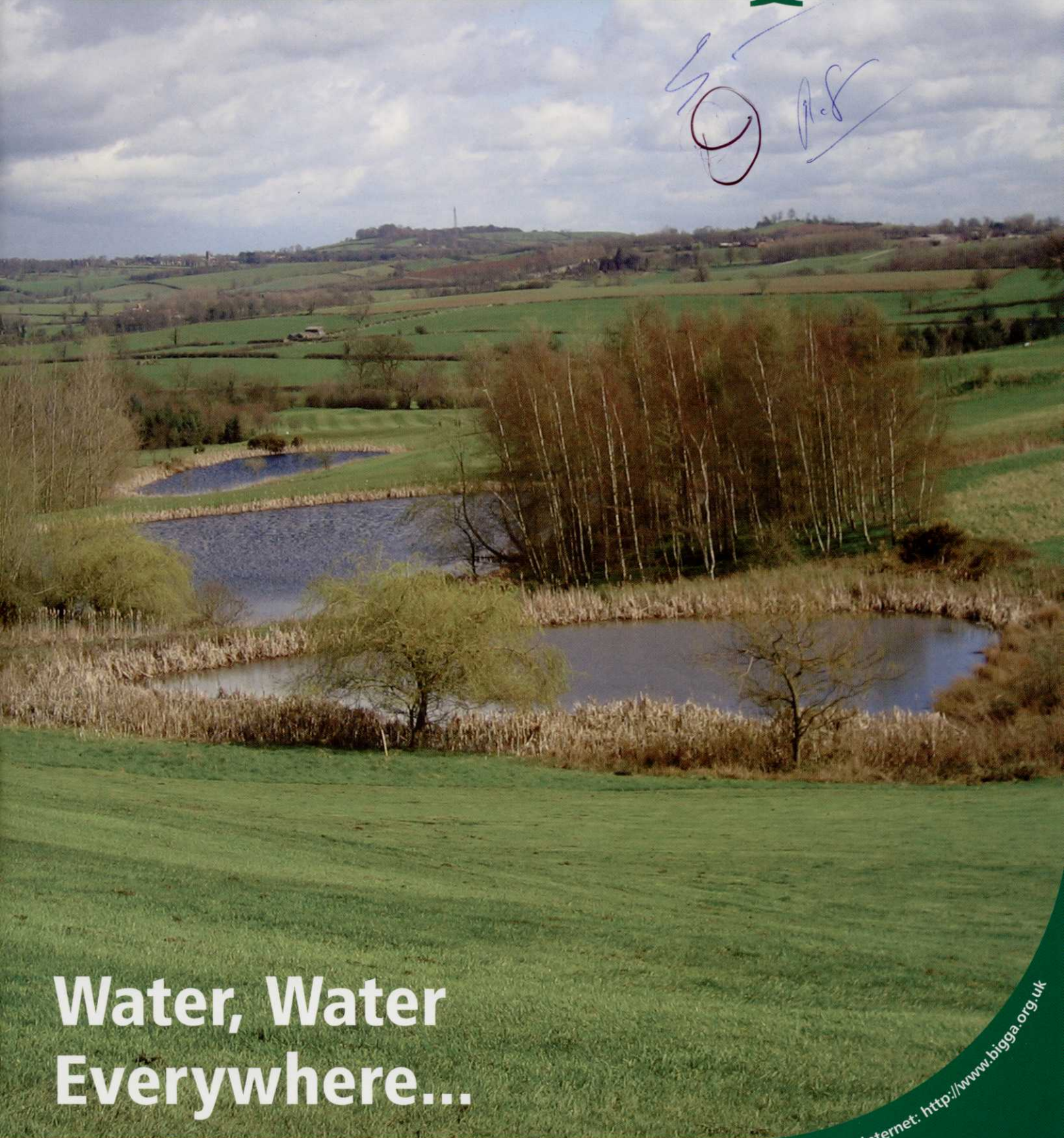




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# Greenkeeper

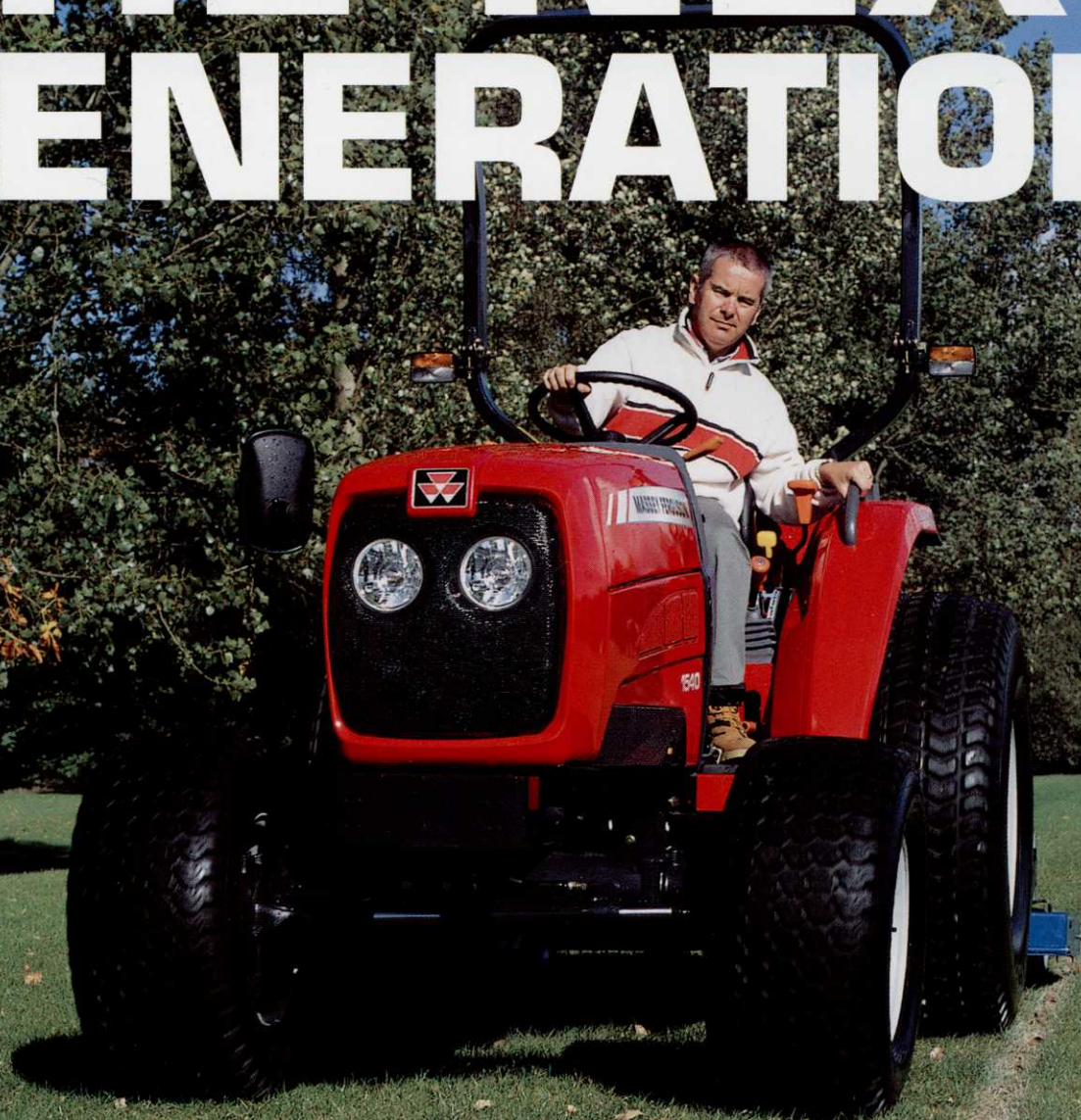
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# Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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

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As a new generation graduates into the world of golf, it's not all plus fours, bright green grassed courses and strict clubhouse etiquette they crave, as Gareth Jones found out.





## Welcome

### 10 LONG YEARS

Having been dragged out to York on a shopping expedition last weekend I caught sight of a bloke reflected in a shop window. He looked alright I suppose, not quite as athletic as he'd no doubt wish to be, a little grey haired and generally a little worn round the edges. All in all a fairly bog standard middle aged guy. I looked again and it was me.

It is genuinely depressing but it's reassuring to know that it happens to us all - the growing gap between the age we feel and the age we look but it still brings it home to you. Do you ever look at pictures of people in newspapers, whose age is listed as the same as your own, and think they look positively ancient?

But time does march on. I was shocked when thumbing through my diary recently to work out that as of April 24 I'd been with BIGGA for 10 years. It seems to have gone in a flash but thinking back a lot has happened in that decade.

For a start John Major was the Prime Minister when I started; back in '95 when someone mentioned Big Brother people thought of George Orwell and not Jade Goody; Chelsea were one of English football's also-rans while a young amateur by the name of Tiger Woods paid his first visit to the UK in the Walker Cup at Royal Porthcawl.

The shape of the industry has also changed markedly since April '95. Companies which once stood toe to toe in competition are now merged and sharing a hymn sheet. Some, sadly, are no longer with us while there are others which have come and gone within those 10 years. The latter represent a demonstration of the widely held view that the golf business draws people to it in the belief that the fairways are paved with gold only for the nagging realisation to kick in that it is a relatively small industry with an unfeasibly large number of people attempting to feed off a cake too small for the purpose.

Through all of this the Association has grown in stature on all fronts during the period when I have aged so depressingly. Education has developed through the work of our own Education Department and the superb relationship we have with the GTC to take account of the demands of a modern fast moving profession while membership benefits and services have also adapted to cater for the particular demands of people working in a singularly quirky industry.

I can also remember my first Harrogate week in '96 and marvelling at the sheer scale of it all. However, in today's terms the '96 version would be considered small and the numbers which delighted exhibitors then would be regarded as no more than "steady" now.

No, I may no longer be the young thrusting 30 something who joined the Association those 10 years ago but at least a lot has been achieved in that time.

**Scott MacCallum, Editor**

### PROMOTING EDUCATION ABROAD



Left to Right: Ivie Davies, Radio Presenter and Golf Writer, Rafael Gonzalez-Carrascosa and Mark Ellis

Greenkeeper Mark Ellis has been busy in Spain appearing on radio broadcasts on Spectrum Radio promoting the importance of greenkeeper education. Mark has been joined in his crusade by Rafael Gonzalez-Carrascosa, the Course Manager at Alicante Golf Club.

The topic of the programme mainly focused on the differences in greenkeeping between Spain and

Britain. In Spain the majority of greenkeepers come from an agricultural background and due to the changes in farming in the country many farm workers are now moving into the amenity sector. Despite the vast number of golf courses in Spain it lacks any greenkeeper training courses according to Mark.

"I shall be seeing Rafael in a few days, he wants me to help him with regard to greenkeeper training. It would appear that many assistant greenkeepers in Spain are illiterate. I explained that if he made learning more enjoyable for them, they would soon start to enjoy what they are doing on the golf course," said Mark, who also took the opportunity to explain about the work that the GTC and FEGGA do.

Rafael and Mark will be doing more radio work in the coming months in the hope of further promoting greenkeeper training and they will also be covering topics such as Health and Safety, the use of chemicals and ecology on the golf course.

### COLIN WHITE 1955 - 2005

It is with great sadness that we have to announce that Colin White, 50, passed away after a short illness on Saturday March 26 2005. Colin was a much-loved member of our industry, known to most as 'Chalky'. He could always see good in everything he saw and brightened up the day for all his customers. He will be truly missed by all his family, work colleagues and customers alike.

He started his career as Groundsman at Southampton FC's Old Dell Stadium before taking over at Tottenham Hotspur FC in 1976. During his nine years White Hart Lane staged many great games, including the UEFA Cup Final in 1984. As always Colin created an excellent surface, the then Manager, Keith Burkinshaw, often described the pitch as: "The best in the country."

Colin left Tottenham Hotspur in 1985 taking on a sales role with Rigby Taylor and in 1995 he joined Avoncrop Amenity Products as Technical Sales Manager for Essex, later moving areas to cover Hampshire, Berkshire, parts of Dorset and Buckinghamshire, continuing to make many new friends in the course of his work. Colin will also be



Chalky, far left, with members of the South Coast Section

remembered as an ardent Saints supporter, as a life long season ticket holder, he missed very few home games.

We extend our condolences to his family and friends at this sad time. The funeral took place on Wednesday April 6, at Basingstoke Crematorium, followed by a Celebration of Chalky's life at St John's Church, New Alresford, and later at Alresford Golf Club.

Donations in his memory to McMillan Cancer Relief can be sent c/o: R.S. & Partners, 12-14 City Road, Winchester, SO23 8SG.



### RADIO GA GA

BIGGA's Assistant Accountant, Steve Coates, was Radio Ga Ga after winning a new car on a local radio station. The final stages involved a number of knock out activities, including pin the key on the car, head to head questions and guess the mileage.

After beating all that stood in his way, Steve was left with a choice of keys, which represented different cars, and the accountant chose the car key to a sparkling new Peugeot 206.



## NEIL THOMAS MEMORIAL GOLF DAY

Monday June 27 will host the second Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day at Aldwark Manor Golf Course, York.

As always, the Tournament is open to all, both Greenkeepers and Trade, providing teams of four. The format for the 2005 competition has changed from previous years and will be a four ball best two to count on each hole.

The entry fee is £200 + VAT for each team of four, which includes Bacon rolls on arrival, a ploughman's lunch, BBQ meal in the evening and both team and individual prizes. Tee times will be available from 10am to 1.30pm. All profits raised from the day will be donated to a worthwhile and deserving charity.

The BIGGA competition has been running in various guises since 1997 and was renamed the Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day for the 2004 event after the passing of BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas. The inaugural Memorial Day raised £1,800, which was donated to St Michael's Hospice, where Neil spent his final weeks. The 2004 Tournament was won by the Surrey Section, who will be keen to defend their trophy from all challengers.

For more information and to enter the Neil Thomas Memorial Day contact Sarah Norris at BIGGA HOUSE on 01347 833800 or sarah@bigga.co.uk.

## GOOD SIGNS

Wentworth Club has awarded the contract for replacing its Tee markers to Golf Tee Signs. After considering all of the options available, the club awarded the company the contract to replace all of the current markers.

"We had been looking at the prospect of finding a Tee marker which reflected the quality of the course," explained Course Manager Chris Kennedy, who had seen the company at the BTME Exhibition. "The markers are made of granite with a polished face. After close consultation with Golf Tee Signs we chose a design that would lie flush to the ground for easy maintenance. The tees were set in concrete and then surrounded with attractive gravel. This means we can mow over them with ease and they will continue to look as good as new indefinitely."

Golf Tee Signs have installed all the Tee signs to The Wentworth Club on the West and Edinburgh courses, with the third, the East course due for completion later this year.

## GRASS GETS A PAINT JOB



April fool's day brings out the devious and cunning side in people and the Daily Record Newspaper couldn't resist the chance of tricking Scotland's golfing public, on April 1, with this story:

One of Scotland's most exclusive golf clubs has come up with a new way to help golfers find the green - by painting them blue.

The five-star St Andrews Bay resort decided to paint all 36 greens on their two award-winning courses blue on the advice of university experts. Because the human eye can pick out blue more easily than green, golfers are now able to tell exactly how they should play their shots. And it is already improving scores by as much as eight strokes a round.

Iain McNally, Director of Golf at St Andrews Bay, said: "A couple of our visitors said they found it difficult to focus on the green while driving from the fairway because they couldn't tell exactly how far away the green was.

"Then one fellow, who happened to be some kind of optical physicist, came over and had a dreadful day out on the course. He explained that if we painted the greens blue then people would be able to make them out much more easily. Of course it sounded ridiculous but he showed us the theory on a driving range and it really does work."

He added: "Players reckon they can home in much better on the green and their shots seem to be falling much better and closer to the target area."

"We are using a special paint, supplied by an American company, that doesn't damage the grass. I wouldn't be surprised if you see

major tournaments using blue greens in the next few years."

Bosses at St Andrews Bay are confident the concept will really take off when it is officially unveiled at this month's London Golf Show in Docklands. The exhibition's Managing Director, Ross Broadstock, said: "It's great that the home of golf has seized on this initiative."

The paint for blue greens is the brainchild of Bluegrass Ltd, a Kentucky-based company in the US. The firm are negotiating with the US PGA to provide 'blues' for tour events.

Spokesman Lol Fapiro said: "We are really excited that our novel 'blues' are going to be used in Europe, especially St Andrews, which is revered by golf fans and the world over. It's a brilliant idea and offers golfers something fun and unique. Everyone who tried it agreed that it doesn't give your scorecard the blues."

We wonder what Neil Ballingall thinks about it all.

## NEW WELSH DEALER



Mona Tractors Groundcare Manager, Gwynfor Griffiths, seated, with Dealer Principal John Jones, left, and John Deere's C&E Division Manager David Hart

John Deere has appointed Mona Tractor Company Ltd as its new full line commercial and consumer equipment dealer in North Wales. The new groundcare division is based at Mona Tractors' existing premises in Llangefni, Anglesey.

Incorporated in 1981, Mona Tractors has been a John Deere dealer since 2000 and has sold domestic lawn and garden equipment for the last four years in the same area being covered by its new groundcare division; this includes Anglesey, Gwynedd and Conwy.

Newly appointed Groundcare Manager, Gwynfor Griffiths, heads the new division, and is responsible for sales and demonstrations. Two new specialist service engineers have also been taken on and the dealer workshop will be fully kitted out with specialist grinding and other equipment dedicated to the groundcare business.

Meanwhile, a new building has been ordered to provide extra showroom and storage space for the groundcare division in tandem with the existing premises.





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## ROLAWN CONTINUE EXPANSION



Anthony Lafferty has joined Rolawn to manage their new turf and topsoil distribution depot at Whitegates Farm, Glazebury, near Warrington.

Anthony, 30, is well known to the local landscape community

having spent six years with another turf grower. Anthony is single, lives in Widnes, has three

children and is a keen Everton supporter and golfer.

"Having been previously employed within the turf industry Anthony has an established reputation amongst the local landscape community and has extensive first hand knowledge of the trade. The opening of the Warrington depot represents a significant commitment by Rolawn to its chosen market and will take the number of depots operated by the company nationally to 15 with more locations being evaluated," said Terry Ryan, Rolawn's Sales and Marketing Director.

## SCOTTISH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Snow, beautiful snow greeted us on Monday March 1, the date of this year's Scottish National Conference. At 7am Dunfermline was under snow with a blizzard in progress and things looking rather bleak. On making my way to the Conference Centre I was getting rather anxious with almost 150 delegates due to attend, meals booked and speakers in place. I was apprehensive to say the least.

The Conference was due to start at 9.45am, and we took the decision to start at 10am, come what may. By 10am we had 116 in attendance a tremendous number considering all that was happening round us, and so we decided to go ahead.

Scottish Region Chairman, Iain Barr, opened the morning session by introducing Neil Baldwin, AmegA Sciences, who spoke on 'Winter Maintenance - Control of Fusarium Patch and Black Layer in Fine Turf'. Following Neil, we had Jay Dobson, from PSD Agronomy. Jay's talk was entitled 'Nutrition - Food for Thought'. After the break we had Frank Ainsworth, Course Manager, Hilton Templepatrick Hotel & GC, whose talk was 'Fescue Greens, The Good, The Bad and The Ugly'. To round off the morning session, we had Louise Hollingworth, from WRAP, with her talk on 'Putting the Green Reusing Recycled Products for the Golf Sector'.

After lunch the Chairman had the very pleasant task of presenting the Harry Diamond Quaich to the Student of the Year. This year's winner was Chris Kerr, of Cowglen Golf Club, Glasgow. In accepting the award Chris made a very gracious speech, thanking the Association and his golf club.

In the first session of the afternoon we had Simon Barnaby, of Scotts (UK). He had kindly stepped in for Kenny MacKay who had to call off because of business commitments. Simon's talk was entitled 'The Changing Face of Turf Management'.

Following Simon, we had Bob Scott, of British Seed Houses, on 'Bent Grasses Conversion on UK Greens'. Finally, Douglas Shearer, Head of Golf and Agriculture at Elmwood College, spoke on 'Health & Safety, What Now?'.

Special thanks must go to the delegates and speakers who battled through the snow to attend the Conference. Your efforts are appreciated and certainly proved worthwhile in making the Conference such a success. Our thanks to the Chief Executive, John Pemberton, for taking the time out of his busy schedule to be with us and to the Patrons and Education and Development Fund for their assistance in promoting and supporting the Region to provide another successful Conference.

Next year's Conference will be at the same venue on Tuesday March 1 2006.

**Peter J. Boyd, Regional Administrator**

## NEW MAN AT VITAX



Vitax have appointed Paul Taylor as their new Representative in the North of England.

Paul, a Yorkshire man living in Halifax, brings a wealth of experience to the role having worked in the

industry since leaving school. Starting as a trainee Groundsman, he served 17 years in greenkeeping, rising to become Head Greenkeeper before switching to a representative role at Rigby Taylor in 1989.

"Vitax is an established company with a good standing in the trade. The job provides a great way of meeting our customers and distributors and getting everybody involved," commented Paul.

Clive Williams, Commercial Sales Manager for Vitax, who has known Paul for many years, praised his experience and expertise. "Paul is BASIS qualified with a thorough knowledge of the industry," he said.

## TURFCARE TAKES TORO TROPHY



Pat Galavan, left, receives his award from Peter Mansfield of Lely

The award of Toro Irrigation Contractor of the Year has been won by TurfCare Irrigation, which is based in County Kildare, Ireland. The presentation was made at the recent GCSAI annual conference at the Radisson SAS Hotel, Limerick.

Simon Squires, Irrigation Manager at Toro Irrigation's distributor, Lely, commented: "The award was given to TurfCare in recognition of their outstanding sales performance in 2004. They worked on a prestigious list of golf installations in Ireland throughout the year, including the six golf clubs Castleknock, Enniscorthy, Limerick, Wexford, City of Deny and Grange Castle.

Pat Galavan, Managing Director of TurfCare Irrigation, said: "We are delighted to be Toro Irrigation Contractor of the Year. I'd like to say a big thank you to Lely, for giving us this award, to everyone at TurfCare for all the hard work they have put in, and also to our customers for their continuing support."

## POYNTER MEANS BUSINESS AT EAGLE



Dean Poynter has become Eagle's new Business Development Manager for the North of England. With a background in the golf business and a handicap of 8.5, Dean's set to become a real asset to the UK

signage and marketing collateral company.

Dean started his career in golf with Maxfli Golf, leaving to help develop a business supplying granite-based signage systems to some of Europe's best-known golf clubs and destinations, including The Belfry, Wentworth and Carnoustie.

"Dean is a familiar face in the golf club scene and brings an in depth understanding of clubs, the way they tend to work, and how signage can improve their branding and presentation. His expertise in granite products will enable us to complement our existing range of signage, and extend the options we can offer to clubs seeking a top quality product," said Phil McNley, Eagle's MD.

Dean is looking forward to working at Eagle: "I'm very excited about joining Eagle and developing my expertise and my potential. Eagle not only has a very good range of signage for all sorts of courses and budgets, but it also provides many other products that clubs need to project their brand - cards, guides, bag tags, and so on."



## SPRING CLEAN FOR GREENS

Tony Baxby, Head Greenkeeper at Harrogate Golf Club, Jay Dobson, Agronomist from PSD Agronomy Ltd, and David Snowden, from Floratine, have waged a three year war to restore the efficiency of Harrogate Golf Club's heavy greens built on a clay sub base.

"Essentially we had to improve the way the greens performed. There was a lot of thatch, they weren't stable chemically and the grass condition was a lot more variable than it should be," said Jay Dobson.

David Snowden, who has worked with Dobson on a number of courses following the agronomist's utilisation of Analync, produced a soil amendment and nutritional programme based on analysis of soil samples.

"We used CalpHex, a multi chelated calcium, and Pervade, a soil penetrant, to flush out the unwanted elements and fed during the summer months with mainly potassium nitrates and some forms of urea using soil liquids every month to six weeks and foliar feed in small quantities every two to three weeks. We also used Protesyn, which provides essential amino acids," explained David.

Working as a team around Tony's tournament timetable it appears that the three men's efforts have been rewarded. The latest soil analysis taken in January shows a 'cleaned' rootzone devoid of excess elements.

## COMPOSTING IS CATCHING ON



Following the launch of their new Compost Makers at BTME, Course Care held a demonstration day at Woodsome Hall Golf Club recently. The five cubic metre Compost Maker was in action chopping, shredding, mashing and mixing its way through hollow tines cores, leaves, clippings, twigs, small branches and cardboard.

The demonstration was witnessed by interested Course Managers from the area and four representatives from the STRI. Woodsome Hall's Course Manager, Jeremy Eastwood, and his Greens Chairman, Roger Wood, witnessed the event. "We have long term plans for onsite composting and believe this is the way forward. The compost maker was hitched to our Kubota L4630 and the machine exceeded our expectations. We were very, very impressed with the compostable material produced and in such a short space of time," said Jeremy.

## BUNKERS OPEN FOR BUSINESS



Colin Mitchell starting work on the new Road Hole bunker

They have thwarted the world's top golfers from Nicklaus to Nakajima, and now the Old Course bunkers are once again ready for action. With less than three months until the Open Championship returns to the Home of Golf for the 27th time, St Andrews Links Trust greenkeepers are priming the Old Course bunkers for the new season.

The work means notorious traps, such as the Road Hole Bunker, Shell and Cartgate, are being returned to a state of play following a major

rebuilding programme. In total, 94 of the 112 bunkers have been revetted to counter the effects of erosion and to prepare the course for the 134th Open Championship.

"When the bunkers come back into play, we can concentrate more on turf and course presentation. In the lead up to the Open Championship, we will want the course to be drier and faster, and additional growth will mean the greens will get smoother," commented Euan Grant, Head Greenkeeper of the Old Course.

The Old Course's bunkers often play a starring role in the Open Championship. David Duval, for instance, fell foul of the Road Hole Bunker in 2000 dropping valuable strokes and any chance of the Claret Jug as he pursued Tiger Woods. The sad sight of Tommy Nakajima attempting to escape from the same trap during the 1978 Open will also live on in many people's memories. While Nicklaus famously took four shots to escape Hell Bunker in 1995.

With the stage set for more drama in July, the Trust's greenkeepers are ensuring the bunkers are suitably prepared through sand shaping and the application of additional top dressing to ensure the new turf knits-in properly.

## AN ENVIRONMENTAL VOICE

A new initiative to help the European golf sector in the field of environment and sustainable development is to be launched by the Committed to Green Foundation.

The Foundation's new flagship project will be to create and facilitate the European Forum for Sustainable Golf. This initiative will enable a community of stakeholders to participate in discussion and information exchange on environmental and sustainable development issues facing golf across Europe. It is hoped that this mechanism will enhance the dissemination of environmental best practice information to golf facilities, and also enable collective promotion of

local, regional and national environmental initiatives. The Forum will be formally launched by the European Commission in Brussels at the end of June 2005.

