping the ball on the green, by lunchtime it was difficult to keep the bag on the green, and in the words of my wife: "Watching any more golf in this god-forsaken place is not an option."

So with a forest of red flags on the beach, there was only the Aqua-Lud left for entertainment. The Aqua-Lud, at Le Touquet, is a semi-tropical swimming complex of water slides and chutes, wave machines, palm trees, rapids, in short, all the things necessary to provide amusement for the whole family. However after a couple of hours of being hurled down slides and tossed down rapids, the wife had had more than enough.

On the way out of the pool, Rob, our youngest, unluckily caught his foot on a fake rock - not remotely serious, but it bled every time he tried to get his sock back on. So I was despatched with orders to find a first aid box. I approached the Caisse (pay desk) with a broad smile, determined to communicate in proper French, and proudly announced - "Bon apres-midi, mon fils a coupe de la pied" (Good Afternoon, my son has cut his foot) and was just mentally composing an appropriate phrase to ask for a sticky plaster, when the I noticed that the receptionist had gone as white as a sheet, and fixed me with a horrified stare.

Before I could say anything, she screamed "Mon Dieu" and fell off her stool in

a dead faint. Apparently I'd said: "My son has cut off his foot." Her assistant was made of sterner stuff and pressed some sort of panic button while jabbering away into a tannoy.

Things did get a little blurry after that - klaxons were going off and lights flashing, and what could only be described as a SWAT team of French paramedics appeared out of nowhere carrying all sorts of arcane resuscitation equipment and stretchers, and systematically kicked in an entire row of cubicle doors before finding Rob cowering in the end one, patiently waiting for me to return with an Elastoplast.

Happily, after everyone realised that a simple mistake had been made, it only took a couple of hours to sort things out and repair all the damage, but I haven't exactly been made a freeman of Le Touquet. "Do come back and see us again M'sieur" and other false platitudes. However, it is a really good place for a short break. Lets have some proper news next month.

Paul Worster

paul.worster@tesco.net, Tel/Fax: 01453 837355 / 07768 394593

South Coast

Firstly, can I please apologise for passing on some incorrect information to you. It was Ian Greenfield who sadly passed away and not Ian Greenwood as stated. I do hope I did not cause any distress to his family and friends and cannot apologise enough.

Some good news from Came Down Golf Club. The club have received an environmental award from the English Golf Union in recognition of their outstanding work in environmental management. Rightly the club are extremely proud and the award is a testament of the hard work that Derek Parker and his greenkeeping team are carrying out on the course.

It's well to remember that none of this very important work could have been carried out without the full backing of the golf club and its members. Golf is now a leading force in promoting and developing environmental management and we have a significant role in protecting the environment for future generations. Well done Came Down! Some more news from the boys from Came later!

I have just returned from another great and hectic Harrogate week. I travelled up on the Monday with my Course Manager, Bill Garner, and Trevor Smith, Project Manager at Remedy Oak Golf Club. Those of you who know Trevor can imagine that Bill and I hardly managed to get a word in! Trevor actually lost his voice on the Tuesday and when I bumped into him on Wednesday he told me how lonely he had felt. I felt quite sorry for him as I assumed he must have been missing Wendy, but when he said he had missed the sound of his own voice the sympathy was soon lost. Sorry Trevor!

Those of us who travelled up on the Monday had a free day as the Shows and seminars started on the Tuesday. We have some very cultured members in the Section and Derek Parker and Julian Cherry, from Came Down, travelled across to York and visited the railway museum. Apparently the museum has the Mallard and Flying Scotsman on display and the boys from Came Down conveyed their excitement at seeing these great engines. I'm not sure if the anoraks they ordered have arrived yet!

Anyway onto the BTME week. The seminars started on the Tuesday and covered a wide range of subjects. The show was excellent with many new products on display and plenty of friendly faces to catch up with. The AGM ran fairly smoothly and Section member Ted West was honoured with Life Membership for his outstanding support of the Association. The whole week was rounded off with the banquet, which was a great night of good food and company. All in all another memorable week and I'm looking forward to next year already.

