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Greenkeeper

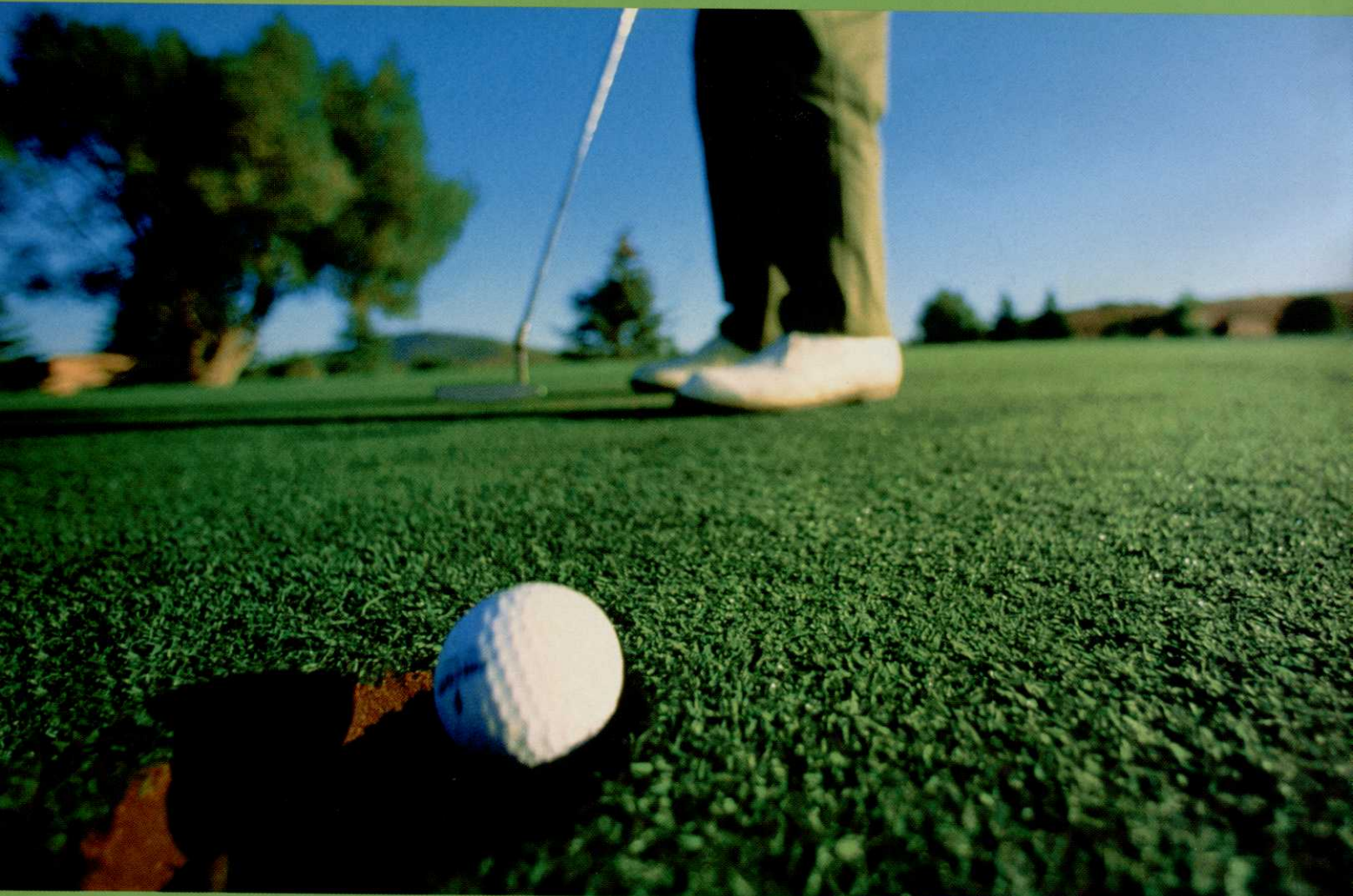
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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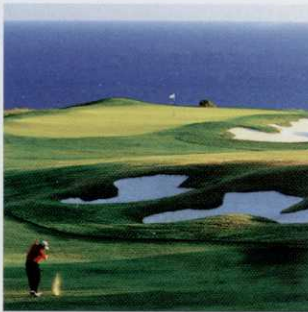
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NEW THIS MONTH!

Check out the Buyers' Guide on page 53-57.

For ways in which AJ Leisure and Gress Golf can help you.



Welcome

OUR THOUGHTS GO OUT TO THEM ALL

I'm a regular subscriber to the satirical magazine *Private Eye* which often carries pieces on trade publications who jump on the bandwagon of world events and tie them into the more mundane business they are involved with. For example it might have something from the British Sun Tan Oil Manufacturers Association blaming a 5% downturn in fortunes on the Tsunami of last Christmas.

It is with that in mind that I hesitate to link the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina and, as I write the impending threat of Hurricane Rita, which is on the verge of striking Texas and, for the second time, Louisiana, with the impact it has had on American Superintendents and the GCSAA itself.

The catastrophe which has already befallen New Orleans and the surrounding area is of a scale that we on this side of the Atlantic can't honestly comprehend and, with Rita vying not to be undone by Katrina, the Houston and Galveston areas of southern Texas are bracing themselves for another of nature's onslaughts.

Golf seems a trivial pursuit in such a background but it is also the livelihood for Superintendents and their staff who are left without a golf course to maintain and possibly a home to live in. Our thoughts go out to those people and we hope that some semblance of normality can return to their personal and professional lives as soon as possible.

We must also share a thought for the GCSAA who had preparations for their annual Conference and Show, scheduled for New Orleans in February, thrown into complete disarray. The GCSAA staff are currently frantically rearranging the entire event for... Houston, which is in the direct firing line for Hurricane Rita.

Heaven knows how they will cope if the worst predictions of what has currently become a Category 5 hurricane, larger than Katrina, come to pass.

Our own climate comes in for much criticism but in the main it doesn't touch the extremes suffered in other parts of the world. Sure we can have droughts and the odd hosepipe ban while, living near York, I know that flooding can cause horrendous damage to property and render the odd road impassable for a while. I also know that Birmingham, of all places, was hit by a bone fide hurricane earlier this year but by and large we don't suffer from life threatening weather conditions and certainly not on the scale experienced in New Orleans.

However, with climate change being considered inevitable by more and more experts we will no doubt experience an increase in freak weather conditions, just as the sheer enormity of Katrina and Rita should be considered freakish in the States.

It's therefore important that the authorities on the wider scale and ourselves at work and at home put planning in place for every conceivable eventuality.

Hopefully this won't see me appearing in *Private Eye* in the next few weeks!

Scott MacCallum, Editor

SALARY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2006

The Standing Committee is recommending a 4% increase for 2006 and a copy is enclosed with this issue of *Greenkeeper International*. This figure is based on the Average Earnings figures as published in June each year by the Office for National Statistics.

"June is chosen as it enables the Recommendations to be published in early October thus enabling Golf Clubs to use it for budgeting purposes," explained Don Bailey, Committee Chairman.

Since the first issue in 1997 more and more Clubs have followed the recommendations and this

year the format is slightly revised and more explanatory notes included.

"Despite its success with Greenkeepers and Secretaries the Committee feel that more effort is needed to bring the document to the attention of committee members of Clubs, who after all sign off budgets," said Don.

In recognition of the Committee's growing remit it has changed its name to "Committee for Golf Club Salaries" to reflect the fact that next year it will be publishing similar recommendations for Secretaries, at the request of the AGCS (Association of Golf Club Secretaries).

TOPPING THE CHARTS

Chart Hills Golf Club, part of the Leaderboard Group, hosted the Ladies English Open in July with winner Maria Hjorth particularly complimentary about the condition of the course. Speaking after winning the event for the second year in succession, she complimented Course Manager, Neil Lowther, saying that she didn't think the course could look or play better than it had this year.

"Obviously we took this as a great accolade. The team here worked really hard in the weeks prior to the event and had to cope with some exceptionally dry weather. The fairways looked particularly impressive and this was due, in part, to

the new mowers we purchased recently from Ernest Doe, our local Ransomes Jacobsen dealer," said Neil.

Chart Hills, located in rolling countryside at Biddenham in Kent, had over 20,000 visitors during the three day Championship and will be the host venue until 2009.

"We're learning more and more each time we stage the event. Expectations from players and spectators will certainly keep us focused in the coming years, but with the right team and the best equipment, I'm sure we can rise to the challenge," added the Course Manager.



NEW PROJECTS

Sporting Projects has joined forces with golf architects Weller Designs to create a third company, Weller McEvoy, to service the growing demand in the UK for golf course remodelling work. While both Sporting Projects and Weller Designs will continue in their own right, any golf course remodelling work undertaken by either firm will now be handled by Weller McEvoy.

"At the Walker Cup in Chicago this year I saw an amateur golfer carry the ball 351 yards. It's not just

the country's best amateurs who are hitting the ball further. New equipment technology means many players of differing abilities are achieving greater distances, often taking existing hazards out of play and, in worse cases, weakening the challenge presented by even well crafted golf holes. Our new company Weller McEvoy will help golf clubs to restore this challenge," said Sporting Projects' Peter McEvoy.

MAKING HEALTH & SAFETY CLEARER

BIGGA organised and hosted a joint Health and Safety meeting with the Association of Golf Club Secretaries in September, in an attempt to devise a universal Health & Safety policy and clear the murky issues surrounding this complex subject.

Greenkeepers and BIGGA officials united with AGCS representatives and secretaries to thrash out the major concerns within the area. Involved in the meeting included AGCS National Secretary, Keith Lloyd, and Senior Administrator, Gill Bridal, along with Past BIGGA Chairman, Andy Campbell MG,

and Course Managers Les Howkins, Gavin Robson and Tony Smith.

"Health & Safety has become one of the major issues within the golf industry. Along with the AGCS we hope to create a set of standard Health & Safety guidelines that clubs can work to. This will clear any confusion within the subject and make both the greenkeepers' and secretaries' job that bit easier," stated BIGGA Chief Executive, John Pemberton, who was also involved in the meeting.



WHO ARE THE UNSUNG HEROES?

Terrain Aeration's Unsung Heroes, Karl Fulford, Head Groundsman at Abbeydale Sports Club, Sheffield and Mike Symons, Head Greenkeeper at Bovey Castle Golf Club, were on hand at Saltex to open nominations for this year's awards, which will send the winners on holiday to the South of France.

"The awards were designed to highlight the hard work and dedication that goes on day to day to maintain our sports fields and golf courses. There are scores of unsung heroes out there,

greenkeepers and groundsman who deliver much more than the job description specifies and they're often taken for granted. The idea behind these awards is to help redress the balance," said David Green, Terrain Aeration's Managing Director.

Anyone who would like to nominate a greenkeeper or groundsman as Unsung Hero for 2005 can obtain a nomination form from Lynda Green, tel: 01449 673783.



PRING MAKES IMPRESSION



Nigel Pring, a former Somerset county golfer who learned his craft at Wells Golf Club, has made a great impression since taking over from Chris Milsom as the new Head Greenkeeper at Farrington Golf Club.

Pring, 46, was always a favourite because of his wealth of experience. He was first Head Greenkeeper at Wells, where he started in 1982 after being a club member. But he moved on to Padbrook Park at Cullompton, in Devon, in 1989 and then to Oake Manor, Taunton. He later spent time developing The Players Club, near Bristol, until becoming a salesman for a company selling machinery to golf and sports clubs in Somerset.

"This opportunity to produce the golf courses at Farrington to a standard we can all be proud of was too good to miss," stated Nigel.

PROMOTING FROM WITHIN

Three of Rolawn's Depot Managers have been promoted to the new position of Senior Depot Manager. These appointments are seen as the key to the next stage in the development of Rolawn's depot network that stretches from Edinburgh and Glasgow in Scotland through the North East and North West of England into the Midlands and the South East down to Southampton.

The new roles have been taken up by Alistair Matheson in Scotland, Jason Kewen based at Solihull and John Carter operating from Sunningdale. All are experienced Depot Managers and each new appointee will take operational responsibility for the depots in their regions.

In addition Allison Holmes, Rolawn's Operations Support Manager based at the York Head Office, will take responsibility for Rolawn depots in Warrington Newcastle and York.

"I am delighted to be able to fill such important roles from our existing staff base which is testament to the quality of personnel we have at Rolawn," commented Philip Cuthbert Commercial Director.

BISHOP HITS 50



John Bishop has celebrated an incredible 50 years' service in greenkeeping. If that achievement wasn't impressive enough, those entire 50 years have been spent loyally at one club.

John has spent his entire career working tirelessly at Tandridge GC, in Surrey, where he has worked through the ranks to take the position of Course Manager. John, who will retire next year, was actually born right across the road from the golf club and was presented with champagne by the Surrey Section at the recent Cresta Cup, held at Tandridge, to mark the wonderful achievement.

WRAP SEMINAR

WRAP is hosting a seminar session at the STRI Headquarters in Bingley on October 20.

Entitled "Compost for Sports and Amenity Turf - Results from Technical Trials" the seminar will educate people how to use compost effectively in a range of maintenance applications and discover the results of a series of demonstration trials into turf growing and maintenance using composted materials

For further information contact Emma Ricketts
Tel: 01295 817891 or email:
emma.ricketts@wrap.org.uk.

NEW MAN FOR LLOYDS

Lloyds has appointed Duncan McGilvery as their Area Sales Manager for the north of England and Scotland.

In greenkeeping for over 35 years Duncan was Course Manager at Letchworth Golf Club for 11 years and more recently at Potters Bar Golf Club where he spent seven years. He has also spoken at many Seminars and Education Conferences.

"Duncan has been a user of our equipment for many years and has a wealth of experience in its use. His managerial and communication skills will be a valuable addition to our team as we continue to develop our sales with an ever increasing range of equipment," said Managing Director, Clive Nottingham.



BANSTEAD LIFT BOWL

The Final of the Surrey Bowl, played at Foxhills Golf Club, took place on September 1. The Finalists were Barry Robertson and Gary Rowe, from Banstead Downs, against Simon Kirkham and Darren Woodward, from West Surrey.

The lads from West Surrey, who were last year's winners, took an early lead with Simon Kirkham

excelling. Gary Rowe clawed Banstead back into the game and finally won it with a great 20 foot birdie putt on the 17th green to win 2 and 1. As always, the Bernard Hunt course at Foxhills was in fantastic shape. The sponsors again were Surrey Power Machines and TYM tractors.



The Surrey Bowl Final cast

NEW STRATEGY

Six months after its acquisition of Hayter, Toro has announced news of its future distribution strategy for the sale of Toro and Hayter professional golf, sports and grounds turf maintenance equipment in the UK.

From November Lely will concentrate on serving the professional golf and sports turf markets, while Hayter will focus on its core local authority markets. Lely will continue to provide full life parts and service support to local authority customers for all products sold by them prior to that date.

"Both the Toro and Hayter brands are very strong and important to their respective customer bases. Therefore, as we go forward, our strategy must allow us to focus the talents and expertise of both Hayter and Lely dealers in the markets where they have greatest opportunity to excel," said Dennis Himan, Toro's Vice President and General Manager for International Business.

Lely UK has also appointed Julian Copping as Retail Sales Manager for East Anglia. His aim is to grow Toro business within a wide range of turf care markets, including golf.

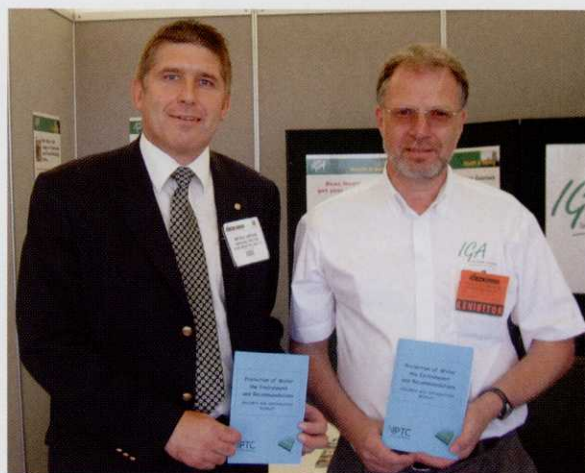
Julian, 41, brings with him a great deal of experience in the turf care machinery market. In his last position he spent six years as professional horticulture sales representative with dealer Earnest Doe & Sons Limited. Prior to that he worked at Ransomes for 16 years, starting as an engineering apprentice in the factory, moving on to become a sales demonstrator for the UK and Europe and then spending eight years as area manager looking after dealers in the south east.



BASIS ADD POWER

BASIS has launched a new qualification - POWER - Protection of Water, the Environment and Recommendations.

The new two and a half day course is aimed at contract specifiers, managers, foremen and supervisors of amenity situations where pesticides are used. It is especially designed for those specifying which products are to be used and who have responsibility for pesticide application while not actually applying the products used. The qualification was launched on the Ian Gower Associates stand at Saltex.



GCSAA MOVE SHOW TO HOUSTON

In the wake of the destruction in New Orleans caused by Hurricane Katrina, the Golf Industry Show will be conducted in Houston in February 2006.

The GCSAA and the National Golf Course Owners Association conferences and Trade Show were due to be in New Orleans in accordance with its east-central-west rotation of Orlando-New Orleans-Anaheim/San Diego but an early decision had to be made to move following the events in Louisiana.

The dates will remain the same as were planned with the GCSAA Education Conference on February

6 - 11, the NGCOA Solutions Summit 8 -10 and the Golf Industry Show 9 - 11.

"Our first concern is with the people of the gulf coast. Our intent was to conduct the activities in New Orleans if at all possible. However, with New Orleans officials announcing the cancellation of all convention activities through March, it forced us to select an alternative location. We found that Houston offered the necessary housing, meeting and trade show space and enabled us to keep the same dates we had for New Orleans," said GCSAA Chief Executive Officer, Steve Mona.

GREENKEEPERS TOP THE ORDER

The Scottish Amateur Golfers Order of Merit was won by the new Scottish Amateur Champion, Glenn Campbell, who finished 90 points ahead of John Gallagher of Swanston, the man who finished runner-up in this year's Amateur Championship at Royal Birkdale.

Both men are greenkeepers, Glenn working at Murrayshall in Scone and John, although he is currently playing full time golf, at Swanston.



Glenn Campbell, right

WREKIN WIN

The final Midland Region Golf Management Trophy Golf Day, sponsored by Scotts (UK) Professional, was held at Wrekin GC on August 18 in what is the club's Centenary Year. 15 four man teams, comprising a BIGGA member, Club Secretary, Captain and Chairman of Green, competed on a beautiful sunny day on the very hilly venue, which had been superbly prepared by Richard Beacham and his staff.

All involved were made very welcome by the Wrekin GC staff and members. Oswestry GC came

out winners with 83 stableford points, closely followed by the local team from Wrekin GC with 82 points, with Beedles Lake GC in third place on 80 points

The Midland Region's thanks are extended to Wrekin GC for hosting the event, Scotts for their continued sponsorship, and all 15 golf clubs who entered to make the day successful. Details of the 2006 Midland Region Golf Management days will be in the Greenkeeper International next spring.



The Oswestry GC; L-R, Secretary, Peter Turner, Club Captain, Bob Goff, Greenkeeper, Tom Jones, Mark Rayner, Scotts, and Peter Larter, the Midland Regional Administrator

CANN DO



Groundscare tractor manufacturer, McCormick, has a new man in the south west. Steve Cann, 37, has been appointed Area Manager, covering a territory that takes in south Wales and south west England, from

Cornwall across to Berkshire and Dorset.

Steve knows the area well, having began his career in the service department of RSM Beare, the McCormick dealer in Devon. He spent the past three years covering much the same territory as product support engineer for an implement manufacturer.

"Sales is a new field for me but I think my sales service background will stand me in good stead as my Area Manager role largely involves helping dealers explain the technical and performance features of McCormick tractors. Having worked on Doncaster built tractors for some years I know them inside out, although today's models are more advanced than their predecessors," stated Steve.

CLUB SOLD

Strutt & Parker have sold Frodsham Golf Club, near Chester, to the owners of nearby Northop Golf & Country Club. The club had been offered with a guide price of £1.9 million and attracted strong interest from a wide range of interested parties.

Charles Greville-Heygate, a partner in the Leisure & Hotel department which handled the sale said: "I was not surprised by the interest. It was a very attractive and popular course, with a strong membership base. The two courses should work together well and benefit the management and membership of both."

CRAGGS PLEASED AT CHANGE

Vic Craggs has joined specialist irrigation and drainage company North Staffs Irrigation. He'd been Head Greenkeeper at Mellor & Townscliffe Golf Club since 1986. He lives in Stockport and will undertake service and installation work in the North West.

Commenting on his appointment Vic said: "After 20 years in greenkeeping I was ready for a change and I'm really pleased to have joined North Staffs."



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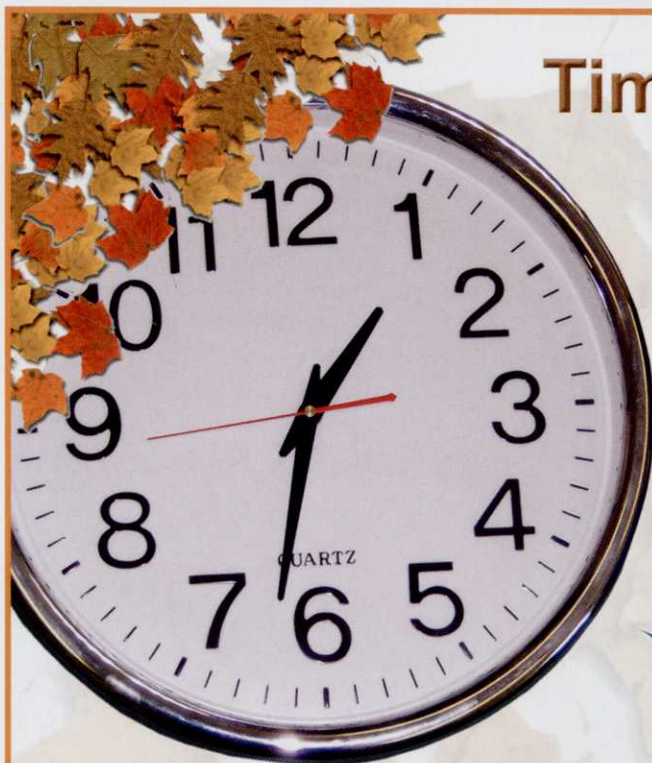
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STEWART VISITS SHERRIFF

On the eve of the historic final Test Match at The Oval former England Captain and Surrey favourite Alec Stewart visited Saltex, courtesy of Sherriff Amenity.

The wicketkeeping batsman made the trip to present John Vaughan-Davies, a member of the Surrey Groundsman Association, for having completed a year on the Association's mentoring scheme, which is sponsored by Sherriffs. He also took time to sign copies of his autobiography for cricketing fans.

As usual the Sherriff Stand was overflowing with visitors catching up on the company's products while at the same time sampling Johnny Beck's famous pies and pasties.



Alec with Sherriff's Kevin Whitby, the man responsible for setting up the visit

NEW FACES

STRI have introduced new faces to their southern turfgrass advisory team, with retirements and promotions bring about three staff changes.

Steve Gingell, the Thames Valley Regional Adviser for the past four years, has been promoted to lead the southern team as STRI's new Area Manager for Southern England and South Wales. Philip Armitage joins STRI from a management position with Glen Farrow, the irrigation company, where he worked in a technical advisory role. Philip has an honours degree in Turfgrass Science and a Higher National Diploma in Golf Course Management.

John Lockyer has joined STRI from Spain, where he was working as a golf Course Manager. John, who has a Masters degree in Sports Turf

Management, has worked in the industry for 15 years, including time as a lecturer in turfgrass, soil and plant sciences and supervisory management. John will be covering Central Southern England.

The fourth member of the team is Stella Rixon. Stella has eight years' experience in the industry and has worked as an STRI Regional Adviser for three years in the Thames Valley and Kent and is an honours graduate in Biological Sciences, with a specialism in Ecology.