Jonathan Smith, the Foundation's newly appointed Chief Executive said: "I am delighted to have this opportunity to take forward the work of the Committed to Green Foundation. It is clear that golf faces many environmental challenges, golf has to adopt, and be seen to adopt, best environmental practices. If it can do so in a cohesive and credible way there is tremendous potential for golf to achieve recognition for its stewardship of the environment."

## AGRONOMISTS UNITE

For the first time in the fine turf industry's history, agronomists from around the world came together for a three day conference in April, to discuss a range of issues relating to golf course management and construction. 62 participants took part in an intensive programme, held at the Craiglands Hotel, in Ilkley, which included visits to the trials ground at STRI and Alwoodley Golf Club.

The conference, organised by STRI, following discussions between Dr Gordon McKillop, STRI's Chief Executive, and Jim Snow, National Director for the USGA, was initially arranged as a joint meeting between STRI and USGA staff. As planning progressed, other interested parties from New Zealand, Canada, Italy, Sweden, Scotland, including Steve Isaac and Nick Pan - representing the R&A, were invited. A total of 22 sessions were covered over the three days.





## SOUTH EAST GENTLEMAN'S DINNER



Over 100 greenkeepers and their guests teed off at the New Course at Walton Heath, on Friday March 11, for the South East Region's Annual Golf Day and Gentlemen's Dinner.

The greenkeeping team at Walton Heath, led by Ian McMillan, produced a superbly prepared golf course in excellent condition, considering that the whole place was under snow just four days before the event. On the day the New Course was a tough test of golf, even from the forward tees. For myself it was great to get out on the course with Ian's dad, Jack, to look around my old haunts and see some of the good work that the boys have carried out over the past year.

Dennis Smith, with the help of Joe Crawley, helped to get everyone off from the 1st tee. For those who managed to negotiate the heather and deep bunkers, some notable feats included the 300yrd plus drive of Rob George at the 18th, Shaun Sturrock nearly getting a hole in one at the 2nd, and Anthony Freeman and Alistair Cook totally outclassing the rest of the field in winning the greenkeeping and club official event.

All who played greatly appreciated the ample refreshments provided at the 10th tee specially cooked to order by Master Chefs, Neil Pullen and Johnny Beck, of Sherriff Amenity Services, ably assisted by Assistant Chef, James Watson. As it was

Red Nose Day, this year we charged a small entry fee for the Sisis Putting Competition, which raised £100 for Comic Relief.

It was good to see as our guests for the day Jack McMillan, a founder member of the BIGGA Surrey Section and Past National Chairman, and Derek Farrington, still enjoying his wine, who put so much work into the Region as our Administrator for many years.

The Captain of Walton Heath Golf Club, Michael Lunt, kindly presented prizes to the day's many winners, which included: Sisis Putting Competition: R. Dunmow; Scotts Longest Drive: R. George; Nearest the Pin: S Sturrock; 18 - 24 Handicap: 1. S. Hawkins, 2. K. Morris; 10 - 17: 1. T. Holland, 2. D. Fernie; 0 - 9: 1. D. Kelso, 2. D. Child; Shullockie Putter Scratch Prize: 1. R. Day, 2. I. Semple; Guests: R. Stubbings; Trade: M. Ring; Greenkeeper/Club Official: 1. A. Freeman and A. Cook, 2. S. Hawkins and G. Hog.

George Barr thanked the members and staff of Walton Heath Golf Club for making us so welcome, as always, and contributing to a memorable day. The Region is most appreciative of the generous sponsorship given to this event by the following companies; many of these also contribute to the numerous local Section events throughout the year:

Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd, Barrellfield Golf Ltd, BSP Landscapes Ltd, CMW Equipment Co. Ltd, Complete Weed Control, Construction Materials Ltd, Ernest Doe and Sons Ltd, ESD Waste2Water Europe Ltd, GEM Professional, Grass Roots Trading Co. Ltd, Headland Amenity Products, John Shaw (Machinery) Ltd, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Saxon Industries, The Scotts Company (UK) Ltd, Sherriff Amenity Services, Sisis Equipment Ltd, Symbio, Tacit Golf Equipment Ltd, Vitax Ltd.

**Clive Osgood**  
Regional Administrator

## WHATEVER THE WEATHER

Four new all weather coaching and practice areas have been installed by Huxley Golf at the National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire. Covering more than 200 sq yards, the four dedicated outdoor practice facilities replace and extend the all-weather surfaces first installed by Huxley Golf at Woodhall Spa some six years ago.

Used by golfers of all ages and abilities, the Huxley premier all-weather surfaces selected by the EGU for the National Golf Centre comprise a nylon turf teaching area, two nylon turf practice tees and a nylon putting green.

"The response to the new Huxley all weather installations has been fantastic. I like them particularly for their low maintenance requirements. This means that all four surfaces can be looked after easily by the driving range staff, leaving the specialist greenkeeping team free to concentrate on the fine turf areas of the course," said Peter Wisbey, Courses Manager at Woodhall Spa.

## ROYAL WEDDING

Fred Hartles, Deputy Course Manager at Minchinhampton GC, was an honoured guest at Charles and Camilla's Royal Wedding. Originally from New Zealand, Fred held the position of stockman on the Duchy of Cornwall Farm between 1989 - 1999 before becoming a greenkeeper in 2001.



## RANSOMES WIN ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD



Stephen Chicken (left) and Simon Barnes, representing Honda, with their Industry Market Leadership awards

Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd has won a prestigious industry award from EAST, Environment and Sustainable Transport, sponsored by Lloyds TSB Autolease. Managing Director, Dr Stephen Chicken, received the Industry Market Leadership award at the gala dinner held at the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden.

The Industry Market Leadership award was won jointly with Honda and Ransomes Jacobsen was also runner up in two further categories: the Industry Innovative Design category for their LPG powered Parkway municipal triple mower and the Distribution and Service Fleet Operator category with their Cushman Diabline electric vehicle.

"This is a tremendous and remarkable accolade for the company and clearly demonstrates our commitment to Driving Environmental Performance, the business initiative that we have adopted over the past three years. The award emphasises that we are serious about our environmental product offering and to have won it jointly with a motoring industry giant like Honda is a fantastic achievement," said Stephen.

## TORR OF CAMPEY



Campey Turf Care Systems has appointed Daniel Torr as Sales Representative.

Daniel, 27, who holds an honours degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Salford, has for the past five years worked in the

west of Ireland for McHale Engineering. He was involved closely in quality control and PDI checking.

Daniel is delighted to be returning to the area working for Macclesfield-based Campey. He is no stranger to the company having worked for the turf equipment specialists in the past during his summer vacations from University. He is also an enthusiast of computer systems and Internet technology and is looking forward to putting these skills to work within the Campey sales and support operations.

"We all welcome Daniel onboard. His talents will be a real asset to the business," said Managing Director Richard Campey.





**David Golding, GTC Education Director, reassures that the GTC has the sector well represented to ensure employers and student greenkeepers have a range of appropriate courses and qualifications to choose from.**

**There has been much discussion in the national press regarding skill shortages in occupational areas such as plumbing and joinery. Thankfully for once when education and training is on the political agenda Golf Course Management has not figured in the debate.**

For many years now the greenkeeping sector, through the GTC, has worked within the Government of the day's policy for education and training. In previous articles I have tried to show how the GTC works with the approved Government body, the Lantra Sector Skills Council (SSC), to ensure the content of the qualifications suit the requirements of both the golf club employers and greenkeepers. However, politicians have been critical of 'Mickey Mouse Degrees' such as Golf Course Management. How dare they?

I cannot think why this qualification always seems to be selected by people, who should do their research before choosing a highly rated qualification endorsed by the industry. I have read and heard college lecturers, agronomists and students having to jump to the defence of this award when it has clearly been accredited through the correct Governmental procedures. The meetings I have attended at Lantra, on behalf of the sector, to review the academic awards always include: "Is there a need for this type of award within the sector." To date the general opinion from our advisory network is yes.

We do however have to show how such qualifications such as the Higher National Certificate or the more recently accredited Foundation Degree fits into the wider occupational standards of turf management. There was much criticism of the number of Higher National Diplomas on offer by the colleges in England and the way they were developed and accredited by the establishments, often with very little consultation with the industry. The GTC agreed with the concern raised by the Awarding Body and now, through Lantra, we are finally starting to control the number of colleges and universities accredited to offer these awards and also through Lantra just what is being included in the proposed qualification.

The old HND in England has now been superseded by the Foundation Degree and with an excellent balance between theory and practical is proving a very popular qualification for the sector. The GTC has to concede to Lantra and the Providers that as a specialist sector we cannot guarantee large numbers of students but with the advent of online learning the FD is accessible via the part-time route as well as full-time. The MSc in Sports Turf Surfaces offered by Cranfield University is again proving increasingly popular and, albeit only a limited number register each year, the GTC believes these Higher education qualifications

attract many young people into the profession when choosing their career options.

So, the message is clear to the politicians, leave the sector to tell you what qualifications we want through the framework of development, review and accreditation you, the Government, have established.

Back to the skills or lack of skills debate for a moment. The greenkeeper, as viewed by many golfers and outsiders at best, are skilled workers who cut the grass. Sorry guys and gals but that perception is still a problem and it is organisations such as the representatives on the GTC, including BIGGA, who must all work hard to dispel this myth. How are we going to do this as quickly as possible?

The GTC believes that greenkeepers themselves can continue to take up every opportunity to gain training on subjects such as image, including presentation skills, which has proved a very successful route for many Head Greenkeepers who, following training, truly operate as Golf Course Managers. It is when these new found skills are put into practice that the employer and the golfers really start to acknowledge the skills of their staff. I know this is a subject all of its own but following a recent training session and feedback from the learners and the tutors we at the GTC know that this is the best route to raise the profile of the greenkeeper.

One common issue soon came out of the first training session and that was how under confident all the group were when it came to communication with their employers, but this was addressed through the trainers and by the end of the course the learners had changed their views on their role and in turn their profile at their clubs has risen dramatically. If

you don't believe me, the learners have indicated they will tell anyone just how their lives have changed following the GTC-ESF funded training courses - names and telephone numbers are available.

Hopefully, more courses will be available in the autumn and I know that BIGGA are arranging similar events, so watch this space. One of the great changes over the last decade has been the dress code of greenkeepers at events such as BTME and this must be maintained if we are to raise the image of this

great profession. First impressions at interviews are oh so important and while most of the greenkeepers skills are linked to maintaining the golf course increasingly the off course skills, say in the committee room, are also vital.

***The GTC believes that greenkeepers themselves can continue to take up every opportunity to gain training on subjects such as image, including presentation skills, which has proved a very successful route for many Head Greenkeepers who, following training, truly operate as Golf Course Managers.***





## Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

BIGGA GOLDEN KEY and SILVER KEY MEMBERSHIP

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

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

For details, please contact Ken Richardson on 01347 833800 or via [ken@bigga.co.uk](mailto:ken@bigga.co.uk)

### Golden Key Supporters

Kubota



### Golden Key Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
John Deere Ltd	01949 860491
Kubota (UK) Ltd	01844 214500
PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 677777
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01480 226800

### Golden Key Individual Members

J H Fry; J H Greasley; WJ Rogers; David S Robinson; Stuart Townsend; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Chris Yeaman; Iain A MacLeod; Bruce Cruickshank; John Crawford; Stuart Cruickshank; Frank Newberry; Terence Welch.

### Silver Key Supporters



### Silver Key Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Bernhard and Company Ltd	01788 811600
Ernest Doe & Sons	01245 380311
Gem Professional	01254 356611
General Legal Protection Ltd	01904 611600
Hayter Ltd	01279 723444
Heath Lambert Group	0113 246 1313
Rain Bird	01273 891326
Symbio	01372 456101
Syngenta Professional Products	0041 613 233 028
TurfTrax Group Ltd	01722 434000

### Silver Key Individual Members

Clive A Archer; Douglas G Duguid; Robert Maibusch MG; Elliott R Small; Steven Tierney; Richard Lawrence; Clive Osgood; Roger Barker; David Robinson; Richard Stillwell; Stephen Dixon; Ian Semple; Paul Jenkins; Robert Hogarth; R Steele; Lee Relf; Raymond Warrender; Nicholas Gray; Trevor Smith; Iain Barr; Richard McGlynn; Alex McCombie; Paul Murphy; Tom Smith.

# Education Update

Ken Richardson, in the Education Department, plans ahead for Regional Training and BIGGA's National Competitions.

May has become the planning month in the Education and Training Department when Sami and I look forward to the autumn and winter education and training programme.

## Continue to Learn - Regional Training

Regional training has proved to be even more popular this year, using over 50% of the Education and Development Fund. As courses get more expensive to run and the Fund's income remains static, we have had difficulty providing all of the training requested by Regions and Sections.

The recent Board of Management Meeting, held in March, and the Education Sub Committee, held in April, decided that the Education and Development Fund should not be used to subsidise training courses that were required by law and that the subsidy for all courses, Seminars and Conferences would be a maximum of £500 per day. Unfortunately, this means that some courses, especially those with a limited number of delegates, e.g. Chainsaw Course, would be a lot more expensive but they should still cost less than the same courses offered by other training providers.

Therefore as from October 2005, the cost of Regional Training Courses will be:

### TWO-DAY MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSES

£160 + VAT (£188)

- Essential Management Skills
- Next Steps in Management Skills
- Communicating with Committees
- The New Supervisor
- Project Management
- Budgets and Finance
- Management Skills for Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers

### TWO-DAY TECHNICAL COURSES

£200 + VAT (£235.00)

- Health and Safety Awareness
- Tractor Driving
- Managing Health and Safety

### TWO-DAY TECHNICAL COURSES REQUIRED BY LAW

£325 + VAT (£381.88)

- Chainsaw Maintenance and Crosscutting
- First Aid Refresher

### TWO-DAY COMPUTER SKILLS COURSE

£150 + VAT (£176.25)

- Basic Computer Skills

### ONE-DAY MANAGEMENT COURSE

£80 + VAT (£94)

- Presenting a Professional Image

### ONE-DAY TECHNICAL COURSES

£100 + VAT (£117.50)

- Woodland Management
- Agronomy and Soil Science
- Risk Assessments
- Integrated Pest Management
- All Terrain Vehicle Driving
- COSHH Assessments
- Grass Identification

### ONE-DAY TECHNICAL COURSES REQUIRED BY LAW

£150 + VAT (£176.25)

- Emergency First Aid
- Abrasive Wheels

Each course includes high class tuition plus lunch and refreshments on each day.

We are now beginning to plan for this 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 of 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, the cost of courses and the numbers required for each course please contact Sami on 01347 833800 or [sami@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sami@bigga.co.uk), by 30 June 2005.



### Golf Environment Competition

Entries have been flooding in for this year's BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, sponsored by Scotts UK Professional, Syngenta Professional Products, Waste2Water and WRAP. There is still time to request an application form, so long as you complete and return it before the June 24 deadline.

There is a range of prizes from £500 for the best new entry up to £2500 and a Scotts Weather Station for the National Winner. So if you are just starting to look at environmental management or if you have had a plan in place for some time, why not enter and see if you could join the winners in Harrogate next January.

## TORO Student of the Year Competition

The deadline for the TORO Student of the Year Award 2005 is Friday May 6. Judging will commence, in Edinburgh, on Monday July 4.

The criteria for the Award states that a student must be on a N/SVQ Level 2 or 3 course or on a National Certificate or Diploma course and must be nominated by their Senior Greenkeeping Lecturer. If you wish to receive further details and an application form please contact BIGGA HOUSE as soon as possible.





## Are you managing your Health and Safety using a Maintenance Plan?

### Tutorial Eleven

How many of us have had what we call a near miss, an incident where there is potential for injury but none occurs? How many of us report the near miss to the Manager and the club investigates it?

I recently visited a club where a vehicle engine was left running while a member of the green staff jumped out the cab to collect a piece of equipment. The vehicle moved slightly knocking the member of green staff to the floor but he was uninjured. The member of green staff carried on as usual without reporting the incident and felt nothing more of it.

#### What went wrong at the club?

- The member of green staff was unaware of a near miss definition.
- The member of green staff had no written or verbal instructions on reporting near misses.
- The Health and Safety policy made no reference to near misses.
- The club management were unaware of learning lessons or carrying out investigations.
- Procedures and training should have been put in place to avoid this near miss happening again where the member of staff may have been injured.

Good health and safety management is about knowing the daily, weekly, monthly and yearly requirements of the club, and ensuring you have in place a system for achieving all of the requirements. A lot is written nowadays about managing health and safety but very little is written as to why and the good reasons for it. I will explain.

Good health and safety management is all about preventing accidents and illness to employees, golfers and visitors to your establishment. Health and safety

management is not about generating endless heaps of paper and endless amounts of checklists that will put you off the real tasks in hand.

A good Maintenance plan is presently operated by many clubs and has taken much of the burden of health and safety work from the club and Secretary/Head Greenkeeper. The plan does not and will not remove any of the responsibility but it does ensure that work gets completed and information stays right up to date.

#### The plan works in two main stages:

- To ensure the club is in full compliance with UK and EU Legislation.
- To ensure all documentation, procedures, risk assessments and systems remain up to date.

Developing your own system or subscribing to a proprietary Maintenance Plan is the easiest way of ensuring your club stays fully compliant with the laws and that Health and Safety becomes a core value in your club operations.

#### A Maintenance Plan will encompass the following key elements:

- Health and Safety Audit annually.
- Update to the Health and Safety Policy annually.
- Updates of the Risk Assessments regularly.
- Regular Legislation Update notifications.
- Annually updates of the Safe Working Practices/Procedures.

To find out more please look at [www.safegolfplan.com](http://www.safegolfplan.com) or call us on 0208 905 7552; email: [info@haztekinternational.com](mailto:info@haztekinternational.com)

# Tip of the Month

Phillip Helmn MG

Course Manager - Overstone Park Resorts



## COMMUNICATION... COMMUNICATION... COMMUNICATION...

In much the same vein as when thinking of buying a home, 'location' is of paramount importance and I believe the same importance should be given to communication in golf course management.

I realise that there are many Managers already using two way radios, I apologise for spouting on about something you already know. For Managers that haven't thought of this form of communication it is well worth considering.

The benefits of being in complete contact with your staff at all times is immeasurable. There are also Health and Safety issues, such as lone workers needing to be able to contact someone in case of an accident. Maybe a machine has broken down and is stranded out on the golf course and

a simple call on the radio can summon the mechanic to the rescue. Radios are a useful tool to monitor progress of specific tasks out on the course without the need to be there in person.

Communication between your staff helps in a more productive and efficient work force (don't worry you can monitor all conversations). The list goes on and on.

No annual licences are needed for most models, they can be bought from most catalogue outlets and the one off cost is reasonable too. For just £50 you can buy a pair of two way radios with battery chargers and you're all set to go.

I am convinced that once you start to use them you won't believe how you managed without them before.



Do you have a tip that has helped you in your day-to-day work on the golf course? If so, why not share it with other greenkeepers. Please send any tips you feel would benefit your fellow readers to us either by post at BIGGA HOUSE or by email to [gareth@bigga.co.uk](mailto:gareth@bigga.co.uk).



Rachael and Gemma from Membership Services would like to welcome 82 new members to the Association.

# Membership Update

## USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS:

Please be ready to quote your membership number when calling.

### GREENKEEPER MEMBERS ONLY

Free Legal Helpline ..... 0800 068 1893

Personal Accident Insurance..... 01277 251000  
(Ask for Ryan Carter, Ira Mullish or Michaela Edwards)

### ALL MEMBERS

Privilege Platinum Card .....0800 587 8800

LEX Personal Car Leasing .....0800 419 930  
Quote: 'Staffselect - BIGGA'

Heath Lambert Affinity Partnerships  
Insurance Quotation Service .....01603 828255

Arco Hotline.....01482 611773  
20% of Selected Products

Europ Assistance .....01603 828255

BIGGA Merchandise & Library .....01347 833800

Education and Training Advice .....01347 833800

Membership Queries .....01347 833800

BIGGA Website .....www.bigga.org.uk

## COURTESY GOLF

The majority of members do behave sensibly when seeking courtesy golf however to avoid any confusion here is a reminder of our guidelines:

- Only those with FULL GREENKEEPER membership should seek courtesy golf.
- Courtesy golf is only given at the discretion of the individual golf club and is not an automatic benefit of membership.
- Members wishing to seek courtesy golf at a club should contact the club at least 24 hours in advance of wishing to play.
- On arrival at the club, members should report to the Secretary/Pro Shop and follow normal procedures for playing golf.
- Members should always produce a valid membership card as proof of status to the club.
- Members should make a point of thanking the club for their courtesy on completion of their round of golf.
- Members should not seek courtesy golf at any one golf club more than twice per year.

Golf Clubs wishing to verify membership or requiring further details should contact BIGGA on 01347 833800.



## HAVE YOU LOST YOUR SECTION FIXTURE LIST?



With the Section Social calendars in full swing make sure you don't miss the latest events by going to the BIGGA website, [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk). Look up the News and Events section and you will find a comprehensive list of all the events taking place in your area and across the country along with details of who to contact if you wish to attend.

The pages are continually updated and if anyone has an event they would like to highlight then please contact Gareth on 01347 833800. If you don't have access to the internet then don't forget to read your Section Notes in Around the Green at the back of this magazine which will have details of any up and coming golf days or seminars.

## BIGGA welcomes...

### SCOTTISH REGION

Kenneth Gillespie, East  
Michael McLaughlin, West  
Vincent McNally, West  
Stuart Muir, Central  
Paul Sheehan, West  
Ian Smith, Ayrshire  
Craig Smith, North  
Innes Tait, Ayrshire  
Michael Thomson, North  
Dennis Williams, East  
Steven Wilson, Ayrshire

### NORTHERN REGION

Edward Ainsworth, North West  
Anthony Dean, North West  
Christopher Emsley, Northern  
Jim Fitzgerald, North West

Stuart Fricker, Sheffield  
Daniel Gildea, North West  
Ben Hardwick, Sheffield  
Dale Harrison, Northern  
Ben Hogg, North East  
Sam Hunter, North West  
Michael Joyce, Sheffield  
Steven Mason, North West  
Brian McCrae, North West  
Wayne Oldfield, North Wales  
Tudor Owen, North Wales  
Steven Robinson, Sheffield  
John Sellars, Sheffield  
Billy Thompson, North West  
Davy Whitehead, Northern

### MIDLAND REGION

Robert Bage, Mid Anglia  
Jonathan Barr, East Midland  
Scott Beaven, BB&O  
Mark Carter, East Midland  
Stephen Daniel, East Midland  
Thomas Donovan, BB&O  
Michael Fahy, Mid Anglia  
Jack Fairman, East of England  
Michael Ginger, BB&O  
Adam Henley, BB&O  
Frederick Huckin, BB&O  
Christopher Jones, Mid Anglia  
Paul Kirwin, BB&O  
Jonathan Mitchell, Mid Anglia  
Matthew Newton, Mid Anglia  
Daniel Randall, Mid Anglia  
David Smith, East Midland  
Duncan Smith, Mid Anglia

### SOUTH EAST REGION

Rodney Cassar, Surrey  
David Driver, East Anglia  
John Eyre, Sussex  
Nick Gates, Essex  
Jacob Jary, Essex  
Martyn Shacklock, Surrey  
Alex Stow, Kent  
Michael Weston, Surrey

### SOUTH WEST/WALES REGION

Daniel Bint, South West  
Graham Brookes, South Coast  
Matt Harbottle, South West  
Anthony Horne, South Wales  
James McEntee, South Coast  
Zeff Neeson, South Coast  
Brian Pitman, South Coast

Timothy Soffe, South West  
Calvin Thomas, South Wales  
Colin Thomas, South Wales

### NORTHERN IRELAND

Gerard Hughes, N Ireland  
William McCutcheon, N Ireland

### SILVER KEY MEMBERS

Simon Elsworth, East Anglia  
Bob Richardson, East Anglia  
Pat Ryan, East Anglia

### CORPORATE MEMBER

Peter Marshall, Northern

### STUDENT MEMBERS

Micah Woods, USA  
John Millar, East Scotland  
Greg Haddow, Central Scotland  
David Murray, East Scotland

### INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

Mette Glarborg, Denmark  
Thomas Bailey, USA  
Robert Ehrler, USA  
Alberto Quevedo, CGCS, USA

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Paul Long, South Wales  
Brian Pierson, South Coast

## MAY'S MEMBERSHIP DRAW WINNER

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a DIGITAL FM SCAN RADIO/ALARM, with a detachable speaker and headphones. Our congratulations go to Patrick Murphy of Shipley Golf Club.





# Course Feature



▲ Adrian Harris

## Water, Water Everywhere...

**Scott MacCallum meets Adrian Harris, Course Manager at Hellidon Lakes, where water plays just as big a role as grass in the course management.**

If you every wander into the Pro Shop and see the man whose name adorns the side of the Audi 3 series parked in its own space in the car park indulging in a power nap with a satisfied grin on his face here's what I think he might be dreaming about.

Your man has disappeared off into a world where his pro shop, miles from the nearest golf discount store, is well stocked and well positioned near a 1st tee which is booked solid every day from 6.30am. He is visualising the opening tee shot faced by his members and all he can see is water. Yes, the opening tee shot involves a 300 yard carry over water in every direction! And the reason he's smiling? He's just thinking about how much he's going to make on golf ball sales.

I head off into this flight of fancy after a visit to Hellidon Lakes Hotel and Golf Club, near Daventry, which boasts 17 lakes in total, many of them in play.

And although it isn't the 1st hole the 18th was almost a Professional's dream hole. However, Course Manager Adrian Harris has recently made amendments to ensure fewer Titleists and Dunlop 65s find a watery grave. Until then a 180 yard carry over the largest of these lakes, invariably into the prevailing wind was required before you could two putt and head off to the 19th for a little refreshment.

The alternative was to treat the short par-4 as a par-6 or par-7 and play carefully round three sides of the lake.

"If you could carry the ball 180 to 190 yards into a howling gale then you were ok," said Adrian, employing his droll Midland sense of humour to good effect.

"The only other option was to go around the lake. In golfing terms it wasn't really a hole,"

Hellidon Lakes is owned by hotel group Marston who bought the complex five years ago having previously been privately developed.

"A retired businessman bought the land for somewhere to walk the dog and a friend suggested that he should build a golf course on it," explained Adrian.

That was in the mid '80s and the original layout was designed by David Snell, who utilised the land to good effect to produce an excellent undulating test of golf and built the many lakes which provide the club with its name.

"It's a good challenging golf course, not particularly long at around 6100 yards, but if you take on some of the shots you can be rewarded while there is also opportunity for the less able or more conservative to play the course," said the 40 year-old six handicapper.

