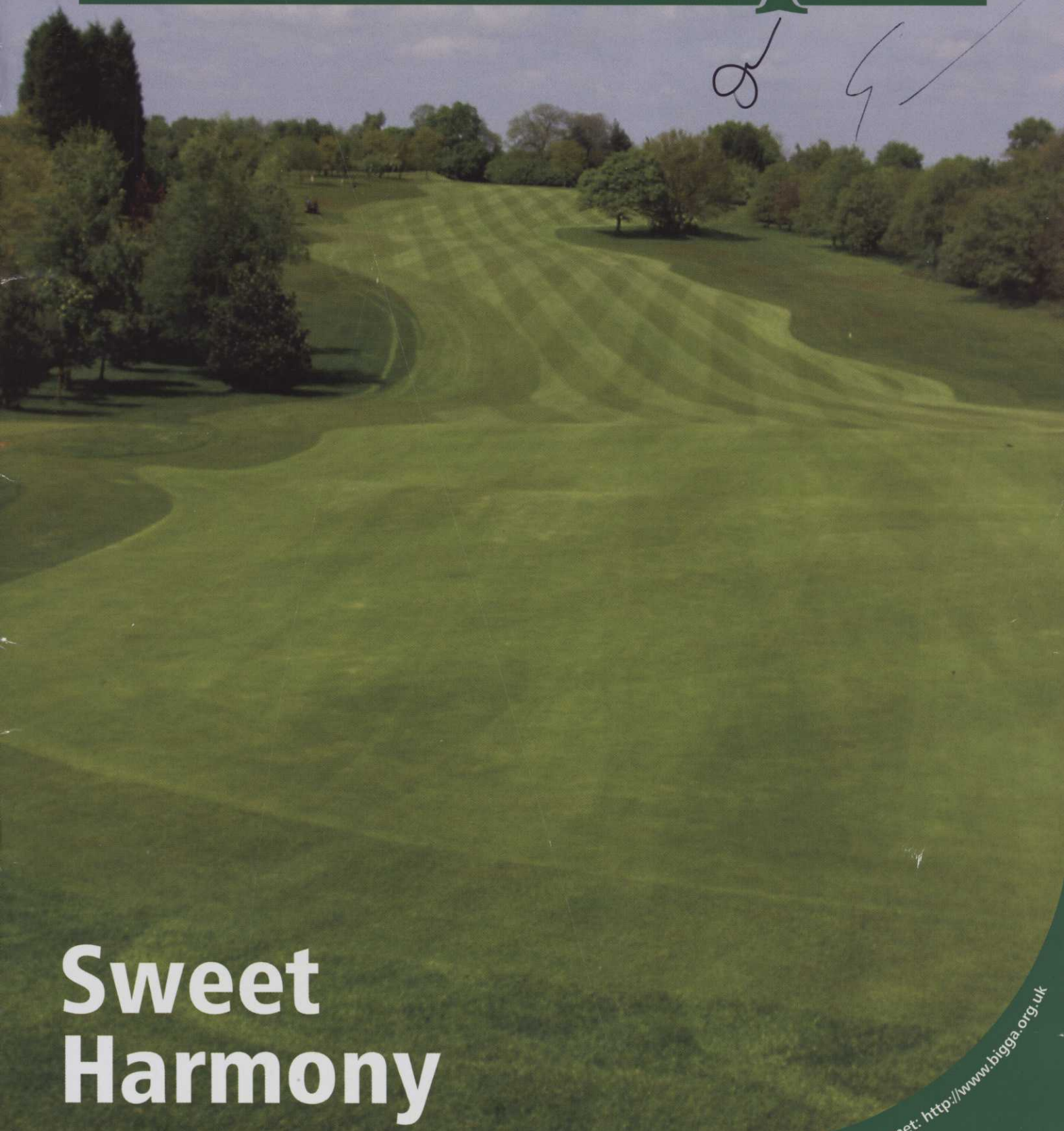




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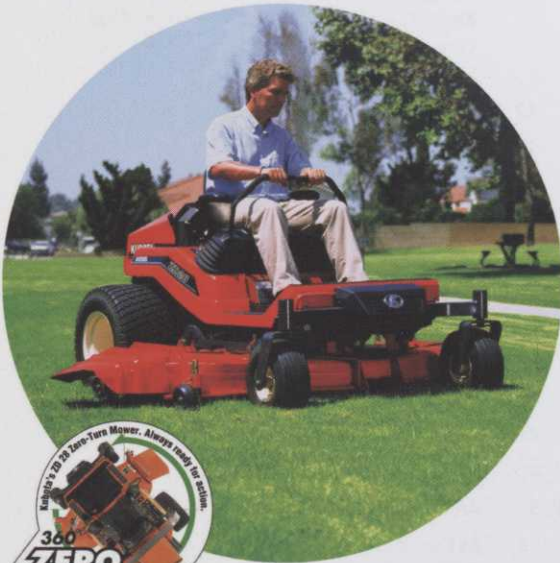
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Greenkeeper

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Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by October 7 2005



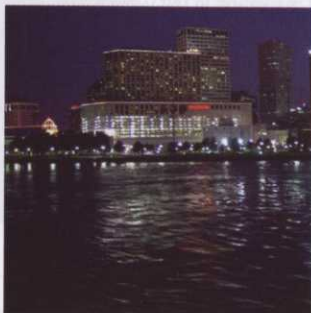
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Alex Shore, the 2004 Toro Student of the Year, reminisces on his prize to study in America at the University of Massachusetts, USA, for eight weeks.



Welcome

RESPECT

I have uncovered some new found respect for greenkeepers.

Sure, I've marvelled at the condition of your golf courses; your ability to make a lot out of budgets which, like belts after a large meal, are just a little bit tight, and problem solving skills which would make you prime contestants for that cult Channel Four show "The Crystal Maze" but last month the pedestal beneath your feet seemed that bit taller.

We moved house about a year ago and there was one area of the garden which wasn't quite right. The previous owner had used it for her garden furniture and had put down polythene and gravel, but with no furniture there and the black polythene sticking through the gravel it looked a tad unsightly.

No problem thought your intrepid landscaper I'll just return it using the knowledge I've gleaned over the last 10 years.

I set out with great gusto, clearing and bagging the gravel and pulling up the polythene before spending time preparing the ground, adding top soil in a bid to level it up with the rest of the lawn. It took hours and I certainly won't lie to you and tell you I was fresh as a daisy afterwards. I sweated like a pig in a sauna and muscles, previously used to the cushy life of getting a journalist from A to B, thought they'd been transplanted onto Ricky Hatton.

Then for the maths. I had to work out how much turf I needed. Not an easy task when the area was not a conventional square or rectangle. Now it's ages since I did geometry at school but, for the life of me, I couldn't recall measuring semi circles. From what I remember it was all straight line stuff you could do with a 12 inch ruler. But erring on the side of too much being better than too little I got there.

At this stage a little panic set in. How was I going to cut the turf round corners? How was I going to make it look neat? I have to admit the job stalled a little and having done the initial hard work it was two months before I plucked up the courage to see it through.

This I did in one weekend with a final, desperate all out blitz. Two journeys with a turfed filled boot, a pair of topiary shears and I was in the middle of a green and hairy jigsaw - snipping here filling a hole there. I know you pros use lasers but outside of a lot of trial and error how do you get it completely level? Exhausted, I left the finishing touches to my better half with her well honed attention to detail and between us it was looking quite good.

But then it was out with the watering cans morning and night to keep it from dying off.

The stress and responsibility is not something I was used to yet it's a nothing job you guys knock off in a couple of hours before moving on to more important matters.

Respect!

Scott MacCallum, Editor

GREGORY MOVES TO MASSEY



Colin Gregory has been appointed as Massey Ferguson's UK and Ireland Sales Manager for Grounds Care and Utility Vehicles. In this new role he will be responsible for MF's expanding range of

equipment aimed specifically at this sector.

Colin, a well-known figure in the industry, brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the role. After starting work as an engineering apprentice at Ransomes he transferred to sales for the company before moving to Lely, ending up as Sales Manager for Lely Iseki. Colin was then appointed Managing Director of Hardi (UK) and

more recently has worked for Port Agric for the past few years.