STRI has also been awarded funding worth more than £25,000 by WRAP - the Waste & Resources Action Programme - to carry out two sets of trials assessing the use of processed sand on artificial and winter sports pitches.

SILVERWARE AT THE READY

This is the band of happy silverware winners at the autumn tournament played at Prestbury Golf Club. Left to right: Alan Donlevy, aggregate winner & Nearest the Pin, Eddie Ainsworth, nett winner, John Mcgloughlan, gross winner, centre Anthony Davies MG, N/W President, Brian Turner, Vets winner, Gary Burgess, Longest Drive.

Many thanks go to Prestbury GC for allowing courtesy of the course and, of course, Anthony Davies and his staff for a superb course. The AGM and President's Cup will be at Wilmslow Golf Club on December 1. Coffee and bacon baps from 9.30am, Tee from 10am, all bring along a bottle.



SILVER SHEPPARD

Tony Sheppard, Production Supervisor at grinding specialist Bernhard and Company, has celebrated 25 years of service with the company.

Joining in 1980 as an apprentice, with the then Atterton & Ellis, initially he was responsible for fitting and turning. Next came university and, at the same time, he helped to construct the parts that would become Bernhard grinders.

From a position in assembly Tony rose through the ranks to his current role. Enjoying the opportunity given by the company to travel to Exhibitions and Shows, Tony counts his travels to the Grand Canyon in America as a very memorable highlight in his career.

Presenting a token of Bernhard's appreciation for his loyal service, Tony was wished a further successful 25 years in both grinders and football.



Tony Sheppard is presented with a gift by Peter Wood, General Manager, to celebrate 25 years

NOWELL STAKES OUT HIS TURF

Turf grower Inturf has appointed Dave Nowell as Manager of their new York Turf Centre located at the company's Wilberfoss head office. Dave, who joins with an impressive amount of sales and marketing experience gained with companies like Nestle, was drawn to Inturf by the opportunity to make his own mark in a company that is expanding rapidly.

"Inturf already has a superb reputation in the world of top sporting venues. It is now making a similar name for itself in supplying turf to gardeners and amenity landscapers. The opening of the new Turf Centre here gives me the opportunity to grow this part of the business and to be part of a continuing success story," said Dave.





David Golding, Education Director, seeks to inspire Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers to keep their glasses half full rather than half empty.

The grass maybe slowing down in certain parts of the country but every year the golfing season just seems to carry on well into the autumn. Indeed, as most Course Managers will tell you, we have to treat golf as an all year round sport. Members and visitors quite rightly expect the best possible conditions when they turn up on the 1st tee. You might say its easier said than done but I am witnessing some exceptional talent taking on the Course Manager's role at very high profile golf courses.

Without naming these 'young' people, credit goes to them for taking on the challenge to present their courses to a very high standard as demanded by their employers. But what are these standards? Who sets these standards? Who approves them? Who monitors them? There has to be an agreement or policy by which everybody is working to, otherwise there will be personality clashes and nobody knows what the aims and objectives are.

The GTC's representative bodies have all fully supported the use of a Course Policy Document and if your course does not have one I would suggest you visit the R&A's website, www.bestcourseforgolf.org, and via the link to the English Golf Unions Golf Services website page a model policy document maybe downloaded. Your employers could then use this model to develop their own.

More and more clubs are adopting a sensible, responsible attitude to course maintenance and management and involving key people in writing the policy will help eliminate stress on both the Chairman of Green/Green Convenor and the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper. Some clubs that retain the services of an Agronomist should include them in drawing up the policy document.

The model policy document has all the main headings and it is then up to each club to set out its own policy. Again, access to best principles and practices can be gained via the R&A website. Most commercial golf resorts and an increasing number of private members clubs have reaped the rewards of engaging Course Managers who have promoted the use of a policy document.

Now for the half empty or half full glass! Where do you put yourself?

Are you a positive person? When driving into work in the morning are all the benefits of being a greenkeeper clear in your head or are you really hoping that all the problems you will encounter during the day will disappear by magic?

For some years now the GTC has promoted the short specialist training courses to improve the communication skills of greenkeepers and I know through the BIGGA Sections funding, which can be accessed via

Headquarters, to arrange more sessions. We all have our moments both in our work and domestic lives when we feel the glass is not just half empty but totally drained! However, by attending training courses and setting personal and operational goals we can start to become more confident in our lives. This is then reflected by improved communication with employers, colleagues and loved ones.

All too often we hear of disciplinary issues at golf clubs, which could and should never have come to an irretrievable situation. All that was needed was better communication between the different parties at an earlier stage. I sincerely hope that more and more young people enter the profession, as one of the great success stories in greenkeeper education has to be the appointment of 'young' Course Managers by the more forward thinking employers. All credit to the clubs who have appointed them and, of course, to themselves for taking up every opportunity to acquire the knowledge, experience and interpersonal skills required of today's top Course Managers.

SUMMARY

Does your club have a Course Policy Document? If not, visit www.bestcourseforgolf.org, where a model Course Policy Document may be downloaded. Please note there is a link to the www.englishgolfunion.org site and via the Golf Services Committee - Club Services page you will find the Model Course Policy Document.

Is your glass half empty? If so, contact either your BIGGA Section Secretary or Sami at BIGGA HOUSE, sami@bigga.co.uk, regarding when and where the next communication training workshop is being held. You may need to contact colleagues in your area to ensure there are sufficient numbers to run a course, but surely the demand should overwhelm the funding available for these types of courses?



GTC is supported by:





Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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

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

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

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Education Update



In another busy month, Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, gives details on the Harrogate Week brochure and news on the developing Health and Safety Management Guide.

Another busy month for the Education and Training Department has seen the Harrogate Week brochure printed, the Final of the Toro Student of the Year Competition, the production of a brand new careers' pack, the production of the 2006 Salary Recommendations, the final stages of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, the start of a joint BIGGA/AGCS Health and Safety project and the beginning of this year's Regional and Section Education Courses.



Hopefully, you will have seen plenty of information on Harrogate Week 2006 that will run from Sunday January 22 to Friday January 27 2006. Harrogate Week will contain a wide range of activities for greenkeepers, groundsmen, golf club officials, secretaries, managers, etc, including the wide ranging Continue to Learn Programme, BTME & ClubHouse, Women's and Students' Forums, the Banquet and the BIGGA Annual General Meeting, to name but a few.

You should have received a copy of the Harrogate Week brochure with this copy of Greenkeeper International. This brochure gives you an idea of what's on during Harrogate Week with full details of the Continue to Learn Programme that is supported by the GTC. Continue to Learn 2006 will include more than 150 hours of education sessions as compared to less than 60 hours in 2005, with two day, one day and half day workshops, seminars and a mini conference/debate, supported by the R&A.

There will also be a programme of fringe Seminars presented by a range of exhibitors that you can attend free of charge. These seminars will be running throughout the Exhibition and full details will appear in a separate fringe programme. All half day workshops are sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen. Many of the Continue to Learn sessions have been specially targeted at groups of workers, including greenkeepers and groundsmen, those in supervisory positions, golf course and grounds managers, golf club officials, secretaries and managers.

We have also reintroduced an accommodation booking service for 2006 and full details are given in the enclosed brochure. Places on workshops are limited so it is in your interest to book early.

Another first for 2006 is the introduction of a Student Forum, sponsored by Toro, where those new to the Industry will be able to find out how they can further their careers, how to win an all expenses paid trip to the United States and where they can take part in a quiz to win an iPod.

Some old favourites return for 2006, including the ever popular Careers Fair, which is also sponsored by Toro. Brin and Frank will be there to help you find your next job and to help you to negotiate your salary package.

If you have any questions about the Continue to Learn Programme please contact Sami or me at BIGGA HOUSE.

BIGGA TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT MANUAL

The BIGGA Training and Development Manual is making steady progress and should be ready to be launched at BTME & ClubHouse next January. This internet based guide will give greenkeepers and their employers help and advice on training and development of their staff from induction through to golf course management and beyond. Watch out for further details in the next edition of Greenkeeper International.

TORO STUDENT OF THE YEAR FINAL

The Toro Student of the Year Final took place at BIGGA HOUSE on Monday September 26. Full details of the Final and the Winner of the Toro Scholarship will appear in the next edition of Greenkeeper International.

CAREERS IN GREENKEEPING

BIGGA and the GTC have cooperated to produce a new Careers in Greenkeeping package. Copies are available on request.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR GOLF CLUB SALARIES

A copy of the Recommendations of the Committee on Golf Club Salaries (CGCS) is enclosed with this magazine. The recommended increase from the 2005 rates is 4%, i.e. the annual rise in average salaries to June 2005.

The eagle-eyed reader may well have noticed a change in name for the Committee. This has been introduced to reflect the change in role of the Committee that are now considering the salaries of Secretaries/Secretary Managers in addition to the salaries of greenkeepers. Recommendations on Secretaries' salaries will be published in the autumn of 2006.

BIGGA GOLF ENVIRONMENT COMPETITION

The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, sponsored by Scotts UK Professional, Syngenta Professional Products, Waste2Water and WRAP, is reaching its final stages. The judges from STRI have almost finished their golf course visits and we should be able to announce the prize winners in the next edition of Greenkeeper International.

REGION AND SECTION TRAINING

We have almost spent the funds allocated from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund to support Regional and Section Education Courses. Many Regions and Sections have made a bid for courses and/or support for seminars and conferences. Contact Sami or me if you wish to submit a bid for an education course in your local area.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

BIGGA and the AGCS have joined forces to produce a guide to Health and Safety Management for golf courses. The guide, which should be available in the spring of 2006, will allow golf clubs and greenkeepers to introduce a Health and Safety management system that is standard throughout the industry.



The Secretaries' View

Keith Lloyd, National Secretary of the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, discusses the cooperation between BIGGA and the AGCS.

I was delighted to accept the invitation of making an editorial contribution to this publication, and am in no doubt that this will lead to another source of valuable interaction and sharing of knowledge between our two Associations.

Over many years, the AGCS and BIGGA have sat together as part of the independent Salaries Committee for Golf Clubs, and the increasing number of clubs now adopting these recommendations has, in my opinion, demonstrated their appreciation of the skills and knowledge displayed by today's qualified, professional Greenkeepers. Long may that continue!

WORKING TOGETHER

I am pleased to say that significant progress is also being made towards the possible uniformity of creating Generic Risk Assessments for all clubs.

This is a joint venture undertaken by the AGCS and BIGGA, involving a committee of Course Managers and Club Secretaries/Managers, all of whom have had particular experiences with Health & Safety. The AGCS consultant, Brian Butler, will play a key role in the process, and both John Pemberton and I are keen to see progress is made.

The aim overall is threefold:

- To make the task of risk assessments easier.
- Create safer environments for greenkeepers.
- Set Industry standards for all clubs.

It is also hoped that, by creating a safer and better managed workplace, a club's Employer's Liability Insurance premium could be reduced.

GOLF CLUB MANAGEMENT JOURNAL

All 2,500 members of the AGCS receive a monthly journal, Golf Club Management. This journal is highly regarded as a great source of information, and the inclusion of a 14 page section entitled "Course Work - where the clubhouse stops and the fairway begins" provides our members with direct and practical advice about managing a golf course. That is not to say Secretaries could (or even should) possibly know better than BIGGA members, but more the provision of background information for the non qualified individual.

If you feel you would like to make contributions to this section, or perhaps have a viewpoint on how the relation between the Secretary and the Course Manager could be enhanced, then please feel free to contact us at the AGCS - 01934 641166 or hq@agcs.org.uk.

If your Club Secretary is a member of the AGCS, then he/she will receive two copies monthly. Please feel free to ask him/her for an opportunity to look at this material. If your Club Secretary is not a member of the AGCS, please contact us so that we may be able to help you.

BOOK REVIEW

A Natural Course For Golf, Compiled by Malcolm Peake

Published by The STRI, Bingley, West Yorks.

Malcolm Peake may not earn his living from golf. He may not even get the opportunity to play his beloved Temple Golf Club as often as he might want, but Malcolm Peake's enthusiasm for the game and particularly for the manner in which golf courses are maintained is second to none. You can also be sure that his knowledge of greenkeeping doesn't suffer by comparison when measured against the top Course Managers in the country.

A Natural Course For Golf is Malcolm's second book, his Confessions of a Chairman of Green, also published by the STRI, received much acclaim when it was launched in 2001.

This time Malcolm has dragooned some of his friends and associates from the golf industry as well as some of his celebrity friends from Temple Golf Club into contributing to a book which looks at all aspects of the game and in particular the maintenance of the course.

A heavyweight group of star names endorsed the book including Sir Michael Bonallack OBE, who wrote the foreword, and Mickey Walker, Colin Montgomerie and Nick Faldo all of whom welcome what Malcolm has achieved over the 88 pages of essays, photographs and cartoons.

The book aims at helping golfers to understand course management techniques and issues and as Malcolm says in his introduction "fuel informed debate and prevent criticism through ignorance" and explain the different types of golf - American target through to the natural British method which provides the book with its title. He also hopes that the book will increase golfers' confidence in their own greenkeeping teams and if he even takes a small step towards achieving that aim he would come close to being sainted by the country's Course Managers.

There follows a series of essays from such luminaries as five time Open Champion Peter Thomson; ex-Goodie Tim Brooke-Taylor, who writes amusingly on "the art of coarse management"; Martin Gunn, Course Manager at Temple GC; BIGGA Chairman, Kerran Daly, who contributes a superb poem "The Golf Course Manager's Lament"; David Oatis, of the USGA; John Duncan, General Manager of Royal Dornoch; renowned Golf Course Architect, Donald Steel; Jeff Perris, Alistair Beggs and Bob Taylor, of the STRI; David Garland, of the

European Tour; Jon Allbutt; Keith Duff, of English Nature; the late Jim Arthur, to whom the book is dedicated; Peter Wisbey, Course Manager, of Woodhall Spa; Chris Haspell, Course Manager of Horsholm GC, in Denmark; David Golding, of the GTC; Architect, Tom MacKenzie; Steve Isaac, of the R&A, and memorably, Terry Wogan, whose writing on "A Golfing Craic".

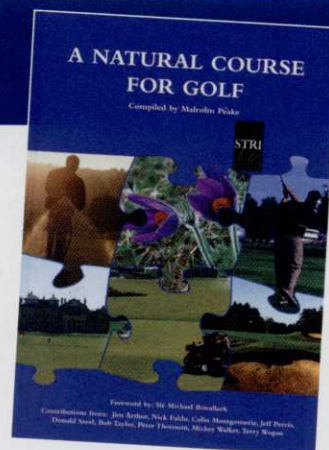
The list of "cast" sums up the book's ability to educate one minute and offer a belly laugh the next, and really that is the best way forward. You won't get the message across in a weighty, worthy, tome, people must want to pick the book up and delve into its pages and they will pick up information despite themselves while laughing at one of Tim Brooke-Taylor's "thoughts" on greenkeeping.

Sample - "Now look here. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. That's what I say to those new fangled course managers - more like coarse managers in my experience. What was wrong with calling them head greenkeepers? Or even 'Hey you'."

There is also contains a Glossary of Terms, some genuine and some amusing including "Green Speed - Not a hallucinogenic drug."

The range of information contained in the book is impressive and a copy placed somewhere in the club lounge or reading room might just have some long term benefits. Malcolm is to be commended for his enthusiasm and tenacity in compiling "A Natural Course For Golf"

The book is available from the STRI Priced £19.95 plus p&p,
Tel: Linda Gallagher on 01274 518908 or visit the STRI Website,
www.stri.co.uk, and follow the links to the Bookshop.



Rachael and Gemma would like to welcome 64 new members to the Association and talk about flexible working as part of the Quick Guide series.

Membership Update



BIGGA welcomes...

SCOTTISH REGION

Scottish Region
Mark Cook, West
Ross Gibson, West
Greg Haddow, West
Calum Morrow, West
David Sutherland, North
Martin Watt, West

NORTHERN REGION

Bradley Asquith, Northern
Craig Bennett, North West
Robert Bould, North West
Dene Briers, North West
Ian Brodie, North East
Andrew Brougham, North West
David Burton, Northern
Paul Cushing, North West
Daniel Donnelly, Sheffield
Derick Evans, Sheffield
Philip Gardner, North West

Stewart Laver, North West
James Leighton, North East
Jonathan Mooney, North West
Andrew Moore, North West
David Mylock, North West

MIDLAND REGION

Stewart Bentley, BB&O
Alastair Burt, Mid Anglia
Nathan Carmichael, BB&O
Eugene Devenney, Midland
Paul Frith, East Midland
Andrew Gardner, BB&O
Robert Hester, BB&O
Marc Hutcherson, Mid Anglia
Mitchell Knott, BB&O
Robert Maloy, East Midland
David Marshall, BB&O
Paul Robinson, East Midland
David Underhill, Midland
Martin Wheeler, BB&O

David Workman, BB&O

SOUTH EAST

Scott Bright, Surrey
Ashley Fuller, East Anglia
Mark Hough, Kent
Richard Kettle, Essex
Nigel Saunders, Essex
Gavin Steed, Essex

SOUTH WEST/WALES

Paul Hathaway, South West
Darryl Jones, South Wales
John Meikle, South Wales
Andrew Moore, South West
Jamie Smith, South West
Guy Sowry, South West

STUDENT MEMBERS

Jason Ahern, Ireland

Derek Besseling, Ireland
Niall Casey, Ireland
Gearoid Clifford, Ireland
Gary Collins, Ireland
Nigel Foley, Ireland
Michael Keenan, Ireland
Sean Murphy, Ireland
David O'Connor, Ireland
Mark Piper, Ireland
John Thompson, Ireland

OVERSEAS MEMBERS

Scott Young Liddle, Portugal

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Alistair Whitby, Cleveland

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Clive Nottingham, Mid Anglia
Alan Roden, Mid Anglia

RED LETTER DAY WINNER

Members who return their renewal forms before their membership expires are placed into a prize draw to win a Red Letter Day Voucher.

Our congratulations go to Stuart Hooker of Stoneham Golf Club

OCTOBER'S MEMBERSHIP DRAW WINNER

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a Digital FM Scan Radio/Alarm. The radio can stand alone or can be clipped onto a belt with headphones for when you're on the move. Our congratulations go to Mark Zealander of Dudsbury Golf Club.

Quick Guide To Flexible Working

Parents of children aged under six or disabled children aged under 18 have the right to apply to work flexibly and their employers have a duty to consider these requests seriously.

WHO CAN APPLY?

You can apply to work flexibly if:

- You are an employee who has worked for their employer continuously for at least 26 weeks at the date the application is made
- Have a child under 6 or under 18 in the case of a disabled child
- Be either the child's mother, father, adopter, guardian or foster parent or be married or the partner to any of the above
- You make the application no later than 2 weeks before the child's 6th birthday or 18th in the case of a disabled child
- You have or expect to have responsibility for the child's upbringing and the application enables you to care for the child
- You are not an agency worker or a member of the armed forces
- You have not made another application to work flexibly under the right during the past 12 months.

WHAT CAN I REQUEST?

You can request to change your hours of work, change the time you are required to work or to work from home. This covers working patterns such as annualised hours, compressed hours, flexitime, homeworking, jobsharing, self-rostering, shift working, staggered hours and term time working.

HOW DO I APPLY?

You have to make a considered application to your employer in writing.

Only one application can be made a year so it is important you think carefully about the changes you are requesting. You must:

- State the application is being made under the statutory right to request a flexible working pattern
- Confirm you have responsibility for the upbringing of the child
- Explain what effect, if any, you think the proposed change would have on the employer and how in your opinion any such effect might be dealt with

- Specify the flexible working pattern applied for and the date the change should become effective
- State if and when a previous application has been made to the employer
- Date the application

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Your employer should arrange a meeting with you within 28 days of receiving your request. This should be enough time for the employer to fully consider the request. You may bring a work colleague employed by the same employer into the meeting with you.

Within 14 days of the date of the meeting the employer should write to you to either agree to a new work pattern and a start date or to provide clear business grounds as to why the application cannot be accepted and the reasons why the grounds apply. You have the right to appeal within 14 days of being notified of the decision.

WHAT ARE THE BUSINESS GROUNDS?

An application can be refused only where there is a clear business reason.

The business grounds must be from one of those listed below:

- Burden of additional costs
- Detrimental effect on ability to meet customer demand
- Inability to reorganise work among existing staff
- Inability to recruit additional staff
- Detrimental impact in quality
- Detrimental impact on performance
- Insufficiency of work during the periods the employee proposes to work
- Planned structural changes

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

Becoming a Journeyman: A rough guide to working abroad

Why work abroad? This question is unique to every individual and it is true that there are many benefits to taking the plunge. It could be a case that 'the grass is greener on the other side' or 'travel broadens the mind'. But whatever the case, the temptation as a British greenkeeper to stray from these shores is greater now than ever. Greenkeepers have been always been in demand and more so nowadays when turf professionals are a valuable commodity in many regions of the world where the knowledge to get a golf project off the ground is needed. This is especially true in emerging golf markets or in cases where demand outstrips the capacity of local personnel.



Many believe that their profession is more valued outside the UK and so can be a part of the on-going debate regarding the perception of 'greenkeeping' within the golf industry. In terms of new courses on the Continent, in most cases they are enterprise owned, operated or run by astute businessmen and managed by a professional team of specialists who may come from a wide range of business disciplines. For example, if it is a resort scenario, a Course Manager/Superintendent may ultimately answer to a General Manager, who comes from a construction background or Resort/Hotel Manager who has worldwide experience of the hospitality industry. Each will have a specialist knowledge and training and rely upon your knowledge completely to set the golf section on its feet.

In some cases the owner of the company, or financial backer, has autonomous control of the project. Enter such ventures with caution. Multi-millionaires can have difficult personalities. It is also true that the Continent is not as 'foreign' as it used to be. A generation ago going on holiday to Spain and the Mediterranean was seen as positively exotic. Now the annual invasion of Brits abroad has changed our perception of the Continent and our involvement with our European partners.

So what makes someone pack-up everything and dare to work abroad, the foreigner in an alien land? Maybe an adventurous spirit or blind faith to think that anything is possible? Perhaps the key word is 'change'. Some people love the buzz that comes from it. A sense of adventure helps and an absolute trust in your convictions is required.

Gaining knowledge on where to look for employment abroad can be done in several ways. Today, Europe has a more integrated approach on this subject and there are several agencies that handle enquiries regarding overseas positions. Greenkeeper International often advertises positions abroad for every level of experience but still the most productive way to source vacancies is through building up a network of contacts.

Potential employers may use a different approach to find the key personnel for a project. They may rely on individuals who bring services to the business from outside greenkeeping to assist in the search. Obvious contacts to pursue may include house designers, construction specialists, consultants and machinery manufacturers that may be dealing with new projects. The wider the net of contacts you have with people outside the country, the better informed you will be of vacancies abroad.

Another method is to establish yourself in the part of the world in which you wish to live and work. This invariably carries more risk and might only be possible if there are no visa restrictions that prevent you from becoming domiciled. But it has reaped rewards in the past and can impress employers as to the level of your determination.

If you are successful in reaching the interview stage, here are a few hints to take it to the next round.

- Do homework on the company, surf the net, research the company's background and, if possible, gain details of their financial accounts. Perhaps both home and away interviews will be arranged, as part of a first phase screening and a second interview abroad. I would stress that it is important to see the site, even if it is in a pre-build stage. Try to understand the geography of the land and what the finished product will look like.
- If possible, spend a weekend with your partner, if you have one, just to get to know the area. Meeting future employers in their own environment also gives

you a better impression of how they react in a working capacity and an understanding on how the company functions.

- Ask what would be the most likely town in which you'd live. Visit the place and get an idea of amenities that are available. What are the prices in the supermarkets? If you have children, are the schools in the area of good standard? Healthcare provision is very important, especially if it is likely that you could have children while abroad.
- What are house prices like, could you afford to purchase or rent in the area? Are prices liable to increase or drop in the future? You must address the situation not as a tourist but as someone who would be living and working there.
- Look at the business objectively: Do the owners/operators of the project show vision and good business acumen in planning a golf course in the location in question? Or could the concept become a 'white elephant' quite rapidly?