Parkstone's Chris Sherrington has every reason to feel proud of himself as he has been chosen to join the Ohio State University Scholarship Scheme and jets out to America at the end of the month. Chris will be spending six months working at Oakhill, in Rochester, which hosted the last Ryder Cup, before moving south to work with the warm season grasses. We wish Chris every success for the future and will miss him enormously at Parkstone, but he has a fantastic opportunity ahead of him and he's living the dream.

He's not the only one leaving us at Parkstone, as Alan Magee is moving to Remedy Oak Golf Club. The exciting opportunity will see him working on a

fantastic course with exceptional standards. The chance to work with Penn A4 will also be a great experience. Alan has been at Parkstone for nine years so will be sorely missed by us all, but we also wish him every success for the future.

Ian Noble will be running the London Marathon this year and raising money for McMillan Cancer Research, which is a fantastic cause. I know Ian is busy training at the moment and would appreciate any offers of sponsorship, so if you wish to sponsor him please contact him. I would just like to pass on the Section's thoughts to Colin White as he continues his treatment. Our thoughts are with you Chalky and we look forward to seeing you in better health soon!

I'll have full details of our Section seminar in next month's column. The day is a sell out which is fantastic. If you have any news you wish to include please contact me.

Until next month

Alex McCombie

Devon & Cornwall

The New Year commenced with our Section's first meeting at the superb Trevoze Golf Club, sponsored by Barenbrug UK Ltd. The course was designed in the 1920's by Harry Colt, one of the pioneers of course design around the turn of the century, and apart from the 13th and 14th holes the original design remains essentially the same.

The course was in excellent condition thanks to the Head Greenkeeper, Neil Taylor, and his team. Neil even provided the blue skies and, of course, very windy conditions. To say it was a test of golf would be an understatement.

The Barenbrug Competition was a Stableford, playing of the white tees, and the winners were as follows: 1. Gordon Tamlyn, Mullion, 37pts, Hcp 6; 2. Chris Pearson, Newquay, 35pts, Hcp 4; 3. Mike Bush, St Mellion, 31pts, Hcp 13.

The non golfers went on a course walk with Neil Taylor, who enjoyed showing them his new satellite watering system, which has recently been installed with a total of 32 miles of irrigation pipes.

Having consumed an excellent lunch we were entertained by our guest speaker, George R Shields, the subject being "Meeting the needs of the Modern Golfer" when endeavouring to maintain old greens.

On behalf of the Section I would like to offer our congratulations to Mike Symons, the Head Greenkeeper at Bovey Castle Golf Club, most of you will remember the course's old name, The Manor at Mortonhamstead. Mike has just won the 'Unsung Head Greenkeeper 2004 Award'. This award is presented by Terrain Aeration, and is for Outstanding Performance and Dedication to Bovey Castle Golf Club and the Industry as a whole.

Mike has been Head Greenkeeper at the club for 15 years. For the majority of those years he has struggled with a lack of machinery and working without a budget to maintain the course, that has all changed now since the Manor Hotel was purchased by Peter De Savary two years ago.

In the last few years Mike has spent £1.75 million pounds on the course, this includes levelling out the 1st and 18th fairways, a massive drainage programme on all the fairways and greens. All 18 greens have had work carried out on them, restoring them back to their original design, and every bunker on the course has been redesigned. The major feature on the course is the 3rd hole, a par 3, it has been lengthened to 205 yards and the green is surrounded by water, a real challenge, once again Mike, many congratulations.

It is my sad duty to report the loss of Ben Adams who was tragically killed in a car accident a few weeks ago. Ben worked at Portsmore Golf Club under the leadership of Colin Webber. The Section's sympathies go to Ben's family and he will be greatly missed by all.

Finally I would like to end by thanking everyone involved with the recent BTME Exhibition. It was a great success and I was delighted to see so many Greenkeepers from the South West, Devon, and Cornwall.

Please remember our meeting at Churston Golf Club, on Wednesday March 16, with guest speaker Ann Murray, who is the Laboratory Manager and Director at The European Turfgrass Laboratories. Her subject will be on Top Dressings and Rootzones, it's not to be missed.