Unlike Course Managers at proprietary owned or members' golf clubs where the course is the number one priority, a Course Manager at a hotel owned golf course often has to accept that the core business is the hotel and that focus is not always on the golf course.



▲ The Hellidon Lakes team

This can be frustrating but Adrian has turned it to his advantage and his free hand and ability to make strides with minimal investment is much to be admired.

"I've always wanted a golf course where I can work and, within reason, do what I want and here I'm able to put my own little touches to it and people either like them or not. Luckily, people have enjoyed what I've done so far."

That 18th hole with the Kamikaze carry is on such example.

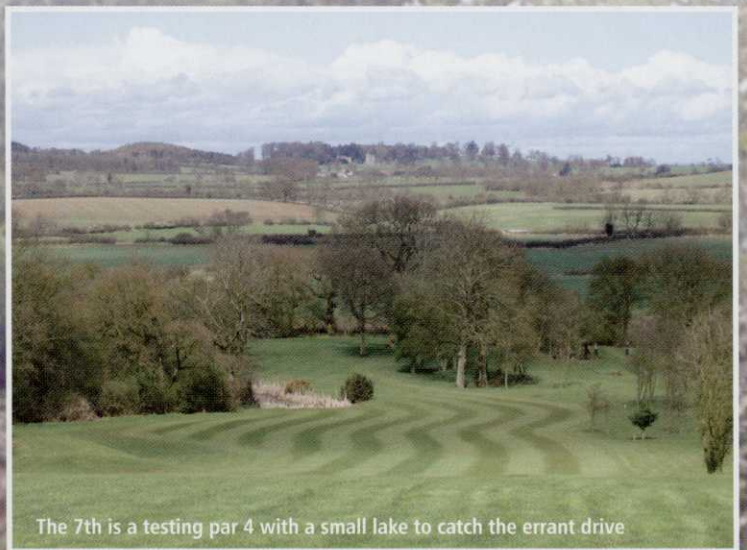
"When I arrived and first saw the old 18th I thought that it was something that we could do a lot better. I discussed it with members and we had committee meetings and walked around the course. I told them what I thought and they told me what they thought and we came to the joint conclusion that something had to be done as it was an unfair golf hole," said Adrian as we sat in the attractive room which acts as the clubhouse in the hotel overlooking the course.

"I produced lots of drawings which I presented to the General Manager of the hotel and he then took them to the Chairman of the Hotel Branch. After I was given outline approval I went out to get some prices and cost the project."

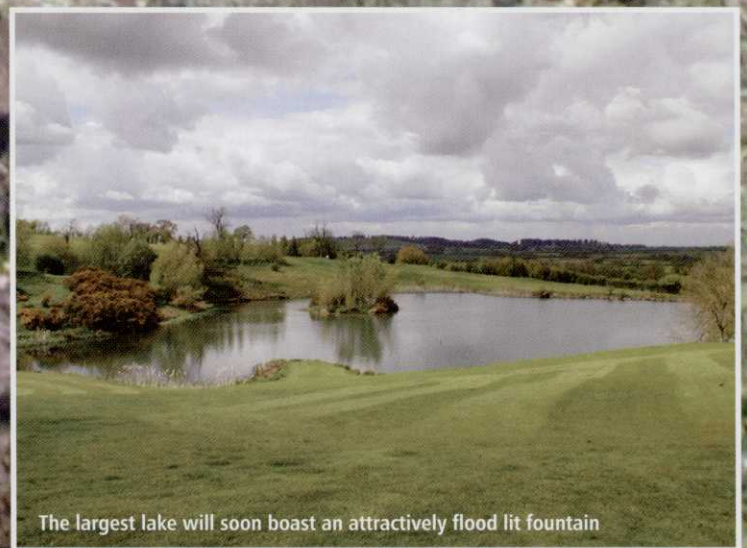
Wherever possible Adrian and his team, he has seven including a mechanic and a gardener for the 27 hole complex, do work in-house as not only is it cost effective but it is an ideal way to motivate the team.

"I always have a winter project and I get the team together to discuss it and share ideas. If the guys put in their own thoughts and they are adopted they feel valued and everyone feels they have ownership of the project."

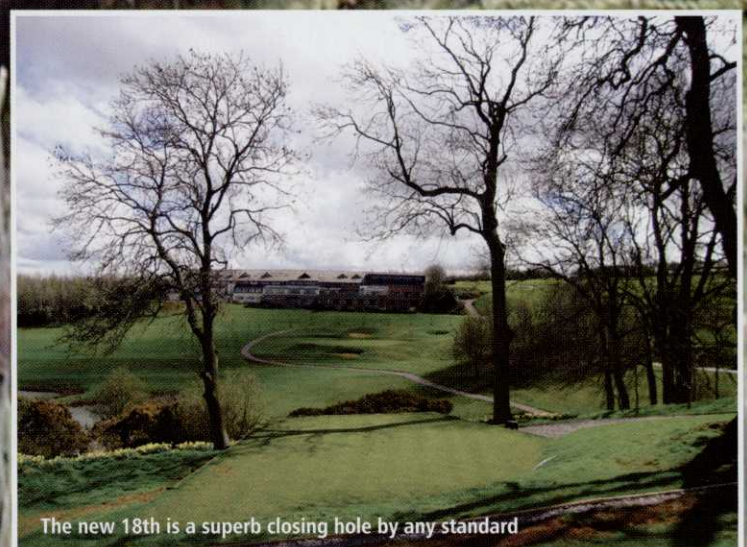




The 7th is a testing par 4 with a small lake to catch the errant drive



The largest lake will soon boast an attractively flood lit fountain



The new 18th is a superb closing hole by any standard



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## Course Feature

The new 18th is a much improved hole offering those arriving on the tee with a well put together scorecard an opportunity of finishing with a birdie but also requiring to steel themselves for a 150 to 170 yard par-3 which takes out much of the carry but keeps the fear of a watery end in the back of the mind.

As a result of the excellent work done on the 18th it has quickly become the course's signature hole but like many good courses there are several others which vie for the status not least the 14th, a par-4 played for an elevated tee with one of the ubiquitous lakes guarding the left half of the landing area and a green surrounded by trees.

"It's a great hole. The lake is always in your mind but big hitters can clear it and open up the green if they are feeling brave and get an accurate one away."

The team has been augmented by two recent arrivals from The Belfry and the RAC Club in Epsom, Surrey, who have brought in a lot of knowledge to the team although they are having to get used to the fact that if something is needed you can't just buy it in.

"You have to find a way of ensuring we stay within budget and if that means buying just enough fertiliser to do the job and no more or ensuring that we stage delivery so we don't pay additional cost up front."

The course has been much changed since it first opened, sometimes due to the growth of the four star hotel - which resulted in the 9th hole being totally relocated and rebuilt - and partly through Adrian's constant desire to tweak and improve.

The 17th is another hole which has been totally changed and it is the fairway of this new hole that is causing Adrian and his team some problems.

They built the fairway up with soil from the hotel development but it was totally devoid of nutrients.



▲ The Hellidon Lakes land was originally purchased as a dog walking site by a retired business man

"Try and get grass to grow on that and it's a struggle. We mole drained to get some air into the sub soil every year and spiked it and vertidraind it to get some movement and put in some turf humus to give it a bit of body and we are still going down that path now," he explained.

But as much as he spends time on the turf side of Hellidon Lakes the water requires just as much attention.

"With so many lakes and with around 60% of them in play in one way or another they are an important part of the course and it's great because they do attract quite a bit of wildlife to the course including water voles and barnacle geese which are quite rare for this time of year."

From an aesthetic perspective Adrian does make every effort to ensure that the lakes are as interesting as possible... but always with an eye on the budget.

"I deal with a company called SJS, at Milton Keynes, who start up and shut down my irrigation system each season and carry out any repairs we

can't do ourselves and I often speak with them for advice on water features.

"For example we have a fountain in our main lake which is just the relief valve for our irrigation so as the irrigation is not on during the day we can have a big fountain. I'm going to get a diffuser on it to make it more attractive and perhaps add some lights to it as well," he said, adding that he may have to get another pump installed so that can keep the fountain working in the evenings for the benefit of the hotel guests who take to the balcony overlooking the course.

It's another example of making a lot out of a little.

Another project in the offing is the addition of a waterfall from the small lake which feeds the largest one.

"Currently there is a stream there but I'm going to extend it and use some of the excellent local stone we have on site. Eventually we're also going to

put another waterfall in on the lake at the 12th hole," said Adrian, who also mentioned that there was a 40 foot waterfall in the grounds of the hotel which is often used as a backdrop for wedding photography.

"The way I look at a project is from the stand point of how I'm going to improve the hole or improve the area. It may be that I won't be able to do it this year or next but I've got it in my mind to do and when the time comes we'll look at it again and assess whether we can do it together as a team or have to bring in contractors."

What the members of Hellidon Lakes do know however is that whatever resources he's got Adrian will make the most of them, even if it does mean getting his feet wet occasionally. He probably collects a few of those damp golf balls at the same time.



▲ Adrian inspects the site for his new waterfall

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Hayter Pedestrian Rotary Mower



# The Importance of Performance

As preparations are made for the forthcoming dry season, Kenne James looks at all things irrigation, including the importance of placement and nozzle performance.



For a greenkeeper and a golf course business manager, efficiency is a top priority. If they succeed in efficiently maintaining their course, players/customers enjoy outstanding playability and the manager gets to enter the bottom line of the operating budget in black, not red, ink.

For most golf courses, efficiency is optimised not by broad, sweeping changes to the operation, but, rather, by focusing on details, even small ones. How small? As small as the nozzles used throughout the irrigation system because it can be said that the greatest opportunity to improve efficiency lies in the performance, spacing and application of the irrigation system's nozzles. Take a closer look at nozzle operation and you'll see why this is true.

## NOZZLE PERFORMANCE

To clarify: When we speak of a 'nozzle', we are actually speaking of the 'nozzling' of a sprinkler, which could mean one, two, three or more nozzles working in unison to distribute water over the sprinkler's entire radius.

Typically, most golf sprinklers have at least two nozzles (a main and an inner nozzle), or three nozzles (a distance or main nozzle, an intermediate nozzle and an inner nozzle). The main or distance nozzle throws the water out as far as possible, usually from the middle of its radius to the end of the radius. A larger stream under higher pressure will tend to go further. If there is an intermediate nozzle, its job is to distribute water over the middle range of the radius, while an inner nozzle distributes water closest to the sprinkler, covering approximately the first one-third of the radius.

Two factors have the greatest effect on nozzles' potential efficiency. First, generally speaking, nozzles with shorter radii (in the 18 to 24 metre range) can achieve higher efficiency than nozzles throwing 25 to 35 metres. Water can be distributed more evenly over a short distance than a long distance, helping us achieve what we call 'uniformity'. The shorter the nozzle radius, the greater the uniformity and, thus, the greater the efficiency of that sprinkler's operation.

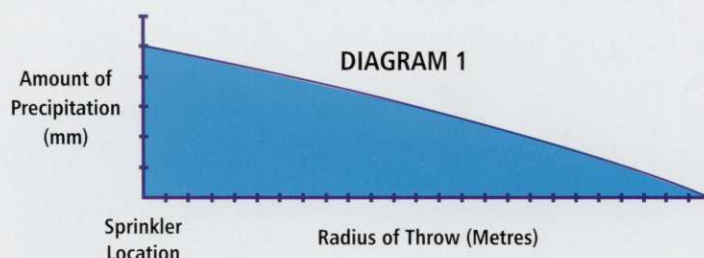
The second factor is the number of nozzles. Imagine the engineer designing a golf sprinkler for a 24 metre radius of throw. If the sprinkler has two nozzles, each will have a broad area to cover. If three nozzles are used, each nozzle can be fine-tuned to distribute water more accurately over a smaller area. The use of three nozzles produces a more even distribution over the entire range of radius and, thus, greater efficiency. This is why sprinklers with three nozzles and a 20 to 24 metre radius are becoming the most desired and common setups used in golf applications, where high efficiencies are beneficial or required.

## SPACING

If you understand how a single sprinkler distributes water, as well as the patterns created by groups of sprinklers, you can determine the optimum spacing of sprinklers to deliver the desired effect - efficiently.

A sprinkler's distribution profile is commonly measured in a test lab where collection cups are spaced every one-third metre, or every foot. After the sprinkler is run for numerous complete revolutions, the volume of water collected in each cup is measured and the water distribution profile is charted in graph form.

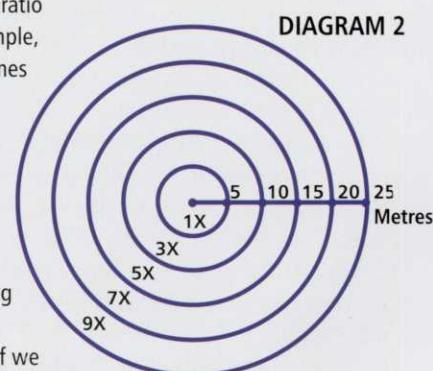
A good distribution profile starts highest when closest to the sprinkler, then has a descending line, forming a shape like a triangle, reaching the bottom of the graph at its maximum radius, indicating that water goes no further (see Diagram 1). When you look at a golf sprinkler in use, it typically appears that most of the water is being thrown the furthest distance from the sprinkler. This is actually just an optical illusion, as radius catchment testing (depicted in Diagram 1) proves out.



Here is why: The further from the sprinkler you go, the greater the area over which the water is being spread. Consider a 25 metre radius split in sections of five metres each. The first section is 0 to 5, the second is 5 to 10, and so on. As the sprinkler rotates, each of these sections forms a ring. The area in the first ring (0 to 5 metres) is approximately 78 square metres; the second ring (5 to 10 metres) is approximately 235 square metres; ring three is approximately 393 square metres; four is approximately 549 square metres; and the fifth and furthest ring (20 to 25 metres) covers an area of approximately 706 square metres.

What is significant is the ratio between the areas. For example, the second ring has three times the area of the first ring; the third ring has five times the area of the first ring; the fourth ring has seven times the area of the first ring; and the fifth ring has nine times the area of the first ring (see Diagram 2).

This data shows us that if we had only one sprinkler, it would be

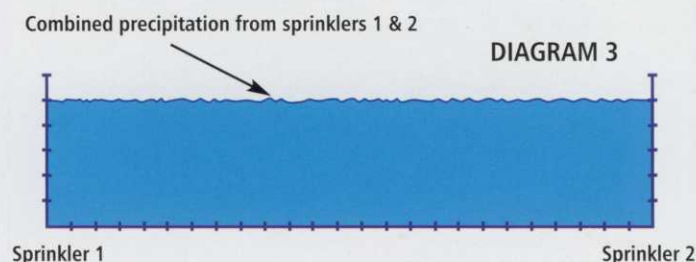




very difficult to distribute water evenly over the sprinkler's entire coverage area. Thus, sprinkler distribution profiles are designed to take the shape of a triangle (highest near the sprinkler and lowest at the end of its radius). This is why most manufacturers recommend that the space between sprinklers be equal to their radius. This locating - or spacing - is commonly called 'head-to-head' spacing and it offers a significant benefit.

### 'HEAD-TO-HEAD' SPACING

If two sprinklers have the same distribution pattern, and are placed opposite each other, separated by the distance of their radii, the result is greatly improved distribution over the area between them. Both sprinklers contribute to the total watering between the sprinklers, and where one distributes less water, the other distributes more water. This complementary distribution continues over the entire distance between the sprinklers, producing an even and beneficial water distribution pattern (see Diagram 3).



This is usually the ideal spacing, as opposed to sprinklers being over-spaced - too far apart from one another - or under-spaced - too close together, both of which produce less-than-optimum efficiency. A common symptom of sprinklers that are over-spaced appears during the hottest season of the year, when dry rings of grass tend to form within the first two to eight metres around the sprinklers. The only way to overcome this is to operate the sprinklers for much longer run times. While this may reduce these dry rings, it can also create wet spots in the centre of the patterns between the sprinklers.

A symptom caused by under-spacing sprinklers is wet spots in approximately the first five metres around each sprinkler. Greenkeepers commonly have to reduce sprinkler run times in this situation, which can result in dry spots in the centre of the patterns.

Golf courses with sandy soils may not display these symptoms as much, but the result will be the same, and a greenkeeper will use and waste more water than is necessary. This improper spacing reduces efficiency, resulting in higher than necessary costs and possible turf damage.

### APPLICATION UNIFORMITY

We begin by noting that when we discuss 'pattern uniformity,' we are considering the area included between all of the sprinklers that create the pattern. This is important because any area that is not an 'included' area - 'included' meaning 'surrounded by sprinklers', will not receive the same 'effective' coverage. For instance, if you looked at a two row system, double row of sprinklers down the fairways, the grass in the area between the sprinklers will receive much better watering than the grass on the outside of either row of sprinklers. You can certainly still grow grass outside the rows of sprinklers, but you cannot water it as efficiently as the

grass inside. Because of this, it is highly recommended that important turf areas are irrigated as parts of the 'included areas' between patterns of sprinklers.

Now let's focus on the effects of various types of sprinkler patterns. The two most common pattern types are square, sometimes called 'rectangular', and triangular, sometimes called 'equilateral triangular'.

Square patterns are very simple and until about 10 years ago, they were the most commonly used patterns worldwide. The biggest drawback of square or rectangular spacing is the fact that each of the four sprinklers, even when spaced at head-to-head distances, cannot spray across the entire pattern. As a result, some areas within the pattern receive water from four sprinklers, other areas receive water from three sprinklers and some receive water from only two sprinklers (see Diagram 4).

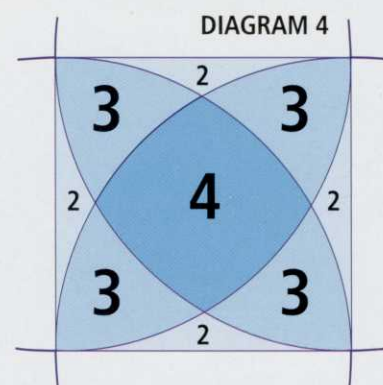
This can cause problems and these types of patterns tend to be less efficient than triangular patterns of the same distance with the same sprinklers. Square spacing is also more susceptible to suffer from the adverse effects of wind. The pattern is made by four sprinklers, none of which throws completely across the pattern, and wind tends to shorten the radius throw even more. This causes greater variance throughout the pattern. This is why professional consultants commonly recommend triangular spacing in windy areas.

Another advantage of triangular spacing, particularly equilateral triangular spacing, is that all three sprinklers throw across the entire 'included' pattern (see Diagram 5). This usually creates the highest pattern uniformities, and thus is the most efficient in terms of water usage and application uniformity.

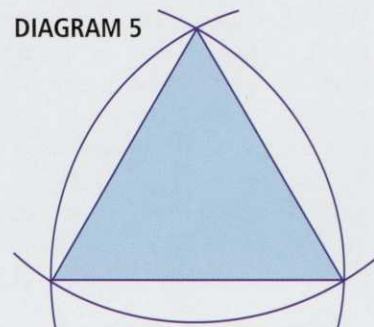
### ADJUSTING FOR WIND

Another design technique commonly used in known windy areas is to use shorter-radius sprinklers and closer spacing. Instead of using 24-25 metre spacing, spacing of 19-21 metres might be used in a windy area. There are two main reasons for the short radius approach:

1. Water particles that have to travel further, say 25 metres instead of 20 metres, spend more time in the air, and thus are more prone to be affected by the wind.
2. To travel the further distance, the water droplets go higher and are again more susceptible to the effects of the wind. The shorter radius lowers the maximum height of the distribution.



In a Square pattern, with a sprinkler at each corner, this is the effect of how many sprinklers are applying coverage to the various areas of the entire pattern.



In a Triangular pattern, each of the 3 sprinklers contributes to coverage across the entire pattern

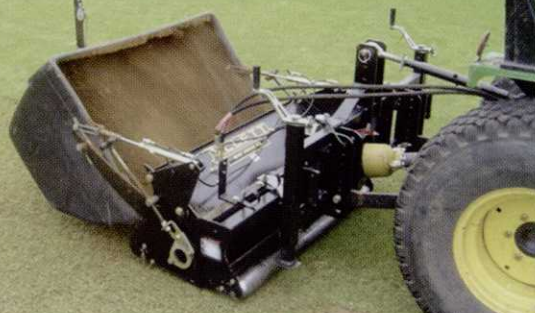




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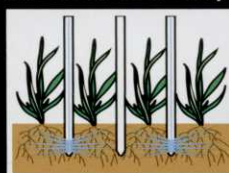


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# Alternative Power or Compromised Power?

James de Havilland charges up and shops around for alternative power mowers.

As the smell of freshly mown grass mingles with exhaust fumes and the aroma of hot hydraulic oil, it is all too easy to forget that it need not be like this. Electric powered mowers have been around for almost as long as those with an internal combustion engine, but their use has typically been confined to tending suburban household lawns.

When Ransomes introduced its all-electric E-Plex greens mower back in 1997, the company suggested that this model could well herald a new approach to golf course mowing. Although many commentators focused upon the mowers quiet running and low emissions at the point of use as key environmental benefits, it was the fact that the mower dispensed with hydraulics and, with it hydraulic oil, many saw as a key benefit.

By removing the risk of oil leaks, the Ransomes E-Plex looked set fair to revolutionise ride-on greens mowing. Hot oil kills grass, whether it is a conventional mineral oil or a synthetic or vegetable based 'bio' oil. An E-Plex has no hydraulics to fill with oil, so a leak, even if they are increasingly rare on modern conventional alternatives, can never happen with an E-Plex.

Eight years on and the E-Plex has morphed into the Jacobsen E-Plex II. Increasingly popular, a battery powered E-Plex certainly does the job, but these mowers do not suit every course, battery capacity meaning that in some situations they are compromised.

Cold mornings and aging battery packs sometimes make a mockery of claimed battery endurance times, and the thought of a stranded E-Plex is something that has put off some potential buyers.

This is not to suggest the E-Plex is too compromised for serious consideration. Courses that want the E-Plex to work will make it work and no doubt there are readers who will either be converts themselves or know someone that is. But battery power will always have its detractors, which in turn means ride-on electric greens mowing has yet to win as many users as it deserves.

Jacobsen are not resting on its E-Plex laurels, however, and have added the battery powered E-Walk to its range. For some, this pedestrian greens mower will prove a more tempting proposition, not least because it allows



Originally introduced by Ransomes, the E-Plex was the world's first all-electric, battery powered ride-on triple greens mower. The latest variant has evolved into the Jacobsen E-Plex II, with some of the early models' wrinkles ironed out. A key feature of all variants is quality of cut; it is this that should see it considered above the fact that it does away with an engine and hydraulics. Up and running following an overnight mains charge, this mower has won many over to electric power. E-Plex II prices start at £20,949.

a toe to be dipped into electric mowing waters without committing too much capital. Of equal importance, this particular mower could win sales through its mowing ability alone, more of which later.

What could further help the 'electric' mowing case is the latest John Deere 2500E. Where the E-Plex has a pack of batteries, the John Deere Tri-Plex greens mower has a nominal 20hp three-cylinder diesel powering a 48 volt, 90 amp alternator. This provides enough juice to spin the three electric motors powering the cylinders, conventional hydrostatics providing drive to the two front wheels.

At first glance, this combination of diesel power, hydrostatics and electric motors may seem a bit baffling. Why go for electric motors to drive the cylinders but stick with hydrostatics for the wheels? The short answer



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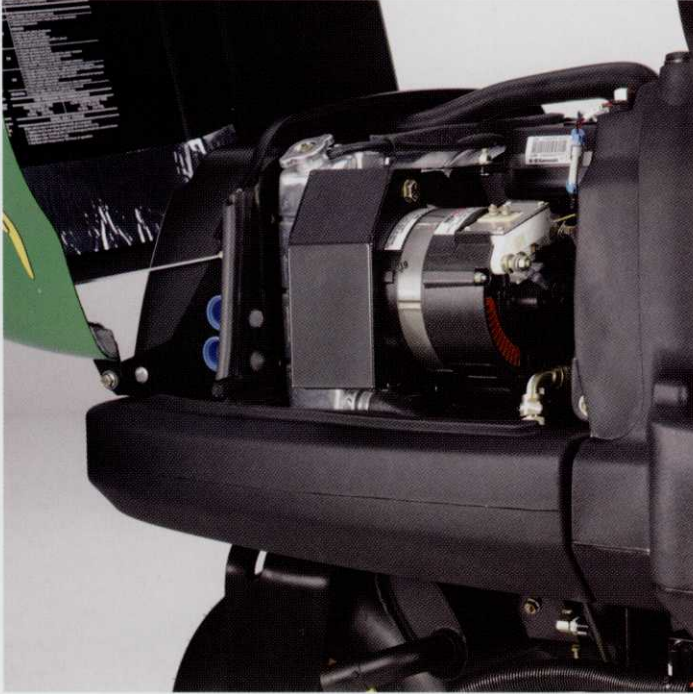


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With its 20hp three-cylinder diesel powering a 48 volt, 90 amp alternator, the John Deere 2500E is a 'hybrid' alternative to the full battery powered Jacobsen E-Plex II. By sticking with hydrostatic drive to the traction motors, Deere has managed to keep much in common with the 'conventional' Tri-Plex 2500A, yet still offer many of the benefits of electric mowing. Deere had orders in the UK and Eire running into double figures for this new mower prior to its BTME launch in January. Will such early success see a hybrid fairway mower coming next?

is not the one provided by Deere, but pretty obvious to anyone who knows the existing 2500A Tri-Plex diesel; the two mowers share the same basic layout, enabling Deere to keep its 'electric' version well priced.

Sticking with hydrostatics to the wheel motors should not compromise the mower's ability to minimise leak related problems either. Deere suggest research in the USA has shown 90% of all hydrostatic greens mower oil leaks come from the circuit powering the cylinders, or reels if American terminology is your bag. From this it should follow that the Tri-Plex 2500E should be considerably less likely to drop hot oil than a more conventional design.

### QUALITY OF CUT

Maintaining a quality of cut on the greens is of course critical. Electrically powered cylinders arguably have an advantage in this respect, and for two reasons. First, it is easier to ensure an electric motor spins at a fixed speed than one powered by hydraulic flow. A consistent cylinder speed is critical as it delivers the required number of cuts per metre. Both the Jacobsen E-Plex II and the John Deere Tri-Plex 2500E benefit from advanced control of the cylinder speeds.

A second point, and one that some would consider pedantic, is cylinder acceleration. An electric motor has the ability to develop its maximum torque at a low speed, and reach its full operating speed almost as soon as it receives power. It will take a hydraulically powered motor a bit longer to get up to full speed.

Although it is tempting to add 'so what' to this, remember consistent mowing quality calls for a fixed number of blade strokes per metre. If the green is mown from the moment power is sent to the cylinders, an electric drive will have cut the green at the desired rate of cut just that much sooner. There are those that argue that using electronics and electric motors will give the precise control over cut quality that is just not possible with hydrostatics.