I believe you have to look at all angles of the proposal to an extreme, taking into account the political stability of the country you would be entering. The Foreign Office in London is a good source of help.

The contract and how it is negotiated is a big part of how life will be shaped during your working time with the new employer. Here are a few pointers:

The size and complexity of the course will greatly shape the package you will be offered. The title may be stretched to include other responsibilities. As a department head, you may well be involved with the clubhouse to a greater extent than you intended. Crossover activities may mean you have a large garden staff or control of other departments. Overseas salaries may look very inviting to the first timer but working hours and the commitment needed to earn that salary can be more extensive. If you are in a pool of candidates, try to research what your equivalent peers would be earning in the local market.

Be aware if the intended employer asks you to contract your services to them, to set up as a one man private company. It is a way of avoiding tax on their behalf and could see you facing questions regarding the legitimate existence of such a company by the UK Inland Revenue or other authorities. Since September 11 2001, transfers of funds and working practices abroad have come under much closer scrutiny. Their request may also be an indication of how the company views the long-term employment of a foreign greenkeeper. Be cautious and take out the best legal advice from a British legal firm that you can.

Using a nett figure in dealing with salary discussions allows you to continue talking without having to deal directly with the tax issues of that country and puts the pressure on the prospective employer's accountant to gross up the figure. It will be important to use this tool to assess if the package is beneficial to you as you can directly relate it to your net earnings in the UK.

What may be offered to you may not be so attractive when you take out subsistence costs. Even in Europe, there are some vast differences. Accommodation may well be offered as part of the package. In some parts of the world it may be an essential where purchasing a property (or even renting) may be beyond the means of a turf professional. For example, if the proposed golf course is on an exclusive millionaires' resort.

The location of the accommodation may well be important to you in the future. If it is on the property near to the course then this may well mean that you are ideally located to commute to work, but it may have the disadvantage that you are always on call. Being housed in the same quarter/development as other staff members may also bring with it joys and woes.

Peter Bradburn provides useful pointers on what to consider when making the decision to work abroad.



Medical coverage is an important factor and should be given some priority. In some locations, medical insurance is compulsory for foreign workers and a valid policy is required. If the new company offers the policy, check out a copy of this before agreeing to it.

Relocation and initial travelling expenses in most cases are recognised as a necessity for a foreign worker but in the case of what to bring with you, bear in mind that rented accommodation usually comes furnished and whatever you take with you will have to be shipped on in the future.

For holiday provision try to negotiate the best deal for you. If you have built up extra leave entitlement with your previous employer, investigate if this current status is transferable. Also, if you were considering going farther a field than central Europe, would it be possible to have travelling days so the leave begins when you return to the UK? Pension companies will need to be informed of your change in circumstances and they will advise on how you can proceed while out of the country.

Your eventual move away from any future employer should be planned before you actually begin work with them. Have termination periods and conditions set out and acknowledged from the beginning. Have a grace period clause set in place so that accommodation and transport use is extended so you have the possibility to seek out prospects of other employment in the region. Have written into the contract that the company is bound to honour repatriation costs for you and your dependents.

A key element in this situation is what does the rest of your family do while you are embarking on this great adventure? If it is not well thought out, it can result in unhappiness for all parties. It is particularly important, if you have a partner, that everything is well thought through from their perspective.

Another key point is to have a fully validated contract from your new employer drawn up and signed by all parties before you leave your current employer. There have been nightmare situations where offers have been retracted. You will need to contact your tax office when you have committed yourself to leaving the country, as there is a process to complete. Towards the end of the first tax year abroad, they will ask you if you wish to pay a set figure for your National Insurance contributions. It is a decision that will affect your National Insurance credit basis in years to come.

There is a false idealism that Europe is now a Union of countries that allows the possibility for member state nationals to work within the community. The reality is that internal visa documentation does exist with most countries and that you will need to go through some official process. It may be prudent to take documentation about your past life, from school to health records. You will be amazed at some of the information authorities want to know.

Blending into a new community is part of the process of making your stay a good experience. One of the biggest mistakes the British make abroad is to develop the pack mentality, because it will not allow you to develop an understanding of the people in the country you are living in. Language will be a great stumbling block to overcome. Local TV can be bizarre and trashy to the extreme but the learning process of hearing the sounds of the words will assist in developing an understanding of the language. Picking up key phrases in the work place will help to get the ball rolling but a package of lessons will eventually be required.

Learning the nature and psyche of the nation's people may take you a lot longer to understand. For example, people in southern Mediterranean countries love to bellow and hammer out their views in a conversation. It is important to get a feel for how your adopted nation ticks. Winning over people will be a major accomplishment in the first season and will need dedication and a lot of one-to-one supervision.

The grow-in stage can be a fantastic time to be involved with the history of a golf course. The decision-making and implementation of management systems will affect the quality and development of a course well into the future.

And finally...An overseas experience does not always suit every individual. It really depends on the spirit of the person and how they can accept and deal with change. Patience and fortitude are two virtues that you will need or have to acquire very quickly to survive. It will be no holiday.

Other nationalities do things differently and may even defy commonsense to an outsider. It is a generalisation, to which I apologise to any European who may be reading, but the further south into the Mediterranean you venture the rate and speed of work tends to slow by several degrees.

The advantages of life abroad are there to be discovered, depending upon the chosen country and the individual. Yes the weather and temperature can be more desirable, the environment to work in challenging and the scenery beautiful beyond belief.

The downside of making the break may be less apparent than first thought. Distance from friends and family can test relationships to breaking point. As time passes, you may view all those things you once held dear, in terms of British society and the way of life, differently. Therefore going back after making the break may be much more difficult than you had thought.

But I can guarantee wherever you go in the world of golf, treating life as a journey across countries through work will be far more interesting than anything you have experienced before.

Peter Bradburn is Course Director, Aphrodite Hills Resort, Cyprus.

Course Feature

Plenty Bang for its Buck

Scott MacCallum visits Laleham, a club where the greenstaff makes sure it gets a lot of bang for its buck.

Some golf clubs can boast a genuinely blue blooded golfing history having hosted famous events and with legends of the game attached to the club in one way or another. Other clubs have a more general, but no less intriguing, history and one of those is Laleham GC, near Chertsey, in Surrey. A glance through the superb centenary book, produced in 2003, reveals a selection of star names connected with Laleham that other clubs could only dream about.

Take Bing Crosby and Bob Hope for starters. Both played regularly when filming at nearby Shepperton Studios. All right here's two more, Joan Collins and Julie Andrews. Ok, now for a couple out of left field - Aviator, Amy Johnson, and singer, Englebert Humperdink. All have visited, and enjoyed their time at, Laleham Golf Club. Oh, and did I mention that the course is built on land once owned by Lord Lucan, and that his infamous disappearance delayed its sale to the members as they couldn't get the paperwork signed? In the game of Celebrity Trumps Laleham Golf Club certainly wouldn't be found wanting.

Should the surviving members of that starry group - Joan, Julie and Englebert, and, you never know, the elusive Lord - pay a return visit to the club in 2005 they would certainly be impressed by recent changes to the course since their day.

At the forefront of those course improvements has been Course Manager, John Ross, his Deputy, Bob Rogers, and some enlightened members who drove through a five year plan designed to sharpen up the challenge offered by Laleham.

"The front nine at Laleham has always been a decent test of golf, but the back nine wasn't quite as challenging - you could be forgiven for thinking that every hole was pretty much the same," explained John.

But there was a potential solution. The club owned three and a half acres of land on the edge of the course which had been left to its own devices and become a jungle - the only signs of civilisation being the old mowers, horse shoes, not to mention a fridge, from when the land was used as a handy dumping ground.

The club had never been able to utilise it properly as the course is laid out on a flood plain, built on gravel with the ground water level just ten feet below the surface. Flooding occurs from the bottom up and the unused area was always the first to flood as it was the lowest point of the course.

"I walked up there with the then Chairman of Green in 1994 and pointed out how we could use the land by building a green here, a tee there and another green over there. He was very keen on the idea and encouraged me to make it happen. On frosty days we started clearing the site of many years' worth of rubbish and dead wood.

"We both believed it would happen one day," said John, who has been at the course since 1993.

In the meantime the team was making an impact on other areas of the golf course in smaller ways - building tees, installing drainage to greens and changing the bunkering from predominately flat bunkers to pot bunkers dug into the gravel, "These were well received by the members so it meant we had a history of undertaking successful projects at the club."

Around this time a Past Captain of the Club, Martin Johnson, produced a dissertation for a qualification he was seeking entitled "The Golfing Challenge at Laleham GC". The conclusion was that the course had not kept up with changes in technology and no longer presented a balanced and varied challenge to all categories of golfer.



The Laleham Team with Bob Rogers, centre left, and John Ross, centre right

"He presented this to the General Committee who accepted it in principle and a sub-committee was formed aimed at improving certain elements on the golf course.

"The Club Pro, Hogan Stott, myself and a number of other members made up the committee and we looked at a five year, costed plan identifying how we could improve every hole on the course, covering the environmental impact; benefits to golf, maintenance and to traffic flow. This was accepted by the General Committee in May 2000 and we started work in the winter of that year," explained John.

The plan added 136 yards to the course, balanced out the nines, and generally had the aim of ensuring players used every club in the bag. For example the five par-3s were altered so that they ranged from between 127 and 214 yards instead of between 156 yards and 178.

The first phase was to dig a pond on the front nine which, in turn, generated the subsoil to lengthen one of the par-3s.

"The culmination of the five year project was the construction of our two new holes, the design of which was left entirely to me as I had this concept in my head as to how they would play," said John.

Undaunted he got hold of an Auto CAD programme which came free with a computer magazine. Using the tutorial John taught himself how to use it.

"I'm sure CAD is very difficult and technical if you are trying to build a house but for landscaping I found it fairly simple. I drew the holes and the Committee accepted the drawings," said John, who was also able to refer to an aerial picture of the course.

Having convinced the Committee the next step was to win over the membership and an open evening was organised where John and the sub committee gave a Powerpoint presentation outlining what was being proposed.

"About 90 members attended and they tended to be the anti-lobby," said John, who noted that some Sub Committee members, who had originally voted in favour of the project changed their minds when it went to the General Committee.

"I had to convince them that the soil was suitable, if we worked it properly, that there was enough of it, explain what hydroseeding was, justify the cost, even explain how we were going to get rid of the rubbish. It went on and on. But fortunately the evening was just a presentation and not a vote, so it was a fait accompli really. We were just trying to deal with members' fears."

One of the main concerns of the members was how John and his team could build two complete holes for what was then £18,000, the final figure was actually £15,000 - when they had been quoted £88,000 by a contractor?

"It was difficult to get them to understand that the major cost in a project of this nature is the importing of rootzones and we weren't doing that. We were importing a minimal of materials, we were completely reshaping the site, constructing the greens and tee using primarily those material. I guess you would call them pushover greens"

"Politics never goes away at golf clubs. I had two Chairmen of Green while the project was on-going and one



Preparation work for the new 13th green



The new 13th is a very attractive dog leg par 4



The fairway was seeded and took extremely well

of them is no longer even a member of the club due to club politics; three Captains from beginning to opening of the project, and they were all brilliant, but I know that on another day at another golf club it could have been different."

Once the go-ahead was given work began in April of 2003 by spraying the entire site with a mixture of contact, selective and residual weedkillers to obtain a blanket total kill and be left with just the mature trees and some remaining rubbish.

"I took the sprayer out and was bouncing all over the place. It was ridiculous but I was able to spray the whole site," recalled Bob.

Then began a task which, had he being doing it at the aforementioned Shepperton Studios, might have seen him successfully audition for cameos in the "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" and "George of the Jungle". For five long weeks he and his chainsaw were as one as he battled to clear the three and a half acre site as comprehensively as possible.

"It began in May 2003, it was hot and I was wearing safety gear," he recalled.

"The guys were bringing buckets of ice with cold drinks down but it was hard, hard work. I was cutting and another guy was pulling out the wood and making piles. We couldn't



The team now look back at their work with genuine pride



The jungle that faced Bob and his chainsaw

see an end to it. I get so much pride in looking what we've achieved now but at one point I was totally sick of it and admit that I wanted to go off and just sit on a mower and forget all about it," he said.

The next job was to hire a seven tonne digger and create two huge bonfires to get rid of as much of the debris as possible.

Having cleared the site ready for action John commissioned John Gardener, from Barreldfields, as a shaper - the only outside contractor used on the project.

"We struck a very good deal which hinged on us being able to find somewhere for John's caravan and we supplied the diesel. We then worked hard to ensure we made the most of his time," said John.

"After he scraped the topsoil Bob was running a dumper for him and we had a digger making sure there was always subsoil available for him to shape. We generally avoided him having to do the silly things which took up time. I told John how I wanted the holes to look, gave him two drawings of the greens and left him to it. He did a superb job."



The 14th was to become a nice looking short par 3



The rootzone all came from Laleham's existing resources



They hydroseeded the new greens

John and Bob had staked out the entire site highlighting the maximum height of the flooding and ensuring that the level of the rootzone was well above it.

"We couldn't take this project on, and then allow the holes to be flooded if the rest of the course was open, because the old holes would only close in the winter if the entire course was under water. The minimum criterion was that they would be able to be played in the winter," said John.

Having done all the preparatory work everything went like clockwork on the 14 week project.

"There were no hidden surprises and we were hydroseeding the greens and the new tee on the day we'd scheduled to be, we used Lance and Heriot on the green and sauvignon fine leaf dwarf Rye on the tee" said John, who added that that particular day in October 2003 was marked by a few beers on site.

The fairways had also been seeded and but for a problem with moles, unhappy that their old stomping ground was now a golf course, everything came on well.

The golf club which is a stone's throw from Thorpe Park theme park is in a strange ecoclimate all of its own. For a 10 month spell from January to November 1, 2003, it did not

receive one drop of rain while there are severe restriction on water usage on the golf course due to the proximity of the River Thames.

John had argued from the beginning that essential to a successful outcome was the fact that the new holes would have to be built in the summer to prevent damage to the soil structure, as it happened the drought of 2003 from the point of view of the new holes could not have been better timed. The severity of the drought was unfortunate though and did impact on the actual golf course to a huge degree. The committee had to handle this issue delicately as all some members could see was a golf course that looked like a moonscape, and the greenstaff working away on two new holes.

"If you were to ask me what the best thing is about Laleham Golf Club I'd say it's that we are on alluvial silt over gravel. If you were to ask me what the worst thing is about Laleham Golf Club I'd say it's that we are on alluvial silt over gravel. The reason we recovered from 2003 was that we were on alluvial silt and it's very fertile, but because we are



Irrigation helped the greens to establish



The new area was prone to flooding so the fairways were raised



Laleham have changed the style of their bunkering

on gravel we burn up every summer although stay nice and firm in the winter. There are positive and negatives."

The reaction to the new holes which enjoyed an official opening in June has been universally positive.

"A huge majority of the membership appreciate what we've done but I don't think they quite realise the magnitude of what we've achieved for £15,000," said John, who said another benefit of the new holes was that four of his team were able to complete all the turf grass elements of NVQ Level 2, through the evidence we accumulated on the site.

One of those guys has since left, but the Laleham team of just five, John and Bob joined by Andy Dennis, Adam Watts and Greg Smith, who was on holiday when Greenkeeper International visited, have done a super job.

"What we have fundamentally proven is that a golf club like us with limited budgets doesn't have to walk away from the fact that redesign is necessary. We have produced two fine new holes which have improved the course for £15,000."

Such is the improved test of golf, any modern day Bing Crosby and Bob Hope might just consider taking The Road to Laleham with their clubs in tow.



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Grease Lightning

Tim Lansdell makes the case for using a new range of bio oils in turf maintenance equipment.

Why should anyone want to use biodegradable oil in turf maintenance machinery? Why not, if it is formulated with the correct performance level, function and viscosity grade for its given application and is biodegradable and non-toxic. And, in my opinion, it's the right thing to do! The problem with mineral oil is that it is persistent; it does not readily biodegrade; it's toxic and most importantly it's non-renewable. The cost of remediation is expensive; there's clean up costs, downtime of equipment and possible fines from legislative bodies.

Clean up costs for Bio Oil spills are less, it comes from renewable sources and can mitigate sanctions and possible fines. It helps to preserve our environment and can have enhanced performance properties over mineral oil. Before further exploring the benefits of Bio Oil, it's worth reviewing the effects to grass plants when exposed to mineral oil.

Heat Shock: If oil from operating equipment spills or leaks the first effect is a 'heat shock' of the plant. When leaked onto the leaf, the leaf typically discolours (green to yellow) and wilts. However, the stem and root may not be affected by heat shock. If the oil spillage is minor and a small amount of oil covers only the leaf, does not migrate further down the plant to coat the stem and root and then settle into the soil, the leaf will regenerate and discoloration will disappear (yellow to green). This occurs over one to three weeks, typically.



Turf Kill: If the plant is exposed to a sufficient amount of oil, the leaf, stem and root will be coated with an oil film. This will cause the worst case scenario regarding oil spill effects. An oil film on a leaf will block the tiny leaf pores, stopping gas and moisture diffusion between the leaf and atmosphere, as well as prohibiting photosynthesis. Oil coating a root will stop the soil water and oxygen absorption process between the soil and plant. If the oil coating remains on the leaf and root for a sufficient amount of time the plant will suffocate and die, typically within a week.

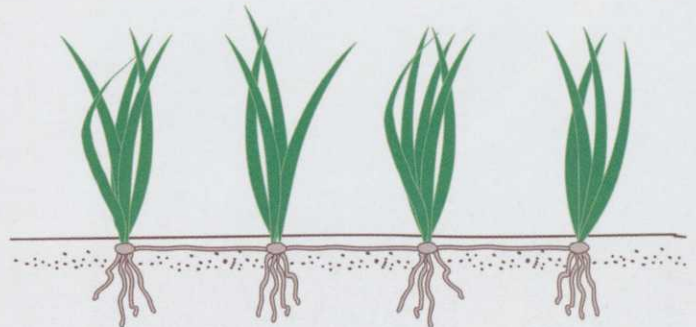
Soil Contamination: Another effect from significant oil exposure is the effect on the soil. Mineral oil is a known toxic material to living things. When sufficient oil is released into soil, the previously discussed plant effects occur. But, more importantly, the presence of mineral oil in the soil causes a 'sterilisation' of the soil, which causes a decrease in the level of micro-organisms present therein. Grass plant regeneration into the sterilised area is highly unlikely and the soil in a mineral oil spill zone must typically be removed and replaced so that reseeding of the region can be done.

Biodegradability is the natural breakdown of living matter, by micro-organisms found in water and soil, to the basic components of carbon dioxide and water. Environmental conditions of temperature, humidity, rainfall, micro-organisms and soil type will affect biodegradation. Mineral oil will

biodegrade and its rate of biodegradation in soil will typically occur over a period of one to two years. Conversely, other oils, such as natural esters (vegetable oils) or synthetic esters, biodegrade over a two to three week period.

For this reason, biodegradable lubricants are finding more and more use in spill sensitive applications. They minimise the turf kill effects on grass because they essentially disappear fast enough (biodegrade) to allow the grass to regenerate.

There is one important caveat to this and is specific to the type of grass species affected. A grass plant will die due to the suffocating effect of oil on its leaf, stem and root systems and this will occur whether the oil is a biodegradable or mineral type. However, after a few weeks a biodegradable oil will become decomposed by micro-organisms in the soil and this will allow the grass to regenerate.



A rhizome type grass system, such as Bermuda or Bent, is completely self generating after exposure to a bio oil spill because the subsurface root structure develops nodes that sprout new grass seedlings in a continuous later propagation. Once the oil in the affect area has biodegraded, the rhizomes will begin to regenerate. This will be observed as new grass sprouting.

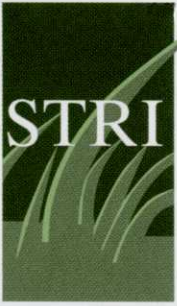
For non-rhizome grass types, this self regeneration is just not possible. Once an individual grass plant is suffocated, there is no way it can regenerate. The solution, in this instance, is to reseed the affected area after 30 days following a bio oil exposure. Reseeding post petroleum oil exposure would not be possible for years without soil remediation.

Inevitably, oil leakages into the golf course environment will occur. To minimise the environmental effects of this exposure a number of approaches can be employed:

- The use of biodegradable oils to replace mineral oil in lubricant applications.
- Spill remediation aids, such as soaps or cleaning to 'wash away' oil. Topical oil absorbents to 'suck up' the oil.
- Well maintained equipment to minimise leakage risk.

Hopefully, by understanding and appreciating how different oils react with the environment together with a proper plan and management of equipment and lubricants, turf kill from oil can successfully be minimised.

Tim Lansdell is Technical Director at Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd and the company can be contacted on 01473 270000.



On the Money

Jeff Perris and Ruth Mann investigate the increase in the amount of dollar spot appearing on golf courses.

During the past few months, some advisory staff have seen a noticeable increase in the amount of dollar spot on golf courses. Over the years this disease has been observed from time to time, particularly on bowling greens, and especially those that still have a significant red fescue content from previous establishment with Cumberland or sea washed turf.



Golf courses in the south of the country seem to have borne the brunt of the increase in dollar spot disease outbreaks which have been prevalent on a wide range of turf composition, but with fescue dominated fairway turf suffering particularly badly. I have recently visited a well known golf club where most fairways on one of their courses were very badly affected, to the point where if you threw your hat down, it would cover a dollar spot patch! Worrying times for the Courses Manager at this particular club where several greens (comprising bent and annual meadow grass) were also showing signs of the disease.

I have also come across situations this summer where there has been what I would describe as 'background' dollar spot where the turf is not showing the classic dollar spot appearance. Indeed, in such instances greenkeepers and others have thought the condition was red thread or even turf that was just showing some dieback from localised dryness

Without doubt the weather this summer has triggered the dollar spot problem but if such weather conditions are to become increasingly common as part of our changing weather pattern, then I think greenkeepers have a worrying time ahead. Heaven forbid, however, that that we end up like the United States, where dollar spot is such a problem on many of their golf courses that regular and persistent fungicide treatment is carried out during high-risk periods to try and keep the problem at bay.

In view of the situation, Dr Ruth Mann, our Plant Pathologist, has prepared the following notes, which explain more about the disease and its treatment.

The symptoms of dollar spot are pale, bleached lesions on the leaves with a reddish-brown band usually found separating the affected tissue from the healthy green tissue. Small (dollar size) spots of bleached turf occur on close mown grass. These spots reduce the aesthetic appearance of the golf green and create an uneven surface causing non-uniform ball roll.



Dollar spot on bent/fescue tee



Dollar spot on an annual meadow grass green

The spots may coalesce to form large areas of affected turf. White mycelium may be present on affected areas on dewy mornings and disappears as the leaves dry. In the UK, dollar spot is most commonly found affecting *Festuca* spp. Factors which encourage the development and spread of dollar spot include heavy morning dews; areas of turf that do not receive morning sun or suffer from a lack of air movement due to surrounding obstructions (this allows the turf surface to remain moist for longer); daytime temperatures of 15 - 25°C; low fertility; and excessively low cutting heights.

To prevent and control dollar spot minimising leaf wetness is an important practice. By reducing the period a leaf stays wet, the potential for infection is reduced. Altering management practices can reduce the period of leaf wetness. Therefore, during dry periods, irrigation should occur as close to dawn as possible.

Greens can then be switched first thing in the morning to remove any surface water, reducing the period of leaf wetness. Irrigation should be supplied infrequently and to thoroughly wet the profile rather than frequent light irrigations. It is important to reduce shaded areas and improve air movement in order to reduce the drying time of the sward.

This can be achieved by the selective pruning or removal of surrounding vegetation. Low nutrition (particularly low nitrogen) has also been found to promote dollar spot so appropriate fertiliser regimes should be adopted. It may be advisable, during times of high disease pressure, to increase the height of cut of the sward in order to promote grass growth and reduce stress.