"I am very pleased to be now working for Massey Ferguson, which is a large and progressive company. I am really looking forward to the interesting challenge of helping to expand the grounds care business. Grounds care is becoming an increasingly important sector of the market and I will be working closely with Massey Ferguson dealers to ensure our machinery gets the attention and sales it deserves," said Colin.

David Sleath, MF's Sales Director said: "Colin has a great deal of experience with grounds care equipment that will help Massey Ferguson and our dealers progress in this specialist sector. Indeed, we will also be appointing two new product specialists, who will work with Colin to provide the highest levels of product support to this important part of our business."

BOBCAT ON THE BORDER

Bobcat has confirmed the appointment of Gwent based Border Bobcat as the new authorised Bobcat dealer in south, west and mid Wales. Part of Border Industrial Services Ltd established in 1986, Border Bobcat is now responsible for sales, service and spare parts for the Bobcat range of equipment in the counties of Gwent, Glamorgan, Dyfed and Powys.

Jointly owned by Sales Director, Huw Edwards, and Operations Director, Cliff Cookes, Border has substantial experience dating back well over 20 years in the skid-steer and mini-excavator markets in Wales. Huw is a specialist in sales and marketing in this area, while Cliff Cookes manages the parts and service back up for Border customers. The business is located close to Newport at the Birds Industrial Estate on Commercial Street in Risca, Gwent.

"We are delighted to be chosen to represent the Bobcat brand in south,

west and mid Wales. Our specialist experience in the markets for skid-steers, excavators and associated attachments was particularly attractive for Bobcat," commented Huw.



Cliff Cookes, left, and Huw Edwards of Border Bobcat

AGREEMENT RUBBER STAMPED

To avoid conflict in the top dressing of natural grass with rubber crumb for wear resistance and reinforcement market place, Dunweed Ltd of Ellesmere Port and Tebbutt Associates have agreed to cooperate in the selling and distribution of the product. Dunweed Ltd will handle all the retail inquiries from Garden Centres, Nurseries, shops, mail order, etc, while Tebbutt Associates will handle all non retail or commercial inquiries from golf, football, rugby, National Trust, large gardens,

Local Authorities, etc.

Tebbutt Associates have been selling the Crown III product for the prevention of wear and reinforcement of natural grass for five years. Dunweed Ltd produces Plain and colour Mulch from recycled tyres for as weed suppressant, path and playground material, along with rubberised top dressing for wear resistance. These are to be sold through retail outlets throughout the country.

AN OPEN FIRST

Take a close look at this picture. It was shot at the remarkable 134th Open Championship on the Old Course, St Andrews. While Valderrama has done it over the years and it has also been seen in the USA, it's the first time greensmowers have been used to cut fairways at The Open, according to Toro. As can be seen, the mowers were used in formation to crosscut the fairways.

Behind this picture lies the story of the great lengths to which St Andrews Links Trust went to create a playing surface that would provide the world's best players with one of golf's supreme tests. The whole team were out mowing at 4am, joined by Toro's Christian Grisard-Van Roey, to get the course ready ahead of the players' round. Before the Old Course was closed ahead of The

Open, to allow all final preparations to be made, the greenkeeping team tried out their Toro Greensmaster 3250-D riding Greensmower on cutting the ancient fairways to keep the fairways fast.



HARROGATE WEEK TEES OFF



Harrogate International Centre was the venue for BIGGA's unveiling of Harrogate Week - the new umbrella branding for the BIGGA event, which occurs every January and includes the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibition and Continue to Learn Programme.

The new branding has been created to encompass the vast array of events that occur during the whole week, of which BTME & ClubHouse is just a part, and to reaffirm that it is not just a three day Trade Show but an entire week of events and happenings that makes BIGGA's Harrogate Week so special.

Both existing and potential Exhibitors attended the Harrogate Week Open Day at the Centre, where Europe's leading indoor Sports Turf Exhibition is held annually. The new Queen's Suite facilities, which will be used for the expanded Continue to Learn Programme, were shown off and the Open Day was used to relay BIGGA's vision for the future of Harrogate Week to the Trade. Presentations were provided by

BIGGA Chairman, Kerran Daly, Chief Executive, John Pemberton, Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, and Sales Manager, Rosie Hancher, along with members of the Harrogate International Centre's Management Team. There was also an opportunity for Exhibitors to express their views regarding BTME & ClubHouse.

The Open Day was hailed a success from all sides and the build up to a no doubt thriving Harrogate Week, which occurs January 22 - 27 2006, is now well underway.

"While BTME & ClubHouse is the crucial part of Harrogate Week, it is certainly not the only element. What makes this event so unique is all the other things that happen during the whole week, from Sunday to Friday. It isn't just a 9-5 Exhibition, which is why we have introduced the new branding and why we have held this Open Day to get that message across. We are committed to running an annual Show and we aim to make the 2006 Harrogate Week even more successful for all concerned, from Exhibitors to visitors," said John Pemberton, BIGGA's Chief Executive.



GOING SEPARATE WAYS

Allen Power Equipment and National Mowers have announced that they have reached a mutual agreement to relinquish the UK and Ireland distributorship of National Mowers - which Allen have represented for the last 30 years.

Commenting on the announcement, Allen's Sales & Marketing Director, Colin Gale, said: "We have been in discussion with Stan Kinkead for seven months now on the best way to make this change, to the benefit of both companies. We are saddened to relinquish the distributorship, one that has provided our dealers and us with profitable business since 1974. However, we understand the need of National to change direction in this important market and wish them well as they take this new step forward.

"The recent acquisition of Hustler ground care machinery represents our direction as a company and will continue to become a major franchise within our organisation, together with the Walker Mower distributorship," he concluded.

SISIS GET REILLY



Sisis Equipment Ltd have appointed Shaun Reilly as Territory Manager for the whole of Scotland, excluding Grampian and Highlands which will continue to be covered by Farm Services Ltd. Shaun will be

supported by Demonstrator Ewen Wilson, who is well known to Sisis customers.

Shaun has worked in the turf industry for 10 years, latterly as Operations Manager for Allett Mowers. He is a single figure handicap golfer and played soccer in his younger days. The appointment follows the retirement of Ian Mackay.

STRI PASS THE TEST

STRI's soil laboratory has retained its accreditation status to carry out independent testing of rootzone materials as specified in the construction of USGA golf putting greens.

A full audit was conducted by an A2LA assessor in April this year. The next review, which will involve assessment of quality procedures and ASTM - American Society of Testing & Materials - compliance, is due in two years. STRI is one of only two USGA approved laboratories outside the USA.

REGIONAL SEMINARS

NORTHERN AND MIDLAND

Two Regional Seminars are planned for November. The Midland Region Educational Seminar is planned for Thursday November 17 at Brampton Heath Golf Club, Northampton, while the Northern Region Educational Seminar is scheduled for Thursday November 24 at Penrith Golf Club. A Northern Region Educational Seminar will involve discusses on 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.

The Midland Seminar will include similar topics with 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 included in the day.

Invitations will be sent to all BIGGA Northern and Midland Region members during September, but if you don't get one and want to attend, contact Peter Larter (Regional Administrator) for an application form at "Tamarisk", High St, Corby Glen, Grantham, Lincs, NG33 4LX or phone: 01476 550115; office/mobile: 07866 366966 or by email at petelar972@aol.com.

SOUTH EAST

The 2005 South East Region Seminar is to be held at Benton Hall Golf Club on November 9 2005.

The day promises interesting, entertaining and informative subjects and lively debate. For more details and to book your place contact Clive Osgood, Regional Administrator, on 01737 819343.

SOUTH WEST/WALES

This year's South West and South Wales Regional Seminar 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, Head Greenkeeper at Hilton Templepatrick, Belfast; Andy Campbell, Head Greenkeeper at Carden Park; Jay Dobson, Agronomist. 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.

VERULAM VICTORY

The annual Midland Region Golf Management Trophy Day, sponsored for the eighth successive year by Scotts UK Professional, was held at Brickendon Grange Golf Club recently.

20 golf clubs entered the competition, which was played on a testing course, superbly prepared by the Course Manager, Trevor Booth, and his staff. The hospitality provided by Brickendon Grange Golf Club and all of the staff was excellent and even the weather wasn't too unkind.