The new John Deere 2500E is the golf and turf industry's first hybrid greens mower, combining conventional diesel power with electric motors. One design aim was to eliminate 102 potential hydraulic leak points by removing all hydraulics from the cutting unit drive circuit. The 2500E is equipped with three 56cm (22in) seven- or 11-blade cylinders. All 2500A attachments are compatible with the 2500E to include greens tender conditioners, rear roller power brushes and vertical cutting units. Prices from £22,378 with 11-blade cylinders and grooved front rollers.





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### THE FUTURE

Greens mowers are the ideal target for electrification. A critical issue is that the power needed to drive the cylinders is relatively modest and, where electric motors also power a ride-on mower's traction wheels, demands on the system remain relatively low when compared to a fairway mower.

It is spreading the acceptance of electric motors to other items of mowing equipment where the challenge lies, and it is here where John Deere's 'hybrid' approach could well be exploited further. If the Tri-Plex 2500E proves a success, then encouraging sales will almost certainly see other models follow. The trick is predicting when.

### WHAT ABOUT LPG?

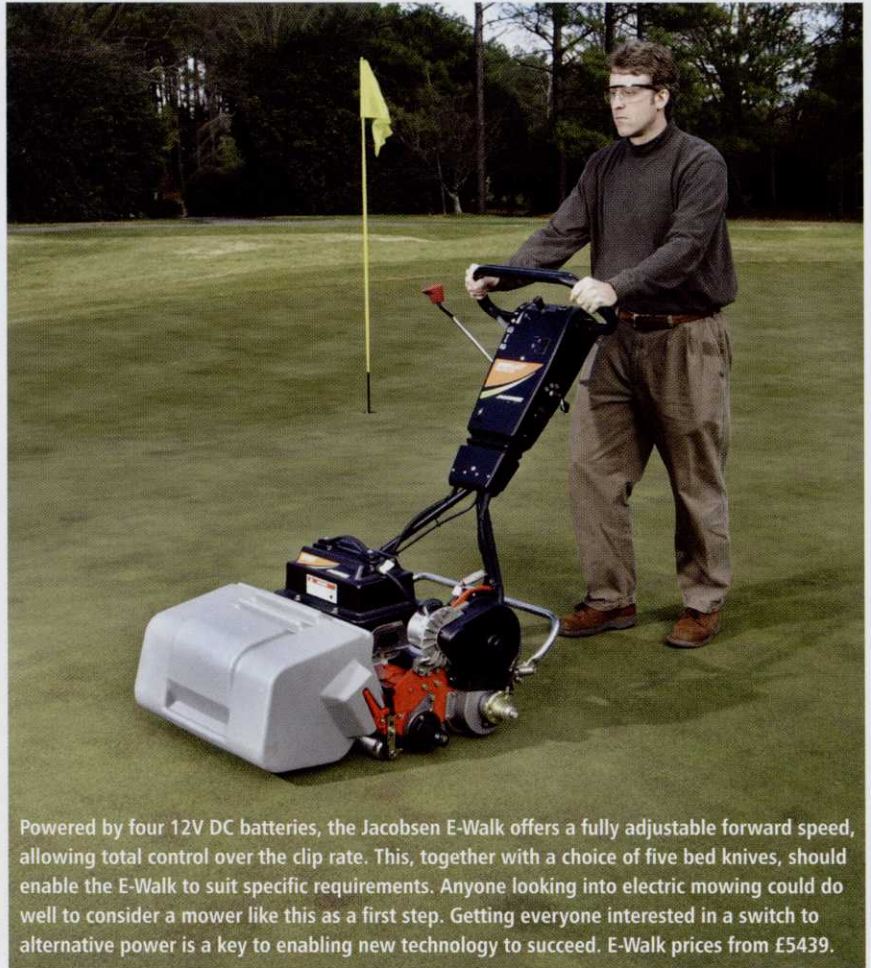
Liquefied petroleum gas, typically as propane, is a well established alternative fuel to petrol. Golf carts converted to run on gas are now well established. With regard to mowers, there are a number of amenity users using gas powered machines, with Ransomes offering a gas powered Highway 2130 triple to meet their specific demands. But LPG is losing its edge in the UK. For a start, it is likely to become increasingly costly, as reserves prove harder to find.

Then there is the issue of its 'environmental' impact. It now appears that LPG burnt in an internal combustion engine produces more harmful emissions than originally suggested, albeit when measured from the tailpipe of a road vehicle as opposed to a mower or buggy.

LPG has its place, but it is currently unlikely to usurp either diesel or petrol as a primary fuel for internal combustion engines. Hybrid and electric power look like safer long term bets.



Dramatic progress has been made in the production of diesel engines over the last few years with new models being quieter, smoother, more efficient, yet still complying with tough emissions legislation. One such engine - a 25hp water-cooled 3-cylinder Lombardini - is at the heart of Etesia's new ride-on rotary mower, the Hydro 124DN. This latest 124cm tractor has the powerful delivery necessary to achieve the high output and efficiency of a mower which, depending on conditions, is capable of working fast at speeds of up to 16km/h.



Powered by four 12V DC batteries, the Jacobsen E-Walk offers a fully adjustable forward speed, allowing total control over the clip rate. This, together with a choice of five bed knives, should enable the E-Walk to suit specific requirements. Anyone looking into electric mowing could do well to consider a mower like this as a first step. Getting everyone interested in a switch to alternative power is a key to enabling new technology to succeed. E-Walk prices from £5439.

### ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Year round play brings with it increased levels of soil compaction. Compacted ground means increased surface water run off. A modest spill of oil is now increasingly likely to be washed from turf into surface water and go on to form a disproportionately huge oil slick. Everyone then shouts 'pollution' and demands an instant fix. No wonder so many courses now specify new mowers with a factory fill of biodegradable oil.

It is tempting to now diverse into the merits of various types of biodegradable oils. As many a Course Manager will know, the rape based vegetable hydraulic oils used in some mowers have proven less able than conventional mineral based fluids to do the job reliably. There are, however, biodegradable synthetic oil alternatives to vegetable based oils, but these are costly and often overlooked as a result.

For those that have 'fallen out of love' with bio oils, any 'electric' or 'hybrid' mower has to be worth investigating. But for those looking for a cracking good greens mower should give these machines a chance as well. Electric power has a great future in golf course mowing, and not just because it is perceived as offering 'environmental' benefits.

There are those who will argue electric power's corner solely on environmental grounds. This is a bit tricky to square as electricity needs to be generated, so an electric powered mower is certainly not 'carbon neutral'. There are those who can also argue that a diesel mower can be run on biodiesel, and it is this approach that will have the greatest impact on reducing global warming. So perhaps the future could see more hybrid mowers being developed, with power generated by a diesel running on a 'green' fuel.





## **We like to make a point about our new 2500E Hybrid Powered Riding Greens Mower. 102, to be exact.**

There is always a better way. Take our new 2500E Hybrid Tri-Plex Greens Mower. By coming up with an industry exclusive design that drives the cutting units with electric reel motors, we've eliminated 102 potential leak points by removing all hydraulics from the cutting unit drive circuit which mean less potential for damaged greens. As the industry's first hybrid greens mower, the 2500E is more than just an electric mower. It operates on a diesel engine, not a battery, so it can be used for greens mowing with all attachments, even verticutting. Since the 2500E is not dependent on battery power for run time, it can keep the same frequency of clip on every green and complete an unlimited number of greens. To see the difference a 2500E can make on your course's greens, call your local John Deere dealer today. [www.johndeere.co.uk](http://www.johndeere.co.uk)



**JOHN DEERE**

NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE



# How Low Can You Go?



Stella Rixon, STRI Turfgrass Agronomist for the South East, gets her ruler out and explores the changes in grass growth and cutting heights over the past two years.

With an ever increasing demand for Augusta quick greens all year round, the STRI has been carrying out a countrywide survey to record present day cutting heights on golf courses around the British Isles. Height of cut information on greens, tees, collars, fairways and rough was collected by STRI agronomists visiting over 850 courses, distributed throughout Scotland, Ireland, North and Southern England. The courses varied in type from links, heathland to parkland and from pay-and-play to The Open venues. The survey ran from June 2002 to June 2004 so that we have two complete years of data, enabling a comparison to be made from year to year.

**TABLE 1: MAXIMUM, MINIMUM AND AVERAGE CUTTING HEIGHTS FOR 850+ COURSES AROUND THE BRITISH ISLES.**

Area	Summer (Apr-Sept)			Winter (Oct-Mar)		
	Min	Max	Average	Min	Max	Average
Greens	2	8	4.62	3	8	5.67
Tees	4	13	11.34	6	20	12.26
Collars	5	27	11.24	7	18	11.59
Fairways	6	30	15.16	10	25	15.89
1st rough	20	100	40.54	19	100	42.42
2nd rough	25	125	60.71	25	125	66.93

## A GOOD DEAL OF VARIATION

The range of mowing heights for each area of a course varied quite widely. The maximum and minimum cutting heights found in each turf area, and the calculated average over all courses is shown in Table 1. As you can see variations were quite extreme for some parts of the course.

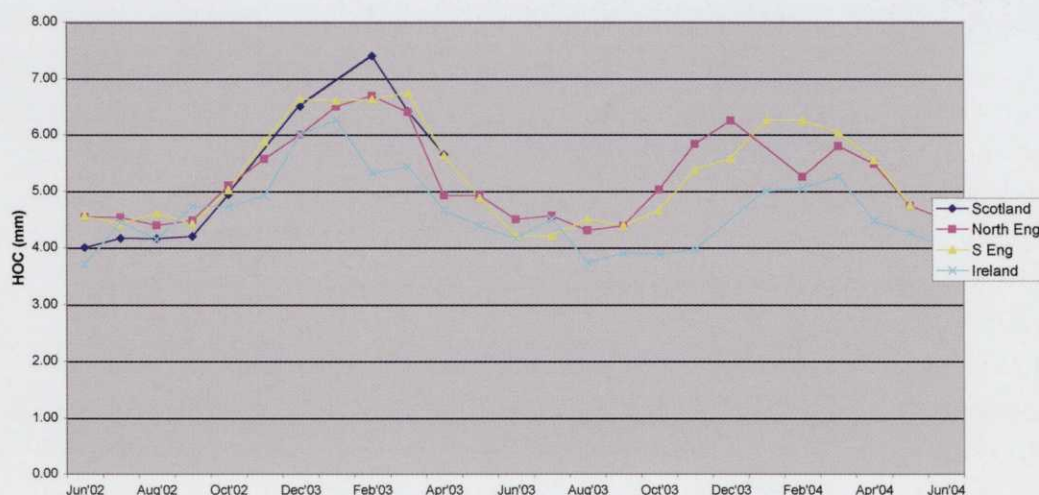
It was interesting to compare data from different areas of the country - a summary table (Table 2) is given. The one trend clearly shown was that Ireland had consistently lower mowing heights on greens, as demonstrated more clearly in Graph 1. This is due to a prevalence of USGA specification, close-mown, creeping bent greens.

With the exception of Ireland, all other areas had a similar average greens height of cut, i.e. winter and summer combined. However, perhaps not surprisingly, Scotland showed the greatest drop between winter and summer heights. The data collected suggested that slightly longer cutting heights were maintained through the colder Scottish winters but shorter greens heights were found during the summer - perhaps due to less heat stress compared to more southerly climates?

Ireland and Scotland also tended to have shorter mown fairways than courses throughout England, both through the summer and winter. This is likely to be due to the predominance of bent grass on Scottish fairways and the high number of tight mown, USGA style courses in Ireland. This grass species can withstand shorter mowing heights without suffering from drought stress. Finally, Scotland also appeared to maintain shorter grass heights on tees, both in summer and winter and, once again, Scottish tees tend to have a high percentage of bent grass.

As well as location, I also looked at whether there were any differences in heights of cut on different course types - i.e. comparing data for parkland, heathland, links/seaside and moorland/upland courses. This analysis showed that lowest summer greens heights were found on links/seaside courses and the highest found on parkland courses, although there was only an average difference of ~0.2mm. In winter, this observation was reversed with parkland and heathland recording the lowest greens heights and links/seaside and moorland/upland retaining cutting heights up to 0.5mm higher. However, we cannot be certain that this depicts an accurate picture as the data collected was predominantly from parkland courses and some of the other types e.g. moorland/upland were poorly represented.

**GRAPH 1** Comparison of Average Greens Height around the British Isles





GENERAL DOWNWARDS TREND?

Perhaps most significantly, the data collected showed that the average height of cut for greens, tees and fairways reduced over the period of time from June '02-'03 to June '03-'04. Granted that we have only two years of data but this does seem to confirm the perception that there is a general trend to lowering cutting heights, particularly with respect to greens.

However, before we draw any premature conclusions we should look at how the weather in each year affected mowing heights.

THE WEATHER EFFECT

We might expect that cutting heights are adapted according to weather conditions such as cold, drought, rainfall, etc. Therefore, I analysed the data to see which of these factors had the greatest effect on the mowing heights recorded.

DROUGHT

June to Sept '02 was a good growing summer, whereas June to Sept '03 was very hot and dry, therefore you might have expected more generous cutting heights in the latter to compensate for the drought conditions. This was true for the tees and fairways but greens were actually cut lower. Obviously, greenkeepers would have been relying heavily on their irrigation systems for maintaining the greens turf, whereas tees and fairways could not be irrigated to the same extent, if at all.

According to the Meteorological Office records over the last 30 years, average UK temperatures usually peak in the month of July. However, over the last four years we have experienced equal or greater temperatures in August. Despite this, our survey shows that greens were being mown at their shortest in August of both years, '02 and '03, when temperatures reached their highest.

For instance, in the hottest month through the survey, August '03, when temps hit 16.5°C, we recorded the lowest average greens cutting height of only 4.19mm. No doubt the warm temperatures combined with summer fertiliser and irrigation were promoting rapid growth at this time but the sudden and severe heat stress took many greenkeepers unawares.

TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF AVERAGE CUTTING HEIGHTS FOR DIFFERENT AREAS (\*ONLY SMALL DATA SET FOR SCOTLAND).

	Scotland		North England		South England		Ireland	
	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter
Greens	4.43	6.31	4.64	5.99	4.67	6.07	4.22	5.07
Tees	9.76	11.51	11.16	12.32	12.17	13.12	11.16	12.71
Fairways	13.72	14.11	15.43	16.48	16.35	16.40	13.59	15.23

Perhaps the sunshine was also bringing out more golfers and therefore pressures to maintain fast greens were greater?

WINTER WEATHER

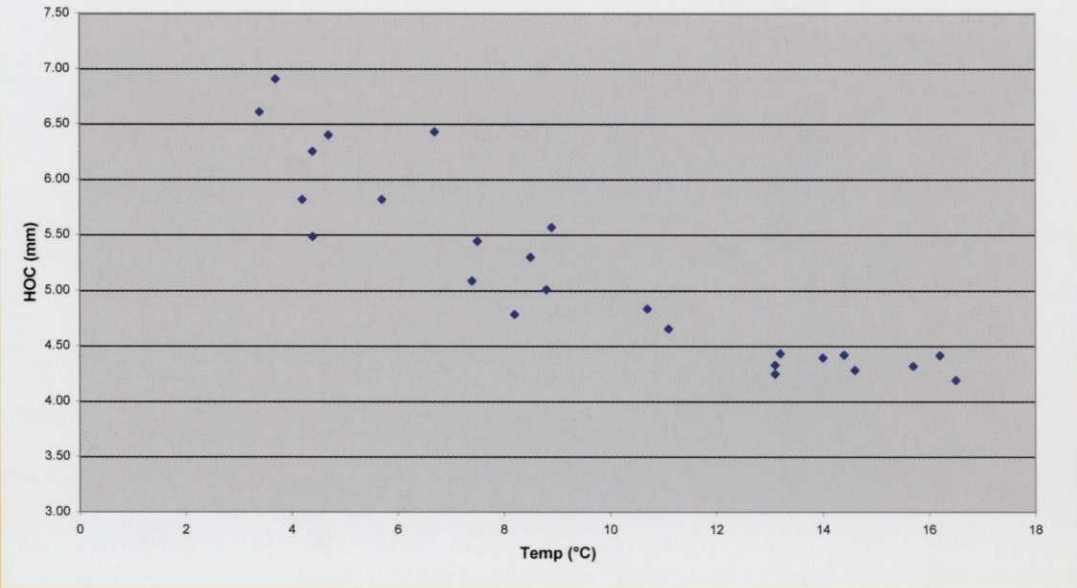
Winter of '02/'03, November to January, was fairly wet, with an average rainfall over the UK of 397mm (111%) over the three months and a mean temp of 5.3°C. The same period in '03/'04 was similarly wet with 375.7mm (110%) over the three months and the same mean temperature. Despite this, the average greens, tees and fairways height all came down in height slightly in winter '03/'04 compared to the previous one.

CHANGEABLE SPRING WEATHER

January to May '03 was a generally dry spring. The year started cold before becoming unseasonably warm and dry - many eastern and southern parts received less than 50% of their average rainfall in February and March and the UK average for April was down to only 75% of the 30 year average for this month. In contrast, January to May '04 was wetter, in particular the best growing month, April, which received an average of 138% of its usual precipitation. Therefore, the slightly lower cutting heights recorded on greens and tees in spring '04 might be expected, as growth was more vigorous.

In contrast, fairways in spring '04 were slightly higher than in '03. These areas tended to be hit hard by 2003's drought and in many areas the soil was still notably dry below the surface, despite winter rains. As a consequence, numerous courses were still struggling with notably thinned fairways and moss invasion as a legacy of the drought and therefore this increase in height was likely in response to this.

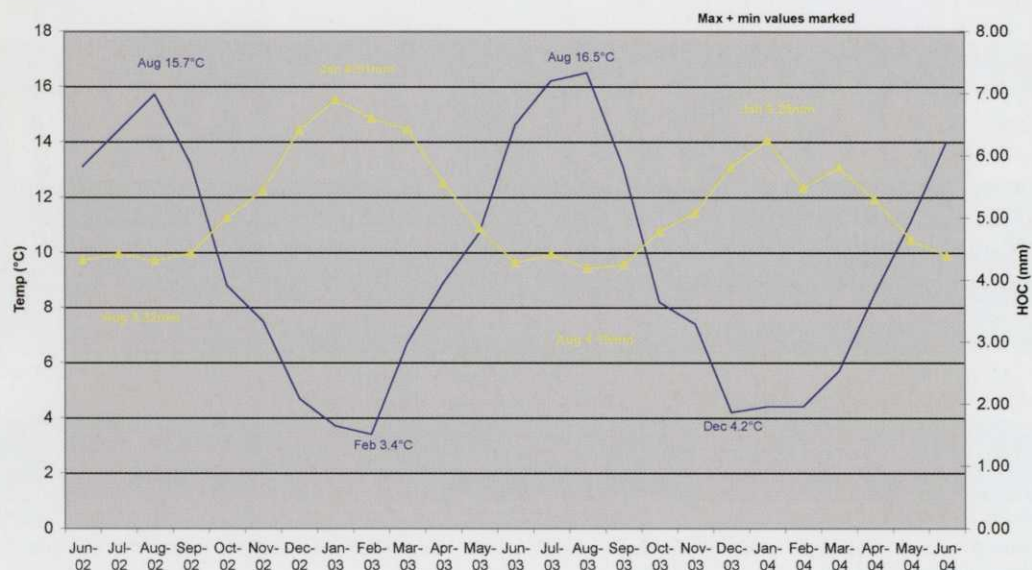
GRAPH 2 Relationship between Temperature + Greens Height of Cut





**GRAPH 3**

**Average UK Temperatures and Cutting Height of Greens**



Looking at the reduction in greens height of cut through February to June '03 compared to the same period in '04 we can see that for 2003, cutting heights were steadily reduced over this time. However for 2004, greens heights actually increased from February to March before steadily coming down again.

#### SUMMARY OF WEATHER EFFECT

It seems temperature governs greens cutting heights more than any other factor. Whereas there was no obvious relationship between rainfall and greens cutting heights, there is a good negative correlation with temperature. This trend is strongest in warm temperatures, i.e. everyone is cutting at their lowest in the summer months but mowing heights vary more widely in colder periods.

Analysis of the data shows that above 13°C, greens are reaching their lowest mowing heights, which vary very little around an average of 4.33 mm (S.D. 0.93). However, at temps less than 10°C, HOC tends to vary much more, around an average of 5.61mm (S.D. 1.78). For instance, in the coldest month through the survey, February '03, when the mean UK temp was only 3.4°C, green cutting heights ranged from five and eight.

There is not the same clear relationship between temperature and cutting heights for tees and fairways; frequently these areas tend to be mown at a relatively similar height year round with little difference between summer and winter.

#### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The skill of greenkeeping is to adapt constantly to the weather and changing environmental conditions and alter management accordingly. As

the survey indicates, this is happening up to a point. Greenkeepers are responding to changeable spring conditions and cold temperatures. This is probably an easier call to make as clubs tend to accept less than perfect conditions through the winter months. Come the summer the golfers want excellence and this is reflected in the sustained short mowing heights, particularly on greens.

A quick lesson in physiology: As we all know, the green leaves of a plant are its powerhouse. It is here that the magic of photosynthesis occurs. The sun's energy is harnessed and combined with carbon dioxide and water to produce food in the form of sugars. These sugars are then transported around the plant and used for energy and as building blocks for growth. Of course, the roots are important for taking in water and nutrients to add to these sugars to form complex molecules such as proteins, etc but ultimately, it is the shoots which feed the plant.

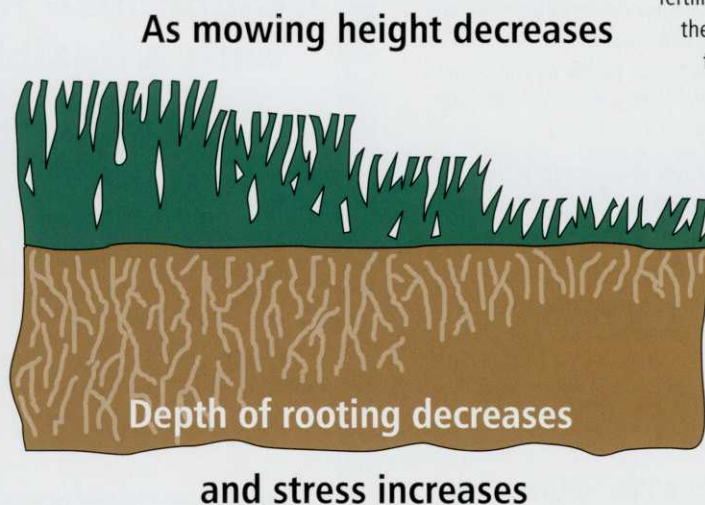
This is why plants die without sufficient light - irrelevant of how much fertiliser/water they were given. Furthermore,

the roots can only grow with the shoots feeding them; therefore the length of the roots is directly linked to the amount of leaf matter on the surface.

So you can see it is very easy to get into a vicious downwards spiral - the shorter the cutting height = less green matter = less growth = less roots + weaker plant = less drought, disease and wear resistance.

This was clearly shown in the drought of 2003 when many courses lost grass cover on surfaces, but most commonly on irrigated greens, as opposed to non-irrigated fairways. This should be a warning. Just

because turf is growing vigorously, does not mean it can withstand shorter heights. Most importantly, let Mother Nature be your guide as opposed to the golfing calendar.







# Finance for Machinery

**Ian Henderson, Managing Director of Golf Finance Ltd on funding of Mowers and other Grass Machinery.**

**Q. How many Golf Clubs use finance for the funding of mowers and other grass equipment?**

**A.** "The majority of Golf Clubs, whether Members Clubs or proprietary businesses use finance, when acquiring new machinery. There has been a very big change in attitudes towards finance in the past 10 years with most clubs now very comfortable with all forms of structured funding".

**Q. There are several forms of finance talked about, such as Lease, HP and Contract Hire. What is the best type of agreement for a golf club?**

**A.** There are great benefits to members clubs with either leasing or contract hire. With this type of agreement the club can spread the vat over the life of the agreement, rather than having to pay it all up front as with Hire Purchase. With the current vat de-minimis in place the savings made in spreading the vat can go a long way to offsetting the interest charges on the agreement.

For proprietary clubs or clubs who are out with de-minimis, hire purchase is a good alternative.

**Q. You mentioned Lease and Contract Hire, what is the main difference between these products?**

**A.** Lease, or Finance lease to give it the correct name, is where the club agrees to hire the equipment over a set period, of say 3 or 5 years. At the end of this time the club effectively own the full value of the asset. If the club choose to sell the equipment or trade the machine back in, they would benefit from a 100% rebate of sale proceeds. If the club choose to retain the machine after the primary rental period a small "secondary" or "peppercorn" rental is normally paid on an annual basis. With Contract Hire, or Operating Lease the machine is simply returned to the supplier at the end of the period. It is fairly common to have a maintenance schedule built in with a Contract Hire agreement, which gives the club a one stop shop.

**Q. Over how many years do Golf Clubs normally finance their mowers?**

**A.** With the quality of machines which are produced by the main manufactures today, it is quite common for clubs to finance mowers over anything up to 7 years, sometimes longer for a small or 9 hole course. The average is 5 years, which allows a manageable cost annually, but avoids any large repair bills and maintenance charges.

**Q. Golf Finance talk about "Cashflow Matched Finance", what exactly is this?**

**A.** Every club is different. We understand the income cycles within clubs vary, depending on the geography, the time of year when subscription payments are collected and visitor income levels. By studying these details we can design a package which is suited to each clubs cash flow. This avoids collecting large direct debits when the club has little or no income.

**Q. How do you manage to stay ahead in this competitive market?**

**A.** As independent brokers we will negotiate the package for the club which is the best suited, and most competitive given the circumstances. Whether the deal is for a £3,000 hand mower or a £3 million pound mortgage we have a range of funding partners with whom we have worked for many years and are always keen to do business in our market place.

**Q. How does a club go about arranging finance through Golf Finance?**

**A.** Our details are in the buyers guide in Greenkeeper International each month, or you can visit our website [www.golffinance.co.uk](http://www.golffinance.co.uk) and email an enquiry, or simply call us on 01620 890200.

We have facilities for all types of new and used equipment, and would be delighted to discuss any requirements any clients may have.

## FINANCE:

- **Replacement machinery**
- **Course improvements**
- **Clubhouse redevelopment with a flexible package**



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# Unwanted Visitors

Mark Rees gets up close and personal with some of the biggest pests found on the golf course.

Creating and maintaining the high standard expected of greens and fairways by players is hard enough with the unpredictable British weather. However, another natural problem that causes as much damage can be controlled - pests.

An ongoing pest control plan can help protect the welfare of staff and players by reducing the risk of transferred disease and save money by preventing damage to machinery, buildings, seed stocks, vegetation, fairways, and greens. Rabbit burrows and molehills are unsightly and they adversely affect the reputation of the club.