Regular aeration is required in compacted areas as this also reduces stress and has been found to reduce the susceptibility of the turf to dollar spot. If cultural control measures are unsuccessful there are several chemical controls available.

These include carbendazim (such as Mascot Systemic from Rigby Taylor and Turfclear from Scotts); chlorothalonil (Daconil Turf from Scotts and Fusonil Turf from Rigby Taylor); fenarimol (Rimidin from Rigby Taylor); iprodione (Chipco Green from Bayer Environmental Science and Amenitywise Iprodione Green from Standon Chemicals); pyraclostrobin (Insignia from Vitax) and thiophanate-methyl (Mildothane Turf Liquid from Bayer Environmental Science and Snare from Headland Amenity).

Fungicide resistance is of major concern when controlling dollar spot. All precautions to prevent resistance should be applied, including correct identification, rotation of active ingredients with different modes of action and employing all possible cultural controls to help reduce the disease pressure. Please remember when using fungicides to adhere to label recommendations and ensure all COSHH regulations are applied.

Jeff Perris, STRI Head of Advisory & Consultancy Services, and Ruth Mann, STRI Plant Pathologist, can be contacted on 01274 565131.





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Polaris offer downhill engine braking as an option on its Ranger models. Although this feature may not be necessary on a golf course, vehicles used to access steep terrain will benefit from this feature. Ranger has a bench up front, with room for three



Full Throttle

James de Havilland test drives the latest utility vehicles.

When it comes to choosing a diesel or petrol powered utility vehicle, choice can initially make selecting the right machine appear difficult. But setting out a few demands can make the job a lot easier. It used to be pretty easy to choose a non-electric utility vehicle simply because there were not that many models to choose from. With key players now including AUSA, Club Car, John Deere, Kawasaki, Kubota, Polaris, Toro and Yamaha, there is more choice than ever. Of equal importance, these vehicles have evolved, with a growing choice of diesel powered models.

Before taking a quick look at what is on offer, it pays to work out the key demands for the machine. Although the vehicles on offer superficially have a great deal in common, there are details that make it far easier to select those that will fit a given need. An easy starting point is, of course, budget, so let's start with the lowest list price vehicle in this sector, the Kawasaki Mule 600.

Recently introduced to replace the 550 model, the Mule 600 is a 2WD unit with rear differential lock, single range CVT automatic transmission, 181kg cargo capacity with power coming from a nominal 12.5hp 400cc petrol engine. This is priced at £5,150 and although it is a couple of

hundred pounds more expensive than the model it replaces, the 600 is a much improved tool, the increase in engine size leading to a more relaxed drive and possibly better fuel consumption. The outgoing 550 needed plenty of revs to get going and keep running.

The lowest 'list' price diesel model currently on offer is the Club Car Carryall 294. This has a price of around £7,250, this buying automatically selected four wheel drive, 363kg load capacity, self tipping body and individual seats for two. To put it crudely, this is as near a direct competitor as possible to the ubiquitous Mule 3100 4x4 diesel. Although a Mule 'feels' a more complete product in terms of the overall package, it is more expensive and some of the features, such as manually locking differentials, are not necessarily of value on a golf course. So, if the Mule 3100 is on the shortlist, the Club Car should be added too. It is well priced and from a proven supplier.

Sticking with the fuel used to power the vehicle, it is established that petrol utility vehicles have a lower like for like list price than an equivalent diesel. Not so long ago, it was quite easy to argue the case for petrol power, the lower initial capital cost of a given vehicle outweighing the economy advantage offered by a diesel running on rebated red 'diesel'.



With 4WD engaged and differentials locked, a Kawasaki Mule will make light of slippery inclines. The diesel powered 3100 is the pick of the range for overall economy, its three cylinder 23hp engine having ample power for most users. Ease off the throttle, and fuel use is greatly reduced.

Full Throttle

Although the price ratio of petrol versus gas oil has not necessarily altered, fuel prices are climbing alarmingly. Even allowing for reclaimed VAT, unleaded is still 80p per litre or more. Now put this next to fuel consumption. The writer ran a nominal 30hp 400cc petrol powered utility vehicle over an extended period and recorded sub 10mpg fuel consumption. A 'gas oil' burning 20hp diesel run alongside drank rebated 'red' diesel at a considerable 13mpg. But it does not take an economist to work out the running cost advantage of the diesel running on rebated gas oil at perhaps 36p/litre.

As an aside, few users actually monitor the amount of fuel used by any item of equipment. But it can be a real eye opener to see just how much fuel some kit can guzzle. Utility vehicles tend to be operated flat out, particularly models governed to a 20 or 25mph top speed. Run in this way, even the most frugal of units is likely to struggle to better 25mpg.

Gentle acceleration, and backing off on the throttle to cut the engine speed once rolling, has a marked effect on fuel use. The same models as previously mentioned that drank in the sub 15mpg saloon achieved 19.6 and 23.2 mpg respectively when driven with a degree of care. This was over the same terrain and with the same load. An added bonus is that throttling back can reduce the racket generated by the engine, leading to a more relaxed ride. Of equal importance, speeds tend not to suffer too much unless scaling a steep slope or running a heavy load.

So does petrol power rule itself out on a cost basis? Not necessarily. Jump from a diesel to a petrol powered model of otherwise similar overall specification and the chances are the unleaded fuelled vehicle will seem quieter, smoother and offer more 'pep'. Also, petrol engines are currently fitted to models that arguably offer the best ability in really severe going. This may be an issue if there is a need to access hard to reach areas.

At this point, mention should be made of mains charged electric vehicles. These are not covered specifically within this article, but some models, such as variants of the Yamaha U-Max, Club Car, Toro Workman and Deere Gator are offered with battery power. It is easy to get tripped up when looking into this form of motive power, but courses that want to make this energy source work will find it offers a number of advantages. It is not necessarily cheaper, but electric, and hybrid electric power, is the future. It is well worth giving an electric utility a try over a few days in winter. Cold weather will tend to shorten the vehicles range per charge, so giving a good idea of what can be expected in terms of range.



Club Car has introduced its Carryall 294 as a direct competitor to the diesel Mule 3100. Fitted with 'IntelliTrak' 4WD engagement and limited slip differentials front and rear, it will access difficult to reach areas. Perspex screen and roof offer useful protection, full cabs coming as an option



Yamaha caters for a wide range of users with its choice of Rhino and U-Max models. The U-Max comes with a choice of petrol or electric power, the powerful Rhino, pictured, offering sprightly performance.



John Deere have won a large slice of the utility vehicle sector with its Gator models, but up until the introduction of the HPX models, none were aimed at tackling really tough off road conditions. Note the increased ground clearance

POLARIS



Latest 'convertible' Mule 3100 has seats for four, the rear bench tilting to offer an increased load area. Such is the variety of choice in the utility sector that it is easy to get side tracked; think of the demand and buy accordingly



Toro has restyled its Workman range, the latest models continuing to be offered in both medium and heavy duty versions with a choice of petrol, diesel and electric power. A wide track, fat tyres and low load height are key features of medium capacity models

Straw bales are not a typical golf course load, but hauling them around clearly shows the advantage of a low load height. It is all too easy to overlook this when changing to a different make or model

Moving on, the next issue will be seating capacity. All utility models considered in this article will carry at least two, but the Polaris Ranger has a three person bench, with lap belts for all. Kawasaki is in the process of launching a four person Mule, a folding rear bench enabling the cargo area to be extended when seating just two. No details on pricing, but expect a fair premium over a Mule 3000/3100; prices for these models start at £6,450 for the 2WD petrol model and climb to £8,795 for the 4WD 3100 diesel.

Cargo load area capacity is an interesting issue. Manufacturers will typically list all up capacity and the total load for the cargo bed. The latter has to take into account two people on the machine. As an aside, the load

height of a utility vehicle can be around 1.0m from the ground, a notable exception being models like the £8,795 John Deere Trail Gator 6x4. This has a load sill height of just over 60cm.

A higher load 'sill' is fine when loading up light items, such as a few rakes and brushcutters, but hopeless for anything heavy. It is also worth noting that filling a cargo area with sand is possible, but when it comes to off loading, it may have to be done manually; only Club Car fit electric bed tipping as standard on certain models. Otherwise, it will need a trip to the options list for assisted tipping to be fitted. On models such as a Kawasaki Mule 3000/3100, this can cost a substantial £810.

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What is often overlooked is towing capacity. It can make a great deal of sense to buy a trailer, on suitable tyres and with a low load height, to compliment a vehicle which may be needed to move around pedestrian mowers and other kit too heavy to lift. Towing capacity can be pretty generous, with around 500kg all up being typical.

All the utility models currently on offer will have automatic CVT transmissions with the exception of the Kubota RTV900. This features a three range hydrostatic system. CVT transmissions are nothing new, and will include single and dual range versions according to make and model. For most courses, a single range should be fine, but a dual range can be handy when negotiating steep slopes.

CVT transmissions, which employ variable pulleys between the engine and transmission with a belt linking the two, typically do not offer engine braking. Back off the throttle, and the vehicle may not slow down, particularly down a steep incline. Polaris can fit downhill engine braking as an option to its Ranger, these petrol powered models being priced from £7,395. In contrast, the hydrostatic drive of the Kubota RTV900 has in-built self braking, the sealed inboard discs fitted to this model having less work to do as a result. RTV900 prices from £8,750.

Although the utility vehicles now on the market do, on the surface, seem to have a great deal in common, they are actually very different to both drive and in their off road ability. Take models like the 32hp £7,500 AUSA Task 50 and the 38hp £7,395 Polaris Ranger. Powered by 400 and 499cc single cylinder petrol engines respectively, these models have good ground clearance and 4WD. Where a 4x6 Gator will bottom out and get stuck in deep ruts, these units will sail on with little trouble.

Yamaha compete at both ends of the utility vehicle scale with its £7,599 petrol powered Rhino 660 and £5,000 G23 U-Max. The former is a head to head competitor with a vehicle like the Kawasaki Mule 600, but with considerably more power. The U-Max, which is also offered with electric power, is based around the Yamaha Golfcar and powered by a 357cc 11.4hp engine. It is classed as a light utility, but its roto moulded cargo box has a decent 363kg capacity with hydraulic assisted tilt available.



Latest Deere 'T' series Gators benefit from more power and better brakes; fuller details unavailable at the time of going to press. Note the use of a low loading trailer. This makes it far easier to load and transport heavy items of kit such as pedestrian greens mowers

A sharp intake of breath usually accompanies those asking the price of a top specification diesel Toro Workman. The pay off is built strong, a long service life and good residuals. New styling does not hide simple design

John Deere last year increased its Gator range to include models better able to tackle rough terrain. The light 10hp petrol powered CX compact is in Mule 600 territory and the 20hp diesel HPX High-Performance is Deere's competitor to the 24hp Kawasaki diesel Mule. Pricing is pretty similar too. Deere is also upgrading its existing 'traditional' models, these now boasting more power, improved braking and better performance. No further details were available at the time of writing.

Toro has a broad range of models in its Workman range, these models targeting the golf sector with a choice of electric, petrol or diesel power. Topping the range is the £21,152 Workman 4300 Diesel 4WD, powered by a 26.5hp engine. Payload for this and all 3200, 4200 and 4300 variants is put at 1134kg including two people at 91kg; in real terms rear load capacity is nudging a tonne on the heavy duty Workman range which is pretty useful. Even the lighter duty models have 748kg, which is impressive. This range includes the entry level 12hp petrol Workman 1100-D at £5,925.

Choosing the right machine for the job may be more complex now than it has been in the past, but stick to a few key requirements, and the number of units that fit the bill will start to shorten. There is no need, for example, to select a machine with good off road capability and 4WD for general course maintenance. Similarly, a vehicle with the capacity to carry fresh turf to the greens without risking damage at sensitive access points will call for the right combination of platform and tyre choice. Set the demands and the machine will more likely or not choose itself.



Kubota are alone in offering a sophisticated hydrostatic drive system on its recently introduced RTV900. Hydrostatics have a great deal to offer, and are well proven, the system offering the potential to potter along at a reduced engine speed. This is something a CVT automatic struggles to manage



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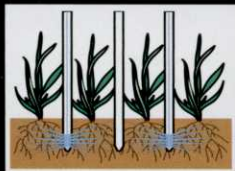


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"The SISIS AER-AID SYSTEM combines conventional solid tine aeration with compressed air to give lift and relieve surface compaction without too much disruption to surface levels.

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Dave Moore,
Clerk of Works,
Sports Turf Research Institute

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A Breath of Compressed Air

David Green examines the limited machines available to carry out pneumatic soil fracturing and the specifics of this technique.

Pneumatic or gas pressure fracturing of soil was designed as a process to improve drainage, increase soil oxygen levels, decrease anaerobic bacterial activity, smash compaction pans and so to improve tree and turf health without disturbing the surface. The Pneumatic fracturing process takes air, compresses it to a high pressure, typically between 15 and 20 Bar (200 to 300 PSI), and then releases the built up air through a hollow probe at depth into the soil.

The release of the air is affected by the action of a high speed valve. The resulting shock wave is created as the gas escapes almost explosively into the ground and causes the ground to shake and shudder. This shaking and a slight rise in level together cause the soil profile to crack.

The main charge of air then rushes upwards towards the surface through the newly created cracks and fissures carrying the chosen inoculant material along with the air stream and so distributing the inoculant through the soil.

There have been several machines that have used this principle, many are known and loved by groundsmen and greenkeepers around the country. Sadly at the time of writing none of the machines, except the new Sisis Aer-Aid, are available for sale. A few specialist diehards continue to develop some of the machines for their own use. The machines, in order of age of development, are:

1. The Terralift is the granddaddy of them all, it is the biggest and has a long development history. The Terralift generates and injects large volumes of air at up to 20 bar and at depths of up to 3 metres. The latest developments based on the Terralift injection system are powered by 40 HP diesel engines and have large Atlas Copco piston compressors.

This raw power allows the machines to inject the equivalent of 1200 litres of air at STP per cycle. The latest Terralift derivatives use a massive probe insertion system that is armed with a JCB hydraulic road breaker hammer and hydraulic rams that are capable of up to 4 tonnes of pull. All this power is used to both insert and remove the probe.

2. An off shot of the Terralift is the Aerragreen, which generates its own compressed air and injects large volumes through four probes to a maximum depth of 500mm. Produced in the USA, this machine has seen little use in the UK.

The power comes from a 25 Hp engine driving a 20 Bar Atlas Copco Piston compressor. Probe insertion and removal is achieved by simple pressure from small size pneumatic rams. There is no hammer facility.

3. The Robin Dagger is a small hand held machine that works by injecting air to about 500 mm depth and using a small cam action hammer to insert the probe.

A 50cc 2 stroke engine powers this unit. Such a machine can only inject small volumes of air at modest pressures.

4. The Terravent is a small hand held unit relying on a manual post holer style of sliding hammer to force the probe into the ground to about 1 metre. The Terravent works by injecting nitrogen gas straight from large



The Sisis Aer-Aid System in action relieves compaction, improves infiltration rates and combats Black Layer, claim the company

commercial extra high pressure cylinders. The gas is pulsed as it is released. Calculations from the published nitrogen consumption data suggest only relatively small volumes of gas are released at each cycle.

The use of nitrogen gas, not compressed air is, to my mind, one of the Terravent's weaknesses. All turf men know that the turf we strive to grow well requires 'nitrogen' but in the form of soluble nitrates not as the inert and suffocating gas. Only a few plants, such as the legumes, can assimilate nitrogen gas directly and then only because of their symbiotic relations with nitrifying bacteria.

5. The latest to join the market is the Sisis Aer-Aid that injects 88 Litres per minute of low pressure air straight from a Hydrovane compressor through numerous hollow tines into the top 100 to 150mm of the sward. Airflow to each tine is restricted to a small diameter low pressure air pipe and so there is little explosive power in the air that is injected in this manner. This machine was only launched late 2004, so little is yet known of its performance and long term benefits other than the data published from Sisis. While it undoubtedly injects air it is not a true pneumatic fracturing machine.



The first four machines use the stored, almost explosive, energy in the compressed gas or air they release to break up and loosen the soil beneath the turf surface they are treating. Applied with care all of these four systems can be successfully used to treat bowling greens and golf greens where surface disturbance is unacceptable.

The differences between the four machines are found in the depth of penetration into the ground, the ability to inject beneficial substances in granular or liquid form and the degree of ground resistance that can be overcome. The speed of working and the physical input needed from the operator.

There is as always a balance to be struck between the disruptive power of the air blast at the heart of the process and surface disruption. The powerful blast that is so welcome below ground and through the compaction panned layers is most unwelcome if it reaches and destroys the surface. Only the Terralift derivatives guard against accidental surface disruption close to the probe by holding the surface in place with a large steel plate held firmly against the soil by the weight of the machine. This plate also stops the turf lifting as the probe is withdrawn allowing rapid withdrawal.

There are numerous ways of mechanically treating compaction and aerating the soil from the purely agricultural mole plough, through the vertidrain, now an almost generic name for that type of heavy duty reciprocating spiker, and its imitators to corers, slitters and tiners that may or may not shake rattle and roll their way across the turf. All these mechanical operations vary in their ability to treat relatively shallow, up to 300mm deep, compaction pans, as depth of pan increases so the number of capable machines drops away. The deep spikers struggle to penetrate to 500mm in all but the most favourable soil profiles and are really challenged when they are also required to.

MATERIAL INJECTION

Only the Terralift, Aerragreen and Terravent can inject materials with their gas/air blast. The Terralift uses the greater volume of air at the highest pressures and can inject up to a litre of granular material per shot. The Aerragreen and Terravent probes are much smaller in diameter than the Terralift probe and so have lower capacity for injection with each blast of air.

BACKFILLING

The probe holes produced by these machines form valuable drainage and aeration pathways from the surface to the subsoil and if they can be made to remain open they provide a long term improvement to local surface water drainage. The large probe holes of the Terralift derivatives at nearly 40mm diameter are of a size that can be filled with an inert aggregate. Any coarse aggregate will do but the aggregate of choice is Lytag. This man made lightweight aggregate is sterile, inert and nutrient free.

Lytag's most important property is the honeycomb internal structure that allows this material to pass through greens mowers without damaging the finely set blades. The probes of all the other machines that measure less than 25mm in diameter leave probe holes that are too small to backfill.

SOIL CONDITIONS

Regardless of sales blurb there are strict limits to the type and condition of soils that benefit from pneumatic or gas fracturing. The first requirement is a sufficient depth of soil and subsoil so immediately strike out. In particular chalk and limestone soils of most types do this because the bedrock is generally too close to the surface. The same is true wherever igneous or hard sandstone rocks form the country rock and lie close to the surface.

The second requirement is a capacity to drain water away, however limited into the subsoil. Where heavy clay overlies a free draining chalk stratum the results of pneumatic fracturing can be almost magical in the speed with which the turf improves. The soil has to be moist enough to treat but not so wet that the injected air is effectively being pumped into liquid mud that has no ability to form fissures.

Dry Sand does not work because the air blast dissipates through the coarse pore structure without disturbing the soil.

Moist sand works well. Wet sand rarely exists. Dry clays are simply too hard to penetrate and if it moves at all when blasted with air then it tends to form large hard plates that crack and split at the surface. Moist clays generally work well, wet clays are less successful.

Frozen soils are untreatable and while they remain frozen leave the surface free of plucking. The Aerragreen has 4 x 500mm long probes but in UK conditions 300mm is about the limit of its penetration.

The Aerragreen also lacks any form of hammer to drive the probes through heavily compacted layers and resistant layers such as Iron pan.





Terralift machines, L-R, Airforce Tracher, Airforce Scamper and Airforce.

WORKING DEPTH

Below 500mm depth the field is therefore left clear for the Robin Dagger, Terravent and Terralift and its derivatives. Both the Robin Dagger and the Terravent are, at the time of compiling this article, unavailable for sale and any already in use are unsupported by its manufacturers and the Terralift derivatives are not available except for contract hire.

WORKING PATTERN

As the depth the probe goes so the air pressure increases and so the area around each probe hole that is treated increases. The shallow 500mm depth of the Robin Dagger and the Aerragreen mean that the probe holes need to be spaced no more than a metre apart to fully treat the area.

The 1 metre depth and higher working pressures that are used by the Terravent and the Terralift derivatives allow the area to be fully treated with probe holes 2 metres apart in lines that are themselves 2 metres apart.

WORK RATE

Penetrating between 500mm and 1 metre into the soil can never be done rapidly, particularly when there is a solid compaction pan to be broken through on the way down. Here raw power and machine weight are vital to force the injection probe through any obstruction in the profile at an economically viable time of between 45 and 60 seconds per cycle. Such a work rate will severely tax the human part of any human powered machine and so limit its use to a short period for each operator.

Even the biggest and most powerful machines developed from the original Terralift struggle to treat more than 3000 square metres a day. This is simply due to the time taken to get the probe into and out of the ground. A 45 second cycle time, of which probe insertion takes 20 seconds, probe withdrawal is 10 seconds and the rest is movement and blasting time. This 45 second cycle gives 80 cycles per hour that covers just 320 square metres. This is less than the area of an average golf green.

The Aerragreen with its four probes and 300mm penetration can just equal this daily total despite its manufacturers claims for 3728 square metres per day. Treating 3000 square metres per day every day with either

the Robin Dagger or the Terravent appears to require the stamina of marathon runners and the strength of an Olympic Weightlifter. The Sisis Aer-Aid can easily beat this 3000 square metre per day target but because the Aer-Aid operates to such a shallow depth and has around 40 times it is more of a surface spiker than a true deep soil aerator and decompaction machine.

The soil moisture requirements mean that there is a definite seasonality to the use of the Pneumatic Fracturing technique with work being most effective in the wider spring and autumn periods.

David Green is Managing Director of Terrain Aeration and can be contacted on 01449 673783.

AIDING AIR

The Sisis Aer-Aid system is the latest piece of machinery to come on to the market in this area. While not a true pneumatic fracturing machine this is one of the only pieces of kit of its kind that can be purchased rather than contracted out.

Most compaction is found in the top 100mm of the soil. In compacted ground air passage is restricted and more water is held also hindering the passage of air. Grasses starved of air at their roots cannot grow properly. Ultimately Black Layer can form, particularly in poorer quality sand based rootzones and in areas growing in shady conditions.

The Sisis Aer-Aid System enables turf professionals to give their turf a blast of air, directly into the rootzone, every time they aerate. The cam trigger system ensures that the air is always expelled at the bottom of the tine penetration, ensuring a targeted, precise and constant working depth to a maximum of 127mm. Working at 150mm spacing, air is introduced at a rate of 88l per minute. Trials have shown significant improvements to infiltration rates after use of the Aer-Aid and hardness is reduced.

The Aer-Aid System has received two major industry awards and, in addition to the many now working around the UK, there are also machines in South Africa, Japan, Sweden, Hong Kong and Canada.

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LOOK NO HANDS

A new robotic golf ball collector from Turfmech Machinery is set to make the retrieval of golf balls from practice ranges a far safer and less labour intensive job. Known as Ballpicker, the high tech machine uses the same advanced operating systems as the Bigmow robotic large area mower.

Fully automatic with manual override available as and when required Ballpicker works completely randomly within a pre defined area bounded by a buried low voltage cable across which the machine will not pass. As the battery powered Ballpicker moves across the ground, it sweeps up all golf balls lying in its path and drops them into an on board container with a capacity of more than 600 balls.

When the container is full, or earlier depending on machine programming and battery condition, Ballpicker returns automatically to the golf ball release station which doubles also as the recharging point for the machine's batteries. Once docked at its release station, Ballpicker offloads its basket of golf balls and readies itself to set off across the range on a new collection schedule. The release station can be linked to virtually all golf ball conveyors.

For further technical information Tel: 01889 271503, Website: www.bigmow.biz.



GETTING HEAVY

Rustons Engineering has introduced a new heavy duty high capacity mower and waste collector that has been designed for particularly demanding working conditions.

The Reco Panda 1805 is a versatile machine that can be used for mowing various surfaces from amenity areas to rough grass and for collecting leaves and other debris. With a scarifier fitted, it can scarify, mow, mulch and collect in one pass. It is built for long hours and arduous conditions and weighs 2.25 tonnes.