The format, four man teams comprising of a BIGGA greenkeeper and three golf club officials playing a Stableford with the best two scores on each hole to count, has proved a popular event for the past eight years. The 2005 winning team was

Verulam Golf Club, in their Centenary Season, with 82 points. The team was ably led by Course Manager, Geoff Smith, who retires at the end of November after 30 years at Verulam Golf Club. Close runners up were East Herts and John O'Gaunt Golf Clubs with 81 and 80 points respectively.

Nearest the Pin prize was won by the Midland Region Chairman, Gerald Bruce, the Course Manager at Berkhamsted Golf Club, and the Longest Drive was won by Alan Pountney, the Chairman of Green at Porters Park Golf Club.

The picture shows the entire cast of the Golf Management Trophy Day. Next year's event will be held at Verulam Golf Club, so watch out for details if you want your club to enter.



STILL GO STRONG

By its very nature deep aeration is very demanding on the equipment used for this very important soil management task. The effective working life of these machines can be anything from four to eight years, so that's why Portstewart Golf Club's Wiedenmann P160 aerator is quite remarkable. It's been working on the 54 hole mixed links and parkland golf complex on the Causeway

coast of Northern Ireland for the past 13 years.

"The P160 has been an excellent workhorse for us here at Portstewart. We use it extensively during August and September on the greens to its full depth of 300mm and then again in February to 150mm with minimal heave. It's still going strong and that's a testament not only to its build quality but the skills of our mechanic, Derek McMorris,"

said Bernard Findlay, Head Greenkeeper.

Portstewart Golf Club has three courses, each with their own unique character. The 5752 yard, par 68 Riverside runs alongside the River Bann, while the Strand, opened in 1907, is the jewel in the crown, a classic links course with towering sand dunes and stunning views. The Old Course is situated on the site of the original course, where golf was first played at Portstewart as far back as 1889.



Bernard Findlay and Derek McMorris with their faithful deep aerator

ENVILLE'S NEW WOOD



Enville Golf Club, in Staffordshire, has appointed Jonathan Wood as Course Manager of its two 18 hole courses.

Jonathan joins Enville from Ross-on-Wye Golf Club, where he was Course Manager for more than eight years. He brings some 20 years' experience as a professional greenkeeper to Enville, where he will have full responsibility for the management of this heathland/woodland site and a team of 10 greenkeeping staff deployed across Enville's two courses, Highgate and Lodge.

"This is not only a fantastic opportunity for

me, but also one that presents the chance to play a pivotal role in realising the full potential of both courses at Enville. In addition, Enville is scheduled to host the Open Championship Regional Qualifying in 2007, through to 2011, and is also hosting the English Seniors Championship in 2007. Both these leading events are a great recognition for the club, as well as presenting an additional challenge and focus for the golf course management programme," said Jonathan.

Together with having substantial hands on experience, Jonathan has dedicated time to acquiring the technical knowledge and skills necessary to meet the demands placed on a modern and progressive Course Manager. Amongst these academic pursuits, he has studied at Elmwood College in Fife, Scotland, and has just completed the first year of a Foundation Degree in Sports Turf Science from Myerscough College.

"I intend to make the most of my role as custodian of the 36 hole course, and focus my expertise on managing both courses to create an environment that is challenging for its golfers, but also sustainable from an environmental perspective."

THE 10 POINTS TO QUALITY

The LDCA - Land Drainage Contractors Association - has launched a 10 point Quality Assurance Scheme in order to provide clients and customers of LDCA Contractors with an assurance of quality standards.

The 10 points which form an undertaking by all LDCA contractors cover the Specification for Workmanship and Materials, a Certificate of Workmanship, a Warranty, a Completion Plan, Liability Insurance, Health and Safety, Financial, Provision of Information for the Customer, Customer References, and a Complaints Procedure.

The purpose of the LDCA Quality Assurance Scheme is to provide customers with an assurance that when they employ an LDCA contractor, that LDCA contractor will undertake to carry out the work to recognised standards, as a professional, specialist contractor, who is properly equipped, and has the necessary insurance and Health and Safety measures in place.

The Scheme is based around the LDCA Technical Specifications and Guidelines for Drainage Installation that have become established as the industry quality standards. These have been adopted by local authorities and utility companies, many of whom incorporate the LDCA Technical Specifications and Guidelines in their tender documents and stipulate the work must be carried out by an LDCA contractor.

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MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

Recycled woodchip is becoming an increasingly popular choice for use as a plant bed mulch and paths and play area surfacing, but a new local authority study has revealed it could have far wider landscaping applications.

Research commissioned by WRAP - the Waste & Resources Action Programme - to explore all potential landscaping uses of the product in a local authority environment has now identified a variety of completely new and innovative uses, such as marking picnic spots under trees, reducing erosion on steep banks and mopping up muddy areas around car parks or by the water's edge.

In research conducted by the University College Northampton it was found that using recycled woodchip for new and other applications brings a variety of benefits. Areas that may previously have been unsuitable for public access become usable, maintenance is greatly reduced due to the product's effectiveness as a weed suppressant and its long lasting properties mean that topping up is infrequently required.

Julia Turner, Material Development Manager for wood at WRAP, said: "This study not only demonstrates to what extent local authorities and golf clubs can use recycled woodchip in traditional uses, but also how they can use the product in previously unconsidered areas."

CHAMPIONSHIP CAMPBELL



In an era of full time tournament playing amateur golfers not many recent winners of the Scottish Amateur Championship have returned to work on the Monday morning after their triumph.

Glenn Campbell, greenkeeper at Murrayshall Hotel's two courses near Perth, bucks the recent trend. But the 77th winner of the title admitted after his 37th hole victory over Ben Shamash that becoming champion would not change his life one bit.

It's not Campbell's first national title - he was Scottish mid-amateur Champion in 1998 - but that tournament does not come close to the status of the Scottish Amateur Championship.

"It has to be the greatest thrill of my golfing life. I would put it right up there alongside playing for Scotland for the first time. I went to Southernness hoping for a good performance to clinch a place in the home internationals team for the third year in a row. I guess I've done that," said the 32 year old Blairgowrie Golf Club member.

AWARD FOR LECTURER

It has been announced that Dr Alan Gange, Senior Lecturer in Environmental Biology at Royal Holloway, University of London, will be the recipient of the National Turfgrass Foundation Research Award 2005. Alan is a well-known scientist and speaker to British audiences. He has wide research interests within the sports turf industry encompassing the quality of playing surfaces and non-playing areas, as featured in Greenkeeper International September 2004.

The latter is specifically targeted at golf courses, where he is interested in the role that courses play in habitat conservation at the landscape level. Alan sits on numerous advisory panels and his innovative work has attracted interest in many corners of the world.

A highly respected expert in the field of turfgrass mycology and bacteriology, he is a regular speaker at conferences and educational events throughout Europe. Dr Gange is best known for his pioneering work on mycorrhizal associations in turfgrasses and has been responsible for establishing a greater understanding of the roles that these root inhabiting fungi play in the establishment, nutrition, and competitiveness of turfgrass species.



A YORKSHIRE FIRST

Yorkshire's first Jacobsen AR3 rotary surrounds mower is being used to maintain Parkgate Recreational Services 18 hole golf course in Rotherham.

The new machine was part of a package of equipment purchased by the Corus steel producer's sports club from local dealer, Palmers Groundcare. Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Pat Ashbourne, is using the AR3 to add more definition to the course, leaving a pleasing striping effect between the fairways and the semi rough.

Parkgate's significant investment in new equipment at the Roundwood premises also includes a Jacobsen LF-3800 light fairway mower, purchased to provide better traction and an improved quality of cut from its larger reels.



TAILOR MADE

Specialist groundcare press representatives were recently given a full behind-the-scenes tour of New Holland's factory in Basildon, as well as an insight into the agricultural machinery and construction equipment manufacturer's worldwide production operation. They were also given a hands on demonstration of the latest New Holland models for turf care professionals.

As Paul Kelley, New Holland's Business Director for the UK and the Republic of Ireland, explained, New Holland is a global brand of CNH, manufacturers of Agricultural and Construction Equipment represented by a family of brands including Case IH as well as New Holland. "Between them, these brands represent extensive knowledge and product heritage. We have around 11,400 dealers in 160 countries, backed by the strength and resources of our worldwide product

design, manufacturing, distribution, support and finance organisations.

"Basildon is a centre of excellence for tractor design and production and is a research and development centre for engines, electronics and vehicle technology."