Aside from the health risk, both mice and rats can cause damage by gnawing. Brown Rats have been known to gnaw through breezeblocks, so electrical wires and control cables on machinery offer little resistance. To give some idea of how quickly a rat infestation can become established, the Brown Rat reaches sexual maturity within 10-12 weeks and can have up to six litters a year of seven to eight young.

Signs of their presence are droppings, gnaw marks and smears where their fur has left grease marks on surfaces they have brushed against. Mice can reproduce themselves even more quickly and cause similar damage.

Keeping rats and mice out of buildings, especially where there is a food source, is the best way of control. Rats are able to squeeze through quite narrow gaps - half grown animals can get through a 12mm gap, and mice only need 6mm. Keeping the building and its surroundings free from food and debris will also make the area less attractive to rodents.





Once rodents become established, traps or rodenticides can be used. Rodenticides are applied in the form of bait, usually whole or broken cereal grains. The bait should be placed in rodent burrows, or in tamper resistant boxes near their runs and in-and-around infested buildings. Although modern rodenticides are generally of a low hazard, the use of a bait box helps to protect the bait from children and domestic animals, as well as protecting it from the elements.

Moles are also a serious nuisance on golf courses. The hills of earth they create are unsightly and cause damage to grass cutting machinery, plant growth and create additional unwanted hazards for golfers. Left untreated the problems caused by moles will soon get worse; moles are solitary creatures and have litters containing up to seven young, which then disperse to the nearby area.

Treating moles has traditionally been by trapping, which is only effective with a single mole when it first appears, but a well established community requires the services of a professional. Phostoxin, is a specialist product consisting of tablets, which, when exposed to moisture in the air, or soil, release the highly toxic gas Phosphine, gasing the moles underground. It must only be used by trained personnel and the near vicinity must be kept clear of people until the gas has dispersed, usually at least 48 hours.

Rabbits are as obvious as moles to spot, from their droppings, scrapes and burrows. Although they feed primarily on grassland, they will damage trees by eating seedlings, distort growth by damaging shoots, as well as checking tree growth by stripping bark.

They normally are dealt with in a similar way to moles, there burrow systems being gased during the winter months.



A distinct dislike caused by a fear of being stung means wasps cause considerable irritation to both staff and players. Wasp control should be left to a professional as tackling a nest without the necessary protective equipment can lead to multiple stings, and an unsuccessful attempt to eradicate the nest.

Other insects are found in and around golf courses, some of which cause problems, but many are benign.

Again, a professional pest control company will be able to identify the species involved and advise you which control measures will be appropriate. Where Chafers or 'Maybugs' cause a problem, they are best treated by an agricultural pest control specialist who has the NPTC spraying certificate.

Greenkeepers can carry out some pest control by taking preventive measures such as rodent proofing buildings or containers where seed and machinery are stored, and practising good housekeeping. Greenkeepers should also take care to carefully follow the label instructions of any substances that they employ for pest control.

However, to save time and ensure a thorough job, employing a professional pest controller to carry out an ongoing programme of pest prevention and control is worth considering. But make sure you contract the right company.

Check that they have fully trained and qualified surveyors and technicians who can demonstrate recognised Health and Safety procedures, and have the appropriate public liability insurance. They should also be a member of The British Pest Control Association (BPCA), and provide detailed, clear and concise reporting and recommendations of their pest control plan.

*Mark Rees is the PR Executive for Rentokil Pest Control and the company can be contacted on Tel: 0800 3897696 or email: [clientline@rentokil.co.uk](mailto:clientline@rentokil.co.uk)*







## Shell Waterproofs



REGATTA



CODE RGJ

### REGATTA GIBSON JACKET

An Ideal corporate waterproof jacket. Peached polyester with concealed hood. Two lower pockets and mobile phone pocket. Interactive with RTF Fleece ~ See page 3.

Navy, Black or Lava Red.

Sizes S ~ XXL £19.50



REGATTA



CODE RVJ

### WATERPROOF & BREATHABLE MICROFIBRE

Detachable hood. Velcro adjustable cuffs. Two zipped chest pockets, internal mobile phone pocket. Interactive with RTF Fleece ~ See page 3.

Green or Navy.

Sizes S ~ XXL £35.75



REGATTA



CODE RLOT

### REGATTA LINED OVERTROUSER

Lined waterproof and breathable overtrouser. Zipped gusset to knee. Elasticated waist with drawcord. Two pockets.

Navy or Black.

Sizes S ~ XXL £17.50



CODE SBDJ

### SUPER B-DRI JACKET

Highly flexible, fully waterproof and puncture resistant. Full zip with concealed hood and storm flaps.

Olive, Navy or Yellow.

Sizes S ~ XXL £13.95

Also available as Hi-Viz to EN471



### CODE SBDT SUPER B-DRI OVER TROUSERS

Elasticated waist and studded ankles. The puncture resistant and easy rinse properties of this garment make it ideal for use when strimming.

Olive, Navy or Yellow.

Sizes S ~ XXL £7.00

Also available as Hi-Viz to EN471



REGATTA



CODE RPAJ

### REGATTA PACKAWAY JACKET

Waterproof and breathable yet extremely lightweight. Folds into small carrypack. Integral hood, elasticated cuffs and two pockets.

Laurel Green, Birch, Navy or Lava Red.

Sizes S ~ XXXL £13.50



REGATTA



CODE RPAT

### REGATTA PACKAWAY TROUSERS

Trousers to suit RPAJ. Waterproof and breathable yet extremely lightweight. Elasticated waist, two pockets and press stud ankles.

Laurel Green or Navy.

Sizes S ~ XXXL £8.00

All prices exclusive of VAT.





# Alternative Waterproofs



**CODE GTTJ**

## GUARDIAN TWO TONE JACKET

PVC coated polyester with padded lining. Fleece lined collar with integral hood. Internal pocket, phone pocket and map pocket. Two lower zipped pockets and one upper zipped pocket.

Green / Navy or Royal / Navy.

Sizes S ~ XXXL **£16.50**



**CODE NS**

## SUPER KEEPER PVC/NYLON JACKET

Heavy quilt tartan check lining. Fully taped with storm cuffs and hand warmer pockets. Also available with a lighter nylon quilted lining and nylon collar.

Navy or Olive.

Sizes S ~ XXXL **£12.00**

Lighter weight without hand warmers in Navy, Olive, Black, or Saturn Yellow **CODE N £8.50**



**CODE MB**

## 3 IN 1 JACKET

PU coated polyester outer with anti-pill fleece zip inner. Can be worn as fleece only, waterproof only, or both together. Provides 3 jackets in 1 to give protection whatever the weather.

Navy / Royal, Green / Navy, Navy / Green or Navy / Navy.

Sizes S ~ XXL **£26.00**



**CODE DWBS**

## DICKIES WATERPROOF QUILTED BOILERSUIT

PVC / nylon with stitched and tape welded seams. Heavy quilt lining. Zip front with Velcro fastening storm flap. 4 large bellows pockets, zipped ankle gussets, detachable hood and inside wallet pocket.

Green only.

Sizes M ~ XXL **£23.95**



**CODE DLBJ**

## DICKIES LEWIS BOMBER JACKET

Waterproof nylon bomber jacket with fleece lining. Two lower zipped pockets and one inside pocket.

Navy or Black.

Sizes M ~ XXL **£14.95**



**CODE RLJ**

## REGATTA LADIES JACKET

Waterproof peached polyester with taped seams. Thermo-Guard insulation. Multi-pocketed including mobile phone pocket and security pocket.

Lava Red / Navy, Navy / Navy or Heather / Navy.

Sizes 10 ~ 20 **£20.50**



All prices exclusive of VAT.





# Hi-Visibility

Hi-Visibility garments in a variety of styles. All comply to EN471 and provide the extra safety required when mowing or strimming on roadsides. Many more options are available on our website.



## CODE CTJENG

Saturn Yellow or Hi-Viz Orange.  
Sizes S ~ XXXXL **£14.50**



## CODE STJTT

Saturn Yellow / Navy  
Saturn Yellow / Royal  
or Hi-Viz Orange / Navy  
Sizes S ~ XXXL **£21.00**



## CODE HVBJ

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Sizes S ~ XXXL **£16.50**



## CODE TENG

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## CODE WCENG

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Also available with sleeves  
CODE PKJENG **£7.45**



Saturn Yellow



Hi-Viz Orange

# Fleece / Body Warmers



COLOURS



## CODE FLJ

### SUPER HEAVY WEIGHT ANTI PILL FLEECE JACKET

Full front zip and two zipped pockets.

Bottle, Navy or Black.  
Sizes XS ~ XXL **£12.00**



REGATTA

COLOURS



## CODE RTF

### REGATTA THOR FLEECE

Interactive with Regatta Gibson and Vertex jackets.

Navy, Black, Red Bottle or Sapphire.  
Sizes S ~ XXL **£10.50**



COLOURS



## CODE WFLJ

### 360g ANTI PILL POLAR FLEECE

Breathable windproof and spray proof lining. YKK zip and two zipped pockets. Fleece storm flap for extra protection from wind. Shock cord at hem.

Bottle or Navy.  
Sizes XS ~ XXL **£23.95**



COLOURS



## CODE BFLJ

### BUDGET FLEECE JACKET

Good quality anti-pill fleece. Exceptional value.

Bottle, Navy or Black.  
Sizes S ~ XXL **£9.30**



COLOURS



## CODE HBW

### POLYCOTTON BODYWARMER

With quilted lining and a multitude of pockets.

Navy, Black or Green.  
Sizes S ~ XXL **£8.00**



REGATTA

COLOURS



## CODE FBW

### REGATTA FLEECE BODYWARMER

Anti-pill polyester fleece.  
Two zipped lower pockets. Bound armholes.

Navy or Black.  
Sizes S ~ XXL **£9.00**

All prices exclusive of VAT.





# Workwear



## CODE PCT9 HEAVYWEIGHT 9oz POLYCOTTON WORK TROUSERS

2 hip pockets with flap and stud. One cargo pocket, phone pockets, rule pocket and hammer loop. internal pouches for knee pads.

Navy, Royal or Black.  
Sizes Regular or tall  
fitting 30" ~ 46"

**£11.00**

Knee pads **£2.50**



## CODE PCTHW BUDGET POLY/COTTON TROUSERS

Zip fly with hook bar and button fastening. Belt loops, two swing hip pockets and two rear pockets with stud flap. Sewn in crease.

Navy, Spruce or Royal.  
Sizes 30" ~ 52" **£5.85**



## CODE CTRAT CLICK TRADER TROUSER

Heavy duty nylon trouser with knee pad pockets. Tool pockets and hammer loop.

Navy only.  
Sizes 30" ~ 48"  
in regular or tall  
**£17.95**



## CODE PCJ9 HEAVYWEIGHT 9oz DRIVERS JACKET

Elasticated waist. Heavy duty two-way zip with flap. 2 breast pockets with Velcro fastening. 2 deep lower pockets. Action back.

Navy or Royal.

Sizes 36" ~ 52" **£11.95**

Also available as Boilersuit **£14.50**



## CODE PCJHW BUDGET POLY/COTTON DRIVERS JACKET

Zip front, two breast pockets with stud flap (one with pen divide). Double stud fastening cuffs. Elasticated waistband and two lower jetted pockets.

Navy, Spruce or Royal.

Sizes 34" ~ 54" **£7.45**



## CODE CTRAWV CLICK TRADERS WORK VEST

Heavy duty nylon tool vest with a multitude of pockets for tool storage.

Navy only.

Sizes M ~ XXXL **£14.95**



## CODE PCBS POLY/COTTON BOILER SUIT

Concealed stud front, two breast pockets, two side pockets with through access, rule pocket, one back pocket and elasticated waistband.

Navy, Royal, Spruce, Orange, Red or White.

Sizes 36" ~ 58" **£7.60**

Also available without separate waistband.

Navy, Royal or Spruce

CODE RPCBS **£5.50**

Sizes 36" ~ 50"



## CODE PCBSHW POLY/COTTON BOILER SUIT

Concealed brass zip front. Two zip breast pockets, two side pockets with through access, rule pocket, two back pockets, hammer loop and elasticated waistband.

Navy, Royal, Red, Orange or Bottle Green.

Sizes 36" ~ 56" **£8.90**



## CODE QBS QUILTED POLY/COTTON BOILERSUIT

Two way front zip, two zip breast pockets, two side pockets with through access, two rear pockets, one rule pocket, two back pockets and reinforced waistband.

Navy or Royal.

Sizes 36" ~ 52" **£21.00**

All prices exclusive of VAT.







**CODE RT  
DICKIES REAPER  
QUALITY  
POLY/COTTON  
TROUSER**

Nylon zip and button fastening. Wide belt loops, two side pockets. One inset back pocket with button flap.

Green or Navy.  
Sizes 30" ~ 48"  
Available in Regular 32"  
& Tall 34"  
**£11.95**

**CODE WRT**

As above but with full brushed polyester lining.  
**£16.75**



**CODE PCAT  
ACTION TROUSER**

Poly/cotton water repellent fabric with a multitude of zipped pockets.

Navy, Green or Black.  
Sizes 30" ~ 46"

**£10.80**



**CODE PCCT  
POLY/COTTON  
COMBAT TROUSER**

Conventional style with two front pockets and two lower patch pockets. Adjustable cord at ankle.

Olive, Navy or Black.  
Sizes 30" ~ 50"

**£8.00**

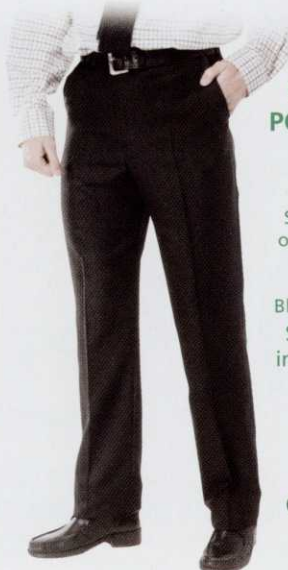
Also available in 100% Cotton (Olive only)  
Code CCCT  
**£9.95**



**CODE MT  
MOLESKIN  
TROUSER**

100% cotton. Plain bottom with two side pockets and one back pocket.

Olive or Lovat.  
Sizes 30" ~ 46"  
in Regular or Tall  
fitting  
**£28.00**



**CODE PVT  
POLY/VISCOSE  
TAILORED  
TROUSER**

Suitable for work or casual wear at a sensible price.

Black, Navy or Grey.  
Sizes 30" ~ 46"  
in Regular or Tall  
fitting.

**£7.95**

Also available Poly/Wool.

**CODE PWT  
£15.95**



**CODE RZT  
REGATTA PEACHED  
POLY/COTTON TROUSER**

Supreme comfort. Ideal summer trouser with zip off legs converting to shorts.

Navy or Putty.  
Sizes 28" ~ 46" in Regular or Tall fitting  
**£13.00**



**CODE CS  
POLY/COTTON  
CLASSIC SHIRT**

Stiffened collar and one breast pocket. Ideal for meetings or events.

Blue or White.  
Sizes 14 1/2" ~ 18 1/2"  
Short Sleeve **£4.50**  
Long Sleeve **£5.00**



**CODE PS  
POLY/COTTON  
PILOT SHIRT**

Two pockets with button down flap. Epaulettes on shoulders.

Blue or White.  
Sizes 14 1/2" ~ 18 1/2"  
Short Sleeve **£4.95**  
Long Sleeve **£5.50**



**CODE TLS  
TATTERSALL SHIRT**

Traditional style with one breast pocket. Long sleeve only.

Sizes M ~ XXXL  
**£6.50**



**CODE CTN  
CLIP ON TIE**

Black or Navy.  
**£2.95**

All prices exclusive of VAT.





# Leisurewear

Please note our Leisurewear range is too vast to be shown here. A separate brochure is available on request or the entire range can be viewed on our website



**CODE PKS**  
**BUDGET POLY/COTTON**  
**POLO SHIRT**

Wide range of colours available.  
Sizes S ~ XXL **£4.95**



**CODE PCS**  
**BUDGET POLY/COTTON**  
**SWEATSHIRT**

Wide range of colours available.  
Sizes S ~ XXL **£6.20**



**CODE CTS**  
**COTTON TEE SHIRT**

Extremely comfortable to work in in warm weather.  
Wide range of colours available.  
Sizes S ~ XXL **£2.50**



**CODE K403**  
**POLY/COTTON POLO SHIRT**

Can be hot washed to 60°C to remove stubborn stains.  
Navy, Royal, Bottle, Red and White.  
Sizes S ~ XXXL **£6.60**



**CODE J539M**  
**JERZEES 539M POLO SHIRT**

175g Poly/Cotton. Cuffed sleeves and two button placket.  
Wide range of colours available.  
Sizes S ~ XXL **£7.15**



**CODE J762M**  
**JERZEES J762M RAGLAN**  
**SWEATSHIRT**

260g Poly/Cotton. Twin needle stitch.  
Wide range of colours available.  
Sizes S ~ XXL **£8.70**



**CODE HA1**  
**HAYNES BEEFY TEE SHIRT**

Extra heavyweight high quality 100% cotton T-Shirt.  
12 colours available.  
Sizes S ~ XXL **£4.15**



**CODE PKSENG**  
**HI-VISIBILITY POLYESTER**  
**POLO SHIRT**

Complies to EN471 Class 2. Grey trim on collar and sleeves. Ideal for working in warmer temperatures.  
Saturn Yellow or Hi-Viz Orange.  
Sizes M ~ XXXL **£9.45**



**CODE FR1**  
**LONG SLEEVE RUGBY SHIRT**

100% cotton. Traditional style with rubber buttons.  
White, Red, Royal, Sky and Bottle Green  
Sizes S ~ XXL **£15.15**  
Also available short sleeved in Black, Bottle, Navy and White **CODE FR3 £13.95**  
All prices exclusive of VAT.



**CODE FR50**  
**100% PRE SHRUNK**  
**COTTON DRILL**

With rubber buttons.  
Navy, Red, Sky or Pink  
Sizes XS ~ XL **£16.70**  
Also available short sleeved in Navy or Sky **CODE FR53 £15.30**



**CODE PCHS**  
**HOODED POLY/COTTON**  
**SWEATSHIRT**

Double thickness hood with drawcord..  
Black, Navy, Bottle, Royal or Ash  
Sizes S ~ XXL **£11.35**

## Embroidery

We can embroider, print or heatseal your name, logo or job titles in a variety of styles. No job is too small or too large. Please contact us for further details or see the embroidery page on our website....

[www.bestinthecountry.co.uk/embroidery.php](http://www.bestinthecountry.co.uk/embroidery.php)





# Warm Clothing & Accessories



## CODE THV & THLJ THERMAL UNDERWEAR

Extremely lightweight with good insulating properties for those bitterly cold days

Sizes S ~ XXL

Thermal Vest (long or short sleeve)  
CODE THV

**£3.55**

Thermal Long Johns  
CODE THLJ

**£3.55**



## CODE MODS COMBAT SOCKS

Extremely warm and hardwearing.  
Mixed colours.

Sizes 7 ~ 11 **£2.85** (Per pair)



## CODE TS THERMAL TERRY SOCKS

Very warm and comfortable.  
Available in packs of three.

Mixed colours.

Sizes 7 ~ 11 **£2.25** (Per pack)



## CODE FIRE COTTON LYCRA SOCKS

Really cool and comfortable for summer. Ideal uniform sock used by most major Fire Brigades

FIRE 1 Sizes 6 ~ 11

FIRE 2 Sizes 4 ~ 7

FIRE 3 Sizes 11 ~ 14

Sold in packs of three.

**£3.00**  
(Per pack)



COLOURS  
[Navy] [White]

## CODE SBS SEA BOOT SOCKS

Extremely thick and warm wool socks.  
Navy or White.

Sizes 6 ~ 12 **£2.95**



## CODE TI WASHABLE INSOLE

Warm washable insole. Can be trimmed to fit most work boots and wellingtons.

Sizes 5 ~ 12 **£1.50**



COLOURS  
[Red] [Black] [Navy] [Royal]

## CODE BCLP LOW PROFILE BASEBALL CAP

Bottle, Black, Red, Navy or Royal.

Sizes S ~ XXL **£2.00**



COLOURS  
[Navy] [Powder Blue] [Black] [Red] [Royal] [Grey]

## CODE KH 100% ACRYLIC KNITTED HAT

Ideal for embroidery.

Navy, Powder Blue, Black, Red, Royal or Grey.

Sizes S ~ XXL **£2.25**



COLOURS  
[Slate Grey] [Navy]

## CODE PKH PULL ON KNITTED HAT

100% acrylic. New fashion style without turn up.

Slate Grey or Navy.

One Size **£2.25**



COLOURS  
[Black] [Navy] [Forest]

## CODE DWC DELUXE WINTER FLEECE CAP

100% anti-pill fleece.  
Side panels can fold inside

Black, Navy or Forest.

One Size **£3.50**



COLOURS  
[Black] [Olive]

## CODE FLM FINGERLESS MITTS

100% acrylic.

Black or Olive.

One Size **£1.10**



COLOURS  
[Black] [Olive]

## CODE AG ACRYLIC GLOVE

100% acrylic.

Black or Olive.

One Size **£1.10**

All prices exclusive of VAT.





# Gloves

Gloves available for any job. Please contact us for details



**CODE QLD**  
**SUPER HIGH QUALITY**  
**FLEECE LINED YELLOW**  
**COWHIDE GLOVE**

Drivers Style. Our most popular glove and exceptional value.

**£3.50**



**CODE CANYHQP**  
**YELLOW COWHIDE GLOVE**

Canadian pattern. Power brand. Extremely durable.

**£1.50**



**CODE NAPPABL**  
**FURNITURE HIDE LEATHER**  
**GLOVE**

Canadian pattern. Warm lining ideal for winter use.

**£0.90** Also available unlined  
CODE NAPPA **£0.65**



**CODE MP1**  
**ANTI-CUT GLOVE**

Highly flexible glove with cut resistant latex palm.

Sizes M ~ XL **£0.95**



**CODE C2W**  
**CLASS 2 LEATHER**  
**WELDING GAUNTLET**

To meet latest EN standards. Essential protection when welding.

**£2.50**



**CODE XX**  
**CRISSCROSS**

Knitted synthetic yarn glove with clear PVC crisscross coating.

**£0.42**



**CODE PVCDD**  
**PVC GAUNTLET**

Non slip palm, even in oil. Resistant to pesticides (EN Cat III). Extra length keeps forearms dry when carrying wet objects.

**£0.95**



**CODE AVG**  
**GEL GLOVE**

For use with vibrating machinery or tools.

Sizes M ~ XXL **£9.50**



**CODE PVCFC**  
**PVC KNIT WRIST GLOVE**

Cotton stockinette liner, with knit wrist, fully coated with red PVC. Gives excellent resistance to oil, chemicals and water.

**£0.39**



**CODE SKWS**  
**SUPER STOCKINETTE**

Thin cotton Super Stockinette can be worn under most of the above gloves for extra warmth.

**£1.50** for 10 pairs



**CODE N-DEX**  
**NON-LATEX**  
**DISPOSABLE GLOVE**

Ideal for use in oily or greasy conditions.

**£10.00** per box of 100 gloves



**CODE HHMW**  
**ECONOMY HOUSEHOLD**  
**RUBBER GLOVE**

Sizes S ~ XL **£0.25**

All prices exclusive of VAT.



**CODE LEG**  
**LIGHTLY POWDERED LATEX**  
**EXAMINATION GLOVES**

Non-Sterile. Ambidextrous. Sizes S ~ XL.

Box of 100 **£2.50** Case of 1000 **£23.00**  
Also available as powder free CODE LEGPF **£25.00**



**CODE VDGL**  
**PRE-POWDERED VINYL DISPOSABLE**  
**GLOVES**

Non-Sterile. Ambidextrous. Sizes S ~ XL.

Box of 100 **£2.40** Case of 1000 **£21.00**

Also available  
Powder Free





Please note our Footwear range is too vast to be shown here. Please see the website for the full range

# Safety Footwear



**CODE CDDC**

## DUAL DENSITY CHUKKA BOOT

Lightweight with low profile sole, this boot is ideal for work on or around the greens.

Sizes 4 ~ 13

**£13.50 (zero VAT)**



COLOURS



**CODE SBBR**

## WATER RESISTANT LEATHER BOOT

Includes a padded collar.

Brown or Black.

Sizes 6 ~ 12

**£30.00 (zero VAT)**



COLOURS



**CODE DTSB**

## DICKIES TRADITION SAFETY BOOT

Breathable lining.  
Black, Mahogany or Tan.

Sizes 6 ~ 12

**£42.95 (zero VAT)**



**CODE SSDB**

## LEATHER DEALER BOOT

Includes elasticated side gusset.

Sizes 6 ~ 12

**£29.95**



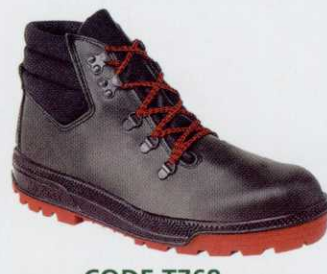
**CODE TST**

## TRAXION SAFETY TRAINER

Stylish trainer boot to EN345

Sizes 6 ~ 12

**£29.00 (zero VAT)**



**CODE T768**

## GREEN WATER RESISTANT LEATHER HIKING BOOT

Includes Ni-Trax improved sole unit.

Sizes 3 ~ 12

**£37.00**



**CODE DRB**

## DUNLOP RIG-AIR BOOT

35% Lighter than a leather rigger boot, excellent insulation properties and 100% waterproof.  
Anti-clog sole profile.

Sizes 6 ~ 12

**£40.00 Fur lined £35.00 Unlined (zero VAT)**



**CODE PSW**

## PUROFORT SAFETY WELLINGTON

Lightweight Polyurethane boot. Good thermal insulation and very hard wearing. Non-slip sole.

Sizes 6 ~ 12

**£24.85 (zero VAT)**

Also available non-safety CODE PNSW £21.45



**CODE BBSBL**

## BUDGET PVC SAFETY WELLINGTON

With toe cap to EN345.

Sizes 6 ~ 12

**£9.60 (zero VAT)**

Also available non-safety CODE BBG £5.00



**CODE HOW**

## HUNTER ORIGINAL WELLINGTON

The original green welly. Non-safety.

Sizes 6 ~ 12

**£35.74**

Also available as slightly cosmetically imperfect but guaranteed to be functional. CODE HOBW £27.66



**CODE PTW**  
**PVC THIGH**  
**WADER**

Non-safety.

Sizes 6 ~ 12

**£20.00**

Also available as  
chest wader  
CODE PCW £26.00



**CODE WBB**

## WELLY BOOT BAG

For storage of muddy wellingtons or work boots.

**£5.92**

All prices exclusive of VAT.





# Personal Protective Equipment



**CODE HH  
ECONOMY SAFETY HELMET**

Complies to EN397 with adjustable size.

Red, Yellow, Blue and Green.