Donovan O Hunt

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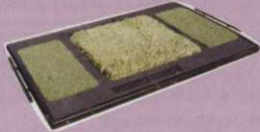
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The successful applicant will be encouraged to undertake further training if they so wish.

Written applications including full C.V. should be sent to:
The Course Manager, Kings Norton Golf Club Ltd, Weatheroak Hall, Brockhill Lane, Weatheroak, Alvechurch, Birmingham B48 7ED

LANSDOWN GOLF CLUB

Require a

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Enthusiastic and committed person required to join our energetic and professional team.

Qualified to NVQ level 2/3, PA1, PA2 and PA6 would be an advantage.

Applications in writing with CV by 31st March 2005 to:

Jon Jarvis, Head Greenkeeper
Lansdown Golf Club, Lansdown, Bath BA1 9BT

First Assistant Greenkeeper

Up to c£20k + Benefits

Full time - 37 hours per week - Flexible according to the needs of the course

Brandon Wood Golf Course has been at the forefront of golf in Coventry since opening in 1977. Set on the banks of the River Avon with excellent views of the Warwickshire countryside, it is an 18-hole championship standard course with a par of 72.

Working closely with the Head Greenkeeper, you will be involved in a range of tasks both on and off the course. These will vary from delivering regular course maintenance to the highest standard, to managing and developing the green keeping team, and contributing towards the development of the course.

Ideally qualified to NVQ Level 2 in Sports Turf Maintenance, you will have excellent land management skills and a sound understanding of the maintenance requirements of specialist golf course machinery. Highly literate and numerate, with good communication skills, you will be committed to high standards of customer care.

In return we offer a range of generous benefits, which may include a final salary pension scheme, and free use of many of the Trusts facilities.

For further information and an application pack please email jobs@coventrysports.co.uk or call the JobsLine on 024 7625 2576.

Closing date: 30th March 2005.

Interview date: 12th April 2005.



HARPENDEN GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of

MECHANIC / GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be fully conversant with a range of greenkeeping equipment, particularly Toro machinery and Bernhard grinders, fully qualified with at least five years practical golf course experience.

Salary negotiable.

Applications in writing, with full CV, by 31st March 2005 to:
The General Manager, Harpenden Golf Club,
Hammonds End, Redbourn Lane, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2AX

MIDDLESBROUGH GOLF CLUB

DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

Minimum requirements:

- 5 years Greenkeeping experience
- NVQ Level 3 and PA1, 2 & 6
- Must be enthusiastic with demonstrable organisational skills
- Salary negotiable in line with experience

Apply in writing with CV to:

The Course Manager, Middlesbrough Golf Club,
Brass Castle Lane, Marton, Middlesbrough TS8 9EE

Tel: 01642 344515

Closing date: 21st March 2005

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Assistant Greenkeeper • Sales Representatives and Sales Managers
Engineers, Technicians and Mechanics

WILDWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

Requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

N.V.Q Level 2 Preferred.

A knowledge of modern machinery and automatic irrigation systems would be an advantage.

Single accommodation, can be provided at a favourable rate, within walking distance of the club.

Please apply in writing, with full C.V. to:

Mr Simon Osborne, Course Manager, Wildwood Country Club,
Horsham Road, Alfold, Surrey GU6 8JE



BURY GOLF CLUB

requires

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant should have a minimum 5 years experience in a senior position, not necessarily as a Head Greenkeeper, be fully conversant with modern greenkeeping practices and a sound understanding of current Health & Safety procedures. NVQ level 3 or equivalent would be required.

Salary negotiable dependant on qualification and experience.

Applications in writing together with a full CV to:

Mr K Pendleton
Bury Golf Club
Unsworth Hall
Blackford Bridge
Bury
BL9 9TJ

CUDDINGTON GOLF CLUB

A leading traditional members Club, is seeking a self motivated

COURSE MANAGER / HEAD GREENKEEPER

to supervise and lead our greenkeeping staff in the enhancement of the Course.