MYERSCOUGH JUST DOING IT

Myerscough College Golf Academy has hit a hole in one with Nike Golf, securing a two year sponsorship deal that will help the College's Golf Academy students 'just do it' like the professionals. The new sponsorship deal complements Myerscough's Americano style commitment to golf and will provide students with official Nike Golf clothing and equipment, ensuring that they will be able to tee off in style.

Garry Wilkinson, Director of Commercial Activities at Myerscough College commented: "Although golf is a widely recognised and well-played sport in the UK, our American counterparts are much more pro-active and effective in facilitating and encouraging youth interest in the sport. "We are delighted that such a well-respected, global and forward thinking brand such as Nike Golf has recognised Myerscough Golf Academy's commitment to golf and is helping support our students."

JUST THE JOB

BIGGA has appointed Kirstin Smith as the Association's new Advertising Sales Executive, replacing Amy Newport.

Kirstin joins BIGGA with a wealth of experience having previously been employed at Barker Brooks Media, where she worked on a legal publication for almost two years. Many BIGGA members may have already met Kirstin as she used to run Harrogate based restaurant, Salsa Posada, no doubt a stop for many greenkeepers during BTME & ClubHouse in previous years.

She is a keen sports enthusiast, taking up golf when living in Stratford upon Avon, while enjoying horse riding and she has also ran the Robin Hood Half Marathon.

"I have never worked in an industry like this before, so it will be a real challenge for me. It is a whole new experience. I'm looking forward to getting out there and meeting both BIGGA members and people within the trade. I'm already finding out that they are a lot nicer than lawyers," said Scottish born Kirstin.



FOREST PINES GOLF ACQUIRED

Leeds based QHotels has increased its portfolio of hotels to six with the acquisition of Forest Pines in North Lincolnshire. The Golf and Country Club Hotel was acquired for an undisclosed sum.

The four star hotel in the heart of North Lincolnshire offers extensive leisure facilities including a 27 hole championship golf course, and a health, beauty and leisure club within 190 acres of beautiful matured woodland. QHotels plan, subject to planning permission, to extend the conference facilities at the hotel and refurbish and upgrade the bedrooms and public areas.

"Forest Pines is a fantastic acquisition to our growing portfolio. The hotel offers great leisure facilities and adds the first golf resort to the group," said Michael Purtill, Managing Director of QHotels.

SPREADING SAND IN THE DESERT

Ultraspreader International, the manufacturers and suppliers of top dressers and grounds maintenance equipment, have just completed their first sale to Dubai. Desert Turfcare has taken delivery of a UP60 high output Spreader.

Desert Turfcare will be using the machine to compliment their existing range of maintenance machinery which they currently use for sports field and golf construction, renovation and maintenance projects across the United Emirates.

Jose Fernandes, Ultra Spreader's Spanish dealer has continued to impress with another sale. The sale of an Ultra Screen to a Seville local authority backs up sales already made to the La Manga Club and Desert Springs Golf Club and confirms Ultra Spreader's intentions of becoming a worldwide manufacturer and exporter of grounds maintenance machinery.

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Education Director, David Golding, discusses work based training and the incredible pace that it has taken off at.

If you take a look at the job vacancies page in the magazine you will see how the vocational qualifications have become the industry benchmark to recruit for the majority of greenkeeping vacancies. Once again I have to make clear that the GTC is fully involved in the development, review and validation of the more academic qualifications such as the HNC Foundation Degree, B.Sc and M.Sc.

I will feature these awards in next month's GI and those readers who, when leaving school, never dreamt they would ever be at an Awards Ceremony wearing proudly a Cap and Gown then just maybe their dream could become a reality! Exciting times on the education front.

This month I have to again appeal to those Course Managers, Head Greenkeepers and enlightened Deputies who have staff registered at a Centre on either N/SVQ Level 2 or 3 Sportsturf. This appeal also extends to golf club employers who believe they are investing in greenkeeper training by "Sending their staff to college." The best analogy I can give you is that the pace work-based training has taken off in the greenkeeping sector is equivalent to a harrier jet leaving an aircraft carrier.

Sadly the same cannot be said of our colleagues in groundsmanhip, horticulture or landscaping, who have not taken the same 'ownership' of the vocational qualification as our sector has and they seem to have an increasing problem in implementing these Industry designed qualifications.

As regular readers know we at the GTC (see below for representative bodies) have always looked to embrace the concept of work-based training and use the existing traditional registration Centres, mainly the colleges throughout Britain. These have been supported by the GTC awarding Approved Status. Golf club employers and greenkeepers have been directed to these Centres as they have 'signed up' to a GTC criterion, which has been very closely linked to resources to deliver the specialist education our sector demands.

With the popularity of work-based training exceeding all expectations many colleges have seen a huge shift from full time greenkeeping students to the part time route, which in the main means that trainees learn both 'on and off the job' while earning a wage. Surely a win-win situation for the trainee?

Credit to several of our Approved Providers who have 'listened' to the industry and have developed more flexible delivery options just to suit our sector. They have the very difficult task to also deliver work-based qualifications to the aforementioned sector of the land base who have often stated N/SVQ's are not for their sector. The GTC believes that whatever the Government of the day chooses to call the qualifications, skilled staff is the bedrock of well maintained golf courses with the academic awards available for those seeking more knowledge on what is happening below the surface. I believe our sector has the best of both worlds in terms of the range of qualifications but this is where we must focus on the role of who is the most important person in the system of delivering work-based training?

Any Centre offering N/SVQ's will all agree that for the system to work efficiently and effectively the Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper or Deputy must be involved in the training and assessment process. The role of the Centre is to support the trainee and supervisor by ensuring the knowledgeable learning materials, either by hard copy or online, is available and all parties agree the best method of learning. This coupled to the on-the-job practical training then requires the Centre staff to coordinate the knowledge and practical assessments into evidence, which meets the national standards. When it is left to the Centre to educate, train and assess the trainee it can lead to all sorts of problems, mainly 'fast tracking' the assessment process and this is when questions are asked of the VQ system.

We at the GTC are very aware of the work the Awarding Bodies' External Verifier team are carrying out to support and improve Centres, however we at the sharp end of work-based training know that the golf club must ensure a senior competent greenkeeper takes on the responsibility to monitor the trainees progress by attending all meetings when Centre staff visit the club.

It is at these meetings that training plans are reviewed and agreed to ensure both the trainee and his/her work-based supervisor are working to an agreed programme supported by the Centre staff.

Please do not get left behind, it is easy to climb on board as for many who have recently attended training sessions, to become qualified work-based assessors, have often commented that "We do that as part of our job role anyway." Help your own profession and your own professional development by getting involved in the 'system'.

Training days are now being planned for trainer and assessor awards and these will be held regionally. Also watch out for the BTME 2006 programme which will include trainer, assessor and an update course for those of you who achieved the 'old' D32/D33 award and feel you would benefit from an updating session.

To discuss any issues raised in this article or any matters relating to greenkeeper education, training and qualifications David may be contacted on email, david@the-gtc.co.uk, telephone 01347 838640 or visit the GTC website, www.the-gtc.co.uk.



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Education Update

Ken Richardson, Education and Training Manager, provides an update on the 2006 Continue to Learn Programme and Regional and Section Training.

This month has seen the final preparations of the Continue to Learn Programme that will be part of Harrogate Week 2006. Thanks to the support of the GTC and to the introduction of the new Queen's Suite facility, we have been able to offer an extremely varied, extensive education programme for January 2006. The programme of events commences on Sunday January 22 with five two day workshops that conclude on Monday January 23. Monday also sees the start of five one day workshops.



The BTME & ClubHouse Exhibition starts on Tuesday January 24 with the opening ceremony closely followed by the presentation of BIGGA Awards and the Keynote Speaker, Colonel John Blashford-Snell. Something new for Harrogate is the half day workshops, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, that begin on Tuesday afternoon, alongside the Seminar Programme. Another new event happens on the Wednesday of Harrogate Week when the English Golf Union, the Association of Golf Club Secretaries and BIGGA work together to present a full day of seminars aimed at all golf club secretaries/managers, golf club officials and golf greenkeepers. There are two forums planned for Harrogate, i.e. a Women's Forum and a Student Forum.

The ever popular Careers Fair will return on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to help you find that next job. Another first for Harrogate is the 'Big Debate' that will run on Thursday afternoon and Friday Morning. Presented jointly by BIGGA and the R&A, the 2006 Debate will concentrate on Sustainable Golf Course Management.