The 1.8 metre mowing rotor incorporates specially designed heavy duty flails that not only cut but also create a powerful suction effect. Cuttings are mulched by the flails and blown through a high capacity outlet to the collection hopper, which has a 5m³ capacity. The hopper lifts hydraulically and can tip at a height between 90cm and 2.2 metres from the ground.

For further technical information Tel: (01480) 455151, Website: www.reco.co.uk.

ANTI THEFT EXCAVATORS

Kubota has responded to market demands by introducing their key based Anti Theft System as standard equipment on its mini excavators. It's based on an individually programmed key for each machine that replaces the current universal starter key. The key has an identification code embedded in an IC chip that incorporates a state of the art immobiliser system.

It starts and stops the engine like a conventional ignition key and also opens the machine's cab door, fuel filler cap and engine canopy. Without it, the fuel, hydraulic and electric systems are fully immobilised. Any attempt to start the machine with an unprogrammed key activates the system's alarm. Two preprogrammed keys are supplied with each new machine. A third master key gives users the opportunity to easily reprogramme the machine.

For further technical information Tel: 01844 214500, Website: www.kubota.co.uk.

BLOW HARD

From the STIHL stable comes a new generation of backpack blowers that really show their strengths when cleaning large areas in parks, leisure facilities, stadiums, car parks and private gardens. Promoting a cleaner environment in more ways than one, the new Stihl BR 500, BR 550 and BR 600 not only sweep up fallen leaves, cut grass, hedge trimmings, paper cups and tin cans in no time at all, they are also particularly eco friendly thanks to the Stihl 4 MIX engine. Powerful, fast and economical, the machines are also comfortable to use.

They are among the quietest in their power class and included in the range the Stihl BR 500 is specifically designed as a low noise model. Ideal for use in noise sensitive areas, it features extensive sound proofing including an enlarged muffler on the blower tube. The ergonomic carrying frame with active breathing properties can be adjusted for optimum comfort, while an effective anti vibration system enables the blowers' use all day, without the need for extra protective measures.

For further technical information Tel: 0800 137574, Website: www.stihl.co.uk.



RAKING IT IN

Sisis has improved on their Auto Rotorake Mk4. The new Auto Rotorake Mk5 has specially designed hooked blades which can be supplied with or without tips, and are designed for increased thatch removal and improved 'throw'. An alternative, 3 point blade is also available for verticutting.

The 6hp Robin engine and wider working width of 500mm gives improved performance and a faster work rate. Controls have been designed to be user friendly and the larger capacity grass box is easy to fit.

For further technical information Tel: 01625 503030, Website: www.sisis.com.



DOCTOR IS WAITING

Allen Power Equipment is launching a new Turf Doctor Scarifier this autumn. The machine has a 22in (56cm) working width and is powered by a Honda 5.5hp engine.

Manufactured by MacKissic in the USA, the Turf Doctor will join a line of professional scarifiers bearing the Turf Doctor name, up until recently manufactured by Allen themselves.

To encourage air and moisture to the treated surface, the new Turf Doctor has a reel fitted with triple line of 32 tines which are virtually unbreakable though can be easily replaced in minutes when worn. Working height is via a single lever and pneumatic tyres all round ensure the very best in turf protection.

For further technical information Tel: 01235 515400, Website: www.allenpower.co.uk.



THERE IT GOES

The high speed Shibaura CM364 out front mower, which can travel at speeds of up to 24kph, has been launched. This latest ride on mower is powered by a 35hp, 3 cylinder, water cooled diesel engine. Meeting current EU and US emission standards the engine boasts exceptionally low noise and low vibration.

Running in two wheel drive under normal conditions, the mower automatically engages four wheel drive in slippery conditions, helping to avoid damage to the turf. Highly maneuverable and with the ability to lock the front differential the mower operates well even in wetter conditions and is equally at home on rough terrain or areas requiring a smoother finish.

When cutting large areas of grass, power steering and cruise control help provide maximum operator comfort. A quick hitch system, together with an infinitely variable hydraulic weight transfer system, means a wide range of attachments can be accommodated with ease.

For further technical information Tel: 01244 671166.



THE FAMOUS FIVE

Hunter Grinders has launched their Series 5, that consists of the Jupiter Series 5, Jupiter ATI Series 5, Juno Series 5, Amazon Series 5 and the Orion Series 5. All of these machines now incorporate as standard a number of features that are aimed at addressing any health and safety issues that have arisen in recent years, and in particular to ensure the operator can achieve a precision edge for maximum quality of cut, with greatest ease, speed and safety.

Stability is a crucial factor in a machine designed to accommodate heavy mowers/cylinders. The process of accurate grinding places huge demands on the construction of the grinder. All models in the Series 5 range are now built on cast iron beds for unbeatable stability and strength and, in addition, linear bed rails have been introduced again as standard for enhanced accuracy when grinding. All models now operate on 240volt single phase, with all Jupiters having fully enclosed interlocking guarding. There are a huge variety of mower units manufactured, so Hunters have incorporated many new features to assist the operator in handling the different mowers and cylinders with ease.

For further technical information Tel: 01207 270316, Website: www.huntergrinders.com.



TAKING THE STRAIN

Today's greenkeeper frequently has to transport large loads of materials such as drainage spoil, top-dressing, aggregates, turf, and bagged goods. To carry out these tasks Campey Turf Care Systems unveiling the Dakota 550 and 525 Turf Trailers.

Designed for use in golf course maintenance, the machines have fast work rate to provide maximum efficiency. They are built for robustness with an A-frame construction but minimise the pressure exerted on grassed surfaces by the use of full width floatation tyres. Although a heavy duty workhorse, Dakota Turf Trailers cover undulating ground without marking due to 4-wheel walking beam axles. The tipping operation is controlled by the driver in the tractor and rises to an angle of 65°. The tailgate opens automatically for efficient unloading of the contained material.

For further technical information Tel: 01260 224568, Website: www.campeyturfcare.com.

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PERFECT FORM

More power, increased torque and lower fuel consumption are features of John Deere's new small chassis compact tractors, which are based on the same modern styling and overall design as the mid and large chassis models in the company's 20 Series range.

The 24hp 2320 and 26hp 2520 employ larger capacity, fuel efficient Tier 2 engines, which generate up to 10 % more power than the models they replace, but with lower emissions. Both models offer a new two range hydrostatic transmission, with a higher maximum forward speed of 22kph on the 2520 model.

Both front and rear axle loads have been increased, and maximum lift capacity at the category 1 three point hitch is now 650kg. The operator's station incorporates a number of new features including the hand throttle, instrument panel, ergonomic pedals and comfortable seat, while the new optional deluxe cab offers improved visibility.

For further technical information Tel: 01949 860491, Website: www.johndeere.co.uk.



BOMFORD'S PROTOTYPE

Bomford Ltd have showcased a completely new concept in verge mowing, as they demonstrated a new prototype reach arm flail mower and collector, which has been designed in conjunction with Trillo.

Based on a 5.0m reach Bomford Falcon reach arm mower, the unit is designed to cut and then transfer verge mowings into a hopper for collection and subsequent disposal, in order to boost wildflower levels on verges. To achieve this, Bomford has designed a new heavy-duty flail head which, in addition to the standard double helix flail rotor shaft, also incorporates an auger behind the rotor that moves cut material to the centre of the head, where it is sucked into the accompanying vacuum collector that is trailed behind the mowing unit. This has the benefit that when not required for verge collection work, by just reverting to a standard flail head the Falcon can be used for hedge or other verge maintenance work.

For further technical information Tel: 01789 773383, Website: www.bomford-turner.com.

NEW SMALL VERSION

Charterhouse Turf Machinery launched a new version of the Verti-Drain aerator specifically designed for use with the smallest compact tractors. The 7110 Verti-Drain is expected to create demand from golf clubs that will be able to use their existing compact tractors to power the machine.

To power the new verti-drain a tractor of only 16hp is required, with a lift capacity of 450kg. It has a one metre working width and can operate to a maximum depth of 150mm. The 7110 can be fitted with solid, hollow or cross tines of various lengths and diameters, enabling its performance to be matched to specific turf care tasks. It weighs only 750 lbs so that it exerts minimum pressure on the sward.

For further technical information Tel: 01428 661222, Website: www.charterhouseturfmachinery.co.uk.



BROADWOOD SPREADING

The Broadwood SnowEx truck spreaders have now become even more versatile with the launch of a new trailer chassis. Robustly built, the chassis enables all models, with capacities ranging from 400L to 1500L, to be used for highway service.

Also suitable for the newly launched SnowEx V-Maxx spreaders the trailer chassis includes suspension, light and braking thereby enabling the machines to be used for highway service of speeds of up to 60 mph where applicable. The trailers also enable SnowEx spreaders to be quickly and easily towed from site to site or around large premises using a wide range of vehicles from small vans and road sweepers through to 4x4s and larger trucks depending on their towing capacity. An in-cabin controller enables on-the-move adjustment of spreading width and application rates to suit operating conditions.

For further technical information Tel: 01794 388881.

ADDING TO THE RANGE

New Holland has added powerful 4-cylinder models to its TND-A and TNS-A line-ups of utility tractors. The introduction of the 82hp TN85D-A and TN85S-A models, and the 90hp TN95D-A, means that the TN-A Series now incorporates four models from 59hp-90hp, covering all requirements.

The 4.5-litre, Tier 2 engines give more power, higher torque and enhanced performance for high work-rate professionals. To accommodate the larger power unit, the three new tractors feature a longer bonnet and an A-pillar exhaust to provide an unimpeded view forwards.

The tractors can be specified with New Holland's 'Blue Cab'. Its pressurised cab sealing system ensures that only air that has been passed through the anti-pollen and air recirculation filters enters the cabin for a clean, safe working environment. The Blue Cab also provides air conditioning and can be specified with carbon filters for those spraying chemicals.

For further technical information Tel: 01268 292580, Website: www.newholland.com.



SILENT SWEEPER

Designed to meet the highest possible standards of operator comfort with low noise and vibration output the Kersten Vela Silent Vacuum/Sweeper is simple in operation and offers outstanding performance against competitive machines in the same price bracket. It will cope with not just leaves but general rubbish, twigs, clippings and cans and plastic bottles equally as well.

Equipped with a Honda low noise engine the Vela Silent Vacuum/Sweeper has a variable speed hydraulic transmission and its 350 litre collector is now available with 2 hydraulic sweeping brushes, giving a working width of over 1.2 metres. The versatility offered makes this machine ideal for those with estate management responsibilities within schools, universities, hotels, country houses, parks, golf courses and almost any location where there is the need to bear in mind both public safety and the benefits to be derived from the appearance of a well kept facility.

For further technical information Tel: 0118 9834337, Website: www.kersten-machines.com.

CLAYMORE LOAD IT ON

Claymore Grass Machinery has introduced a 48in front end loader for their Simplicity Legacy XL model tractor. The new loader bucket has a lift capacity of 225kgs and is able to be operated with the mid mounted mower still installed, plus is supplied c/w ballast box.

In addition, the loader can be disconnected from the tractor by means of a four way joystick control without the operator leaving his seat. The Simplicity Legacy XL tractor is offered in two and four wheel drive configurations. Powered by a 27hp Briggs & Stratton liquid cooled engine, the unit has hydrostatic transmission with cruise control and is supplied complete with a 137cm (54in) free floating three blade mower deck. As standard, the 4WD version is fitted with a rear PTO and three point hitch.

For further technical information Tel: 01789 490177, Website: www.claymoregrass.co.uk.

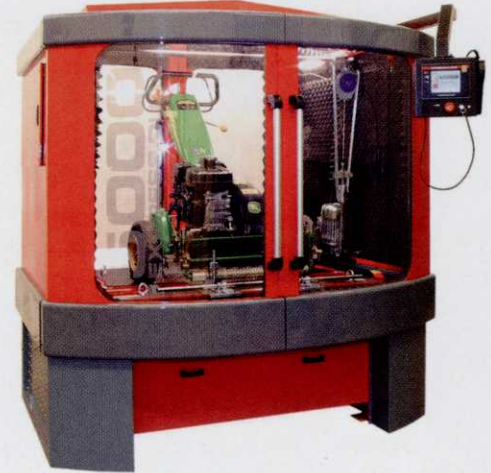
FEELING CHIPPER

Chipper blades can be kept extra sharp by using the newly upgraded Chippermaster from grinding specialist Bernhard and Co. Green waste accounts for 95% of municipal waste, so the new dedicated chipper blade sharpener has a vital role to play in the chipping cycle.

This latest Chippermaster is simple to operate and configurable to allow the operator to grind flat blades or hollow grind blades. Powered by a powerful 1.5 kilowatt grind motor, a removable coolant tray takes dirt and debris away from the grinder. Producing a highly accurate grind with fine tolerances Chippermaster comes in an illuminated cabinet as standard.

Single or double sided blades can be ground, individually or in sets, and special fixtures can be made, to order, to accommodate specific blades.

For further technical information Tel: 01788 811600, Website: www.bernhard.co.uk.



GEM ADD EXTRA

ProCote Extra is the latest development from Gem Professional. A controlled release fertiliser specifically designed for the autumn and winter seasons. Used in most fine turf situations this fertiliser will not only last for four months but will enhance the quality of the turf ensuring consistent growth throughout the season.

With an analysis of 16:2:32+1.25% MgO + Fe, ProCote Extra is used between September and February and only requires one application per season to obtain the full effects of the product. Easy to apply with a uniform granulation it provides immediate, medium and long term nutrients; this includes two stages of potassium and nitrogen release. Potassium will aid the turf hardening process whereas the nitrogen will encourage dense sward.

Spring and summer 2006 will see further additions to the ProCote Extra range, including the opportunity for bespoke mixes tailored to your individual needs. ProCote Extra is available now in 25kg bags.

For further information Tel: 01254 356611, Website: www.gemprofessional.co.uk.

**MORE NEW PRODUCTS
FROM SALTEX NEXT MONTH...**



TALKING HEADS

Compiled by Gareth Jones

1

Does emergency work get in the way of your pre planned winter work?

CONSTRUCTION



Name: Richard Cutler
Years as a Greenkeeper: 14
Club: Montrose Links
Course Type: Links (36 Holes)
Region: Scotland
Number of Staff: Course Manager, plus 9

Hopefully not this year. Our Medal course suffers from coastal erosion and in previous years teeing areas have been lost to the sea. We now have alternative tees ready to use on some of the most threatened holes, but you can never be exactly sure what shape we'll be in come the end of winter.



Name: Tony Smith
Years as a Greenkeeper: 42
Club: Teesside Golf Club, Stockton On Tees
Course Type: Parkland (18 Holes)
Region: Cleveland
Number of Staff: Course Manager, plus 5

Yes. To keep the course open and playable at all times is our first and foremost duty to the membership, neighbours and to conform to Health and Safety regulations.



Name: Ian Upton
Years as a Greenkeeper: 19
Club: Rye Hill Golf Club, Banbury
Course Type: Heathland (18 + 3 hole academy)
Region: Midland
Number of Staff: Course Manager, plus 4

Even the best planning cannot prevent the occasional emergency. My view on this is do deal with any emergency quickly, utilising my staff at all times to deal with the situation with minimum fuss. We work on flexible time basis and in case of extreme circumstances everybody will stay on until the job is done.



Name: Lee Squires
Years as a greenkeeper: 26
Club: Harwich & Dovercourt Golf Club, Essex
Course Type: Parkland (9 Holes)
Region: South East
Number of Staff: Head Greenkeeper, plus 2

Yes of course it would. If you have a full programme of works anything out of the ordinary is bound to have an impact. But isn't that life, not just greenkeeping?



Name: Roger Myatt
Years as a Greenkeeper: 10
Club: Knighton Heath Golf Club, Bournemouth
Course Type: Heathland (18 Holes)
Region: South West/Wales
Number of Staff: Course Manager, plus 4

Yes, emergency work can defiantly affect our pre planned work. However, typically this emergency work will only affect our pre planned ventures if it is costly or highly time consuming.



Name: David Lenham
Years as a Greenkeeper: 30
Club: Milltown Golf Club, Dublin
Course Type: Parkland (18 Holes)
Region: Ireland
Number of Staff: Golf Course Superintendent, plus 6

Not really, unless we have a semi hurricane. This happened in 1987 when we were clearing up storm damage and fallen trees, around 350 of them, for about 8 or 9 weeks. Generally any emergency work would only be short term, pumping flood water or emergency tree surgery following storm damage.



Name: Dick Gray
Years as a Greenkeeper: 25
Club: Jupiter Hills Club, Florida
Course Type: Parkland/Links (36 Holes)
Region: International
Number of Staff: Superintendent, plus 44

Hurricanes cause the problems. Last year we took two direct hits and lost over 1000 trees. Lightning is a large problem. The bigger issue is the damage done to the irrigation system. A bolt will hit a tree, move into the roots, blow the sprinkler head apart and the ensuing flood will create a hole bigger than a pick-up truck.

2

Do you like to give your team an in house project to do or do you prefer to use contractors?

All construction work is done in house. Every year we refurbish around 30 bunkers which are of the revetted type. We employ an architect when considering new tees or bunkers and then construct to agreed specifications.

Most of our construction work is done in house. They learn more and take pride in the course and the construction work carried out, alterations to greens, tees, bunkers and things along those lines. The only work carried out by contractors is tree felling and drainage work using their machines with assistance from the staff.

Wherever possible I will utilise the skills of my staff on all projects, as it is usually far more cost effective to do everything in house. However, some of the larger projects, like drainage, may need specialist machines and operators and in this case we would use a contractor.

Whatever the project or scale of the work we do here at Harwich & Dovercourt we do it in house, every time with the team of three.

We rebuilt all of our bunkers here at Knighton two years ago. This project was completed by contractors in this case. All the other work that is done on the course is normally done in house by my team. This includes tees and greens and things along those lines.

I would prefer using my own staff when possible. Of course, there are limitations to what can be undertaken using your own staff and this should be carefully considered when planning any future projects. There is no point in undertaking an in house project if you feel the maintenance of the golf course as a whole will suffer due to the staff being too stretched.

We do a lot of our projects in house for several reasons. Mainly the fact that we can do them and that our teams take pride in doing them. It also means we can control the flow and pace of the project. We have total control of the cost of the project and we can control the collateral damage of the work.

3

Which construction job are you most proud of?

Bunker work can be particularly satisfying but any job where the land has been contoured to an extent where nobody notices the join is always pleasing. A couple of winters ago we turned an untidy three surface tee complex into a nicely shaped two tier tee. It looks much better than before and now has almost double the available tee marker positions.

All our jobs are done with pride, but if we had to choose it would have to be the mounding around the course that is six metres high, goes three quarters of the way around the course, at the back of 3 greens and was built without losing one single day's golf over two years. The mound was then over-planted with trees.

I believe that the job that has given me the most satisfaction was to renovate an old sleepered bunker, which had started to collapse and become dangerous. We replaced it with a complete 360 degree bunker that was fully revetted. It took many hours and tons of turf, but was worth it.

The 200m long, large open ditch from the river to the 8th green that allowed me to drain the green.

Last October we rebuilt one green, which would not drain. We stripped the turf off, removed the soil down to the free draining undersoil. The soil was then mixed in with free draining sand and replaced with new contours. The original turf was re-laid to keep the green similar to the other on the course. The green was back in play after six months.

That's a difficult question. Probably a series of winter tees built by a team of First Assistants who were teaching two Apprentices the correct techniques involved. Their enthusiasm and pride in the quality of finish and the care they took in producing final levels, followed by excellent laying of sods made the job very gratifying to observe.

We are most proud of the improvements we make that are seamless. If we execute properly and finish correctly, golfers can't find the seams of the improvements, so it appears we did nothing. The beauty of this is no complaints and no whining, and American golfers are world class whiners.

4

How do you communicate plans and disruption to the membership?

A winter work programme is available for all members to look at. We also produce a newsletter two or three times each year which includes up coming projects and the reasons for doing them. Course walks with interested members provide a good opportunity to discuss planned construction projects.

We have a five year plan of work reviewed every three years. Members are informed via the notice board and when it gets nearer the time of the project we place a large notice on the 1st tee of starting times, rules of golf, the alteration to the course and safety to staff.

We have good communication channels so that our membership is always informed of forthcoming works. We use email and paper copy in house memos and notices on all the members' boards. We also have signage on the first tee to tell of all activities.

For any plans we have a Course Policy Statement. As for any disruption my Captain and Greens Chairman are unrivalled at notice posting, which helps a lot.

There are various ways that we can communicate with the members regarding any course issue, but espically when major work is being done. We normally use open forums at club, along with having a policy document and using the notice board to highlight upcoming plans and work.

We have a notice board dedicated to all matters related to the course. Any major reconstruction work will have been discussed at an EGM, voted on and been approved. This would be followed by a mail shot to the entire Membership to cover people not attending the EGM. We have a club magazine where important course maintenance dates can be highlighted.

We work closely with our golf professional, Bill Davis, and our Club Manager, Atilla Kartes. We have a website as well as a newsletter and we keep posting bulletins in the locker rooms and pro shop. I make myself available in the pro shop, at the first tee and the men's locker room so the information is conveyed accurately.

5

What are the main jobs you will be doing this winter?

As usual we will be refurbishing a number of bunkers on the two courses. Also this year we have identified three teeing grounds which are uneven and will be levelled.

The continuation of our bunker programme will be the main project this winter. Also we plan to remove some large trees and install new drains in four greens. We'll try to keep the course open and playable at all times during these schemes.

In addition to routine course maintenance we plan to continue up grading the bunkers by replacing the sand and renewing the drainage systems. We intend to enlarge and re level some of our tee areas. Also, we will construct some new pathways in areas of heavy footfall.

The plans for this winter are redesigning the 2nd fairway to create a Dog Leg. Also we'll open a ditch across the 2nd fairway as part of the redesign works we are doing currently. A large open ditch will appear on the 3rd too.

Rebuilding a tee and path will be this winter's major jobs. Also we will be keeping a close eye on the Electricity Board, who are running a cable through the course.

We have just started a major redesign project involving the reconstruction of seven green and tee complexes. There are also some new and realigned bunkers to be made. We are removing the existing green sods and reusing them on the new greens. This is not an in house project, but our own staff will be heavily involved with the grow in.

Recently we've rebuilt one practice range, the east tee of another range, a short game practice area and installed new collars on both courses. Of course, that didn't phase me as I was playing in Ireland. Next my plan is to be in the UK, the cradle of the game, while we completely redo our Hills' course.

Ticking all the Boxes

R&A

Steve Isaac takes a trip to Littlestone GC, who are the first club to complete The R&A's best practice checklist.

By now you should all be aware of our course management best practice website, www.bestcourseforgolf.org. If you have not registered to it, do so now. The ultimate aim is for clubs to work through the checklist system to the site - only available to registered users - which is, effectively, an auditing process through which you can compare your management and recording against our view of best practice. This not only allows your club to assess its performance, it also provides The R&A with information to support our work in promoting best practice and the case of the benefit of golf to legislators around the world. We believe the implementation of best practice ensures sustainability in golf course management.



L-R, Colonel Charles Moorhouse, Malcolm Grand & Tim Taylor

Our definition of sustainability is: "Optimising the playing quality of the golf course in harmony with the conservation of its natural environment under economically sound and socially responsible management".

The other potential value of completing the checklists is that it is ideal preparation for any club considering working towards one of the environmental accreditation schemes, e.g. Committed to Green, EMAS or ISO14001. Working through the checklists honestly is not a simple process. It is challenging and demands a high level of record keeping and documentation. However, as these are now vital aspects of good course management it should be in the best interests of all clubs to be able to complete this auditing process.

In March 2005, Littlestone became the very first golf club in the world to complete the checklist auditing system on www.bestcourseforgolf.org. To mark this achievement, Tim Taylor, Chairman of The R&A Golf Course Committee, and I visited the club. Here we met Colonel Charles Moorhouse, Secretary, and Malcolm Grand, Head Greenkeeper, and walked the course with them, discussing their work and the many interesting features on and surrounding the course.