USGA spec greens were installed 4 years ago and the objective is to further improve the playing characteristics of the Harry Colt design Course.

The successful candidate will accept a hands on role and will possess the following qualifications:

- Minimum NVQ Level 3 and PA1, 2 & 6 Spraying Certificates
- Understanding of current Health & Safety Legislation
- Computer Literate & Report Writing
- Drawing up Budgets with the Green Chairman

Good golfing ability would be preferable.

The position offers an attractive salary, accommodation and additional benefits.

Please apply in writing with CV, showing current salary, no later than 20th March 2005.

D.M. Scott, Secretary/ Manager,
Cuddington Golf Club, Banstead Road, Surrey SM7 1RD



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We are currently seeking an

Assistant Golf Course Superintendent

Reporting to the Resort Superintendent the successful applicant will be responsible for the daily operation and management of our quality golf product. In addition to this you will be required to manage, motivate and develop the golf course operations team.

You must be experienced in all aspects of turf establishment and maintenance, preferably with warm season grass experience but not essential. The position will carry responsibility for staff training and a comprehensive knowledge of equipment repair, maintenance, irrigation systems and drainage and chemical usage with relation to pest and disease control in these environments.

Excellent benefits package offered.

Please send you curriculum Vitae to:

Antigoni Pavou, The Human Resources Manager
Lanitis Development Ltd.
Euro House, 82 Academias Street,
Yermasoyia, 4043, Limassol, Cyprus.
Email: antigoni.p@lanitisdev.com





Feature listing from March 2003

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

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

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

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

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

August 2003; Aeration; Open Review; Saltext Preview; Waste Water; Toro Student of the Year

September 2003; Hanbury Manor; Irrigation; Disease; Integrated Pest Management; Communication

October 2003; Construction Machinery; Pay Recommendations; Saltext Review; Pesticide Legislation; Finance

November 2003; Temple GC; Trees; Environment Competition Results; Sandy McDivot; Drainage

December 2003; BTME & ClubHouse Preview; Downfield GC; Compact Tractors; Architecture; Bio-tech

January 2004; Ipswich GC Profile; Grass Seed; Environment Competition Awards; Utility Vehicles (sit in)

February 2004; Harrogate Review 2004; Tyneside GC; Utility Vehicles (sit on); Irrigation

March 2004; R&A Best Practice; Trentham Park GC; Drainage; Spraying

April 2004; Know your Rules; Tournament Preparation; Landmarks in Greenkeeping; Security

May 2004; Goodwood Club; Seed or Turf?; Biological Product Survey; Water Features; Recycling; BIGGA Environment Competition

June 2004; Fairy Rings; Biologicals; The Grove; Kubota Profile; Turf; Sand and Rootzone

July 2004; Royal Troon Open Preview, Mowing, Disease Analysis

August 2004; Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day; Open review; Royal Cinque Ports; Irrigation; Mowers (2); Saltext Preview; Best Practice; Top Dressing

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

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

Education, Education, Education - Too Much Education?

New Profile



You will have by now received the news that the British and International Turf Managers Conference scheduled for March 19 and 20 at Staverton Park has had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. This is extremely disappointing and it begs the question about how much education our Association can maintain and where best we should target our education funding.

Are we suffering from too much education? The array of conferences now all competing for the same audience has led to a situation where choices have to be made about what to attend and what not to attend. There are conferences or similar educational events by the IOG, STRI, NTF, EGU, BIGGA, GCSAA, FEGGA and more besides.

There are architects' and constructors' conferences, irrigation conferences, turf suppliers' conferences and one day greenkeeping conferences run by the trade. This year we have ended up the losers but it will be someone else's turn next and this does none of us any good.

Maybe it is time that we got together to use our combined resources to produce an international sports turf industry conference at a major venue. As a combined conference we could run our own programmes but with the ability to sit in on other related areas as suited to each individual. It could reduce the participating Associations' costs, stop the competition for each others time and bring together the lead players from all sectors of our industry so that we might be able to understand each other better and help move each other forward. Course Managers could relax after a full day conference with secretaries, trade members, groundsman, agronomists, architects, Home Union officials and maybe even the odd golf professional, discussing how we can all work together to take the industry forward.