The Continue to Learn education programme for Harrogate Week 2006 offers more educational opportunities for more people than ever before. The last Continue to Learn offered delegates approximately 57 hours of education whereas Continue to Learn 2006 will offer more than 120 hours. Watch out for your Harrogate Week programme that will be enclosed in the October edition of Greenkeeper International.

REGIONAL & SECTION TRAINING

Following a decision by the BIGGA Board of Management to transfer funds to top up the Education and Development Fund, we can, once again, offer a full range of subsidised Regional and Section Training Courses. Full details have been sent to all Regional Administrators and Section Secretaries. So now is the time to contact them to request training in your part of the world.

Briefly, all two day management courses will cost £110 + VAT (£129.25), all one day courses will cost £60 + VAT (£70.50). The cost of two day technical courses will depend on the number of delegates. Each two day course is subsidised by a minimum of £600 and each one day course by a minimum of £300.

If you want to organise a course or a number of courses in your Region or Section, contact your Regional Administrator, Section Secretary or BIGGA HQ. It would help us to help you if you had thought about the type of course and when you want the training to take place. A location for the training is useful as is a list of names of those wanting to attend.

Supervisory Management Training for Golf Course Managers

A course accredited by the Institute of Leadership and Management and designed specifically for Golf Course Managers will be held at Exeter Rugby Club during late October and November this year.

If you live in the South West and want to gain a nationally recognised management training certificate then this course is for you.

There are four sessions:

- October 25 2005
Leadership and Team Building
- November 1 2005
Motivation and Using Information to Make Decisions
- November 8 2005
Delivering Quality and Giving and Receiving Feedback
- November 22 2005
Problem Solving Skills and Planning Change

Cost for the whole course (i.e. 4 days) is £450 + VAT.

Contact Paul Stanton at Direction Training and Management, 11 Lynher Street, Plymouth, PL5 1QD, 01752 360004 or visit www.training-management.co.uk.

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

Complying with Legislation

Do you often think that the UK and EU legislation covering Health and Safety, protecting the environment and employing personnel is very hard to keep up with? Recently, EU Regulations have imposed onerous legislative practices on many companies and golf clubs.

To ensure that legislation is not overlooked or not complied with we recommend that you consider setting up a system that clearly and simply manages complying with the law. At present there are 18 pieces of identifiable legislation applicable to running a golf club. Each and every piece of legislation should be complied with and a clear audit trail available.

Our recommendation to golf clubs is to take a little time to do the following:

- Identify the 18 pieces of legislation.
- Cross check at your club which legislation you know you are fully complying with and tick this off the list. Identify the gaps.
- Once the gaps are identified formulate a 'simple plan' with dates and action parties to comply with the legislation.

- Ensure this plan is published to all departments which should include Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager, Catering, Bar Stewards, Club Committee, sub committees, professional etc. Ensure all departments accept the plan and enrol onto it.
- Close out the plan by producing the key documents and requirements of the legislation and review this regularly to ensure no new legislation has been published.

In the event of an unfortunate accident it is imperative to show that the club fully complied with all aspects of the current law. Unfortunately, from experience we estimate that only 60% of UK clubs can demonstrate this. Don't let it be yours that gets prosecuted as the penalties can included prison.

Jerard Winter is Senior Health and Safety Advisor at Haztek International and can be contacted on 0208 905 7552 or email: Jerrard@haztekinternational.com.

Quick Guide To Paternity Pay

SPP is paid to employees whose wife or partner is expecting a baby.

HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR STATUTORY PATERNITY PAY (SPP)?

To qualify for SPP you must:

- Be the biological father of the child.
- The mother's spouse or partner.
- Have been employed by the same employer for at least 26 weeks up to and including the 15th week before the baby's due (ie when the mother is 25 weeks pregnant).
- Average weekly earnings must be at least equal to the lower earnings limit for National Insurance purposes (£82 a week from April 2005).

HOW LONG CAN I HAVE OFF WORK AND WHEN?

You can choose to take either one or two consecutive weeks (not odd days). Leave can also start on any day of the week. You can also choose to start leave:

- From the date of the child's birth.
- From a chosen number of days or weeks after the date of the birth, it must, however, be completed within 56 days of the birth.
- From a chosen date later than the first day of the week in which the baby is expected to be born.
- If the baby is early leave must be completed 56 days after the first day of the expected week of birth.

HOW MUCH MONEY WILL I GET?

The rate of SPP is **£106 a week** (from April 2005) or 90% of average weekly earnings if this is less than £106.

TELLING YOUR EMPLOYER

You must inform your employer that you intend to take SPP by the end of the 15th week before the baby is expected (ie by the end of the 25th week of pregnancy) unless this is not reasonably practical. You must tell your employer:

- The week the baby is due.
- Whether you wish to take one or two weeks leave.
- When you want leave to start (You can change your mind on the date you wish to commence leave but you must give your employer 28 days notice unless this is not reasonably practical)

You must give your employer a self-certificate as evidence of your entitlement to SPP.

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.

Rachael and Gemma would like to welcome 49 new members to the Association and remind you to take advantage of your benefits.

Membership Update



Discounted Nights Out with your Privilege Card!



With the evenings starting to draw in why not take advantage of your benefit package and treat the family to a night out at Megabowl or catch a film at a Vue Cinema. Your silver privilege card entitles you to discounted tickets at Vue from Monday to Thursday and you can buy one game and get one game free at any Megabowl. This offer is available any time and is for up to six people.

If nights in are more your thing then Dominos Pizza offer 30% off collected pizzas on production of your privilege card. You can also buy discounted DVD's and CD's at powerplaydirect.com if you access the website through www.discountpages.co.uk.

Cosy Nights in with your BIGGA Library Book!

The BIGGA lending library is available to all members and stocks over 800 titles. The library has also recently benefited from several donations. You can borrow up to two titles from the library at any one time for a period of six weeks. The only cost is the return postage of the books. You can find the full list of books available in the members area of our website www.bigga.org.uk. Make your selection and email brad@bigga.co.uk, who will post the books out to you. Alternatively call 01347 833800 and ask for Brad.

WIN

A WEEKEND SURVIVAL COURSE FOR TWO

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

To enter all you have to do is introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA. Make sure your name goes on their application form as the person who referred them and we will enter your name into the draw. Remember the more new members you refer the more chances you have to win! The draw will take place on October 1 and the winner will be announced in the November magazine.

Call either Rachael and Gemma today for a new member application form.

Days Out with your Section

Have you lost your section fixture list? Why not visit the BIGGA website and look under the news and events section. You will find a comprehensive list of all that's happening in your area. If you do not have access to the website then read your section notes to the back of this magazine for news of the latest golf days and seminars going on around you.

BIGGA welcomes...

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Gordon Sangster, West
Stephen Sheehan, West

NORTHERN REGION

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Ian Cropper, North West
David Cunningham, Northern
Leslie Gower, North Wales
John Horan, Sheffield

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Jamie Reeves, Surrey
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STUDENT MEMBERS

James Telfer, Kent
Craig Finnegan, Northern

SEPTEMBER'S MEMBERSHIP DRAW WINNER

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



Going Automatic

*Continue
to learn*

If you're a greenkeeper, superintendent or owner looking for ways to improve the efficiency of your irrigation system, ask yourself if the key to efficiency is right at your fingertips - literally!

Start your search for enhanced efficiency at the control board or PC keyboard you use to control your irrigation. If it's been more than two to four years since your irrigation control system was installed in new construction, or updated, it's likely you could update your control system and enjoy significant and measurable improvement in your irrigation efficiency.

New control system technology minimises consumption of resources such as water and electricity, and it optimises the look and playability of your course. So stop drumming your fingers on that keyboard and start crunching some numbers.

NO CONTROL SYSTEM?

Let's begin by considering the different types of control systems in use. They include: no irrigation control system, manual controls, stand alone satellite controllers and central satellites/decoders control systems. The last two types are considered automatic irrigation systems, and we will focus on these.