LITTLESTONE GOLF CLUB

There are two courses at Littlestone, which is situated on the edge of Romney Marsh, between Folkestone and Hastings. The championship links is home to the Private Members Club, and Romney Warren is run as a pay and play facility. Littlestone is a Local Final Qualifying venue for The Open Championship when it is held at Royal St George's and hosted the Ladies' British Open Amateur Championship in June 2005.

The clubhouse overlooks the practice putting green and 1st tee and has a very homely feel. The walls of the lounge are filled with photographs tracing the history of the club and

its course maintenance. Images of the irrigation available in the 1920s are a reminder that the more difficult it is to water, the more chance you have of retaining true links character. Fortunately, even with a modern automatic system, on tees and greens only, Littlestone retains putting surfaces dominated by bent and fescue grasses.

Laidlaw Purves laid out the original links, which was modified in 1892 before a final layout was designed by Purves and David Herd, Club Professional for 43 years. This was given significant additional bunkering by James Braid in 1905 and 1909. Since then, Alister Mackenzie, Frank Penninck, Peter Alliss and Donald Steel have all had an influence on the layout. Alliss and Steel advised on the introduction of five new tees, which were opened in 2000, providing a Blue Course measuring 6,676 yards with a Standard Scratch Score of 73.



The 16th green, showing the superbly consistent surfaces produced at Littlestone



The dog's graveyard



The triangle of land fenced off for sheep grazing

With the exception of parts of the 1st, 2nd and 18th, the land on which the championship course lies is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The site was an estuary until the Romans arrived on the shores of Britain. They drained the land and the dykes which cut across the course still serve this purpose. The course is vulnerable to flooding, as much of it lies below sea level, and the Environment Agency has overall responsibility for flood control. Between the EA and the club, the dykes are dug out as necessary to maintain their function. The club added extra drains in 2001, which stood them in good stead in November 2003 when, despite 200mm of rain, the course remained open to play.

The subsoil across the site is a sand/shingle mix and in places the topsoil is only millimetres thick. Topsoil depth is greater to the holes lying closest to the clubhouse and here the soil has a relatively high silt content. Through the reclaimed land a series of shingle banks run for miles across the marsh, interspersed with infill that produces more luxurious grass growth. The banks are known as "fuls" and the infill "innings".

HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Littlestone Golf Club is not afraid to try novel means of managing the variety of different habitat on site. One of the more daring ventures has been the use of sheep to graze the rough in selected areas. English Nature paid for fencing off a sheep field in the triangle between the 7th, 11th and 12th holes. The benefit of grazing to the quality of the rough grassland can clearly be seen by comparing that inside the fence to the rather rank rough immediately outside.

A gorse planting programme is trying to enhance the appearance of some holes and a hawthorn management scheme, operated in conjunction with EN, is controlling the spread of this non-indigenous bush, which is often seen invading rough grassland to links and heathland courses. One of the more unusual features, which shows the caring side of the greenkeeping staff, is the sight of gravestones on a small plot near the maintenance facility. This is not a graveyard of Past Captains, fertiliser salesmen or agronomists. It is where the pet dogs of greenkeepers and some members have been buried.

Littlestone is a fascinating place to visit. Its history, landscapes and designation make it unique. The red brick water tower that dominates the skyline to the left of the 18th fairway is yet another landmark. Everywhere you look there is something of interest.

COMPLETING THE CHECKLISTS

Charles Moorhouse has compiled excellent documentation in the form of a rolling plan, records of past performance and future plans for the course and the club, including a 10 year capital expenditure for greenkeeping machinery, irrigation and accommodation. There is another document that records any changes made to the course since 1970. The club also has an excellent website, which is well worth visiting at www.littlestonegolfclub.org.uk.

The availability of these records made working through The R&A best practice checklists relatively straightforward, but an achievement nonetheless. Littlestone were the recipients of the very first certificate to acknowledge this - a feat which should be put into perspective. There are now over 1,200 clubs registered to the site from 85 different countries.

Record keeping and planning are essential aspects of course management. They mean little unless best practice is implemented. Receipt of The R&A certificate is a reflection of the standard of playing surfaces and presentation at Littlestone and recognition for Malcolm Grand, Head Greenkeeper, and his hard working team.

CAN YOU TAKE ON THE LITTLESTONE CHALLENGE?

Littlestone has shown that good management these days relies on implementation backed up by documentation. However interesting the site and no matter the quality of the course, if you do not keep up with the paperwork and carry out all of the tasks necessary to achieve sustainability you will not produce what the golfer and regulators require.

The R&A course management best practice auditing checklists can help you achieve this, so register to www.bestcourseforgolf.org and start working the site today.

Steve Isaac is Assistant Director - Golf Course Management at The R&A, who can be contacted on 01334 460000.



The 1st green with the water tower in the background

In the Shed

Sponsored by:



Greenkeeper International brings you 'In the Shed', a new puzzle page to keep you entertained when the weather forces you in or for when times are slow.

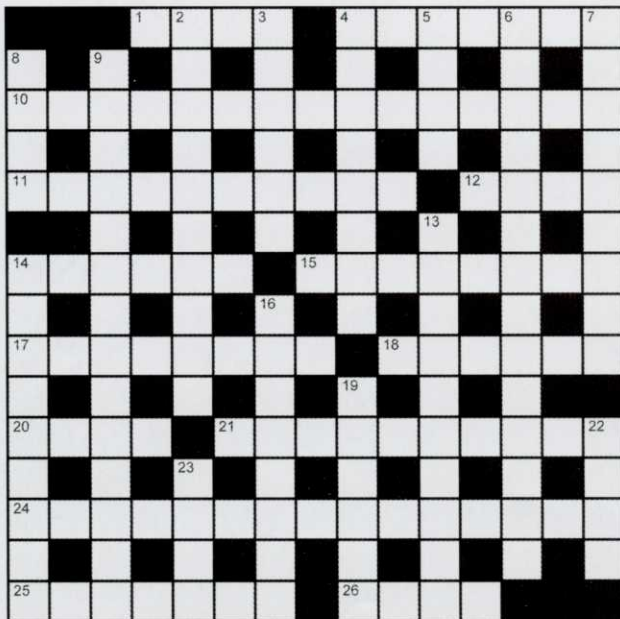
CROSSWORD - Compiled by Anax

ACROSS

- 1 What's left of a cheque? (4)
- 4 Ghostly figure (7)
- 10 Membranous passage also called "digestive tract" (10,5)
- 11 Discussion forum, usually for people of similar status (5,5)
- 12 Spiritedness, invigoration (4)
- 14 Family name of 1960s TV comedy characters Gomez and Morticia (4)
- 15 Vulture, predator (8)
- 17 Bone, more commonly called the collarbone (8)
- 18 Mahogany-like wood often used in furniture (6)
- 20 OT king of Israel, husband of Jezebel (4)
- 21 Term applied to the former site of the World Trade Center (6,4)
- 24 Make an intended decisive attack (2,3,3,7)
- 25 Powerful medieval weapon drawn by hand (7)
- 26 Play music in public, especially for money (4)

DOWN

- 2 Scottish hillside region, source of river which serves Berwick (10)
- 3 English cricketer who briefly played soccer for Scunthorpe United (6)
- 4 The apparent displacement of an object when viewed from different points (8)
- 5 Curved supporting structure (4)
- 6 Spa town given Royal status by King Edward VII (9,5)
- 7 Australia's second largest city, capital of Victoria (9)
- 8 1960s hippie musical by James Rado and Gerome Ragni (4)
- 9 Mineral oil derived from petroleum (6,8)
- 13 Breakfast dish gang mashed (anag.) (3,3,4)
- 14 Highest-ranking intermediary between heaven and earth (9)
- 16 Four-line satirical verse concerning an individual (8)
- 19 Indian region whose name means "five rivers" (6)
- 22 Old World plant whose pods are often used in soups and stews (4)
- 23 Wormlike larva of some insects (4)



ANSWERS TO ALL THE PUZZLES ARE SHOWN ON PAGE 52

ANAGRAM

Can you work out these two football stars? One is a stopper, the other a scorer.

I CHEW A LEMON

CIRCLE THEM SHEEP

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. Who is coach of the Great Britain rugby league team?
2. Can you name the fictional town where A Touch Of Frost is set?
3. How many Chelsea players were named in the FIFPro World XI?
4. The movie Raging Bull is the true story of which world middleweight boxing champion?
5. How many players are there on a handball team?
6. Who has been named the favourite soap star of all time?
7. Which Spanish side play at the Vicente Calderon stadium?
8. Which Desperate Housewife won an Emmy for best actress in a comedy?
9. Who won the 2005 Great North Run?

SUDOKU

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

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

Supplied by www.dailysudoku.com

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

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





News from the Chief Executive

This month's article is coming from Jonkoping in Sweden where I am visiting the conference and exhibition of the Swedish Greenkeepers Association. The SGA and BIGGA have a long history of association and the Swedish greenkeepers feel that they have a strong bond with their counterparts in the UK. When I sit and talk to them it surprises me how similar many of the working conditions, golfer's expectations, politics and pressures are. If it were not for the language then I could well imagine that I was sat in any group in Harrogate during our own event in January.

Everyone that I have met has made me very welcome, they have always tried to speak English when in my company and speak highly of BIGGA and its members. Thank you everyone for your hospitality. There are about 600 golf courses in Sweden and the SGA has 2,000 members making it the next largest in Europe after BIGGA.

The Swedish greenkeepers are coming over to Harrogate in greater numbers thanks to the increased contact by BIGGA and this widens the networking opportunities and also helps keep exhibitors happy. The SGA also sit on the board of FEGGA and I have been having discussions with representatives about FEGGA's business plans and looking at BIGGA's possible involvement again. Membership of FEGGA is by no means part of our Association's current plans, however we continue to look to the future and I am in regular communication with FEGGA's Chief Executive.

Arrangements for Harrogate Week 2006 demand more and more of everyone's time at HQ and I find it hard to believe that it is now only just over three months away. This event is vital to the future well being of the Association and each year we strive to develop both the education and the Exhibition in an attempt to attract new visitors, not just from the UK but also from all around the world. Please take some time to study the brochure or visit the dedicated website, www.harrogateweek.org.uk.

As you should know from my previous articles the Association is under great pressure to arrange an Exhibition only once every two years. Under the current conditions then this could spell disaster for BIGGA. It certainly could not stand the significant reduction in income and there would have to be savings made elsewhere. In the long term this can only be to the disadvantage of the member and the industry.

I like to think that the Association enjoys a very good working relationship with the exhibitors but every member has a part to play in the success of the event. Please support your Association and I am always open to suggestions for improvement, both with Harrogate Week and generally.

During the coming weeks I and my colleagues from HQ will be visiting some Section and Region events and we look forward to hearing your views.

John Pemberton

Around
the Green

SCOTTISH REGION

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

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

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

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

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

Peter J. Boyd.

Regional Administrator

East

It has been a strange year - wet during May and June followed by the long dry weeks of July and August. However the exception to the rule has been the Northumberland coast where George Thompson, at Berwick Golf Club, tells me they had 112ml of rain during a four week period in July/August compared to Colin Irvine, at Muirfield, who had 12ml.

On behalf of the Section I would like to offer congratulations to Stuart Greenwood, Course Manager at North Berwick Golf Club, on his appointment as Vice Chairman (Elect) of the Scottish Region. Stuart will commence his duties in November 2005.

I have two golfing events to report this month, the first of which is Willie Woods Tournament held at Haddington Golf Club on Thursday August 25. Our thanks go to the Captain for granting courtesy of the course, the club steward and staff for keeping all the competitors fed and watered and finally Norman Wood and his greens staff for presenting the course in excellent condition.

Results based on the better ball format were as follows: 1. Kenny Mail & Maurice Hood, West Linton GC; 2. Alan Campbell & H. Hogg, Jedburgh GC; 3. Kevin Hodges & D. Robson, Longniddre GC.

The fourth Christopher Yeaman Junior Trophy was held at West Linton Golf Club on Saturday August 27. This event is held annually to raise funds for hospital and care charities and has already raised about £12,750 for various good causes. The event takes its name from the son of the Course Manager, Chris Yeaman, and is organised by the family on his behalf. Christopher has received two liver transplants and extensive health care since he was hurt in a sledging accident almost 10 years ago.

The competition takes the form of a Texas Scramble and this year 65 teams of four played, starting at 7am and finishing at twilight. Scores were low with two teams achieving 54.25. Christopher's own team achieved a commendable 56.8 but failed to repeat the winning performance of an earlier year. With the benefit of a raffle and auction the total funds raised this year were approximately £5,200 which has been donated to Ward 6 at the Sick Children's Hospital in Edinburgh, and Radio Lollipop. Finally, Christopher would like to thank everyone within the fine turf industry, who contributed financially or otherwise, to help make the event such a big success.



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



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
 Tel: 01476 550115

The Course Manager at Kingsknowe Golf Club, Stevie Dixon, has informed me that these are exciting times for his club. Four years ago, after years of trying and failing to improve the drainage on their puddle clay, dewpond system greens that are designed to hold water, they embarked on a program of reconstruction. Enlisting the services of Greentech Limited of Bannockburn, near Stirling, they have now completed six greens. The work is carried out on a cut fill basis (core cut) with a gravel raft and capped by 300mm of a USGA 80/20 style rootzone. By carrying out the works during August/September and reusing the existing turf, the greens are playable 10 weeks after construction. The club plan eventually to reconstruct all 18 greens, making winter greens a thing of the past.

Finally, hopefully by the time you read this I will be enjoying a Greek Salad and a beer in sunny Crete.

Until next month
 Mike Dooner

North

Well here we go, another Section news. Good grief it doesn't seem 10 minutes since I did the last one. The first thing I have to do is to say well done to our Section in retaining the Norrie Whytock Trophy three times in a row and something like six times out of nine. I think we should keep the trophy, don't you? Never mind the rest of the Sections, there is always next year. The winning team (oh no I said it again) was Team Captain John Geddes, Mark Main, Dean Mitchell and Neil Kidd.

The autumn outing was at Garmouth & Kingston Golf Club on September 15 and all 46 competitors had a great day. The course was in superb condition and our thanks go to Richard Roy and his staff for all their hard work and the golf club for allowing us courtesy of the course. I was speaking to Richard and he said he had not been keeping in the best of health lately so I am sure we all wish him a speedy recovery.

The winners on the day were: Scratch. Bradley Wood, 75(bih). Class 1. Ross McLeod, 76-5-71 (bih). Class 2. Dean Mitchell, 79-12-67. Class 3. David Duggan, 95-28-67. Best Veteran, 36 Holes. Donald Patience. The Apprentice Trophy. Marc Millar, 81-6-75. Best Nett. David Duggan. Veterans' Winner. George Asher. Committee Winner. Dale Robertson. Trade and Sweep Winner. Garry Moyes, of Alph groundcare, 82-18-64, also he was the winner of the Mexican hat and guns for the rest of the day. The guest winner was our very own Peter Boyd with a great score of 72-4-68. Nearest the Pin was won by Alan Grant and the Longest Drive was: Class 1. Ross McLeod; Class 2. Mike Key and Class 3. Steven Simpson. So very well done to all the winners.

There is also six new members, Nicholas Marsland, of Tain Golf Club, George Simpson, of Oldmeldrum Golf Club, Euan MacDonald, Shaun MacDonald, Andrew Mackay and Craig MacKay, all of Royal Dornoch Golf Club. So welcome to the Section and I look forward to meeting you at an outing near you.

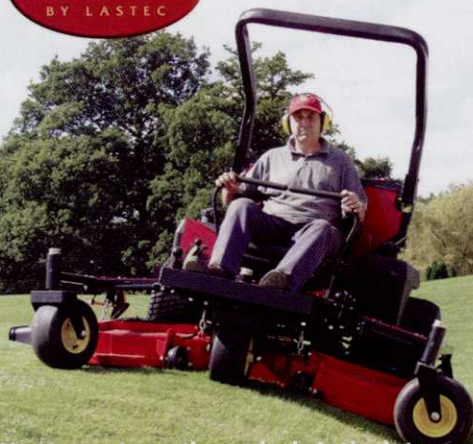
The Committee is trying to get back all the trophies as they have to be valued and insured so could anybody who has one or even two could you please get them back to me as soon as possible. A lot of trophies have gone missing over the years so could you all have a look in the loft or maybe the wife has got a pot plant stuck in one, or your mother is using it to take the coal in with. Please have a look, as we would like them back.

I heard that Mark Main, from Moray, will be unable to represent the Section at the BIGGA National Championship, in October, as he has to attend collage. Never mind, your education must come first (a bit of a bummer I know). So best wishes go to Jim McCormack, of Kirriemuir Golf Club, and I will let you know how he gets on in the next Section news.

One of our members is on the move, Neil Kidd has left Keith Golf Club after 16 years of faithful service and started with Martin and the boys up at Moray. So best wishes to him in his new job.

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Well I think that is everything for now just to say I hope to see a good turnout at Newmachar Golf Club (Swailend Course) on October 13 for the AGM.

Dale Robertson

West

Welcome to this month's report. The weather in the west of Scotland has been great over the past few months so I hope everyone has enjoyed the good working conditions having a dry cut for a change and putting on sun cream.

During August I attended the Norrie Whitock Trophy at Aucharder GC as part of the West Section team, but I'm afraid on the day our golf wasn't up to scratch. Many thanks to my team on the day, Stuart Taylor, Chris Kerr and Robert Phillips. Thanks to Bayer for their continued sponsorship of this event.

There will be a seminar held at Renfrew GC on Wednesday November 2, hosted by Aitkins, also two to three guest speakers from within the trade. The topic will be the use of products in the Greenkeeping and Horticultural industry. There will also a demonstration of equipment. Start time is 10am for coffee and lunch will also be provided.

New Members are Martin Watt, Mark Cook and David McLeish. I apologise for not having their courses. Tickets are going well for the annual dinner so get in quick or you might miss out.

Fraser Ross



Jane Jones
SOUTH WEST AND WALES
Tel: 01454 270850

everyone who took part would agree. 60 players took part on the day with Scott Baxter and his guest, Alan Taylor, top scoring with a superb 52 points. Second place went to Mike Harris and John Sutcliffe, with 47 points, just knocking Richard Harris and Nick Kelly into third with a better back 9 score. Again, thank you to Mike, Simon and Ian, of Rigby Taylor, for their sponsorship and assistance in setting up the day.

Next month I will be bringing you the date and venue for the Christmas golf, but in the meantime if you have any news for the Section, then please do get in touch.

Adam Speight

Sheffield

Firstly, it is with deepest regret that I have to inform you that Neil Maltby's wife, Marian, died recently after a long illness, all our condolences go you Neil and all your family.

Our October seminar is on track and by now you should have received your invitations, if you have not please contact Chris Astle on 01709548759. The seminar is on the 24th of this month.

Congratulations and good luck go to Stuart Pigott on his appointment as First Assistant at Grange Park Golf Club, Stuart moved from Retford. All the best Stuart! Also moving to Grange, after a short time out of the industry, is Mark Knowles. Mark was previously at Rufford. Good luck Mark. Steve Pickering has recently got married to Lisa, all the best to you both.

Just a small message from Dave and Stuart. They just wanted to announce the bucking bronco has finally been saddled! Remember your stag do Steve? I think these notes should be renamed Steve Pickering monthly! I appreciate all the news thank you.

As usual any news you know where I am, 0779311845 or jv.lax@tesco.net.
John Lax



NORTHERN REGION ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SEMINAR 2005

A Northern Region Educational Seminar is planned for Thursday November 24 2005 at Penrith Golf Club. The subjects to be discussed will be Employment Law and how it relates to the Greenkeeping Profession with Maggie Lawton, from the BIGGA Legal Helpline; Health & Safety Update by Jon Allbutt; Golf Club Policies and Management by Tony Smith, Course Manager at Teesside Golf Club; and The Need for Healthy Soil with Martin Ward, from Symbio.

Invitations will be sent to all BIGGA Northern Region members during September, but if you don't get one and want to attend, contact Peter Larter (Northern Region Administrator) for an application form at "Tamarisk", High St, Corby Glen, Grantham, Lincs, NG33 4LX or phone: 01476 550115; office: 07866 366966 or by email at petelarter972@aol.com

Northern

May I take the opportunity to remind everyone that the Northern Region Seminar on Environmental Issues will be held at Penrith Golf Club on Thursday November 24. The day is open to anybody, so why not try to get your Club Secretaries, Greens Chairmen, etc to come along. The speakers on the day are Maggie Lawton from General Legal Protection (BIGGA's legal helpline), who will be speaking about Employment Law and Tony Smith, Course Manager at Teesside Golf Club, who will be speaking about Golf Club policies and management. Following lunch, Martin Ward, of Symbio, will speak on how great playing surfaces need healthy soil and the day will be rounded off with John Allbutt, Jon Allbutt Associates, giving a health and safety update. The cost of the day is £10 for BIGGA members and £15 for non-members. If anyone is interested in attending please contact Peter Larter on 01476 550115.

July 13 saw the much awaited return match against the Sheffield Section and it gives me great pleasure to announce that yet again the trophy is in our hands. It was a very well contested match with the Northern Section just managing to scrape home with 3.5 points to 2.5. A huge thank you to all involved from both Sections, but most of all thanks to both Rigby Taylor for sponsoring the day and making the match possible, and to Hillsborough Golf Club for allowing us to play their excellent course.

Speaking of excellent courses, Chris Martin and his team at the York Golf Club produced a perfect course for us on Invitation Day on August 10, as I'm sure



MIDLAND REGION ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SEMINAR 2005

A Midland Region Educational Seminar is planned for Thursday November 17 2005 at Brampton Heath Golf Club, Northampton. The subjects to be discussed will be Employment Law and how it relates to the Greenkeeping Profession by Maggie Lawton, from the BIGGA Legal Helpline; Health & Safety Update with Jon Allbutt; The Need for Healthy Soil with Martin Ward, from Symbio; and a Course Walk at the adjacent Northampton County Golf Club, an Open Qualifying Course, with the Course Manager David Lowe.

All BIGGA Midland Region members should have received their invitations in September, but if you didn't get one and want to attend, contact Peter Larter (Midland Region Administrator) for an application form at "Tamarisk", High St, Corby Glen, Grantham, Lincs, NG33 4LX or phone: 01476 550115, office: 07866 366966 or by email at petelarter972@aol.com.

East Midland

Please remember that no forms will be sent out for this year's AGM and Christmas Tournaments. So if you wish to attend, please get in touch with me so I can forward you a form. AGM is November 2, at Norwood Park, Christmas golf is at Charnwood Forest on December 15.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Kristian Hibberd, formerly of Birstall Golf Club and Kirby Muxloe Golf Club, all the best in his new job. Kristian provided sterling service to both clubs for many years.

Finally, I am still waiting for information from all members for, news, anything really to go in this article. So far this month I have received nothing from all 250 of you, so therefore I can only tell you about myself. In the Wollaton Park Golf Club Open, on August 14, Alan Roberts and myself finished first with a stableford score of 45pts.

Antony Bindley

Midland

To open this month's notes a question. Why are people asking me to style their hair? Cut grass yes, cut hair no. I recall cutting my own hair (when very young). I wanted a crew-cut; mother said: "no way". So with her dress-making scissors I did it myself. You have never seen so many bald spots on a child's head, unless they have set it alight of course.

"Wait till your father gets home," came from mother. On father's arrival I was expecting a thrashing. He simply laughed and said: "Well done, baldy locks". So, to answer the question, it's something to do with my car apparently.

In August, Rigby Taylor, through Tony Cheese and his counterpart Phil Dewhurst, held their annual Singles Stableford event at Trentham Park. The afternoon was a great success and the course was, as expected, in great condition as presented by Gary Cunningham and his fine team. There was, however, just one disappointment. On the sixth hole nobody was able to hit their drive 'between the lines', thus Tony had to return the prize of a sports Jaguar.

Well I'm afraid that's it for this month. Please let me have some news.