**£2.20**

Also available with towelling headband and terylene harness. CODE C1125 **£6.25**



**CODE SBC  
SAFETY BASEBALL CAP**

Reinforced insert to protect from minor bump or scrape to the head. NOT to be used as an industrial safety helmet.

**£6.50**



**CODE FV7  
HEADBAND & BROWGUARD**

Complete with 7" polycarbonate visor. Complies to EN166. Mesh visors available separately.

Headgear **£5.10**

Clear visor **£2.30**

Mesh visor **£3.80**



**CODE GAM  
ANTI-MIST WIDE VISION  
GOGGLE**

To EN166.

**£3.40**



**CODE BBMS  
SPECIALLY COATED  
SUNGLASSES**

With unbreakable polycarbonate lens. To EN1836. Smoked lens protects from UV rays. Modern style.

**£5.00**



**CODE BBUTS  
ANTI FOG SUPER TOUGH  
NYLON LENS GLASSES**

Complete with unique neck clip and cord. Side shields. 99.9% UV protection. Clear, yellow or shaded lens.

**£4.15**



**CODE BBED  
BUDGET EAR DEFENDER**

Complies to EN352-1. Weighs only 167g One size fits all.

**£3.50**



**CODE BBSD  
DELUXE EAR DEFENDER**

Complies to EN352-1. Padded headband for extra comfort. One size fits all.

**£5.15**



**CODE BBEP  
FOAM EARPLUGS**

Comply to EN312-2. Packed in pairs.

**£0.09** per pair

**£15.00** per dispenser box of 200 pairs.

Also available corded **£0.20** per pair



**CODE DFM  
DISPOSABLE DUST/MIST  
RESPIRATOR**

Complying to EN149 P2. Suitable for use with most types of spraying. Please check with spray manufacturers recommendation. If in any doubt, please call us.

**£0.55**



**CODE BBP3  
VALVED PARTICULATE  
RESPIRATOR**

Complies to EN143-FFP3. Disposable mask capable of handling most types of spraying. Please check with spray manufacturers recommendation. If in any doubt, please call us.

**£3.50**



**CODE MUFM  
TWIN FILTER RESPIRATOR**  
Capable of handling most chemicals and pesticides. Please check with spray manufacturers recommendation. If in any doubt, please call us.

**£13.50**

Spare ABEK filters **£6.50**  
Spare dust filters **£3.60**



**CODE TBS  
TYVEK  
PROTECH  
BOILER  
SUIT**

Protects from fine dusts, fibres and liquids. Ideal for protection whilst handling chemicals or spraying.

**£3.75**

All prices exclusive of VAT.



**CODE FAK10  
FIRST AID KIT**

For up to 10 people. Contains sufficient equipment for a small workshop or office.

**£13.50**



**CODE VFAK  
VEHICLE FIRST AID**

Supplied with bracket to attach to vehicle. Essential when staff may be long distances from base.

**£7.50**



**CODE EW2  
EYEWASH STATION**

Holding two 500ml bottles of sterile saline eyewash.

**£9.95**

Refill bottle of saline eyewash **£2.50**





# Chainsaw Clothing

To comply with EU Legislation, anyone using a chainsaw MUST use equipment approved to the latest European standards to protect from injury. The main danger areas are the head, the legs and the feet. We can offer a range to suit the occasional user or the professional. Trousers and Bib & Brace come in two designs depending on the level of protection required. Design C protects both the front and the back of the leg. Design A protects the front of the leg only.

## CODE CJ CHAINSAW ZIP FRONT JACKET IN POLY/COTTON

Chainsaw clogging nylon protection in sleeves and on shoulders Hi-Vis for extra safety.

Sizes S ~ XL  
**£105.00**

## CODE CTA CHAINSAW TROUSER

Design A.  
Chainsaw clogging nylon protection to front of legs only. High back for extra comfort.

Sizes S ~ XL  
**£55.00**

Code CTC  
As above but  
in Design C  
(Navy)  
**£90.00**

## CODE CBBA CHAINSAW BIB & BRACE

Design A.  
Extremely comfortable and very wearable, this garment provides protection to the front of the legs only.

Sizes S ~ XL  
**£57.50**

Code CBBC  
As above but  
in Design C  
(Navy)  
**£99.95**



## CODE HMV LIGHTWEIGHT HELMET

To EN352-3 with mesh visor and ear muffs to EN397.  
Extremely comfortable.

**£19.50**



## CODE CG SOFT & COMFORTABLE LEATHER CHAINSAW GLOVE

To EN381-7 Class 1 Protection to back of left hand with Kevlar lining and stitching to protect the most vulnerable areas.

**£24.30**



## CODE TREEME SPECIALIST WOODCUTTERS SAFETY BOOT

In water resistant leather. Steel toe cap and mid-sole to EN345-S3.

Sizes 6 ~ 12

**£70.00 (zero VAT)**



## CODE CBR HI-VIS SAFETY WELLINGTONS

With shin protection. Complies to EN345-2. Laced gusset at rear. Safety at a very affordable price.

Sizes 6 ~ 12

**£40.00 (zero VAT).**



## CODE BBTBS TITAN BACK SUPPORT

Advanced contoured shape protects the back during all lifting activities.

Sizes S ~ XXL

**£13.50**

Other styles of back support available.

All prices exclusive of VAT.





# Healthcare Uniforms



## CODE SFT STUD FRONT TUNIC

Stud front tunic in Poly/Cotton. Two lower pockets, one breast pocket and shoulder pleats.

White with Navy trim

**£8.90**

Navy, Sky, Pine  
(All with White trim)

**£9.90**

Sizes 8 ~ 22

For sizes 24 ~ 32  
add £1.00

Also available with zip  
front CODE ZFT  
add **£1.00**



## CODE SSFT STRIPED STUD FRONT TUNIC

Striped stud front tunic in Poly/Cotton. Two lower pockets, breast pocket and shoulder pleats.

Navy/White, Blue/White,  
Aqua/White or  
Lilac/White stripes  
with White trim.

**£10.50**

Sizes 8 ~ 22

For sizes 24 ~ 32  
add £1.20

Also available with zip  
front CODE SZFT  
**£12.95**



## CODE ND NURSES DRESS

In Poly/Cotton with two lower pockets, breast pocket, back shoulder pleats and kick pleats.

46" unhemmed.

White with Navy trim

**£9.90**

Sky or Navy  
(both with White trim)

**£11.20**

Sizes 8 ~ 22

For sizes 24 ~ 32  
add £1.15



## CODE SD NURSES STRIPED DRESS

Woven striped nurses dress in Poly/Cotton. Two lower pockets, breast pocket, back shoulder pleats and kick pleats. 46" unhemmed.

Navy, Aqua, Lilac or Blue  
(all with White trim)

**£14.50**

Sizes 8 ~ 22

For sizes 24 ~ 32  
add £1.45

## CODE LHCT LADIES HEALTHCARE TROUSERS

Elasticated back, zip front with hook and bar fastening. 29" inside leg as standard.

White **£7.50** Navy **£7.90** or Pine **£9.25**

Sizes 8 ~ 22

For sizes 24 ~ 32 add £0.95

For long leg add £0.50



## CODE MSFT MENS STUD FRONT TUNIC

Two lower pockets and one breast pocket.

Contrast trim on collar.

White with Navy trim,

Sky or Navy

(both with White trim)

**£8.95**

Sizes 36 ~ 48"

50 ~ 52" add £0.90



## CODE MMT MENS MANDARIN COLLAR TUNIC

Concealed stud front.

One lower pocket,

one breast pocket.

White only.

**£8.00**

Sizes 36 ~ 48"

50 ~ 52" add £0.90



## CODE MHCT MENS HEALTHCARE TROUSERS

Two side and one back pocket.

Zip front.

30" inside leg as standard.

White or Navy

**£8.95**

Sizes 30 ~ 42"

For sizes 44 ~ 50" add £1.00

For 32" leg add £0.50

For 34" leg add £1.00

All prices exclusive of VAT.





# Catering Clothing & Accessories



## CODE CCJ CHEFS JACKET

Double breasted with mandarin collar.  
White only.  
100% cotton satin drill **£7.90**  
Poly/Cotton **£8.50**  
Sizes S ~ XXL



## CODE CCT CHEFS CHECK TROUSERS

100% cotton.  
Blue/White small check **£7.90**  
Black/White large check **£9.90**  
Sizes S ~ XXL



## CODE SFD STUD FRONT DRESS

Poly/Cotton with two lower pockets.  
46" unhemmed.  
White **£6.20**  
Navy or Hospital Blue **£7.20**  
Sizes 8 ~ 22 For sizes 24 ~ 32 add £0.85



## CODE BS BAKERS SMOCK

Poly/Cotton slipover style.  
One inside breast pocket.  
White **£5.90**  
Navy or Royal **£6.20**  
Sizes S ~ XXL



## CODE FTC FOOD TRADE COAT

Poly/Cotton with concealed stud front.  
One inside breast pocket.  
40" long.  
White **£6.75** Royal **£7.50**



## CODE PCTAB POLY/COTTON TABARD

Front patch pocket with adjustable side tabs.  
Red, White, Royal, Navy, Hospital Blue or Gold **£4.90**  
Sizes S ~ XXL



## CODE MIS MICROFIBRE CHUKKA

Light and comfortable.  
**£18.00**  
Sizes 3 ~ 12



## CODE MISL MICROFIBRE SLIP ON SHOE

Light and comfortable.  
**£17.50**  
Sizes 3 ~ 12  
Also available as 3 tie lace up CODE MIS3



## CODE HHMW ECONOMY HOUSEHOLD RUBBER GLOVE

Sizes S ~ XL  
**£0.25**



## CODE LEG LIGHTLY POWDERED LATEX EXAMINATION GLOVES

Non-Sterile. Ambidextrous.  
Box of 100 **£2.50**  
Case of 1000 **£23.00**  
Also available as powder free CODE LEGPF **£25.00**



## CODE ANTW ANTISEPTIC WIPES

150 x 200mm wipes in dispenser.  
160 sheets per dispenser.  
**£3.30**



## CODE ANTAS ANTISEPTIC ALCOHOL SPRAY

50ml Bottle. Disinfects hands quickly and easily, has a clip for attaching to uniform for added convenience.  
**£1.30**

All prices exclusive of VAT.





# Security Clothing



**CODE PWSJ**  
**WATERPROOF SECURITY JACKET**  
Black or Navy.  
Sizes S ~ XXL **£14.75**  
Trousers to suit above CODE PWST **£4.15**



**CODE SEJENG**  
**HI VIS SECURITY WATERPROOF JACKET**  
Black **£18.25**  
Saturn Yellow or Orange **£14.50**  
Sizes S ~ XXL



**CODE SEBJ**  
**SECURITY BOMBER JACKET**  
Black or Navy.  
**£12.95**  
Also available in Hi Vis CODE HVBJ **£16.50**  
Sizes S ~ XXL



**CODE PS**  
**POLY/COTTON PILOT SHIRT**  
Two pockets with button down flap.  
Epaulettes on shoulders.  
Blue or White.  
Sizes 14 1/2" ~ 18 1/2"  
Short Sleeve **£4.95** Long Sleeve **£5.50**



**CODE COTN**  
**CLIP ON TIE**  
Black or Navy.  
**£2.95**



**CODE AMOD**  
**ACRYLIC MILITARY STYLE SWEATER**  
Black or Navy **£6.95**  
Also available in all wool.  
CODE WMOD **£17.95**  
Sizes S ~ XXL



**CODE PVTT**  
**POLY/VISCOSE TAILORED TROUSER**  
Suitable for work or casual wear at a sensible price. Black, Navy or Grey.  
Sizes 30" ~ 46" in Regular or Tall fitting.  
**£7.95** Also available Poly/Wool  
CODE PWTT **£15.95**



**CODE HBW**  
**POLY/COTTON BODYWARMER**  
With quilted lining and a multitude of pockets.  
Navy, Black or Green.  
**£8.00**  
Sizes S ~ XXL



**CODE FIRE1**  
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# Your Letters...

## Charity Support

The Lowry Trust is seeking support for an inaugural Charity Golf Day on Monday July 4 at Dunham Forest Golf Country Club, Cheshire as part of a development programme to raise funds for community education work and increase awareness of The Lowry's facilities and cultural programme of events.

Since opening five years ago, The Lowry, a home for the arts, has welcomed in excess of four million visitors and occupies a prominent position in the cultural life of the region.

The Lowry is inviting professionals in the North West business community to enter a team of four to enjoy golf, lunch and dinner for a corporate package of £600, which includes an advertisement in the souvenir programme. Non-golfers can also provide support in the form of sponsorship or providing prizes and donations for the raffle, all of which will be acknowledged in the programme.

The funds raised from this Charity Golf Day will enable The Lowry to significantly expand its creative activities and projects for thousands of individuals, organisations, communities and constituencies of Salford and Greater Manchester.

For more information about the Charity Golf Day or to book a team on the event, please contact Claire O'Brien, Event Coordinator, on 0161 876 2097.

Claire O'Brien

## Liquid Sod

We note with interest your Course Feature article in the March issue, wherein the use of Liquid Sod is mentioned. As we hold the patent for this product we were somewhat surprised to read this, as, to our knowledge, we have not applied this product at Alwoodley Golf Club. We are aware that another company did try to copy this but it certainly was not us.

Mike Franklin, Boughton Loam LTD

Editor: We are happy to clarify the position.

## BIGGA Delegation

A belated thank you to BIGGA and Bernhard for the excellent trip that was organised to the GCSAA Show, in Florida. The whole experience was extremely beneficial to all who participated, allowing for professional development.

The organisation of the GCSAA was incredible and all of us were made to feel very welcome wherever we went.

I would like to thank all the Bernhard's staff for their friendly, warm, generous and helpful attitudes towards us, which made the trip all the more worthwhile. Also, a big thank you goes to the rest of the Delegation who made this trip truly unforgettable and so much fun.

Robert Needham,

Head Greenkeeper, Hickleton GC

## Alliss Speaks Sense

Scott MacCallum's superb article on his interview with the great Peter Alliss (April Edition) should be copied and sent out to each and every club member, up and down the country.

As a former Golf Club Secretary and having two sons who are Course Managers, Scott's paragraph on the idealistic and unrealistic expectation of club members is, in general, absolutely spot on.

Peter Phillips, Associate Member - London Section

## YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

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



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# A Fescue Future?

In the conclusion of this two part series, Steve Isaac, Assistant Director - Golf Course Management, The R&A, documents his investigation into Denmark's redevelopment of fescue greens.

April's article, *Seeing is Believing*, described The R&A's introduction to the fescue greens of Denmark. Here, the story is picked up after our Golf Course Committee had digested the report from our initial visit.



▲ Left and right: The contrasting environment to Falster greens - exposed and shaded ▲

## THE STRENGTH OF THE CASE?

Thrilled as we were by what we had seen, there was the nagging concern as to how representative this movement toward fescue was. We needed to see more going through the process to be convinced this was a long-term commitment and not just the sort of short-term fancy seen, and then discarded, by many in the UK, whose course management policy often changes with the revolving door of the Committee.

In mid-September 2004, I returned to Copenhagen to be given a wider ranging tour of Denmark and its golf courses. My guide, once more, was Chris Haspell, now the Course Manager at Hørsholm Golf Club, and previously the Golf Course Consultant to the Danish Golf Union. Three days saw visits to courses in Jutland as well as the main island. All exhibited high fescue counts and promising success rates in converting to this species. Two examples stand out, at Falster and Markusminde.

Falster is where Chris started his working career in Denmark in the early 1990's. An STRI report from those days by Alistair Beggs identifies *Poa annua* dominated greens with real thatch problems. A return visit would have Alistair wondering if it was the same course.

The greens are now firm and those in more exposed situations have a very high fescue content. The key to this remarkable transformation? Simple, managing for fescue and not for *Poa annua*. Low nitrogen input, a mowing height of 5mm, plenty of light topdressings and an intensive overseeding programme retold exactly the same story heard during our previous visit.

Progress is slower to shaded surfaces and these are in quite severe shade. Here, firmness has improved dramatically but the sward is taking its time to change, with bent coming in but fescue wary of establishing in such a hostile environment.

The real sign that growing fescue has become the accepted way of doing things, rather than just a trend, in Denmark is that courses are now being sown out with this grass to meet environmental restrictions and resource availability. In this regard, the visit to Markusminde was, probably, the most exciting of all. This course was sown throughout two years ago to fescue/bent. It could be considered the blueprint for the sustainable golf course in northern Europe - costing around £500,000 to build an 18 hole course, 9 hole par-3 and driving range.

The course is maintained, to a decent standard, by two greenkeepers, no pesticides are used and in 2004 the owner - a farmer - applied only 10 kg/ha of nitrogen to the greens. Thanks to such a low nitrogen input, fescue remains the dominant species on the greens and also to fairways, where it provides superb lies and requires far less mowing than other species.

Potentially as, if not more, exciting is the Vallø Golf Centre which was sown wall to wall with pure fescue in September 2004. A blend of Chewings and slender creeping red fescues were chosen after consideration in the design stage of a water restriction of 5,000 cubic metres a year and spraying controls. There is even talk of an extremely famous firm of American architects designing a course in Denmark which will be sown out to fescues. Now that really would be a break through!

## THE REALLY RADICAL APPROACH!

Further calls to see the courses at Sebbel Kloster, Hørsholm, Fredensborg, Furesø and Dragør Golf Clubs only served to reinforce the impression. Of particular note is the bravery of Furesø and their Course Manager, Hans Beurling. Hans has the reputation of being something of an experimentalist amongst his Danish colleagues. However, even they were expressing concern



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▲ Left and right: The practice green at Furesø in May and August ▲

over his mental health when he resurfaced his practice putting green by stripping off 100mm of rootzone before replacing it with clean material and overseeding with fescue and velvet bent. Nick Park and I saw this green a few weeks after seeding during our visit to Denmark in May 2004, the development over the intervening period and what I was now looking at was startling.

The club had undertaken rebuilding of a few greens prior to this, using the more conventional technique of removing everything that was there and replacing it with a USGA style construction. This novel approach clearly reduced the time and cost involved in resurfacing, utilising the decent stone carpet from the original construction and merely replaced the immediate growing medium - and it proved most successful.

Inspired by the results from the practice green, Hans was to astound everyone with his next audacious move. Fortunately, I was there to record the event when he brought a Koro Fieldtopmaker onto site and started stripping the turf and 50-60mm of thatch and rootzone from greens on the golf course!

This was a much quicker and cleaner operation than the process used for the practice green, but it still made the jaw drop! Before you decide on this course of action please note that they have 27 holes at Furesø so can afford to take a few out of play at a time. Even so, this treatment takes some courage.

Once the cleared surface had been cleaned up to remove any residual thatch the machine had missed, fresh rootzone was to be introduced and the new surface sown with fescue. Just another day in the life of a Danish greenkeeper.



The contrasting sward with dense fescue domination at Falster, reclaimed from *Poa annua*, to the left, and a more open bent/*Poa* sward in deep shade, to the right



One could argue that fescues, in particular, have been the victim of technology - the availability of mowing equipment that can cut ever closer to match the demand for pace. Ever more sophisticated fertilisers which make it easy to apply the nitrogen. Automatic irrigation systems which enable the same for water and the safety net of fungicides that helps combat the disease often caused by such intensive maintenance and the grass species it encourages.

Reversing this trend is not all plain sailing. It demands full commitment from everyone at the club. It may be the Course Manager who implements the programme but without the support of the Committee and, probably more importantly, the membership, the chances of success are not good. It can take a number of years to see significant progress, generally three to five on courses in Denmark, but here the commitment level is 100%.

If you cannot gain the trust of the members and get this change in management included in a written course policy document then the uncertainty of the regularly changing Committee may prove difficult to work around. Before you discount trying to turn back to fescue consider the alternative.

The mesh of the fungicide safety net is being cut by EU regulations. Tighter controls on water quality and use are coming in through implementation of legislation such as the Water Act 2003, derived from the EU Water Framework Directive. Cost is becoming an increasingly important factor at many clubs, as

they have to tighten their belts in the face of greater competition for members and visitors. In the UK, we may currently have the tools to keep *Poa annua* greens but for how long? Surely, no one could argue they are a truly sustainable alternative to fescue or fescue/bent turf?

The R&A definition of the sustainable golf course is: "Optimising the playing quality of the golf course in harmony with the conservation of its natural environment under economically sound management." This will strike a chord with many greenkeepers, committeemen and golfers as we consider the future of golf and golf development at home and abroad. There is no doubt that the movement in Denmark towards chemically low input turf is wholly sustainable and a lesson to us here in the UK that sometimes you have to look back to move forward.

The results obtained in Denmark should provide inspiration to all who believe in traditional greenkeeping and we know there are plenty out there who just need the encouragement of working examples. Yes, we will have to change hearts and minds, educate the golfer and the rest... but when, potentially, the very future of golfing turf is at stake, heed the warnings and take positive action before it is too late.

*The Danish Greenkeepers Association has produced a very good report on their activities. The R&A contributed funds towards its production and it is posted on [www.randa.org](http://www.randa.org).*

## BRINGING HOME THE BACON

The expansion in the number who are trying to change species composition from unsustainable swards to sustainable ones based on fescue and browntop bent to over 70 clubs in an organised way is, perhaps, the most encouraging aspect of what is happening in Denmark. 'Seeing is believing' and the potential to utilise sites as case histories to benchmark what can be achieved has to be a major promotional tool in encouraging others from far a field, beyond Denmark and, indeed, beyond northern Europe to adopt a similar approach.

The autumn of 2004 saw groups of greenkeepers and officials from Sweden and the Netherlands visit courses in Denmark. There was universal acclaim for the quality of the turf seen and the sustainability of the management required. All of this certainly applies to the UK and it would be good to think that we could apply the techniques developed by the Danes to restore fescues and bents to the greens of many courses here, which have lost them at some point in the past through a combination of golfer demand and management strategies to meet those demands.





# Golf on the Open Road

**As a new generation graduates into the world of golf, it's not all plus fours, bright green grassed courses and strict clubhouse etiquette they crave, as Gareth Jones found out.**

Image a golf course with no grass, no bunkers. Picture a course without trees or water features. Reflect on a golf course with no greens, flags or actual holes. Sound like a dream, a nightmare?

Well it is actually reality. Crossgolf, as it is known, is golf but minus the numerous rules, restrictions and etiquette attached to the traditional game. In fact, there is just one rule in crossgolf - safety first. Germany is its birthplace and, like David Hasselhoff, it's big in Deutschland. In fact it has become so popular that the first crossgolf club in the country, The Natural Born Golfers, claim to have over 150,000 members worldwide, a figure that continues to rise rapidly.

In a nutshell the game is golf but not as we know it, as it is played wherever, whenever. Be it down the street, over the local construction site, on a housing estate or even on top of an office block or disused train, crossgolf can, and is, literally played wherever there is room to swing a club. During friendly rounds of the sport holes are not predetermined and are typically chosen as the

It all started in the early hours of one dull morning as a bored Torsten decided to throw a party in his hotel room. With the party flowing Torsten soon felt the urge to practice his swing - he was just starting out in the game - he withdrew his clubs and suddenly the corridor became an ideal fairway. After taming the harsh, unforgiving carpeted area Torsten shortly moved the game outside, practicing in front of an office block on a daily basis, and crossgolf was alive and kicking.

As Scotland is the home of traditional golf, Germany is the fatherland of crossgolf and the biggest tournament in the sport has just been held in the country. In a six city tour, crossgolfers fought it out for the much coveted NBG Iron Cup, the holy grail of the sport. Hamburg, Cologne, Frankfurt, Munich, Leipzig and Berlin hosted the third annual tournament, which allowed 60



There is only one rule in crossgolf - safety first!

game progresses, with the length of the hole varying dramatically from a simple cheeky chip across a road to a mighty drive over a run-down factory. It is also not uncommon for a crossgolfer to be aiming for his ball to hit a target rather than sinking neatly down a hole. Like most things in the sport, these targets really can be anything, from hitting a rubbish bin, to a graffiti letter on a wall, to an abandoned car.

Historians of the game of golf may conclude that crossgolf itself stems back to the beginnings of the original game, when Scottish shepherds used to hit rocks around their pastures with sticks, however the modern game of crossgolf had a characteristically bizarre birth. An individual by the name of Torsten Schilling is the man responsible for bringing this new form of golf to the masses, but even the man with the great imagination surely could not have envisaged how far the game would come from such simple beginnings.



No dress code is required in the game

entrants into each of the six events. Over 1,200 people applied to play in the final stage in Berlin alone, which provides a startling scale of how popular the game has become.

Obviously it wouldn't be crossgolf without a different scoring system. In fact there is no scoring at all, instead tournament officials award prizes and trophies based on their own fanciful standards. In the NBG Iron Cup the trophy winners are decided in categories such as Style, Hardest Try and Best Entertainment. "Fun is always to be the centre of attention. With us it does not concern, in principle, points of league or sporty maximum output. Also there is no dress order and no handicap," said Torsten Schilling, crossgolf's creator and head of the Natural Born Golfers.

Why this extreme version of golf has become so fashionable in the land that has provided the world with golfing great Bernard Langer and European Tour





Imagine this tee shot at your club!

pro Alex Cejka is due to one underlining factor, the lack of public courses in the country. While the game becomes more accessible in numerous nations across the globe, in Germany golf remains an elite and expensive pastime. To play golf participants, firstly, must be licensed and then the cost of membership to a private golf club normally prices the majority of wannabe golfers out of the sport before they can even think of swinging a nine iron in anger.

Crossgolf might sound somewhat surreal, particularly to golfing traditionalists, but since its inception its popularity has spread across Europe faster than Michael Schumacher's Ferrari. Even the British are getting into the explosive game, where it is more commonly known as Urban Golf. The UK held its first Crossgolf Tournament in May 2004, which witnessed a field, including Ryder Cup player Ronan Rafferty, of over 64 men and women, who participated in a round through the streets of London.

Unlike the NBG Iron Cup, The UK's Shoreditch Urban Open, organised by disillusioned golfer Jeremy Feakes, closely resembled a true golfing competition with official scoring, a watered down dress code, holes with par and even caddies. The tournament saw urban golfers play their shots off Astroturf mats,



A crossgolf buggy, slightly different to what you would see on a traditional course

problems getting permission to play. It can take a lot of hard work to get all the right paperwork, etc together and get everyone to agree to let us play, but it is all worth it in the end," explained Torsten.

Favorite locations for crossgolf courses characteristically are big areas with distinctive landmarks, which allows tough and interesting holes containing numerous obstacles to be played, while also limiting the risk of hitting a passerby, but even these sites can cause certain predicaments.

"Recently in Spain we had a whole tournament planned to be staged at a major harbor. Then at the last minute it was announced that soldiers and sailors from the Iraq War were coming back on the same day as the tournament. When we got to the harbor to play huge wire fences had been erected and we just couldn't get anywhere near the course to play."