You may ask how a golf course can have no control system at all? One way is for the course to have no irrigation system. This is most common on courses in northern climates, many of which are designed in the 'Traditional' or 'Old School' manner. Nature, not irrigation, is typically relied upon to provide 100 per cent of the water the golf course receives. Can such a course be 'improved' with an irrigation system? It depends on your definition of improvement, but consider this example of how the industry is changing - a full irrigation system has been installed in recent years on the 99 holes (five 1/2 golf courses) at St. Andrews Links in Scotland.

Management at the 'Birthplace of Golf' decided to supplement rainfall to maintain consistency. This decision was probably the result of the pressure for play (high player traffic) that these prestigious courses receive and the heightened expectations of today's golfers.

MANUAL SYSTEM CONTROLS

Manual systems typically have no automatic controls. Such a system might consist of a series of quick coupler valves and the quick coupler key and sprinklers are moved around the course until watering is complete. Or it might be a series of sprinklers that are installed with manually operated valves so they can be activated as desired. Today's manual systems are usually a combination of both examples, as well as hoses that greenkeepers can drag to areas requiring extra water.

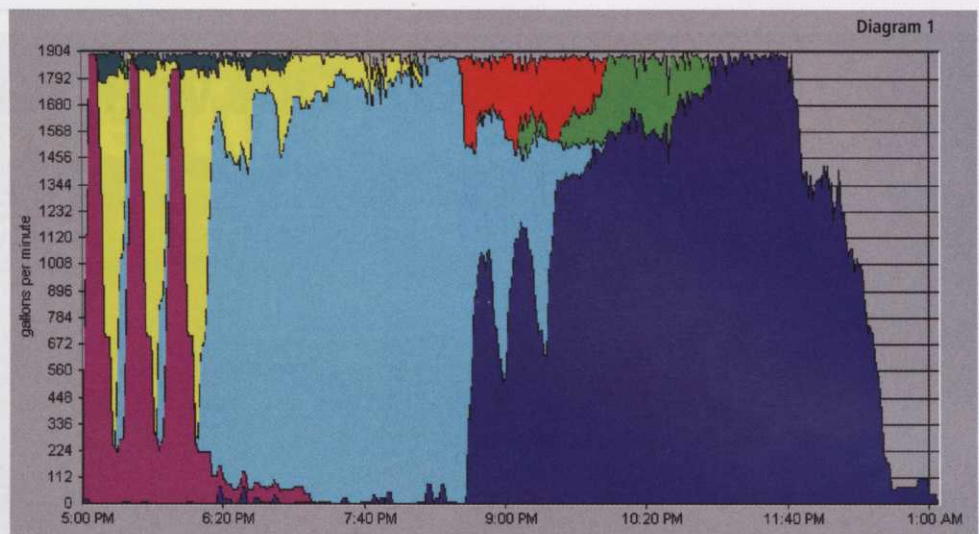
While manually controlled irrigation systems are comparatively inexpensive to install, they offer few other benefits. They can waste precious water (no rain sensors or automatic shut-offs) and put great demands on your staff's time, perhaps even including controlling or moving equipment in the middle of the night. Achieving desired results, appealing appearance and playability, using manual systems demands a significant, ongoing investment in labour. That's expensive, not efficient.

AUTOMATIC CONTROL SYSTEMS

Now let's look at automatic irrigation systems. Earlier, we defined two types of systems - semi automatic and fully automatic.

Semi automatic systems typically have remotely located controllers, in most cases one or more per hole. Sometimes called satellite controllers, they allow the greenkeeper to set up the irrigation schedule for each hole by adjusting zone run times, sequences, start times and active days for watering. By doing so, the greenkeeper can be virtually certain that his watering instructions will be carried out precisely as planned.

Fully automatic systems have a central controller that allows the greenkeeper to adjust when, where and how much water is applied. These automatic systems are more consistent and reliable than a manual system. Sprinkler run times are controllable and can be adjusted as necessary. Most controllers have a percentage adjust so that as the weather gets warmer or cooler and irrigation requirements change, it is fairly simple to make adjustments.

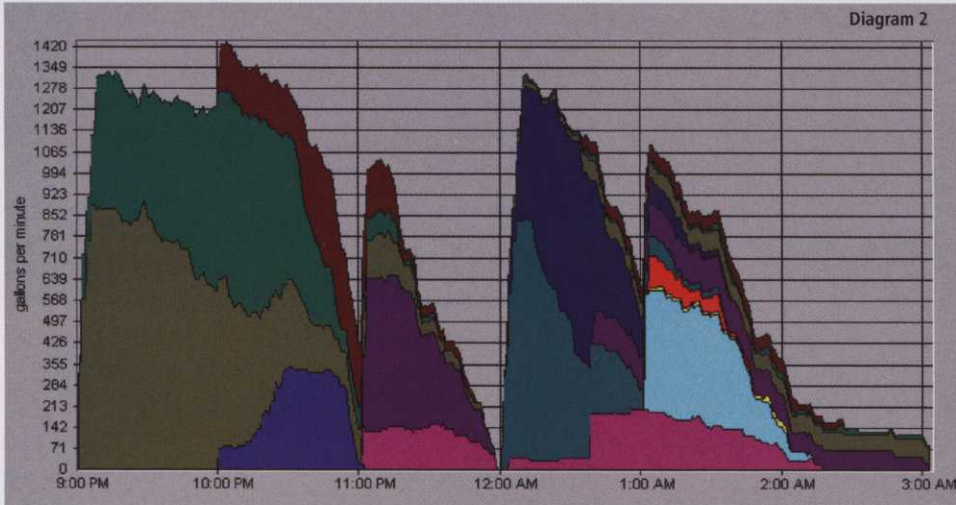


They are less labour-intensive, as usually one or two workers can handle any desired spot watering, maintenance and repairs. This allows the greenkeeper and staff to concentrate on other projects because the time required to manage the irrigation is minimised.

The major difference between a semi and fully automatic system is the cost of a communications cable and a central controller. If the pipe, wire, fittings, pumps, sprinklers and controllers cost the same with each system, a fully automatic system costs approximately five per cent more than a semi automatic one. One look at the benefits and you could agree it's the best five per cent you'll ever spend.

Are there downsides to automatic controls? There are issues to consider, including the potential for lightning damage and considering all the wiring involved in a Fully automatic system. Today, however, surge and lightning protection equipment lessens these concerns significantly. Computer complexity and potential language barriers have also been minimised as today's operating systems are user friendly and available in several languages.

Kenne James discusses the advances in irrigation systems and the benefits of an automatic control system.



AUTOMATIC SYSTEM BENEFITS

A fully automatic system offers the Golf Course Manager and greenkeeper many advantages.

- First, they can make changes in sprinkler run times, start times - in fact, everything that can be changed from the field controller - all from the central controller. This not only saves time driving around the course to make adjustments, but because it's so easy, it can be done daily, not just weekly or monthly, which is commonly when most semi automatic systems are adjusted. This flexibility results in consistently accurate watering daily, which produces further turf benefits and cost savings.
- They provide 'flow-management', which means the central software can schedule each station to run at a precise time and in combination with exactly the other sprinklers necessary to 'maximise' the flow output of the pump station, while ensuring that the flow velocity of water in every pipe in the system is kept at a safe level. These are huge advantages, because a pump station that operates at its designed optimum output through the entire irrigation cycle will be extremely efficient. This alone can result in electricity cost savings of five to 15 per cent to move the same amount of water. This also reduces long term maintenance costs by protecting the pipe network and eliminating pump station 'cycling' (See Diagrams 1 and 2).
- Reporting is enhanced, as the central controller allows the greenkeeper to see what is currently operating, what has already been watered, what is scheduled to run, how much water is scheduled, etc. The greenkeeper also has access to failure or error reports without having to tour the course daily. This data is accurate and updated by the minute. Some courses also choose to employ many of the advanced features available with fully automatic systems, such as radio remote control, weather station input and GIS mapping of the entire golf course (See Diagram 3).

THE BENEFITS OF AN UPGRADE

In a recent survey by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) respondents were asked what industry change in the past 10 years had made the single largest improvement in managing their irrigation system and reduced costs? The top answer, by a large margin, was a computerised central control system.

A central control system is a tool that helps greenkeepers and superintendents perform their jobs more efficiently and effectively, and

it typically frees up time for them and their crews. Automatic control systems are powerful, loaded with features and offer numerous benefits, yet they are rarely utilised to their fullest.