Sean McDade

East of England

Well, who would have thought it, Adi and Bruce 'Top Golfers'. Not a phrase you hear everyday, but it's true! Greenkeepers versus Trade, one match left on the course, the score is 3/2 to the Greenkeepers and all square going up the 18th, with not a sign of nerves apart from Adi going out of bounds off the tee. Bruce calmly slotted his drive down the middle, chipped close, sank the putt (eventually) and clinched the half for a resounding win for the Greenkeepers. Our thanks go to Pottergate Golf Club for their hospitality and commiserations to the Trade lads (not). Better luck next year.

Don't forget the AGM lads - Newark in October. I believe Les is buying the beers.

Allan Walker

BB&O

Oxford City! What do you think of? The City of Dreaming Spires, Historic Buildings, Inspector Morse, Magdalen Tower and ancient University campus which has been a home to Royalty and scholars since the 9th century! Yes I hear you say, but tucked away in the centre of this hive of activity and steeped with history is a fine parkland golf course surrounded by mature trees, and on the Hill Top has stunning views over this magnificent City.

The BB&O held their Autumn Invitational Tournament at Oxford City Golf Club on a day blessed with cool breezes, fine weather and clear skies. Many people in the golf world became confused over the relationship of Oxford City Golf Club and Southfield Golf Club. In 1899 Oxford City Golf Club was founded, and in 1946 Southfield Golf Club Ltd was registered to assume responsibility for the increasing burden of administration. Legends in their own lifetime, Harry Colt and James Braid have left their influence and touch over this piece of treasured land in the heart of Oxford.

Another legend in the making is former gunner and Head Greenkeeper Justin Lee, the footballer with a green touch, who in his past has represented England and played for Arsenal FC. He and his staff are proud as punch of their little wilderness in the centre of Oxford. From all the golfers who played on the day, a big thank you to the lads for preparing the course to a first class standard.

Ian Richardson, from Headland, and Jon Beck, from Sherriff Amenity, were the main sponsors of the day and also the main cooks! With the usual chequered apron and chef hat the duo set up Beck's Barbie at the halfway point and served burgers and refreshments that even Gordon Ramsey would be proud of.

It was a Burnham Beeches Boys day as Damien Wood cleaned up with Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive going to Brian Payne Jnr and then in first place with Brian Payne Jnr and Chris Doyle scooping up with 41 points (I hope you got all of that). In 2nd place, Bert Moore and Carl Small (disabled) with 39 points and in 3rd place was The Crystal Boys, Clive Parnell and Gary Tait, with 38 1/2 points. The putting green competition as ever brilliantly organised by Peter Helps and was comfortably won by Bert Moore. Good ole Bert!

Thank you to Mike Blight, the Secretary at Oxford City Golf Club, for arranging the magnificent facilities and to Terry Rumsey the Steward for keeping his cool when a

large water leak appeared as half the roof started to collapse. While coping with a major plumbing problem and mop in hand, Terry ensured that we all remained dry and the bar wet. Thanks too to Paul Castle, the Chef, for an excellent meal and ensuring that all the dinner preparations went according to plan.

Dan Lightfoot leaves Merrist Wood College, where he has been lecturing, and has been appointed as Course Manager to Bearwood Lakes GC. Also on the move is Peter Smith, from Bradfield College, who has taken up a new position as Course Manager at the very exclusive and private Birch Grove Estate, in Sussex. We wish both of you the very best in your new positions and hope to see them at forthcoming Section events.

The next event planned for members of the Section will be at Frilford Heath GC on November 8, which will be an Educational Seminar on Climatic Changes. Entry forms should be well on the way to you by now, so book up and get a check up from the neck up.

If any member has any news or views they would like to share, or would like more information about the Section and forthcoming event details you only have to call the Secretary, John Schoones, on 0788 550 380.

Finally, I am ending on a very sad note. It is with deep regret that I have to inform the Section about the death of Head Greenkeeper Kevin Tilly, from Thorney Park GC. Kevin was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident in August 2005. Kevin's career started at Newbury & Cookham and later Bishopswood GC, Sutton Green GC and Thorney Park GC. Kevin was a keen all rounder, who would have a go at anything, played Spanish classical guitar, had a passion for motorcycling and an unquenchable thirst for greenkeeping that earned him the admiring respect of his work colleagues.

With a heart of gold and zest to always move forward and live life to the full, this will come as a shock to all our members and staff who worked with Kevin over several years. From all his past work colleagues and the Section, our deepest sympathy goes out to his fiancée and beloved family. Kevin Tilly Rest in Peace.

Mark Day



SOUTH EAST SEMINAR 2005

The South East Regional Seminar this year will take place on Wednesday November 9 at Benton Hall GC, Essex. The day promises interesting and informative subjects with plenty of time for discussion.

The speakers for the day will include David Golding, GTC Education Director, Julia Turner, Material Development Manager Wrap, Jack McMillan, Past Chairman of BIGGA now with the European Tour, Brian Pierson, celebrating 40 years as a Golf Course Builder, and Michael Pinner, a locally based Course Architect with strong views on current Golf Course Design. John Pemberton will also be speaking with Rachael Palmer attending to answer all your questions on membership and our Association.

All members should receive invitations, but if you don't get one and want attend please contact Clive Osgood on 01737 819343 or mobile 07841 948410 or by email at cliveosgood@yahoo.co.uk.

Surrey

Torrential rain and floods in Austria, Germany and Switzerland, drought and forest fires in Portugal, yet in good old Blighty, rain, then sun, then rain and sun. Weather conditions to make all good greenkeepers smile and to prompt golf club members to make remarks like "the course has never looked better!" Don't let this fool you. Somewhere, someone in the 19th is ready with the dagger and as soon as temporary greens and tee mats are mentioned, he will strike and once again the joys of greenkeeping will wither, as they do every year, and fall with the autumn leaves.

Tandridge GC was the excellent venue for the Cresta Cup and on August 11 we had a large turnout of 54 Surrey members to enjoy this gem of a golf course that so

many did not know and had never played before. John Bishop, the Head Greenkeeper, and his staff must be congratulated for the course condition and although John did not play, he was seen strolling around enjoying this picturesque course. While watching the rest of us he was probably wondering why we did not do the same as him and leave our clubs at home.

Some, however, did score well and those that did were: Andy Dennis, 41 pts; Shaun Sturrock, 38 pts; Michael Sawicki, 38 pts. Longest Drive was Simon Kirkham and Nearest the Pin was Gary Ogilvie. The day was sponsored by Amenity Technology.

John Bishop, who will retire next year after 50 years at Tandridge GC, was presented with champagne from the Surrey Section. The captain of Tandridge was thanked for allowing us courtesy of the course and the caterers, who presented an excellent meal, were applauded with much enthusiasm. I played with a guest from the Sussex Section, Mike Gould, Copthorne GC, and Jim Russell. Jim, I have since learnt, has passed his motorcycle test without the help of stabilisers and can now be seen hunting through cycle magazines looking for a bargain sidecar for his family.

Having not been able to report the whole and correct results from the McMillan Tankard in last month's edition, I am pleased to announce that the winners were as follows: 1. Andy Dennis, 43 pts; 2. Andy Reason, 39 pts; 3. Anthony (our illustrious Chairman) Freeman, 38 pts; 4. Gareth Roberts, 37 pts; 5. Martin Shacklock, 37 pts. Nearest the Pin. Tony Stephen. Longest Drive. Peter Fletcher.

West Surrey, September 21, is the Autumn Tournament venue and results will appear in the November edition of Greenkeeper International.

Mark Harvey is claiming the Guinness Book of Records for the most number of road vehicles to drive over his 15th green in one day. These were a van (not mine), a car driven by a lady who had stopped to help the driver of the van and another car, driven by Sir Galahad, which had stopped to help the lady driver help the van driver. Nobody was hurt so they all took the easiest way off the course across the green.

Greenkeeper movements include Nigel Morris, now Deputy at Epsom GC. Dan McGrath's short visit to Surrey has ended and he has moved back to Kent as Head Greenkeeper at North Foreland GC and Matt, Dan's Deputy, has taken over from him as Course Manager at Pyrford.

Most members in Surrey have heard about the troubles that new Head Greenkeeper, Vince Ley, is experiencing at Oak Park GC. We can all appreciate his problems and hope that new growth, patience and understanding will make the next few months more bearable.

On August 31 the Surrey Section played the annual match against Sussex. The venue was the Dyke GC on the South Downs and the weather was superb, one of the hottest days this year. Surrey won 4 games to 2 and retained the trophy.

The Surrey Bowl final was played at Foxhills Golf Club on the Bernard Hunt course. The five members of the Surrey Committee who followed the play were the good looking and well groomed Chairman, Anthony Freeman, that rugged but personable Handicap Secretary, Derek Cunliffe, the articulate, young for his age yours truly, "I only wear shorts from March to November" Dave Langheim, and I never squeak until spoken to John Ross, Section Secretary. It was a tight game but plenty of loose shots, long drives and short missed putts on a course in excellent condition.

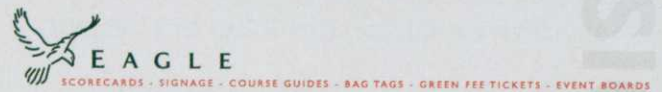
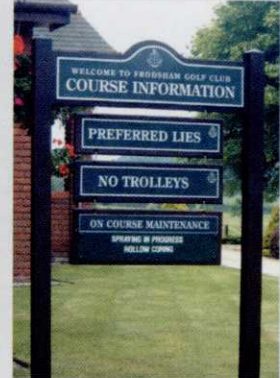
The sponsors of the Surrey Bowl, TYM Tractors, presented the cheque for £500 to our Chairman, and congratulated the finalists, who were Simon Kirkham and Darren Woodward, from West Surrey GC, and Barry Robinson and Gary Rowe, from Barnstead Downs GC. After being down 2 holes after 6 the winners clawed their way back and won 2 and 1. You can see a photo of the finalists in the News Section of the magazine.

The winners were Barry (baby face) Robinson and Gary (cool hand) Rowe. If Barry's professional at Barnstead reads this make sure you charge him for the Cobra Driver before the guarantee runs out.

Brian Willmott

East Anglia

What a lovely day it was at Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club. Organisation was superb, we even had a starter, John Cook, who did a sterling job. The course was in good nick thanks to John Huston and his staff. Catering first rate.



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The golf went well, but that's another story. The main sponsors for the day were Lely, Toro and the main man, Julian Copping, presented the prizes to:

0-9 Section. 1. Mathew Gill, 39pts; 2. Mike Virley, 36pts; 3. Peter Howard, 36pts.
10-18 Section. 1. Neil Worger, 36pts; 2. James Gill, 35pts; 3. Glen Rayfield, 33pts.
19-28 Section. 1. Neil Rowlandson, 40pts - winner of the Lely Toro prize; 2. Robert Ransome, 37pts; 3. Don Clark, 31pts. Trade Boys. 1. Mark Day, 39pts (shorts and all); 2. Stuart Patterson, 37pts; 3. Eddy Jack, 36pts. Guests. 1. Ray Fonnan, 39pts; 2. Mick Pryke, 35pts; 3. Thomas Fance, 35pts. Captains and Greenkeepers Shield. 1. Mark Henderson & Ray Fonnan, 74pts; 2. Neil Rowlandson & A. Britain, 72pts; 3. Mike Virley & Mick Pryke, 71pts. The Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin were won by the evergreen Peter Howard. Julian Copping won the loo seat, but I can't think why. Someone will remind me I'm sure.

Talking of reminding, I did not mention two of our very supportive trade members in the last few write up. They are Scotts and ETT. Sorry lads. The rest of the lads are: Aitkins, Amenity Wise, Atherton & Ettis, Bartram Mowers, Ben Burgess, CMW, Collier Turf Care, Consultant Clarkson, ETT, Headland Turf, Prime Irrigation, Rigby Taylor, Scotts, Sherriff, Sisis, Tacit; Textron, Tomlinson Ground Care, Toro and Vitax.

70 people played that day. Everyone enjoyed it, especially our old mate, George Newsome, lovely to see him there. Thanks go to the Club Captain, Brian Benneworth, and all at Felixstowe for a super day.

Mick Lathrope

Essex

Our summer tournament attracted good numbers to The South Essex Golf & country club that with its undulating fairways proved to be a tough test, even for the prize hunting crew from Colchester. That's with the exception of Sam Cooke who managed to take the overall prize for the day. Main sponsors for the day were CMW equipment, for which we must thank Mick Moss. Further thanks go to The Crown Golf Group and South Essex Golf Club themselves for allowing us to compete on their fine course.

Course Manager, Pete Dawson, Deputy, Paul Selby, and the lads did a fine job in preparing and presenting a well manicured challenging course and firm true greens which were a pleasure to putt on. Well done!

The greenkeepers attending were split into two handicap categories 0 -15 and 16 -28, the winners of those categories were: Cat 1, 0-15 h/cap. 1. Greg Knight, Abridge GC; 2. Paul Brown, Ballards Gore Golf Club; 3. Bradley Adams, Hainault Forest GC. Cat 2, 16-28 h/cap. 1. Mark Stopps, Bentley; 2. Andy Cracknell, Orsett; 3. Don Clark, Orsett. Trade Prize. Steve Crosdale, Headland Amenity Ltd. Guest Prize. Stefan Kaczmarek. Nearest the Pin. Dave McCready, South Essex. Longest Drive. Richard Hare, Abridge GC. Overall Winner. Sam Cooke, Colchester. Scores have been withheld to avoid any embarrassment.

After the evening meal the competition type secretary of our Section, Don Clark, thanked the chef and staff for the meal and handed over to our main sponsors of the day, CMW. Mick Moss also thanked the club and staff, commenting that the greens were the best he had played on this year then proceeded to award the prizes. Our thanks go to suppliers of the raffle prizes: Avoncrop, Headland Amenity, Vitax, Dennis Smith, Sherriff Amenity, Scotts, Symbio, Ernest Doe, Textron, Tuckwells, Seoul Nassau, Banks Amenity and Avoncrop. Anybody that donated raffle prizes and is not mentioned here, and there always seems to be one, please accept our apologies.

I have been asked not to mention that our Section was well and truly thrashed by a visiting team from the Kent Section. The match was played at Orsett Golf Club.

Any other Section that fancies their chances please contact Don Clark, losing team Captain at Orsett Golf Club.

Adrian Cornell is organising more tractor driving courses which I understand may be compulsory to anyone wishing to use these in the future. You can contact Adrian for details on (01376) 562835. The South East Regional Conference will be taking place on November 9, at Benton hall GC, Witham, Essex.

Congratulations must go to Simon Banks and wife as they had a beautiful baby girl, Alicia, on July 15. She weighed in at a healthy 7lbs 15oz, ouch! Hope all are doing well mate.

Finally, we are still looking for venues for next year, if you would be prepared to offer your club forward please contact Don Clark, 07958697417.

Steve Crosdale

**SOUTH WEST
& SOUTH WALES**

SOUTH WEST/WALES SEMINAR 2005

This year's South West and South Wales Regional Seminar, 'The Big Debate', will take place on Tuesday November 22 2005 at Cannington College, Bridgewater. The theme for the Seminar will be the use of fungicides and pesticides in golf course presentation and the effects of future legislation.

The speakers for the day are Euan Grant, Head Greenkeeper at St Andrews; Kenny MacKay, Course Manager at The Forest Of Arden; Frank Ainsworth, Course Manager at Hilton Templepatrick, Belfast; Andy Campbell, Course Manager at Carden Park; Jay Dobson, PSD Agronomy Ltd. These speakers will make the day both informative and interesting.

Booking details and information will be sent to Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers in the Region. Should any of you require any further information you can contact Jane Jones, Regional Administrator, on 01454 270850 or mobile 07841948110.

South West

Not all that much to report this month - but there probably will be next month. Watch this space. Early August saw the Scotts Management Trophy played at my club, Minchinhampton. We couldn't use the championship Cherington Course, due to the necessity of a two-tee start, but it seemed to me that the Avening Course didn't do too badly as a substitute. Thanks for all the nice comments about the greens - very much appreciated. Even when I putted clean off the front of the 5th green from about 15 feet past the stick, I still thought - ah, Nice pace!

The greens were cut with Locke "V" reels mounted on a Toro 3250 set at 3mm. We rolled as well with Greensward true surface rollers. The stimpmeter was actually about 11 - yes, OK, there is a fair bit of Poa, but it's not all poa by any means - there's plenty of rye and moss as well! The Locke V reels are spring loaded against the bottom blades. They cut (and sharpen) as conventional spiral cylinders, but only need checking for cut once a month rather than every other day. This is particularly important for us as we are often trying to get 10 machines out through the door at 6am in the morning and its nice to know that the greens reels are OK.

Dave Meharg, at Synergy Products, has been really helpful with backup, advice and parts. We generally feed the greens with granular 14.0.14 once in the spring and once in summer, and with liquid N at monthly or regular intervals during the remainder of the season. This seems to suit the greens - we hardly ever close them - had the odd half day on temps last winter, that only when the frost was coming out.

The Kendleshire sent their standard strong team and weren't disappointed with a well played 86 points, from Yeovil and Lilley Brook. Thanks to Scotts and Minchinhampton for their sponsorship and courtesy.

The Section team went off to St. Pierre on August 18 to mix it with the South Wales Section. Yours truly wasn't able to be there owing to the sudden illness of my father, who sadly died a couple of days later. Thanks to all those who sent condolences, much appreciated. It's a funny time, you feel almost vulnerable with the person you looked up to the most in life, suddenly removed from the top of the tree. I'll get used to it.

Finally, Wayne Vincent, from Cotswold Hills, got in touch with an amusing anecdote on the return from his holiday last month. While he and the family were away sunning themselves in the Costas, the mother-in-law came round and started doing a bit of tidying in the garden. The first Wayne knew of it was when he got back, jet lagged and tired, to be confronted with a huge pile of drying garden refuse & branches, right at the bottom of the garden. Several favourite bushes of his were completely shredded, but, in order to preserve family harmony he was prepared to make allowances.

Of course, lounging on the decking, quaffing a couple of cold beers, after a while, hey, that pile doesn't look so bad, but the wife had different ideas and ordered him to burn the lot before nightfall, or else! So, armed with firelighters, and, bearing in mind the proximity of the neighbours' fence, an extinguisher and hosepipe, he set a fire. Yes, the fence did have a couple of scares and needed to be doused, but all in all a good job done.

The first inkling he had that owing to the prevailing breeze and convection from the fire, some of the glowing embers might have floated high across the garden and come back to earth well away, was the next day when his daughter jumped onto her beloved trampoline, only to go straight through what was left of the canvas and ended up on her backside on the floor.

"Over a £100 that cost me," moaned Wayne. "It would have been a hell of a lot cheaper to have hired a shredder." Probably been cheaper to have bought one mate, but who wants to rub salt into the wound. Keep it coming. Tel: 01453 837355, Mobile: 07768 394593, email: paul.worster@tesco.net.

Paul Worster

South Wales

I hope your courses are standing up well to play, is it just me or are we all getting some serious play on our courses this year. Just in from the course, it took a serious lightning strike tonight, a large Silver birch tree looks like it had been blown up from the inside, irrigation cable in tatters, valve assembly blown from the main box, turf debris all over the course and a hole in my 7th fairway and still some members were reluctant to come in as they had a good score going, crazy! At the moment I am in the process of pricing a new irrigation system, conspiracy theorists believe I had something to do with it, to get them to agree with a replacement system, like I have that much influence.

Results from the match versus South West, at St Pierre, played over the Mathern course, are as follows. South Wales won 3 matches to 2. Good turn out from both Sections, thanks to all for turning up and representing your Sections, we even had subs. Russell Anderson and I had an early bath, resoundingly stuffed 6 and 4, fortunately our team responded better.

The weather was fantastic, catering excellent, course in good shape, many thanks to the Course Manager, Stuart Wood. He was told we were booked to play on the Old Course, his team worked hard preparing the Old Course, only to find out later we were playing over the Mathern course, no problem as it was in good shape anyway. Many thanks to St Pierre for allowing us to host our annual match there again and to Scotts for providing the prizes for Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive winners. Thanks to Ceri Richards for representing Scotts through Avoncrop, also to James Rees, from Inturf Wales, for our sponsored team shirts.

Apologies from a number of key people, who would have liked to be there at St Pierre, included Jane Jones, our Regional Administrator. This fixture clashed with another, John Keenaghan, from the South West Region, and our Match Captain, Andy Roach, who is injured, hope you are feeling better, it gives us all a chance to win the Longest Drive competitions.

On a serious note the Section would like to wish Andy Roach a speedy recovery, looks like he will require an operation to relieve a trapped nerve on his back, he will be out of action for a while, at work and at Section level.

Longest Drive winner was Rob Davies and Nearest the Pin winner was Paul Jenkins. Both from the South West Section.

Rigby Taylor results in. Mark Wilshire and I were due to play Emyr and partner, apparently he made some poor excuse not to play on that day due to his 25th wedding anniversary. Fair enough, we organised another date, unfortunately Emyr has done his back in and has had to give us the match. Hope the Physio is working and you are feeling better. Peter Lacey & Steve Mills had a bye. Adrian Panks & G. Humphries beat Kerry Jones & Jamie Probert. All the latest results in so far, some pairings are well over the deadline for the second round completion.

Dates to remember include the 2005 BIGGA Regional South West and South Wales Seminar at Cannington College, on November 22. Speakers are as follows: Euan Grant, St Andrews; Kenneth Mackay, Forest of Arden; Andy Campbell, Carden Park; Frank Ainsworth, Hilton Temple Patrick, Belfast; Jay Dobson, Agronomist. The theme is fertiliser and pesticide use in relation to their application with regard to the management of their own courses. It's a good line up, so for further details or enquires please contact Jane Jones (RA) on 01454 270850 or 07841 948110.

This year's AGM is at Raglan Parc Golf Club, on October 20, at 11am. This is followed by our autumn golf competition, teeing off at 1pm. Last year's minutes will be available on the day, an agenda will be sent out with the details of the autumn competition entry form. Please try and attend the AGM as it gives you a chance to heckle the Secretary and I can bow out gracefully.

The 53rd Annual Dinner of the Wales branch of the IOG is to be held on Friday

October 7 in the Cathedral Suite at the Glamorgan County Cricket ground, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, at 7.30pm for 8pm. The dinner will be followed by a presentation of awards, grand prize draw and a social evening with a disco. Any Section member wishing to attend with their wives or partners, please get in touch with Peter Lacey for details.

I believe the BIGGA Golf Environmental Competition is at the final judging stages and the winner will be announced soon. We had only three golf courses from Wales last year, with Garnett Park winning for our Region. It costs nothing and in addition you will receive a free visit from Bob Taylor or Lee Penrose, Ecologists from the STRI. To get one of these highly experienced and knowledgeable guys out to your course for a consultation normally costs a small fortune, by entering it costs nothing and they are open to questions and will offer good advice.

I entered last year and was surprised to hear that even the smallest of changes to our management practices can have a huge influence to the ecology and conservation of our course to the flora, fauna and wildlife.

Congratulations to Celtic Manor Resort on the successful, made for television event, the All Star Cup, which played over the Roman Road course, and also to Mychynys Peninsula Golf Club for hosting the European Ladies Open, both courses looked great and were given great reviews. Bridgewater College has merged with Cannington College and congratulations to Huw Parry on his appointment as Head of the Greenkeeping Department.

Any news please get in touch on 07725 040878.

Angus Macleod

Devon & Cornwall

In the March issue of Greenkeeper International this year I reported that Andy Parker, the Head Greenkeeper at The Downs Crediton Golf Course, near Exeter, had increased his greenkeeping skills by becoming a marine salvage expert. Well guess what? He is at it again, he has now furthered his talents by becoming a Shepherd. It appears that at the end of August some cattle rustlers tried to steal some sheep from a farmers field near to the course. Yes you know what is coming next, the rustlers broke down a gate and instead of the sheep taking a left turn they went in the opposite direction, onto the course all 150 of them.

If this wasn't enough the rustlers tried to round them up, and in doing so drove over some of the greens. Having some members on the green is bad enough but sheep as well, especially when we are in a busy time of the season for club competitions. As Andy said, every cloud has a silver lining - he at least procured some organic fertiliser free of charge.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Section to congratulate Andy and his bride, who got married on September 24, providing of course he survived his stag night. Watch this space, I wonder how long it will be before Andy is shepherding his own little flock.