Torsten, who at the time of inventing the game worked as a television set designer, rapidly realised the game's potential and left his job to concentrate his efforts on developing crossgolf as a business. As well as competitions, he organises corporate events for major multinational companies, which include Volkswagen, IBM, Microsoft and American Express. Not surprisingly when



There is no debate about women playing against men in this extreme version of golf

traditional holes were replaced by adopted manholes and cars acted as water hazards.

Other crossgolf locations include Barcelona, Paris, Kuala Lumpur and Warschau, while future events are scheduled for Budapest and Shanghai. Even the Americans have got into the game, with the Urban Golf Association based in San Francisco - who said the Yanks only play golf on bright green grassed courses, with colourful, flourishing backdrops? The sport has now become so successful and its status has grown so considerably that plans are afoot to stage a massive 14 city World Tour by the end of 2006, which will bring with it its own unique difficulties.

"We never realised when we started organising these big events just how many problems we would face. In Germany it is no problem to gain permission to hold an event in a city. However in other countries we have had some



Vast areas such as construction yards make a great crossgolf course

whacking golf balls through the streets of a major city Torsten takes out liability insurance for all crossgolf events and tournaments, but as yet there has never been an injury, proving the game's only rule, safety first, is always adhered to.

"Our slogan is golf when, as and where one wants and the game is played for pleasure and enjoyment above anything else," stated Torsten.

Fun and enjoyment are certainly the order of the day with this sport. Fancy dress and loud clothing is often spotted at events - mainly in the US - and crates of bottled beer are never too far away from a crossgolf course. In the NBG Iron Cup it is a must that: "The last tournament ball is always played in a bar or another party-suited mechanism."

That sums it all perfectly. Crossgolf is a sport that is played for no other reason than pure, unadulterated fun, something that can only be a good thing in today's world of rules and regulations.



# NEW PRODUCTS

## THE RAT PACK



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A new feature included for the first time on the GR2100 is Kubota's Glide Steer system which automatically disengages drive to the inside rear wheel when the front wheels' turning angle reaches 70 degrees. By allowing the inner rear wheel to spin freely as the outer wheel powers the mower through its turn, surface damage is avoided. This system also enables the GR2100 mower to leave an uncut circle of grass measuring just 110cm at full lock.

Other output-enhancing features on the GR2100 include simple dial-type cutting height adjustment from 25mm to 102mm (1in - 4in), hydraulically-powered deck lift and a full flat operator's platform with suspension seat and ergonomic control layout.

For further information Tel: 01844 268111.



## A FAIR WAY SOLUTION

A Fair Way Solution Ltd is supplying a new concept called a Divot Bag to all golf clubs in the UK and Europe. The bag would be attached to a player's golf bag and filled with a mixture of the greenkeeper's choice. The player would then use the contents of the bag to fill divots on the fairways while playing.

On numerous occasions, when a player repairs a divot they fail to take and die within their hole, and many times a divot taken by a player splits into smaller pieces and is impossible to replace. This is what contributes to scarred fairways and, this is where the divot bag comes in to use.

A further benefit of the bags is security, as they can be supplied in a variety of colours. This enables all staff on the course to identify who is using it and challenge those not displaying the correct bag.

Divot bags are currently used in South Africa and are a compulsory part of playing at all clubs there. Research conducted using young and old golfers, including prohibiting the use of a trolley, concluded that the bags do not become an unnecessary hindrance.

For further information Tel: 020 84026003.



## THE FOUR MIX ADVANTAGE

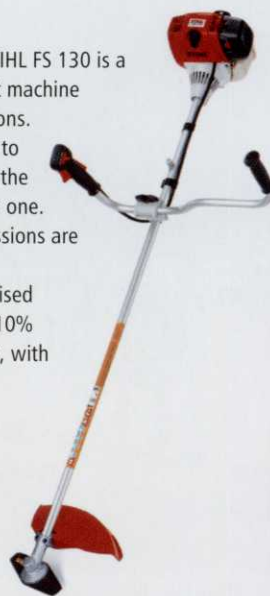
Driven by the STIHL four-mix engine, the new STIHL FS 130 is a powerful, professional, eco-friendly and lightweight machine available in both loop and bike handled configurations.

The four-mix is the first STIHL four-stroke engine to be driven by a conventional fuel/oil mix, combining the benefits of two-stroke and four-stroke technology in one. Compared to an equivalent two-stroke engine, emissions are significantly reduced.

Advantages of the pre-mixed fuel include minimised weight and the four-MDC engine produces around 10% more power than an equivalent capacity four-stroke, with power-to-weight ratio improved by around 25%.

After starting, a 1.65Nm torque ensures ample power to drive a choice of cutting tools from the AutoCut C mowing head supplied as standard, to accessory metal blades and even a circular saw blade for trimming gnarled bushes and thin tree trunks.

For further information Tel: 0800 137574.



## FINE GROOMING

Sisis have introduced a new implement for use with the Quadraplay, Twinplay and Singleplay multi-purpose, turf maintenance systems.

The Sisis Fine Grooming Rake is available 183cm (6ft) or 240cm (8ft) wide and is designed for light scarification on soccer pitches and other outfield turf during the summer months and for golf fairways.

For further information Tel: 01625 503030.







## YAMAHA LAUNCH UTILITY VEHICLE

The new Yamaha G23 UMAX utility vehicle brings to the market a versatile, flexible, all-purpose machine designed to offer outstanding performance and reliability for a multitude of uses. Available in either petrol or electric versions, the utility vehicle boasts many features and benefits to meet the demands of the utility vehicle market.

The 363kg payload cargo bed comes with a folding tailgate, prop rod and hydraulic assisted tilt and fold facility and is constructed in a lightweight durable Roto-moulded rattle-free material.

For continuous control and safety the Yamaha machine features self adjusting drum brakes on all wheels. Combining the independent front suspension, featuring individual coil springs, and hydraulic shock absorbers and the Mono-link rear suspension with springs and hydraulic shocks a strong and balanced machine is assured.

The strength of the vehicle is also highlighted by the Robotic welded, tubular steel frame, protected by an 18 step paint process. The new Yamaha G23 UMAX has many more standard features, including headlights, taillights, and independent front strut suspension, tow-hitch, DC power outlet and four wheel brakes.

For further information Tel: 01932 358097.

## NEED FOR SPEED

The new Speedseed 1600, from Charterhouse Turf Machinery, enables greenkeepers to overseed more quickly without sacrificing accuracy. Powered by a tractor of 20hp with a minimum lift capacity of 500kg, the 1.6m-wide (63in) unit has individual cast spiked rings that enable it to make turns during operation.

The application rate is adjusted via a system of gear wheels and seed falls only when the side wheel of the Speedseed 1600 is turning, so there is no risk of spillage when the machine is at rest or moved between sites. A rubber roller at the bottom of the hopper enables fine seed to be applied.

The spikes are conical shaped so that seed is placed accurately into the holes. This unique shape means turf damage is minimised while the depth of penetration is increased and more soil is exposed to maximise germination. The Speedseed can achieve a rate of 940 holes per m<sup>3</sup> and a second spiked roller can be fitted to increase this further to 1,850 holes per m<sup>3</sup>. The Speedseed 1600's random dispersal of seed is ideal for sports pitches and fairways, since there is no risk of unsightly drill lines being created.

For further information Tel: 01428 661222.



## LIGHTNING NEVER STRIKES TWICE

Lightning confronting golfers may not be the first hazard that springs to mind but it is very easy to forget just how dangerous and potentially lethal it can be. The lightning rod effect of tall trees and people exposed in the open is well known but often overlooked when considering Health and Safety issues on a golf course.

For many years both The R&A and the PGA European Tour have recognised lightning as a threat to players and spectators alike.

Hydroscape's lightning detection system employs state-of-the art technology to address the most demanding of lightning safety and equipment protection applications. The system, under the brand name of Strike Guard, continuously monitors an area up to 30 miles distance from the golf course in all directions, looking for either cloud-to-cloud or cloud-to-ground lightning and providing lightning contact signaling at user-set activity thresholds.

Patented optical signal processing and proprietary optical-coincidence technology prevent false alarms. Sensor data is communicated via lightning proof fibre optic cable to an independent lightning data receiver with system status and both visual and audible alarms. Data can also be routed to a PC, where historic information can be accumulated.

For further information Tel: 01425 476261.



## THE POWARYDER

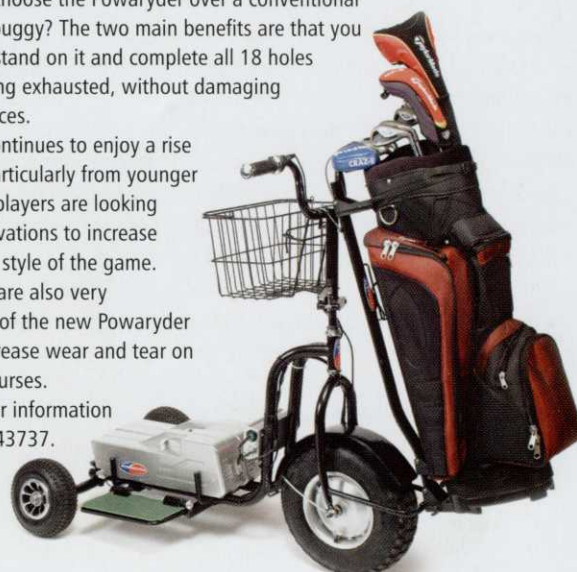
The very latest in electric technology in golf transport has been revealed. The three wheel all-terrain, stand on golf trolley is perfect for all golf users, young and old, and carries golf bags and players across all playing surfaces with comfort and ease.

The Powaryder, with powerful 500w brushed electric hub motor and easy-to-use twist grip throttle on the handlebars, neatly folds up making it simple to transport and easy to store in the boot of a car.

But why choose the Powaryder over a conventional electric golf buggy? The two main benefits are that you can actually stand on it and complete all 18 holes without feeling exhausted, without damaging playing surfaces.

As golf continues to enjoy a rise in players, particularly from younger enthusiasts, players are looking for new innovations to increase the ease and style of the game. Golf courses are also very encouraging of the new Powaryder as it will decrease wear and tear on many golf courses.

For further information  
Tel: 01225 443737.







## News from the Chief Executive

Having recently returned from the Association of Golf Club Secretaries' Conference, in Liverpool, I was heartened by the positive manner in which the ACGS and BIGGA are moving closer together to develop the management roles in today's golf club. I had the opportunity to listen to presentations and talk with fellow delegates on such subjects as Health and Safety, Employment Law, Communication and Personal Presentation Skills, issues common to both the Secretary/Manager and the Course Manager. I also represented BIGGA on an 'Ask the Panel' question and answer session where I sat alongside representatives from the ACGS, the Home Unions, the R&A and the PGA, this once again gave the Association the opportunity to be seen to be working with some of the other major bodies in British golf.

Over the last 15 months BIGGA has been involved in consultative meetings for the development of a Whole Sport Plan for golf in England by the England Golf Partnership. The aim of the plan is to increase access to golf for more people, increase participation in the sport and membership of clubs and also to improve performance by both amateur and professional golfers alike.

There is Government funding available for the development of sport generally and it is hoped that some of this can be directed towards our industry. The final document was publicly launched in April and a copy can be obtained by contacting Rachael or Brad at BIGGA Headquarters.

There is growing concern over the future of pesticides, etc in the UK and I would like to allay any thoughts that BIGGA is not doing anything about the situation. We are a member of the Amenity Forum, Chaired by Jon Allbutt (Health and Safety consultant), which comprises of representatives from a wide range of interested bodies in industry, amenity activities as well as environmental and government agencies.

The role of the Amenity Forum is several fold: 1) To be available to government and industry as a consultative body; 2) To promote a Voluntary Initiative on environmental management with particular reference to the use of pesticides; 3) To act as a collective lobbying body to government.

More information can be found on their website, [www.amenity.org.uk](http://www.amenity.org.uk). There are also two leaflets available from BIGGA HQ that members may find of interest. These concern the National Sprayer Testing Scheme and The National Register of Sprayer Operators. The work of the Amenity Forum and the pesticide 'issue' will be featured in Greenkeeper International in the near future.

BTME and ClubHouse has again come in for some negative and inaccurate reporting in a certain publication, as has the role that some organisations play in the development of today's golf. What a pity the editor chooses not to do his homework otherwise he would have discovered that far from resting on its laurels BIGGA is in fact quite active and the above cases that I have quoted are only a few of the initiatives that it is involved with behind the scenes.

Amenity Technology's Managing Director, Carl Crome, in his publication has denounced the value of exhibitions and quotes that his company's absence at SALTEX has not been noticed by visitors. Will greenkeepers miss him when he is not at BTME 2006? We'll have to wait and see, in the meanwhile the exhibitor base for next year continues to grow and a much more intensive and expansive education programme is planned for what has become known as 'The Harrogate Week'.

**John Pemberton**

## SECTION NOTES INFORMATION

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

You will receive an email back to confirm receipt of your notes. If you do not receive this confirmation please get in touch with BIGGA Headquarters.

### SCOTTISH REGION

The 2005 Scottish National Tournament will be held at McDonald Golf Club, Ellon, Aberdeenshire, on Thursday June 23 by kind permission of the Captain and Committee. The cost of the event will be £20, which includes coffee/tea, filled roll, evening meal and prizes.

Entry forms are available at all Section Spring Outings and from the Regional Administrator.

All entries, with remittance, must be sent to the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6TA, by Monday June 13. Cheques made payable to BIGGA Scottish Region.

Peter J. Boyd

### North

No new members to report this month, it usually quieters down about this time.

There are a few of our members moving on or moving up this month. Two of these are at Newmacher GC, where George Mitchell and Patrick Wood have become Head Greenkeepers at the Hawkshill course and the Swailend course respectively. George and Patrick have been rewarded for many years of loyal service at Newmacher and fully deserve their promotion.

A greenkeeper on the move is Roger Martin, formerly of Reay GC, who is now back at his old club, Peterhead, as First Assistant. Good luck to these guys in their new positions.

Malcolm Macdonald, formerly of Kingussie GC, turned 80 a few months back and is still going stronger than ever. Good to see him looking so well. Stevie Sullivan and Stuart Robertson, of Craigie Hill GC, represented our Section in the annual Secretaries versus Greenkeepers match held at Royston GC. They won their match and so did the Greenkeeper team.

There are still 200 club tickets that have not been returned, if any members are not interested in renewing them could you please return them to Hugh Mclatchie at 24 Whitehill Place, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, AB42 2FU.

The outing at Murcar is on May 12 and hopefully the weather will hold up and the event will be well supported. The results will be in next month's report.

I don't know about the weather at all the other clubs in the area but at Strathpeffer it has been the wettest autumn, winter and spring I can remember. Hopefully things will dry up soon.

If there is anything you, as a member, would like to see in the report then by all means phone me on 01997420155.

Iain Gunn





**NORTHERN REGION**

**North East**

Congratulations are in order for David Cuthbertson, formerly Deputy Head Greenkeeper to become the Course Manager at Slaley Hall GC. David has been temporarily in charge since the departure of Steve Cram to Close House GC.



Well the long debate over the 14th hole at Hexham GC is finally over, the golf club sent out a postal ballot to the members on how they would like the hole to be played. Just to let you know what it was all about, a car dealer moved into empty premises running aside the 14th green several months ago. Unfortunately stray shots were going over a 30ft hedge and hitting cars, rather expensive ones, like shoguns, etc. The options for the club were either reduce the length of the hole by nearly 100yds or put up a 20 metre fence. Well the vote turned out to go for the fence that, by the time you read this, should be completed. If anyone has played Hexham this was the best option, as the hole would have ended up as a Mickey Mouse hole, going from a good par 4 to a stupid hole.

Well ballots must be the thing these days as members at Whickham GC were also asked to vote on the way they would like to play the course with the two new holes in play now and which ones to do away with. Well the 5th and 13th par three's are to be omitted to make way for a par 5 and a par 4, which will add some length to this testing course.

Ryton GC is having a bit of controversy over some recent winter work in front of the 2nd tee box. Apparently the local environmentalist is not a happy person as they have disturbed an endangered species of the greater crested newt. We will just have to wait and see what happens, as I believe you can be fined a large amount of money for something like this.

Jimmy Richardson

**North West**

It's that time again, time for the Section notes I mean. The last month has gone so quickly and a lack of information coming in makes it difficult to find something to write about, but I will share with you what little there is.

The N/W Section played the N/Wales Section in the annual match on April 5 at Wilmslow GC. The match was once again sponsored by GEM Professional, who has sponsored this event since 1991. The result was a win for the N/W with a score of 3.5 to 2.5. Many thanks to GEM for their support and Wilmslow GC for allowing us courtesy of the course. I have mentioned in the past that this competition is open to any N/W member to play regardless of how good or bad your golf is, so next time why not have a go.

The Spring Tournament will be played at Whitefield GC, on Wednesday May 25. Lunch will be 12 to 12.30 and tee time will be from 1.30pm onwards. Applications to Bill Merritt, The Lodge, Beacon Park Golf Club, Beacon Lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU, Tel: 01695 632883, including a cheque for £20 payable to BIGGA N/W Section. Closing date is Friday May 20.

We now have seven patrons for the Section and these are Rolawn, John Greasley, Bathgate, Cheshire Turf Machinery, Strike top Turf, Acorn Golf, and Alpha Amenity. Without the support from the sponsors the prize table at the tournaments would look pretty sick, so please support them. The



**MIDLAND REGION**

**East Midland**

Congratulations this month go to Stuart Raybould, of Greatham Valley GC, for his promotion to First Assistant Greenkeeper.

Our golf fixtures for this year are as follows. Spring Tournament, Melton Mowbray, Wednesday May 18; Summer Tournament, Cosby, Thursday July 7; AGM, Norwood Park, Wednesday November 2; Christmas, Charnwood Forest, Thursday December 15. The spring and summer combined will be a National Tournament qualifier.

The committee do hope to see as many members as possible supporting these days. If you require an entry form please give me a ring or email me about a month before the competition as no forms will be posted.

Next year's spring tournament will be held at Stanton-on-the Wolds GC. Can anybody remember the last time we visited the course for a Section event? No prizes for the correct answer. Finally, if anybody has any news they would like to see in this article, please let me know.

Antony Bindley



**East of England**

Well, here goes, my first attempt at journalism! Hopefully, by the time this goes to print, winter is well and truly behind us along with the Six Nations. As a Scotsman we have had better years, the only consolation being that England were almost as bad.

Now, down to business. Our Section seminar was held at Newark Golf Club, home of none other than Twinkle Toes MacDonald. Surprisingly, he was on time, it must have been the free coffee or he'd run out of dance partners. Our thanks go to Philip Threadgold, Charterhouse, Mike Pinney, Amega Science, Alan White and Midlube.

An enjoyable day was had by all who attended, although it was a poor turnout. Come on guys, we have to make the effort! If there are any topics or ideas you have to suggest for seminars please feel free. If you don't tell us we won't know what you want.

The golf dates are as follows: April 26, Sleaford Golf Club; May 24, Cleethorpes Gold Club; June 30, Burghley Park Golf Club; July 20, Immmgham Golf Club. The rest of the dates will follow in a later issue as they are still to be confirmed.

Finally, if anyone has any news, contact me on my mobile, 07974 816927.

PS. Cheer up Posh fans, life could be worse as I'm an egg chasing Scottish supporter.

*Editors Note: You and me both!*

Allan Walker







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



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

## BB&O

Golf, the Golden Years! As the best of the BB&O took on the delights of East Berks GC, which was host to the Spring National Qualifier Competition, on April 7. Testing conditions were applied by the occasional shower of hailstones and the sudden downpour from the heavens. However, the course stood up well to the elements and provided us with a challenging venue to start the year.

The results were as follows: 1. Carl Small, Ellesborough GC, (disabled) net 68; 2. Paul Harding, East Berks GC; net 74; 3. Frank Booth, Retired, net 75. Matt Smith, of Sonning GC, picked up The Tacit Claret Jug with a gross 73 and also went on to snatch Nearest the Pin with a wonderful iron shot in testing conditions. Paul Harding, with local knowledge of the course and remembering his Weetabix, hit a monster shot to secure the Longest Drive. John Ryan, from Browns, donning a large sombrero and six-gun, took the trade prize with a 74.

James Moore, from Turners, was unable to attend, and with help from John Scoones held a putting green competition, which was well received. We look forward to seeing James, at Henley GC, in the summer continuing to organise this challenging event.

To our main sponsor of the day, Tim Webb, from Tacit, and all the other trade supporters, we thank you for supporting our first event in 2005. A big thank you to East Berks GC for the courtesy of the course and the catering department for their gastronomic delights, which were well received and to Course Manager, Mark Piggott, and his staff for ensuring the course was fantastic and prepared to a first class standard. Our next event is on June 30 at Henley GC. Make a note of it in the diary before you forget.

Bob the Builder, otherwise known as Vince Riches, Handicap Secretary, has done a grand job of always organising the Section handicaps and getting the start times collated with the scorecards on the day. If any Section member wishes to speak with Vince regarding a handicap certificate or handicap matters he can be contacted on 07899 865 555.

Casanova Colin, from Wycombe Heights GC, together with his bagpipes, has recently moved into the penthouse suite above the clubhouse. Casa, as he is now known, is always after a birdie, but sadly the ladies behind the bar keep giving him a no return on his scorecard, and now all you can hear is the drone of his bagpipes in the early evening.

Congratulations to Colin Hutt, from Donnington Grove GC. After several years as Deputy Course Manager he leaves Rosco and the team to make a fresh start as Course Manager at Basingstoke GC, in Hampshire. Dominic, from Datchet GC, sends his apologies for not attending the last golf day as he is now hooked on Kylie Minogue, temptation was too great and he could not resist going to the concert. Having said that, Gareth Acteson was caught buying tickets to see Barry Manilow.

The Annual Rigby Taylor Match Play Knockout will now be well underway and the organiser, Gareth Acteson, will always be on hand to see that things run smoothly, with results of the first round to be published in next month's report. Gareth can be contacted on 07734 856 924.

Section news has slowly been dribbling in from far and wide over the three counties and if any member has any news or views they would like to share, or would like more information about the Section and forthcoming events you only have to call John Scoones on 07880 550 380.

Sorry, I forgot to mention our good friend, T. H. White, who sponsors our







Clive Osgood  
**SOUTH EAST**  
Tel: 01737 819343



Jane Jones  
**SOUTH WEST AND WALES**  
Tel: 01454 270850

event cards, which I am assured are on the way to you and will be in the next invitation to the Summer Tournament at Henley GC.

It is with deep regret that I have to inform the Section about the death of Colin White. Colin's career started at The Dell in Southampton and in the mid 1970's he took charge at Tottenham's White Hart Lane. After a successful career in First Division Turf Management, Colin joined forces with Rigby Taylor and for the last 10 years he has been covering various parts of Southern England for Avoncrop Amenity.

On March 26 Colin passed away after bravely fighting a terminal illness. Always the perfect gentleman, Colin will be sadly missed throughout the Region and on behalf of the BB&O Section we offer our sincere condolences to Colin's family.

Mark Day

#### *The BB&O's Chairman's Message*

Dear Member,

As your recently appointed Chairman I thought that it would be an ideal opportunity each month through the magazine and Section notes to send out encouraging words and suggestions.

At the present time, representing you at Section level is a wonderfully dedicated committee, who are keen to promote your interests in the form of golf days, social and educational events. They therefore need your support.

I know only too well the difficulties that one can encounter with employers when requesting time off and in particular when workload and golfing expectations are high, this is understandable. However the benefits

are plentiful and I believe should not be missed.

My suggestion this month would be to prepare your diary well in advance and pencil in all key events that you wish to attend, present this at your greens committee level setting out your reasons and requirements, also pinpoint the areas as to where your course could benefit from such an adventure when greenkeeping networking is prolific.

Have a good spring.

Sid Arrowsmith MG

**SOUTH EAST**

#### **Surrey**

What a great day we all had at Dorking GC, on March 31.

Congratulations to Tony Bremer and all his team, including Les. Only a few days before, an inch of rain fell on Dorking and Tony couldn't believe his own eagerness when inviting 68 Surrey members so early in the year. But his worries soon faded as he set out with his Texas Scramble team and they reassured him with many a word of encouragement, that I hear included: "I think the line is just left of that fusarium patch."

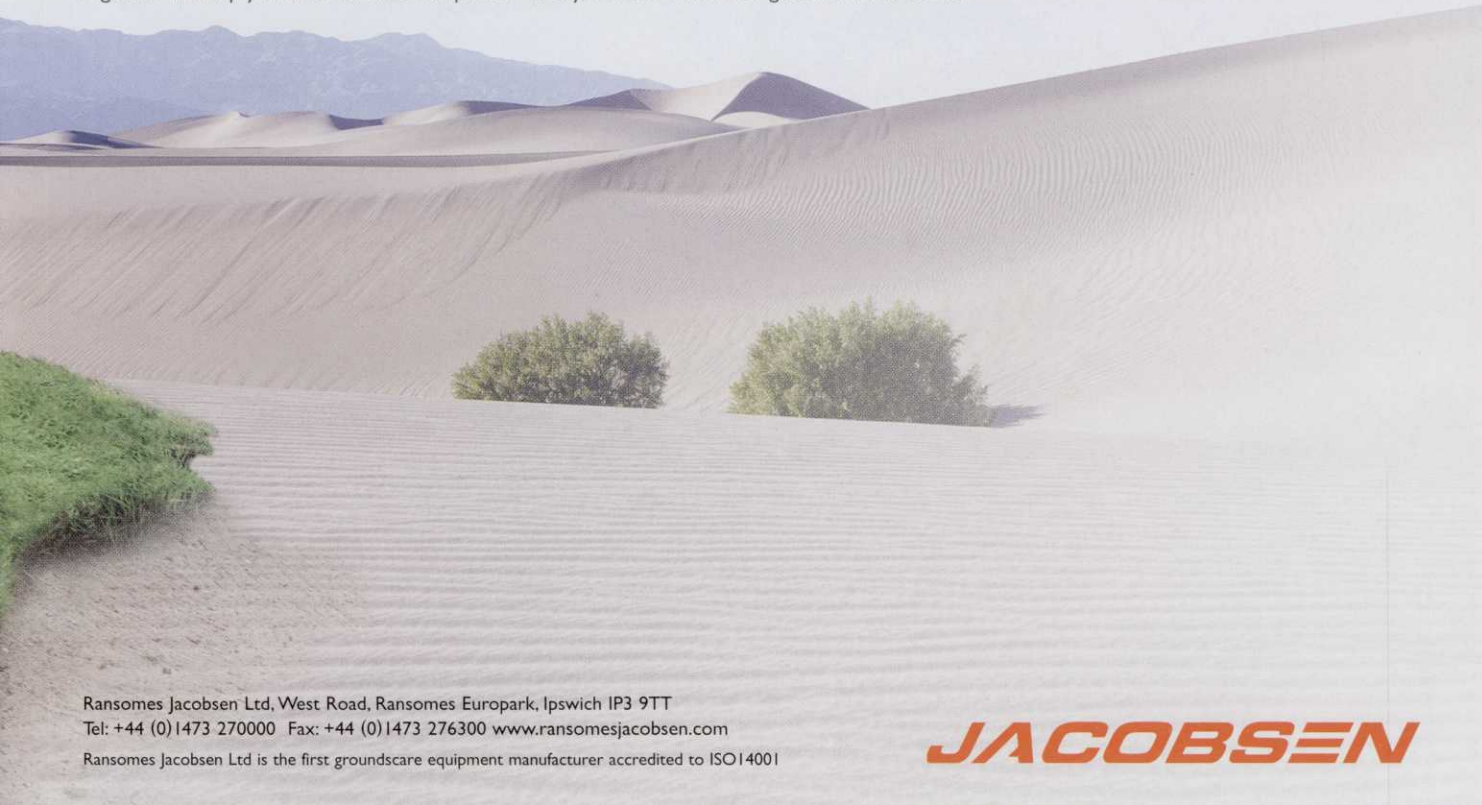
As for me I am pleased to say that I captained a team of such skill and consistency, namely Ron Christie, Roger Tydeman and Richard Evans, that our net 55.7 was easily enough to secure first place. The outstanding moment was the second shot on the 18th when, in front of a balcony of astonished spectators, one of our team hit a 170 yard shot to within 5ft of

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**JACOBSSEN**



the pin. Modesty does not allow for the disclosure of this fine player but just ask John Ross if you must know my name.