With today's low cost travel we could maybe even hold such an event during the winter in Southern Europe at little or no extra cost. What a mouth watering prospect that would be! The fact that British greenkeepers were willing to sign up to Orlando before Staverton Park makes you wonder.

This might all sound pie in the sky but I believe we need to dream big. Not so long ago we did not have our own national headquarters and BTME, as it is today, was just a pipe-dream. Without the vision and the will of those who have gone before it would have remained so.

I talked last month about the need to embrace change, as change is inevitable. I think we would all do well to remember the message of Charles Darwin: "It is not the strongest or the most intelligent that survive but the ones most responsive to change."

With all this talk of change it seems to me that the real area where we need to enable change most is amongst core greenkeepers. While catering for those who are fortunate enough to be able to attend national conferences or BTME, it is vitally important that we nurture the young talent and energy at the boiler room of our industry. They are the future and they need to be encouraged to become active,

supportive members of the Association and to share in its benefits.

Those members who complain about the Association have paid their pound and have every right to do so. Indeed I would encourage them to do so, in a constructive manner, so that we can try to better satisfy their needs. It is those who do not complain or are apathetic which worry me the most. Either they feel the Association has nothing to offer or they are simply not getting the message in an appropriate way.

We need to recognise that we have members in difficult situations with little encouragement from their employers to take up the training and development we offer. They are the ones who currently need us most and maybe they are where our resources should be targeted. How we do that is not for me to say. I do not have all the answers, ask my staff.

Maybe a round of golf and a talk on irrigation is not what they are looking for. Maybe they are not allowed to go for a round of golf and a talk on irrigation. Maybe we should get together with the Golf Unions, thank them for the seriously good work they are doing with the GTC, and ask them if they can help to the mutual benefit of us all.

Maybe the annual Section or Region seminar, aimed in the main at Course Managers, is no longer the priority. Maybe we should target small groups of local clubs who are not engaged and persuade them that having young, active members of BIGGA as staff on their golf courses is going to be of great benefit to them by improvements in the quality of their course.

As I said earlier, I do not have all the answers but I do know that there are greenkeepers out there who could not care less about the conference at Staverton Park because they do not have the opportunity to attend. It is they who deserve our most serious attention.

I am well known for quoting the lines of my favourite Bob Dylan songs and have often used one of his most famous 'The times they are a' changin''. Mr Dylan has a new song out, it is called 'Things Have Changed' - they have - we must!

K. Daly

Kerran Daly MG,
Chairman

Recruitment

Royal Liverpool Golf Club Hoylake



LINKS MANAGER

Following the recent untimely death of the much respected Derek Green, Royal Liverpool Golf Club invites applications for the prestigious appointment of Links Manager.

The traditional links at Hoylake occupy an area of outstanding natural beauty, including a coastal SSSI, amongst the dunes, and is home to much ecologically sensitive flora and fauna. Having hosted numerous amateur and professional events since its foundation in 1869, the Club welcomes back The Open Championship for the eleventh time in 2006.

Leading an established and committed green staff of nine, the Links Manager reports to the Green Committee through the Green Chairman and works in close concert with the Secretary. The successful candidate will have a proven track record and be able to demonstrate relevant professional qualifications, experience of major events, financial, budgetary and purchasing acumen, essential communication skills and obvious leadership and management credentials.

This leading position is offered with a commensurate remuneration package including accommodation if required and a comprehensive range of benefits.

Letters of application together with CV and other supporting documents should be submitted to the Club by post or e-mail using the contact details on the left. Candidates wishing to apply should submit their letters to the Secretary by 18th March. Interviews (which will include technical assessment) for those short-listed will be conducted shortly afterwards.

CONTACT DETAILS:

The Secretary, Royal Liverpool Golf Club
Meols Drive, Hoylake, Wirral CH47 4AL
Tel: 0151 632 3101
Fax: 0151 632 6737
E-mail: sec@royal-liverpool-golf.com

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