Very little news to report this month, however I would like to remind members the following dates to enter into their diaries as follows. The first Section meeting will be held at Mullion Golf Club on Wednesday October 12. Thursday November 3 is at Padbrook Park Golf Club and is a Soil Science Workshop. Wednesday November 16 is at Saunton Golf Club and is the AGM. Tuesday November 22 is the Regional Seminar at Cannington College. Very shortly I will have the fixture cards printed for this autumn and next spring, which all members will receive in the post.

Very little news to report this month, so if any member has any interesting news for the future please do not hesitate to contact me.
Donovan O Hunt.

CHECK OUT THE EVENTS PAGE ON THE BIGGA WEBSITE FOR AN UP TO DATE LIST OF ALL THE HAPPENINGS IN YOUR SECTION AND REGION.

From Tournaments to Seminars, AGM's to Dinners it's all covered at www.bigga.org.uk.

If you have a BIGGA event that you wish to place on the Events Page contact Gareth at BIGGA HOUSE on gareth@bigga.co.uk or 01347 833800

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- Denton
- Three - Frank Lampard, Claude Makelele and John Terry
- Jake LaMotta
- Seven
- Jean Alexander, who played Hilda Ogden in Coronation Street, according to a TV Times poll.
- Atletico Madrid
- Felicity Huffman, who plays Lynette Scavo
- Zersenay Tadesse

ANAGRAM

- I CHEW A LEMON - MICHAEL OWEN
CIRCLE THEM SHEEP - PETER SCHMEICHEL

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

1ST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER SEEKING CHALLENGING POSITION

With a total of 7 years experience at
a 27-hole Parkland Course, I am qualified to
HND level in Golf Course Management and Greenkeeping.

I have Pesticide and First Aid certificates, along with a sound
knowledge of Health & Safety and am familiar with a wide range of
golf course maintenance machinery and working practices.

I am a mature, self motivated individual who works well as part
of a team whilst working to the highest of standards.

Should you have a suitable vacancy then
please contact George Alexiou on:
01278 671816 Mobile 07773162374

Recruitment

Copt Heath Golf Club



Applicants are invited for the position of

Greenkeeper

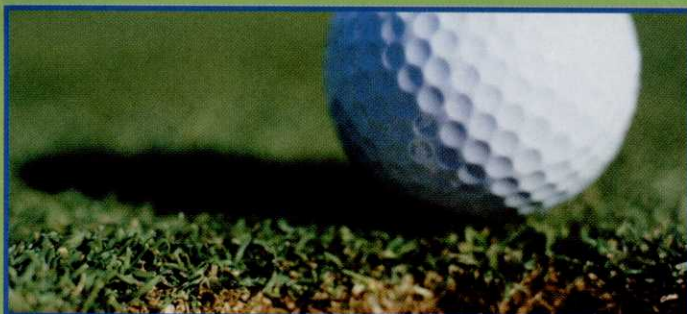
at this renowned Midland Golf Course.

The successful applicant will be an ambitious and enthusiastic person
joining an established team. Applicants should ideally be experienced
and hold a minimum qualification of NVQ Level 2, those currently studying for
this will not be excluded. They should also possess PA1, PA2 & PA6 spraying
certificates and a Chain saw qualification would be an advantage.

Salary and conditions of employment are negotiable.

Apply in writing, by 31st October 2005, with full CV to:

The Course Manager, Copt Heath Golf Club,
1220 Warwick Road, Knowle, Solihull B93 9LN



COURSE MANAGER'S POSITION

GOLF COURSE MANAGER at HAMPTON COURT PALACE GOLF CLUB in London.

This is an exciting opportunity to join Europe's largest golf course management company and to help further develop this 100 year old course next to Hampton Court Palace.

Applicants must have a proven track record to lead and work with a committed greens staff team and to help further develop and improve this historic course. The successful applicant should have all the necessary experience and ability to maintain a private members club to a high standard.



HAMPTON COURT PALACE
GOLF CLUB

Applicants for the position should have the following:

- NVQ3 or similar plus spraying qualifications
- A sound knowledge of irrigation systems & machinery
- Health & Safety Awareness
- Excellent man management & leadership skills
- Ability to work within and understand budgets

Salary by negotiation.

Apply in writing by Friday 21st October with full CV to:

Laurence W. Pithie
Group Golf Courses Manager
Crown Golf
Blue Mountain Golf Centre
Wood Lane, Binfield
Berks RG42 4EX
or
E-mail l.pithie@crown-golf.co.uk

FLACKWELL HEATH GOLF CLUB

Flackwell Heath Golf Club is a well established 18 hole private members Club situated near the town of High Wycombe

To compliment our Team operating from a well equipped and recently completed purpose built Greenkeepers facility, we have immediate vacancies for a

MECHANIC AND AN ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should possess, or be working towards, the appropriate qualifications and have at least two years experience of golf course maintenance. A mechanical background would be an advantage.

Remuneration commensurate with experience.

Applicants should apply in writing to the Secretary / Manager, enclosing a full C. V. and details of existing salary and benefits.

Flackwell Heath Golf Club, Treadaway Road,
Flackwell Heath, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP10 9PE



DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER'S POSITION

CROWN GOLF require a DEPUTY GOLF COURSE MANAGER at OAK PARK GOLF CLUB.

Oak Park is a 27 hole course near Farnham in Surrey, and consists of an undulating mix of parkland and woodland.

The position within Europe's largest golf management company in Europe will suit an ambitious, dedicated professional who has the ability to help maintain and further develop this course.

Applicants for the position should have the following:

- A minimum of 5 years experience in golf course maintenance
- NVQ2 or similar plus appropriate spraying qualifications
- A working knowledge of irrigation systems & machinery
- Health & Safety Awareness
- Good communication skills

Salary by negotiation.

Apply in writing by Friday 21st October with full CV to:

Vince Ley
Golf Courses Manager
Oak Park Golf Club
Heath Lane, Crondall
Farnham, Surrey GU10 5PB
or
E-mail oakpark@crown-golf.co.uk



OAK PARK
GOLF CLUB



The Richmond Golf Club

Requires an

Assistant Course Manager

for our prestigious 18 hole course.

We are looking for the right candidate that has attributes that will help enhance the management and presentation of the golf course operations. Reporting to the Course Manager, the successful applicant will play a pivotal part in the daily management of the course and help improve the existing high standards.

He or she will need to demonstrate to all staff their positive and progressive attitude to their work. You will be responsible for the daily management of the golf course through consultation from the course manager and will be expected to lead by example.

We would ideally expect the candidate to have, but not necessarily have all

- NVQ level 3 or HNC qualifications
- Spraying qualifications including knap sack and mounted sprayers.
- Chainsaw certificates
- Computer skills
- Working knowledge of irrigation systems
- General good knowledge and understanding of turf maintenance
- A working knowledge of Health & Safety regulations would help.

The club can offer an attractive salary, onsite family accommodation, pension scheme and other company benefits.

Closing date for applications: 31 October 2005.

Written applications with a copy of your CV to:

Lee Strutt, Course Manager

The Richmond Golf Club, Sudbrook Lane, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 7AS

E-mail: leestrutt@richmondgolfclub.co.uk

Recruitment



Romiley Golf Club

Romiley Golf Club, founded in 1897 is an 18 hole picturesque course with a reputation of being one of the finest and most demanding in Cheshire, now has a vacancy for:

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful candidate will work closely with the Greens Committee and have the vision and creativity to further improve and develop this established course.

Applicants should have the following:

- Good man management and leadership skills and the ability to work within approved budgets
- Recognised greenkeeping qualifications - minimum NVQ level 3, PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates
- Mechanical skills to ensure our substantial inventory of machinery are well maintained
- Sound knowledge of irrigation systems
- Organisational ability to prepare work programmes and meet deadlines
- Full Compliance with current Health & Safety legislation, to include risk assessments

A competitive salary and excellent benefits are being offered.

This is an ideal opportunity for a dedicated and enthusiastic individual.

Closing date Friday 28th October.

Applications in writing with CV should be made to:

C.C. Harrison, Greens Chairman, Romiley Golf Club, Goosehouse Green, Romiley, Stockport, SK6 4LJ

Tel: 0161 430 2392 or email: office@romileygolfclub.org



Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB
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DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

Salary Negotiable (40 hours per week)

A vacancy exists for a Deputy Course Manager to work at Elmwood College's 18 hole Golf Course.

Reporting to the Course Manager, the successful applicant would be expected to assist in the management of staff and resources, in addition to undertaking routine greenkeeping tasks. Instruction of students, providing feedback on course condition, student / staff performance is an integral part of the job and the post holder would be expected to deputise in the absence of the Course Manager.

The course is undertaking a major construction remodelling project to allow the development of a golf academy, and driving range. Construction experience is desirable but not essential.

Applicants should be educated to SVQ III / HNC/D or equivalent in a related subject and must possess at least five years working experience on golf courses.

Applicant should hold relevant spraying certificates.

Applicants should have appropriate assessor awards or a willingness to study towards them.

For further details and application forms please contact Elmwood College on 01334 658823

Closing date for applications is Monday 24th October 2005

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Lecturer in Sports Turf Management

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You will join a team of staff teaching across a wide range of courses from NVQ Level 1 to RHS Diploma Courses in Horticulture. You will need to have practical experience as well as theoretical knowledge of all aspects of turf management and the industry. Also, knowledge of a range of Horticultural and turf related machinery, its use and maintenance would be beneficial. You should be willing to participate in a range of delivery methods both at Nescot and offsite and have an empathy with lower level ability students.

You should have the relevant qualifications and experience, together with a recognised teaching qualification (or willingness to undertake the appropriate training, for which support will be given). "A" Unit assessor awards will need to be undertaken if you do not already possess them, and an understanding of the NVQ Awards system is desirable. In addition, you will be an effective team member with a high level of interpersonal, communication and organisational skills.

For further details and an application form, please telephone 020 8394 3160 (out of hours answer phone) quoting the appropriate reference number, email: humanresources@nescot.ac.uk or visit the Nescot website www.nescot.ac.uk/jobs

Completed applications should be returned to the Directorate of Human Resources, Nescot, Reigate Road, Ewell, Surrey KT17 3DS by 17 October 2005.



PINNER HILL GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the following posts:-

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant will be responsible for the day to day management of the course and its continuing development.

They will possess the following attributes:-

- Ideally HND in golf course management or equivalent qualifications
- In depth knowledge of turf management, irrigation, drainage & equipment maintenance
- Spraying and Chainsaw certificates essential
- Up to date knowledge of Health & Safety Legislation
- Strong supervisory & management skills
- Completion of assessors training course advantageous

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant would work closely with the Head Greenkeeper.

The position would be suited to a candidate who has the following:-

- A minimum of 5 years experience in greenkeeping
- Would be qualified to HNC or NVQ level 3 with spraying certificates
- Have current knowledge of Health & Safety Regulations
- Have knowledge in machinery and irrigation maintenance
- Be enthusiastic, highly motivated and ambitious

A competitive package is available to the successful applicants.

Applications in writing together with a full CV to:

Mr J Duffy, General Manager, Pinner Hill Golf Club, Pinner Hill, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 3YA Or email to pinnerhillgc@UK2.net



SUNNINGDALE GOLF CLUB

require

Head Greenkeeper

New Course (designed by Harry Colt, 1923)
Reporting to Courses and Estates Manager

- Minimum 5 years' golf course experience
- Qualified to NVQ3 or equivalent preferred, but not essential
- Spraying certificates PA 1, 2 & 6
- Strong supervisory and communication skills
- Knowledge of IT and keyboard skills preferred, but not essential
- Salary negotiable according to experience and qualifications

Assistant Head Greenkeeper

New Course (designed by Harry Colt, 1923)
Reporting to Head Greenkeeper

- Minimum 5 years' golf course experience
- Qualified to NVQ2 or equivalent preferred, but not essential
- Spraying certificates PA1, 2 & 6
- Strong supervisory and communication skills
- Salary negotiable according to experience and qualifications

Applicants should be self motivated, committed and hardworking as well as having the necessary experience and ability to maintain the amenities of a World Top 50 golf club, host of the Open Championship International Final Qualifying - Europe, 2006 & 2007 and the Women's British Open 2008.

Please apply in writing or email with full CV to:
Julie Chase, P.A. to Secretary, Sunningdale Golf Club,
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juliec@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk
Closing date for Applicants: 31st October 2005

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Tower Chemicals Ltd is now fast becoming one of the UK's leading suppliers of Amenity Chemicals and Equipment to the golf industry. We are also the sole E.E.C. distributors for Aqua-Aid Inc. We are looking as part of our planned expansion, to seek professional individual's with a proven sales background within the amenity chemical sector. If you are self-motivated, have good communication skills and are looking for a challenging and financially rewarding career move please apply to.

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We are offering the opportunity for individuals experienced with this type of equipment to develop a career in sales and become either our Northern Area Manager, taking over from the current successful incumbent, who is retiring, covering the North of England and Scotland or our South-Eastern Area Manager, covering East Anglia and the Southeast. **We will provide full sales training and on-going support and guidance** to the successful applicants.

Perhaps you are currently using this type of equipment as a green keeper and believe you have an aptitude for sales? We believe self-confidence, strong organisational skills and an appreciation of the products you are selling are the basis for a successful career in sales. As an Area Manager you will focus on building effective long-term relationships with our Dealers and on identifying and developing new business in order to achieve your sales targets. This is a great opportunity to take the first step into sales by joining a successful company with a portfolio of branded equipment

To find out more visit our website www.saxonind.co.uk

If you think you have the personal ambition and drive to develop a career in sales please send your CV and salary details to Ian Kerry, Horticultural Sales Director, Saxon Industries, Everland Road, Hungerford, Berks RG17 ODX e-mail ian.kerry@saxonind.co.uk



Aylesbury Park Golf Club

Deputy Head Greenkeeper

Aylesbury Park Golf Club is currently seeking someone to join their greenkeeping department. Applicants must have a minimum of NVQ Level 2 qualification together with PA1, PA2, PA6 spraying certificates and will need to be able to demonstrate self-motivation and experience in all aspects of course maintenance.

Reporting directly to the Course Manager, this is an excellent development opportunity for individuals wishing to pursue a career in Greenkeeping.

Please apply in writing enclosing your CV together with details of your current salary to: Dale Hand, Course Manager, Aylesbury Park Golf Club Ltd, Andrews Way, Aylesbury, Bucks HP17 8QQ

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

required at

Bradford Golf Club (Hawksworth)

Has an immediate vacancy for a greenkeeper to join the existing team of five.

The right candidate will hold a minimum of NVQ 2 or equivalent as well as good knowledge of the game of golf.

Ideally the candidate will be enthusiastic, committed and have a high level of motivation.

Competitive rates of pay with training opportunities exist for the right candidate

Please apply in writing by 4th November to:

David Thackray, Head Greenkeeper, Bradford Golf Club,
Awksworth Lane, Guiseley, Leeds LS20 8NP Tel: 01943 875570

Recruitment



KIRBY MUXLOE GOLF CLUB

MECHANIC/GREENKEEPER

Kirby Muxloe Golf Club has a vacancy for a fully qualified, experienced mechanic, who has also attained skills as a greenkeeper, to join a committed course management team. The successful applicant will report to the Head Greenkeeper and be responsible for all aspects of machinery maintenance and repairs as well as carrying out general greenkeeping duties on the golf course. The applicant must have a proven career record and experience of working in a golf club environment.

Salary and conditions negotiable.

Please send your cv and covering letter by e-mail or post for the attention of:
The Club Manager, Kirby Muxloe Golf Club, Station Road, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester LE9 2EP.
E-mail: kirbymuxloegolf@btconnect.com



WETHERBY GOLF CLUB

invites applications for the position of
SERVICE TECHNICIAN

to oversee all the mechanical requirements of this progressive course.

Working with a fleet of up to date machinery and as part of a small, highly professional and motivated group the successful candidate will have sound knowledge and wide experience in golf course machinery as well as a knowledge of irrigation systems. The ability to maintain service records and a flexible approach with an ability to multi-task is required.

The position requires a responsible individual with a commitment to excellence.

Please apply in writing with a current C.V. to:
General Manager, Wetherby Golf Club, Linton Lane,
Wetherby West Yorks, LS22 4JF.
Or Email: Manager@wetherbygolfclub.co.uk
Closing dates for application: 28th October 2005



Horsforth Golf Club

"2006 - Centenary Year"

1st Assistant Greenkeeper

Applicants should be qualified to NVQ level 2 and have a minimum of 4 years experience.

Salary dependent on experience and qualifications.

Applications in writing, enclosing a current CV, to arrive no later than 5.00pm Friday 18th October 2005 to:

The Secretary, Horsforth Golf Club,
Layton Rise, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5EX

Penn Golf Club

ASSISTANT COURSE MANAGER

- The successful applicant should have a minimum 5 years experience.
- Knowledge of machinery maintenance and irrigation.
- Minimum of NVQ Level 2 in Greenkeeping.
- PA1, PA2 and PA6 Spraying Certificates.

Please apply in writing with CV, showing current salary to:
Mr E Stant, Course Manager, Penn Golf Club, Penn Common,
Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, WV4 5JN

Closing date for applications: 28th October 2005.



Tyrrells Wood Golf Club

Invite applicants for

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

A Braid course established in 1924 on the Surrey North Downs.

We are now able to expand our team and invite applications for more than one position.

Candidates should possess drive, enthusiasm and be good team players.

Current spraying qualification would be an advantage.

Applications in writing with CV to:

*Billy McMillan
Course Manager
Tyrrells Wood Golf Club
Leatherhead
Surrey
KT22 8QP*

www.tyrrellswood-golfclub.co.uk

THE ROYAL DUBLIN GOLF CLUB

Course Superintendent

The Royal Dublin Golf Club having completed a major re-development designed and supervised by Martin Hawtree golf course architect welcome applications for the post of Course Superintendent.

Applications and current C.V. should be forwarded to:

The Honorary Secretary,
c/o The Royal Dublin Golf Club,
Dollymount, Dublin 3, Ireland.

Closing date for the receipt of applications will be Friday 28th October.

Telephone: 00353 1 8336346
Email: info@theroyaldublingolfclub.com
Website: www.theroyaldublingolfclub.com



Feature listing from October 2003

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

August 2005; Ramsey GC; Open Review; Quad Bikes; Top Dressing; BIGGA Golf Day; Anthracnose; National Championship Preview

September 2005; John O'Gaunt GC; Drainage Special; Security; Student of the Year; Massey Ferguson Profile

Communication is the key

Can collaboration with The R&A and communication with the RA's (Regional Administrators) help us all to move forward?



Having just returned from Saltex, it only served to remind me of how quickly time flies and that the conference season will be with us again soon. Harrogate Week promises to be bigger than ever, running from Sunday through to Friday, hence the title Harrogate Week (well nearly). There will be an extended programme of workshops aimed at all levels of membership, so there should be something for everyone.

The workshops, with more concentrated learning on specific subjects relevant to the individual, have proved more popular each year. Personally, I would like to see these workshops move out into the Regions so perhaps you could consider this when planning your Section and Region education. Those from your locality who cannot attend Harrogate Week would, I am sure, be most grateful. It might make a change from the annual Regional Seminar, or maybe you could do both?

In addition to the workshops there will also be a conference, in conjunction with The R&A, on 'sustainable' golf. We hope it will be the first of many successful collaborations between the two bodies. Please turn up or, after the cancellation in March, I will begin to take it personally. I think this conference will stimulate great debate. Maybe we will get a definitive answer as to whether fungicides will really disappear? Maybe we will discover whether the restoration to fescue/bent-based greens can be achieved without affecting our golf club members and our jobs? Maybe we will find the answer to the burning question of how do we get the message across to golf and golfers that sustainability is imperative?

I believe that most greenkeepers already believe that lush green Poa is not the most sustainable way forward but at the moment it is what many golfers want and our job is to provide what golfers want. How do we change what they want? I await this debate with interest!

At Saltex I bumped into a number of members (no, not on the bouncy castles) who wished to discuss BIGGA business. Some expressed their gratitude for various BIGGA initiatives which had helped them in recent times. Others were less content and explained to me just what we were not doing to the standard they expect. Just like at the golf club, there are always some who will praise the course even when you think it is not too great and some who will point out the deficiencies just when you think it is stunning. This serves to prove that we all have different expectations and a different point of view depending upon our circumstances.

At work, criticisms are often helpful in pushing me and the team up onto another level. It is the same with BIGGA, so please let me and the Board know if you are particularly unhappy with any aspect of the Association. Of course, in some instances the expectations are so high as to be unobtainable. In these situations, one has to diplomatically spell out the wants versus the resources issue. Sorry mate, but

you can't have Augusta for £700 a year.

One of the main concerns of the BIGGA members I met was contact, or the lack of it, between members and HQ and the Board. You can, of course, talk to any of us at any time to sort out problems on the telephone but I realise it is not just conversation and service you want. You, quite rightly, desire a genuine feeling of a united Association with all parts of the team pulling together towards the common goal of improved status and professionalism within our industry.

The best sign of that, I always feel, is how the team support those who need support the most. To this end, we are negotiating for a trial mediation service for those who are having difficulty with their employers, to see if we can smooth out problems before we get to the legal helpline stage. As you may have read last month, John Pemberton is also stepping up meetings with Section Secretaries in an effort to further develop unity and bring us all closer together.

In the context of bringing us closer together I think it should be remembered that the Regional Administrators are the representatives of HQ at Regional and local level. They are just as much part of the HQ team as anyone else and they were put in place to form that important link between the rest of the HQ staff and the members. The staff at Aldwark are, in the main, busy dealing with national business and cannot get out into the Regions as often as they or you would like.

This is precisely why Jane, Clive, Peter and Peter are employed to take on the role of servicing members at local level on behalf of the team, indeed, they are HQ at local level. So, while I am sure that the BIGGA HOUSE staff would like to get out more often meeting members, it should be recognised that the Regional Administrators are the staff you will more regularly encounter.

They play the roving midfield role and provide regular feedback to the Chief Executive and the Board at team meetings. They are HQ staff and they are right there on your doorstep, so please use them and direct any concerns or ideas you have about the Association to them.

By the way, as I am writing this, England have just won the Ashes, Northern Ireland just beat England and Scotland just won against Norway in the World Cup and Wales, well Wales can still brag about the rugby so there should be some happy greenkeepers about. Just goes to show what can be achieved when we all play as a team.

TEAM - Together Everyone Achieves More

**Kerran Daly
Chairman**

Harrogate week

Exhibition



HARROGATE WEEK is so much more than an exhibition for the golf and turf industry. More than three dozen speakers offer a wealth of learning opportunities. Hear papers presented by a wide range of professionals that are of relevance to everyone in golf and turf management.



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



SUNDAY 22 JANUARY 2006 (2 Day Workshops)

Basic Health and Safety for Greenkeepers
The Greenkeeper's Guide to Project Management
Taking the Fear out of Financial Management
An Introduction to Golf Course Design
A1 Assessor Award

MONDAY 23 JANUARY 2006

Customer Care - Avoiding the Machete
From Rain To Drain - Managing Water
Getting the Best from Your Staff
L12 Coaching Award
Update Workshop to the A1 Assessor Qualification

TUESDAY 24 JANUARY 2006

Opening Session & Keynote Speaker
The Fairway to Better Communication
The Basics of Microsoft Word
Environmental Management

WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2006

The Basics of Microsoft Excel
Taking the Lid off the Box - Media Skills and Strategy Training
Working Together in Golf Club Management presented jointly by the AGCS, BIGGA, and the EGU

THURSDAY 26 JANUARY 2006

The Basics of Microsoft PowerPoint
Managing Weeds to Tournament Standards
An Holistic Approach to Disease Management
The Competent Person-Who Is It?
Maintaining the Sustainable Golf Course

FRIDAY 27 JANUARY 2006

Maintaining the Sustainable Golf Course
(continued from Thursday)



Education

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