Most greenkeepers use only the tools and features they need and are comfortable with. Surveys have shown that operators utilise only 40 per cent of most systems' capabilities, so it's clear that training and ongoing education will help greenkeepers derive the greatest benefits. This is especially true, as upgraded versions of control system software are typically introduced every two or three years.

Consider upgrading your system to make it more automatic. You may be able to do so without significant construction or excavation. Some older existing systems can even be upgraded to the highest standard with no trenching, so it's worth

asking your irrigation dealer or distributor to assist you in a site analysis. More comprehensive renovations usually produce results that pay for themselves over just a few years and these systems normally remain effective for many years beyond that.

In the search for increased efficiency, it is wise to explore the opportunity of a new or upgraded irrigation control system. Not only do they tend to pay for themselves, they continue to offer savings each time they are used - savings you can use to invest in other course improvement projects.

So which system is right for you? As there is only about a 20 percent difference in cost from the most basic to the most sophisticated control system, the answer might seem clear - the best system available, of course! But the answer actually emerges from a thorough assessment of factors such as your current system, your irrigation needs, budget, climate and so forth.

Worldwide, the trend is clear. Even when considering the many 'developing' countries where new golf courses are being constructed along with the more established and mature markets, over 95 percent of golf courses being worked on today are being upgraded to a fully automated central control system. It's an investment in efficiency.

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





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Colin Robinson

Sweet Harmony

Gareth Jones visits John O'Gaunt Golf Club, which contains two vastly contrasting courses that are kept in harmony by a dedicated Course Manager.

For the keen historians among the readership of Greenkeeper International the name John of Gaunt will be familiar. John of Gaunt, so named after being born in Ghent in 1340, was the third son of King Edward III and took the title of Duke of Lancaster in 1362. The Duke is a powerful figure in history, shaping much of the 14th century. A former adviser to young King Richard II, it was Gaunt who returned from Spain, where he was an Ambassador, to deter the threat of civil war in England.

Unwise decisions on taxation had led to a clash between King Richard II and the Lords Appellant and, with the peasants' revolt just four years earlier, hostilities were high and war was near. It was Gaunt who brought compromise between the two parties, which halted the English going into battle and ensured a period of stability and harmony within the country.

Much the same can be said of Colin Robinson, Course Manager at John O'Gaunt Golf Club, a course so named as the Duke formerly owned the land the course is located on. Colin may not enjoy such a prominence in British history as Gaunt, however if alive today the Duke would surely appreciate the harmony and stability that the greenkeeper has brought between two very differing and demanding golf courses. The John O'Gaunt course, which contains the remains of a moat dug during those uprisings on the 17th, and the Carthagena course maybe split by a single B road, but at times they are worlds apart.

The John O'Gaunt is the club's original course and was opened as a nine hole track in 1948, with the competition of 18 holes occurring in 1950. The par 72, 6513 yard course boasts a superb view when coming up the 18th of the magnificent clubhouse, a converted house that was property of the Burgoyne family, who were gifted the land by Gaunt. Similar to the Gaunt course, Carthagena was opened as nine holes in 1972, before being extended to 18 in 1980. While shorter at 5869 yards, the Carthagena contains larger greens and longer tees than its older sister.



Colin does not divide his team between the two courses

It's not just visually where these two Hawtree & Son designed courses differ, it's also what is underneath the grass that keeps Colin and his 13 man team on its toes. The Carthagena is built on a deep sandy loam that plays a huge role in the course's exceptional drainage. The second course can handle hours of rain, only to be playable hours later, a feat that continues to amaze Colin.

"I have to confess that it bamboozled me when I first started here. One night it really came down heavily, once I got to the course in the morning I went out and as expected puddles were all over both courses, they were soaked though. My previous experiences told me that the course was not playable and I went and told the Secretary that I had to close both courses for the day. He looked surprised that I was shutting the Carthagena but respected my decision. I then went out a few hours later and the water logging had disappeared from the Carthagena and it was ready for action. I couldn't believe how quickly the water had been drained, it's incredible," said a smiling Colin as he recalled that day.

The course was built, purely by coincident, using materials so close to the 2004 USGA Guidelines, that you could be forgiven for thinking that the club transported a USGA Agronomist from the future to oversee the original developments. The sandy base is almost as good as the material that the majority of clubs would have to bring in during the construction process. These elements play the major role in keeping this par 69 open for the majority of the winter months.

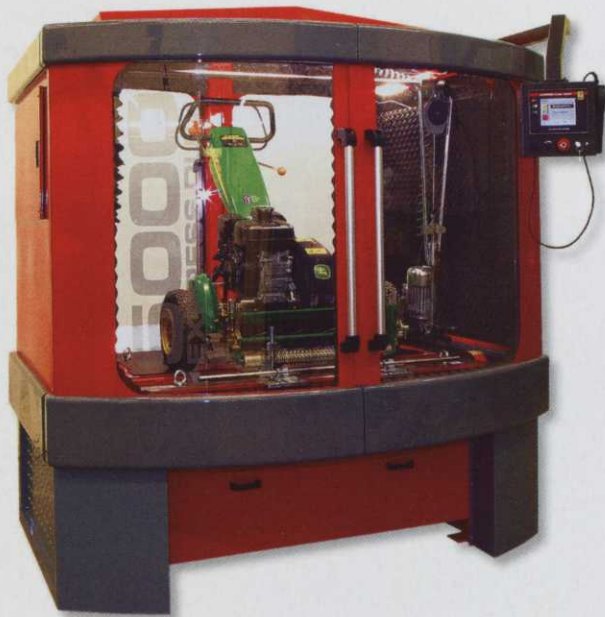
However, while the thought of Colin having a course with natural drainage so good that it copes easily with Britain's typically terrible winter weather and thus helps him avoid an ear bashing from the membership may leave many a Course Manager green with envy, this does have its problematic draw backs come a dry period.



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Course Feature

"The drainage is so good that it means if we get one dry week the course dries out completely and then you have trouble. As well as the obvious problems, we really struggle with our bunker edges. We rely on a nice grass cover around the bunker edges to keep it maintained and in a healthy state, but if it stays dry the moisture is sucked out of the ground, the grass dies and the edges start to crumble," stated the Headman, who with his team dedicated a large part of the winter programme to rebuilding these edges.

This leads to Colin's biggest headache at John O'Gaunt - irrigation. Both courses only have irrigation boxes located on their tees and greens and, while the greenkeeper has widened the irrigation arcs in recent years in an attempt to encompass fairways, it's a problem that doesn't have a straight forward answer.



Colin has widened his irrigation arcs to encompass more of the area around the greens

"The irrigation issue at the club has dominated the agenda for a long while now and I think that will continue to be the case as the summers become hotter and drier, especially in this area of the country. 20 years ago scientists started to talk about global warming and its effects, we probably all thought that it wouldn't happen, but in just two decades you can see that it has happened very quickly. 20 years is not a long time period and no doubt this will lead to more questions regarding the use of water on golf courses."

Those questions are already being asked close to home. Cranfield University, which is situated just 20 minutes down the road from John O'Gaunt, is currently undertaking Government research into water management. Colin gained a MSC in Sports Surface Technology from the same university in 2004 and was asked to take part in the study.

"I completed a survey which was basically asking about mains and irrigation water and how and if I could use a lesser percent on the courses. You can see the view that water needs to be saved and that throwing it on grass is a massive waste. In the near future I think it will become an issue of us losing what we have now. There is pressure on the Environment Agency and the water companies, so restrictions will come into place, certainly on mains water."

It's a factor that Colin is looking to tackle head on. He has been looking for alternatives from using mains water for the majority of his 11 years at the club for both the health of the environment and his course and he believes he has one solution. An exhausted quarry a stone's throw away from the club would make an ideal site for a reservoir, with winter extraction from the stream that dissects the John O'Gaunt course providing enough water to cope in the dry summer months. However this has led to an age old obstacle - the word golf has bumped up the price of the unused land.



The splendid view walking up the 18th on the John O'Gaunt course

"It is just too expensive for us at the moment. It is frustrating because the land is just sitting there and would be great for us. With the ground being pure sand all we would need to do is install a liner and there you have it. Getting a winter extraction would safe guard our water supplies and we would be able to look after the courses all year round. The club know how important it is, they are very good like that, and they will eventually go down this route one way or another, we'll find alternatives if the price on this piece of land doesn't come down to a reasonable level.