Runners up were Alec Bradshaw, John Jennings, David Holloway and Ian Sellers, net 57. The Longest Drive prize was given to Anthony Freeman, because he is the Section Chairman. Nearest the Pin prize winners were Greg Smith, Alec Bradshaw, Dam Nordworthy, Mark Harvey and Darren Bryant. The sponsor was Ernest Doe and we thank them most sincerely for the quality prizes.

I have since spoken to many who played and we are all of the same opinion that next year we ought to play Dorking again as our starter venue, as bad weather is no concern to a Head Greenkeeper with Tony's cast iron constitution.

Scarlet Sellers, 8lbs, was born on February 27 and her mother, Stephanie, made Ian, our ex Secretary, a proud father again after many years. He felt so young that, as with fatherhood, he came out of retirement recently to play football with John Jennings. He found that an early morning call from a crying baby was only a little less uncomfortable than four days of not being able to walk. Having mentioned John Jennings twice already in this edition, we congratulate him, his wife, Lin, and baby, Leah, 8lbs. 7oz, born on December 15.

Our next golfing fixture is at Banstead Downs GC, May 17, so please make it as good a turnout as we had at Dorking.

The Gentlemen's Dinner, at Walton Heath, was once again a huge success and although not a Surrey Section event, many of us played and we thank Ian McMillan and his greenkeepers for an excellent day.

Brian Willmott

## Kent

Quick, wake up, the grass is growing again! Oh what joy to be out there mowing again after another long winter. Everyone must be really busy because none of you have had the time to report any news to me for this column. Come on guys, anything will do!

A couple of bits of news I have got. Firstly, congratulations to Richard 'Tonto' Lewis, whose undoubted better half gave birth to a 7 pound 8 ounce baby girl, called Honey, on March 5. Secondly, welcome to David Tomlin, of the London Club, to the Kent Section.

Thanks to several more companies pledging support to our revitalised Section, namely Barmonset (Golf Mats UK), Collier Turf Care, Lastec, Gem Professional, Ernest Doe and Sons and Midlube.

Lastly, we hope to be putting together a crack golfing team of all-star Kent greenkeepers to take on the world, or other Sections, in the near future. Participation in these events will be dependant on individuals turning up at regular golf days, so make sure you get there! Many thanks to Andrew Wood for this and Avoncrop Amenity in general for their valued support.

Don't forget to contact me with any news on 07843 410755 or at [grassyards@hotmail.com](mailto:grassyards@hotmail.com).

Rob Holland



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## London

Welcome to another edition of 'no news from London'. It is the second week in April and as I look outside my office window, it is snowing! I no longer get surprised by the different weather patterns that we experience in the UK but I must confess I find it extremely funny that the majority of my members told me three weeks ago that summer had arrived and wasn't everything just dandy.

Three days of sun in the middle of March and no one needs a summer holiday because summer is already here, on our doorstep. You may have guessed but not one of our members work for the met office. Of course this all has a knock on effect to the perception of your course because we should now have our surfaces in prime condition, because that is what three days of sun should produce.

I probably sound bitter but I'm not really as we are in a very acceptable condition at the moment, but it does make you wonder what goes through people's mind when their course is maybe not at its most desirable in very early spring.

I'm sure this is the case at most clubs and an attitude that will carry on for years to come. Part of this attitude is proportioned to the 'Augusta syndrome', which I don't know if I fully agree with, though I fully understand the merits of that argument. I don't want to use these notes to harp on about our course or myself but due to the nature of our undulating greens and high fescue sward content we are actually advertising at the moment to experience 'Augusta-like greens'.

Now before everyone starts calling me \*\*\*\*\* and \*\*\*\*\* , we know our greens aren't as green and as quick as Augusta's, but they are a lot quicker and sloppier than a lot of people in the Region may have played before, and numbers of green fees and positive comments are proving that we are benefiting from the Augusta syndrome.

Alec MacIndoe



Frosts are nowhere near as intense and the use of temporary greens was not as widespread as in the past. Greens were surviving at previously unheard of heights of cut. At Minchinhampton we hand mowed with old Certes mowers at 4.5mm once or twice weekly pretty well all through the winter.

There were also some very sensible suggestions for dealing with stress and some very silly ones. The golf course is outdoors and there are many factors, not least the weather, over which we have little or no control. There are also a lot of people to deal with - members, visitors, public, committee, staff, etc. You cannot possibly please everyone, but it will help to communicate with everyone.

Other suggestions for dealing with stress ranged from visiting the herb-shop, or off-licence, or if that fails, any nearby motorway flyover. I favour the second, less drastic, option myself, but if anyone wishes to seriously discuss stress do please call - it can be horrible to deal with.

I realise that it will be May before this hits the shelves, the sun will be out, Dominic will be sharpening the greens for the Greenkeeper Amateur event at The Wiltshire. Did I say 10 on the stimp Dominic? Of course I meant 12 and don't forget to cut the rough properly. Winter will be a distant memory, but please forward any more details to me and I'll try to correlate and circulate back to everyone.

Andy Boyce, from Bath GC, raised an interesting point about management on a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Part of Bath GC, like Minchinhampton Old Course, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Whereas, in the past, there was not such a conscious level of interest in archaeology, now the Statutory Bodies, in this case English Heritage, are much more publicly accountable.

This in turn means a tightening of rules, which inevitably means more restrictions on activities, I blame Phil Harding. It is an offence to carry out any action that disturbs the ground on a Scheduled Ancient Monument. There is a clause, thankfully based on common sense, which allows any past established actions, in our case aeration of greens, tees and fairways for example, to continue, as there is no point protecting something, which has, in all probability, already been damaged.

Any other activity needs 'Scheduled Monument Consent', which involves applying to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and can take six months to get any decision. In the case of Minchinhampton Old Course, we have just drawn up a management plan in conjunction with English Heritage, which details known archaeology and sets out what may or may not be done. This has been an immensely positive step and has really put the management of the course, which had become quite difficult, back on track.

We are starting to draw up next year's fixtures - please contact me if your club would be willing to stage one of them and indicate which you would prefer. Otherwise I'll be on the phone!

Finally, spring is here at last and that means ponies on Minchinhampton Common, you'll have seen the photo in April's Greenkeeper International. No fences or anything - you wouldn't believe how far a pony can amble in a night, or how many greens it can manage to amble across. Crafty little beggars too - a couple of them have discovered the ice-cream van and have learnt to hang around looking adorable waiting to be fed, only to turn nasty if the ice cream is withheld.

Recently, a pal of mine had to run madly around his car, hotly pursued by a hungry pony, and eventually only managed to escape by flinging his 99 with double choc flake across the common while frantically wrenching open the car door.

Keep the info coming in guys. See you all at The Wiltshire.

Home: 01285 651908, Work: 01453 837355, Email: paul.worster@tesco.net

Paul Worster



## SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

### South West

There is an inherent difficulty in writing this column, it takes six or seven weeks to get into print. That means that by the time anyone reads it, the season has completely changed and everyone wonders what the old twit is on about.

Thanks for the feedback from the March edition ref. stress levels. I had several guys get in touch, one still smouldering following "a stinging lecture in appropriate greenkeeping technique" delivered by a bad tempered club official at a recent greens committee meeting. This mini lecture was along the usual lines of how well his lawn is looking compared to the course and so on, and culminated in the assertion that temporary greens are totally unnecessary and should be done away with completely.

Now where have I heard that before? Back in the 1970's springs to mind. The theme that ran through all your feedback was that with unpredictable, and often very changeable weather, it can be very difficult to know exactly how best to manage the greens, particularly through the winter months. I did conduct a brief local poll to find out how we are coping - thanks to all those who took the time to talk it through.

There was markedly more fusarium last autumn, and the fusarium season took longer to run its course with fewer, but much larger scars, than usual. Raising the height of cut did not necessarily speed recovery.



## South Coast

It is with great sadness that I have to pass on the news that Colin White passed away on Saturday March 26. These are without doubt the most difficult Section notes that I have ever had to write and I have sat in front of my PC trying to write them for over a week now. How can you sum up into words about such a great man?

Having returned from his funeral and memorial service I feel I can now pay tribute to 'Chalky'. Chalky was an extraordinary man who touched so many people's lives and we can all be thankful for knowing him. It was said that when he entered a room it lit up and how true that was. He was always happy, never had a bad word to say about anyone and always had a joke to tell to cheer up the troops.

He was a people person, only seeing the good in them and I can recall the tremendous support he gave me before giving my first public presentation: "You'll be fantastic," very comforting words to a very nervous man. The memorial service was a celebration of this great man's life that was cut so short. It was a very moving service that highlighted his pursuit of excellence in everything he did and enabled us to hear some tremendous Chalky stories from some of the people who had the privilege to work with him.

His love for the Saints is known by all and I'm sure he had a smile on his face as we all sang the final hymn, 'O when the Saints go marching in'. The fact that there were several Portsmouth fans in the congregation



would have been the icing on the cake! As a Section we will miss him enormously not calling at our golf clubs but also at our golf days, the sight of Chalks' smiling face on the course will live long in my memories.

I had the fortune to play with him last year and he had a blinding front nine heavily outscoring me. In true Chalks' fashion he apologised so many times for playing so well but at the turn he simply said to me: "Come on, time for a big second half Alex." It is so fitting we have decided to dedicate our spring tournament to Chalky and will play for the Colin White Memorial Trophy and it's great that some of his family members will be there to play, present the trophy and see just how much respect and affection we have for him.

We will all have our own very special memories of this great man and although it may seem he has left us, those cherished memories will ensure that Chalky is very much alive. Let's remember the great man that was Chalky White. God bless you Chalky, I am honoured to have known you, call you a friend and will always remember you with the greatest of affection. Thank you for so many happy memories. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

Alex McCombie

## Devon & Cornwall

It's a well known fact that one is never too old to learn in this profession and having been involved for some 34 years, and now well passed my sell by date, I am beginning to wonder if I am starting to lose my marbles. In last month's report I mentioned that a local greenkeeper had increased his skills

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by becoming a marine salvage expert, this month I can even beat that story.

Two weeks ago I was travelling around the Cornwall area when I visited one of my regular customers on the South Coast to be greeted with a very strong aroma of a fishy nature. The lads were actually having a tea break and frequently asking me why I kept blowing my nose and sniffing. Knowing from past experience that a couple of the lads are practical jokers I was becoming rather on the cagey side, by this time I could see that they could not keep their secret any longer, hence I called their bluff, only to be told that as well as being greenkeepers they had become part time trawler men and to prove the point they asked me to go outside, which I readily agreed to do.

To my amazement there before my very own eyes was a Cushman with not one but two Dolphins loaded on the back. Unfortunately the Dolphins had been damaged by the trawler nets and hence washed up onto the private beach. On a more serious note it was quite distressing to see the damage that had been inflicted. I was informed that it was not the local trawlers, because their nets comply with fisheries regulations, it's those fools from the other side of the water.

The March meeting was held at the Churston Golf Club on the 16th with an attendance of 56 members. The sponsors were Bayer and Supaturf. The morning's Stableford competition was for the Supaturf Trophy for Head Greenkeepers and the Bayer Trophy for Assistants. The non golfers were entertained by Kelvin Miller, the Head Greenkeeper, who took them on a course walk. Unfortunately the weather was not favourable for the players or the non golfers with very heavy rain showers, in spite of the poor conditions Kelvin and his team had prepared the course in superb condition.

The winners of the Supaturf competition were as follows: 1. Buster Lewer, Dainton Park Golf Club, 34pts; 2. Kelvin Yeoman, Dartmouth Golf Club, 31pts; 3. Gordon Childs, Retired Ex Churston Golf Club, 31pts. Kelvin had the best score on the back nine by one point.

The Bayer results for the Assistant were: 1. Steve Worrall, Stover Golf Club, 38pts; 2. Simon Combes, Dainton Park, 36pts; 3. Chris Edwards, Wrangaton, 36pts. Simon had the better score on the back nine.

After an excellent lunch and prize giving, Ann Murray, Director of the European Turfgrass Laboratories, in Stirling, presented the afternoon educational talk. Ann's talk was on rootzones and top dressings and was very enlightening. It was unfortunate that Ann had to catch a return flight to Edinburgh otherwise many more questions could have been asked from the members, it is certainly a very interesting topic. Many thanks to Jane, our Regional Administrator, who collected and returned Ann to the Bristol Airport, safe and sound.

If any member has any news that can contribute to Around the Green, please do not hesitate to contact me. I have just heard the weather forecast for the end of the week, snow and frost. Do you ever get that feeling you just cannot win?

That's all for now until next month.

Donovan O Hunt

## South Wales

We imagine you are all working like crazy, trying to keep the grass down, bet you are all fed up with the comments relating to Augusta's greens and why your greens are not as fast as theirs, with the exception of Fescue Peter 'the rake' Lacey. A moaning member at Newport Golf Club recently said our course in February was poor in relation to the courses he played in Spain recently. Members, don't you just love them?

By the time you receive this month's magazine we will have held our annual spring seminar, sponsored by Farmura International, guest speaker Jim Arthur. Our series of winter evening lectures have finished. IOG were

responsible for organising the 2005 series, with an excellent range of topics relating to all fields of turf management, giving the greenkeepers an interesting insight into the challenges that groundsmen face.

The Section is indebted to Avoncrop, once again, for sponsoring the winter evening lectures. Thanks to all who give freely of their time and effort to ensure this continues, thanks to IOG and to Pencoed College for allowing us to host these nights. Must say the turnouts for the evening lectures from the greenkeepers was poor, goes without saying we would like to see more and we welcome new members, it does not cost a penny and the series has been very educational. It also gives you a chance to meet new acquaintances and network. Please don't let all Peter Lacey's and the IOG's hard work in organising go to waste.

Thanks to the WGU for part financing my Deputy at Newport GC, Gareth Gibson, on his chainsaw course. We used to be a tree lined Parkland course, I think Gareth has a sideline on firewood. Congratulations to one of my colleagues, Mark Wilshire, and his wife, Katherine, on the birth of their girl, Rebecca Louise, 8lb 6oz. Mark is a bit miserable at the moment due to sleep deprivation.

You should all have received your fixture cards, thanks to Tower Chemicals for sponsoring. If not, get in touch with Peter Lacey and he will send another. The applications for the Rigby Taylor Doubles Matchplay are coming in thick and fast, the draw will be made at the spring seminar. Competition costs nothing and the final, if your good enough, will take place at Tenby Golf Club, with a great evening, followed by being treated like kings, courtesy of Dave Carvey. I hope I am drawn against Russell Anderson and one of my boys, Peter Holmstrom, and Jim lets us play at Celtic Manor.

The redesigning of the Ryder Cup course begins this month. It should be exciting to see the new holes develop, I believe there will be nine new holes and extensive remodelling of the other holes. Jim Mackenzie will welcome anybody interested to see the development in progress.

Good luck to the Celtic Manor, particularly the green staff responsible for the Roman Road course who are hosting this year's Welsh Open in June due to the remodelling on the Ryder Cup course. Hope you get a dry one.

All the best to Gary Connell, Deputy Course Manager, at the Celtic Manor and his new wife, Nicole, who are getting married there.

Dates of interest and fixtures for 2005: Welsh Open, June 2 - 5; Summer Tournament, June 8, Rhondda Golf Club, 1.30pm tee off; Scotts Golf Man Trophy July 21, Llanishen Golf Club; Match vs South West, August 18, St Pierre, 12.30pm tee off; Autumn Trophy, October 20, Raglan Parc Golf Club, 1.30 Tee Off; RT Matchplay Finals, October 28, Tenby Golf Club, 11am Tee off; Kerry Jones' Birthday, December 5, all cheques payable to K Jones, thanks; Winter Trophy, December 9, P&K, 10.30 tee off.

Results of the spring golf day next month, hope the Match Captain, Andy Roach, has cut Emyr Nickels handicap, to give the rest of us a chance. You should have received an application form for the BIGGA Environmental Competition, which is strongly advised to enter.

If there is any news in the future please contact Kerry on Tel: 07776 178 455 or email: Kerryjokojones@yahoo.co.uk, or Angus on Tel: 07977 423571; email: agusmac07@aol.com.

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Angus Macleod and Kerry Jones



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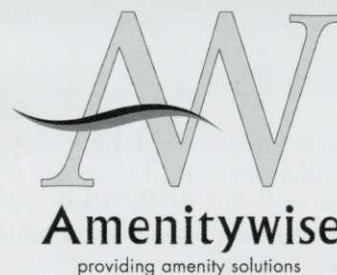
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Closing date for receipt of applications is - Friday 20th May 2005

Glendale, the 'green' business of Parkwood Holdings plc, has seen its recently established Glendale Golf division expand rapidly. In the Portsmouth area we now manage and maintain two of the City's Golf Courses. We would like to hear from suitably qualified and enthusiastic professionals for our Golf Division and existing Grounds Contracts. All positions are available for an immediate start.

### Head Green Keeper

**£14,872 - £18,096**

Reporting to the Contract Manager, you will take responsibility for the day to day running and use of the grounds. This includes preparation and maintenance to a required standard, particularly of the greens and fairways, through reactive and planned maintenance programmes, as well as the supervision of sporting programmes.

It is essential that you have a full understanding of Health & Safety regulations and promote safe working practices at all times.

With at least 5 years' experience as a Groundsman or Green Keeper, a recognised qualification in a sports turf or golf industry is desirable. You should have a keen eye for detail and insist on exceptional standards of quality.

### Green Keeper

**£11,440 - £15,496**

Assisting the Head Green Keeper to achieve the above remit, you will have some experience in golf course maintenance, a keen eye for detail and ideally a recognised qualification in a sports turf or golf industry.

**If you believe you have the skills and experience required for either of the above posts, please contact Mr Tod Hale on 07850 228405, who is available to discuss these opportunities further or contact Lisa Day on 02392 650532 for an application form.**

**Alternatively, e-mail us at [portsmouth@glendale-services.co.uk](mailto:portsmouth@glendale-services.co.uk)**

**Closing date: 3rd June 2005**

**Glendale**

[www.glendale-services.co.uk](http://www.glendale-services.co.uk)

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You should have the appropriate professional qualifications to at least NVQ Level 3 with AP 1, 2 & 6 spraying certificates, and preferably an

HNC/HND or Degree. More importantly you must have at least 10 years' greenkeeping experience with 3-5 years as a Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager, ideally at a championship course. Some experience of new course construction as well as forestry and parkland management, preferably in a Northern European climate, would be most beneficial.

You must be strong on leadership, people management, controlling substantial budgets, as well as the purchasing and use of modern machinery and computerised irrigation systems. Well developed communicating, organising, planning and team building skills are essential prerequisites.

If you think you measure up to this fantastic opportunity, please send a detailed CV with a covering letter including your current remuneration package, to: David Dewhirst, Recruitment Consultant, Work Communications Limited, 2 The Courtyard, Warwick Road, Solihull, West Midlands B91 3DA. Ideally please email him through: [julia.sandham@workcomms.com](mailto:julia.sandham@workcomms.com)

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Require

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Machynys Peninsula Golf & Country Club,  
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- Have experience of current Health & Safety regulations.
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- Be enthusiastic, highly motivated & committed.

Please apply in writing with full CV including current salary to:

Mrs D. Smith, Club Secretary, Great Barr Golf Club Ltd.  
Chapel Lane, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7BA Tel: 0121 3584376

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Require a

### DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

Qualified to NVQ3 or equivalent

PA 1, PA 2 and PA 6 necessary

Salary to CGS Scale

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Hadley Green, Barnet EN5 4QN



## BLUNDELLS HILL golf club

Blundells Lane Rainhill Merseyside L35 6NA

(Established 1994)

Blundells Hill Golf Club is looking for an experienced

## Head Greenkeeper

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The preferred candidate must be versed in all aspects of course maintenance and construction and, as well as having the technical knowledge, must be able to lead a young team of highly motivated and qualified staff. The Candidate ideally would be 28-35 years old and have at least 5 years experience in golf course management, be physically fit and have the drive to take Blundells Hill to the top. The successful candidate would be taking over a well managed and modern facility where the equipment is constantly being updated.

All applications will be treated with total confidentiality.

Applications in writing to Philip McKie by the 20th May.

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2. The Tour Suit, which comes in either a Weatherbeater or Full Zipper style (pictured), has a waterproof outer fabric, which is fully lined. The Weatherbeater jacket is a short zipped pullover style with two pockets and has an adjustable draw cord waist. It also contains zip off half sleeves. The trousers come with a three pocket styling. The Full Zipper version comes with a full length covered zipper on the jacket and the trousers have velcro adjustable bottoms. Jacket size ranges from S - XXL and the trousers come in 27", 29", 31" & 33". The suits come in a choice of colours. £130

3. This does exactly what it says on the tin. The Four Seasons Breaker is just that, perfect to wear all year round. This item is a multi option pullover style top with a short zip and elasticated draw cord. This breaker zips off in two places to create three different garments, full sleeve, 1/2 sleeve or a sleeveless top. Available in a multitude of colours and sizes. £26



4. When it blows, it really does blow and the Windbreaker ensures that you don't feel any of the resulting chill. This stylish top features a soft Teflon coated microfibre outer coat and is a pullover style, with high v-neck and two side pockets. It comes in navy, black or charcoal. Sizes S - XXL. £25



5&6. This top, which is Teflon coated and contains a soft waterproof breathable lining system, comes in two different styles. The Sport Weatherbeater (5) has an adjustable draw cord and is a short zipped pullover style. The Sports Jacket (6) is a blouson style with a full covered zip. Both come in a variety of colours and sizes are available from S - XXL. £42



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## Feature listing from May 2003

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

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

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

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

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

**October 2003;** Construction Machinery;  
Pay Recommendations; Saltex Review;  
Pesticide Legislation; Finance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Chairman's Column



## 'Can ya tell me where we're heading'

As Chairman, my duty is to steer the ship for 12 months until the Vice Chairman takes over the helm. There are two essential things you need to know when steering a ship. One is where your destination is and the other is the best route to get there. I am rapidly finding out that our destination is not at all clear in all aspects and that 12 months is not long enough to find the best way to reach it.

My task over the rest of my Chairmanship will therefore be to try to get a better picture of where the membership would like us to go and for the Board to lay down markers as a guide for the future. To this end we are reviewing current policy in an effort to have specific aims and objectives for the next five to 10 years for the Chief Executive and his team to fulfil within the specified timescale. Rather like at the golf club, if there are no aims, objectives and policy or they are not adequately reviewed then much resource will be wasted by ever changing committees and personnel.

Up until now, our main goal has been to raise the profile of greenkeepers and our Association within the industry to gain recognition and respect through the education of Course Managers in particular. This has been tremendously successful and we now have a strong Association with a powerful voice. The question now is, what do we do with that strong foundation? What are we going to build on it?

There are extremes of opinion on this matter and I have my own personal view. These are not the views that matter however. The views that matter are the majority views of the bulk of the membership. My responsibility, as Chairman, is to try to satisfy as many members as possible, while readily acknowledging that it is impossible to satisfy them all.

Another responsibility as Chairman is to stimulate debate so that a consensus view can be arrived at. To this end I would like to briefly outline my own philosophy on just two of our many pressing concerns. I stress that these are personal opinions and are not to be taken as any indication of policy. They are merely a starting point for debate and, though I am sure they will ruffle a few feathers, I am secure in the knowledge that a Chairman who did not occasionally ruffle a few feathers never achieved anything.

I would put my main priority at the moment as the need for greater support for core greenkeepers at local level. I would tip the balance in favour of Section and Region activity and education in an effort to secure early involvement and interaction of members and a higher profile for BIGGA. The best tool for recruitment of new members is happy current members and retention rates will be high if we are seen to be active in assisting where our help is needed most.

At the same time we must continue to improve our professional image. While we have a stipulated NVQ Level 2 designation as a qualified greenkeeper member, we do not have any specified certification for a Course Supervisor

member or a Course Manager member. I would like to see, at some stage, separate categories of membership for each progressive stage in our careers, with defined qualifications and subscription rates to match.

It is very noticeable that you cannot practice as a golf professional unless you are a qualified member of the PGA. Currently anyone can operate as a Golf Course Manager without any qualification. Rather paradoxically this will begin to work against those who are technically gifted and can produce fantastic golf courses but have no formal qualification.

They will be the ones who are more likely to miss out, as formal qualifications in all industries become increasingly the norm. I would consider such a trend as a sad loss to the profession as a whole. Making all members certified through a standard minimum qualification would level the playing field and improve the professional status of us all.

Incidentally, just to throw in a current topic of debate, I do not see Master Greenkeeper as the best title for any future Course Manager qualification. The MG scheme was brought in to enable individuals to improve their performance and gain recognition. It also resulted in standards of training and staff welfare on MG run courses being driven up and so benefited other greenkeepers. It has much to commend it and as an MG myself I have much admiration for those who have achieved it.

My own opinion is though, that 15 years on, the title Master Greenkeeper is less than helpful. It sounds archaic and does not best describe what Course Managers do. We do not have Master Architects or Master Secretaries or Master Agronomists and even the titles Master Butcher and Master Baker are fast fading. I stress again that I do not question the validity of the award but do have reservations about the name. I can hear the feathers ruffling from here!

Having said all that, I believe that our Association will ultimately be judged not by the successes of its individually gifted members, whoever they may be, but by the manner in which it assists those members who need its support the most.

*K. Daly*

Kerran Daly  
Chairman



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