"It just kills me. The whole team works so hard during the year to get the course playing well and looking nice and then to see it drying up and cracking really hurts. It is a real shame and I know a lot of other clubs will probably share our pain," admitted Colin, who knows the course provides a good service when there is enough moisture in the ground.

Here is where Colin shows the traits familiar to that of John O'Gaunt himself. While coping with the Carthagena's dehydrating problems he is tackling the John O'Gaunt course's wet dilemmas. The top of the original course boasts the same type of quality, quick draining sand as its sister, but the bottom half of the track has different characteristics. The lower end contains a heavier, solid, peatier base, which leads to more quandaries for the Head man.

"When you get wet and warm conditions down there it becomes a real grass factory. The ground is fertile so you don't get good quality playing conditions out of it. I've knocked fertilising on the head and the quality is better now, although it still grows very fast and very green indeed. It is controlled at least now.

"The golfers think it is great as it is really green but as a purist I know it isn't. It isn't all fescue and bent, there is lots of meadow grass. Lots of water loving plants are down that end, so when it is dry they turn their toes up pretty quickly," commented the greenkeeper.

The water table does have a tendency to creep up in that area. The 13th runs along side the club's beautiful stream and has flooded in the past, which caused a surprising problem in the long term.





Colin is looking at irrigation systems, including a reservoir, that can keep the course in a healthy condition when the dry periods hit

"When the 13th flooded I think the club panicked. They want to see the course in a healthy state and will spend time and money to do it, but in this case when I look back we probably would have been best not doing what we did. We installed drainpipes and the water went - great, but now it drains too well, goes brown easily and gets dry lines. I've learnt that when you get one extreme like that you shouldn't over react, just grin and bare it and take a longer term view," stated Colin wisely.

Colin has helped the two Bedfordshire courses come together by keeping his staff united. While numerous 36 plus hole courses split their greens team and keep them on one particular course, Colin has chosen to stick to a different tactic, which he feels has benefited both his staff and the courses.

"Keeping my team together has always worked for me. I can tell any one of my staff to get on a machine and go to any part of either course and they know exactly where they are going and what to do, that's a great help. It also means that we can get big jobs done a lot quicker."

A good example of why this works well is with the club's hosting of the English Schools Tournament in August, a year after hosting the English Seniors. Colin had 11 of his staff working on the John O'Gaunt the day before the competition. They had everything prepared within the day, which would have been impossible with a lower number of staff, and then hit the Carthage the following day in preparation for the second day of the event. It is a system that benefits the staff as well as the two courses.

"I think this method is important for my team. In practice they are working



on two different courses with differing needs and characteristics, so they are getting that great experience and it is aiding their development. It helps their moral too, as they aren't getting bored working on just the one course, a change of scenery can do them good," said Colin, who also writes a piece in the club's monthly newsletter to keep the membership up to date with course developments, an approach that works wonders.

Colin started in greenkeeping in January 1975 thanks to his mother spotting an advert in the local newspaper for an Assistant at Wheatley Golf Club. Now after 30 years within the profession and five golf clubs under his belt he has become very shrewd about the industry and learnt some important lessons. The height of cut in

particular has become a topic close to his heart.

"If you had a room full of greenkeepers and asked them who cut low and then in the dry periods if their greens were stressed out I reckon most would raise their hand. The golfers' perceptions have changed now. What used to be considered fast is dead slow in today's world. A quick green is considered to be a good one by the golfer, which is wrong. So the pressure is on to cut low to get the speed. The major problem is that while golfers' perceptions have changed dramatically, the type of grass that we use has not. Greens would be better for lifting the height of cut, but it is just not feasible and it puts a lot of pressure on us greenkeepers," concluded Colin.

That's one subject matter that equally affects both of Colin's contrasting parkland courses. While the courses may remain poles apart in behaviour you can be sure that Colin will keep them in perfect harmony and that John O'Gaunt will be looking on proudly at the Headman's work on his former land.



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Toro Student of the Year 2005 Preview

GI gets up close and personal with the eight Finalists competing for the 2005 Award.

While thousands of fortunate families escape Britain for sunnier shores to rest, relax and top up that fading sun bed tan, for the members of BIGGA there is no such relief, as June through to September remains the busiest time of the golfing year. Inspired by The Open and the US PGA Championship, playing demand from cultured golfer to wannabe Woods increases spectacularly over the summer period, putting high pressure on greenkeepers' time. These months also witness numerous high profile Section, Regional and National BIGGA events and 25 student greenkeepers took time out of their hectic schedules to attend the Regional Finals of the Toro Student of the Year Award 2005.

BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, racked up the miles once again as he travelled the country to whittle down the 25 Regional Finalist to eight National Contenders. During his quest, Ken was joined by Iain McLeod, Andy Campbell, Jeff Mills and Gavin Robson, from the BIGGA Board of Management, and Trevor Chard and Jeff Anguige, from Toro. Combined, these men made the difficult decisions of which eight will be coming to BIGGA HOUSE on September 26 for the Grand Final.

The first day of the judging was held on July 4, which coincided with the planned G8 protest in Edinburgh. Despite the events of the day, all ran efficiently and all five nominees managed to get to their interviews. As a result, representing Scotland at BIGGA HQ will be Darren Leith and Tommy McFadden.



Darren, 27, is single and works at Haga Golf Park in Oslo, Norway, as an Assistant under the guidance of Head Greenkeeper Stefan Toft. Darren is now in his second season at the Club, previously having worked on the Duke's Course and The Old Course, at St Andrews, and Garmouth and Kingston Golf Club.

The Garmouth lad holds a NC and HNC qualification in Accounting, but after deciding this particular career path was not for him entered Elmwood

College in 2003 to achieve his NC in Greenkeeping. Darren returned to the College in 2004 to complete a HNC in Golf Course Management, while also winning the Best Practical Greenkeeping Student of the Year Award at the institute. He will back once again in October to tackle a HND in Golf Course Management.

"I am very keen to learn and very keen to pass on any information to others. I am at the beginning of a long learning curve and am confident I will achieve my goals and intend to end up improving greenkeeping in a less developed country," said Darren.

Tommy McFadden is also from the Elmwood stable. Employed as an Assistant on the New Course at St Andrews, the 22 year old is studying Amenity Horticulture at HND level. He started his greenkeeping career at Ballycastle Golf Club under the watchful eye of Head man Godfrey Clarke, father of Ryder Cup player Darren.

In his short career Tommy has made his mark, being honoured with a R&A Bursary Award to help with his studies. The sport's Governing Body handed out just six of these Awards, with four of the recipients working under the title of Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager. Tommy has just experienced working on his first Open Championship, where Tiger Woods again reigned supreme.

"There's not many people who count themselves lucky to be getting up at 4.30am to go out to work, but then again there is not many people who get the opportunity to work at the Home of Golf and on an Open Championship," remarked the youngster.

Moving down to the North Region, where the interviews were held at Manchester Airport. Five candidates were in competition here and it was Emmet Reilly and David Newton who rose above the rest to qualify for the Final.



21 year old Emmet is an Assistant at The K Club, Ireland, and has been working there since April 2005, in preparation for the 2006 Ryder Cup. The third Finalist to be taught at Elmwood College, Emmet has just completed a NHC in Golf Course Management. He also has the NCVA Level 3 in Greenkeeping and both the NPTC and Chainsaw Certificates under his belt. Despite finishing his course, it is no means the last time Emmet will enter the classroom.

"Looking to the future, I think education is a fundamental part of greenkeeping in order to be associated with the best. Demands from the golfer are higher than in previous times, as they expect golf courses to be in pristine condition all year round. Higher education becomes paramount in this," stated Emmet, who plans to return to college to take on a HND and possibly a Degree in Sportsturf Management in the future.





David Newton, 47, is the oldest of the 2005 set of Finalists. Married for 16 years, he is First Assistant at Arrows Park Golf Club, Birkenhead. Having only discovered the profession some 12 years ago, David has gained his PA1 and PA6 along with his NVQ Level 2 at Reaseheath College, and is now studying for his NVQ Level 3. Said David: "As a mature student I found it a pleasure to study with enthusiastic staff and students and to swap new ideas with like minded individuals. I

found the whole experience very gratifying."

As well as golf, David enjoys cycling and fishing and is keen to progress his career up to Head Greenkeeper status. His dream is to work on a links course.

Next up was the Midlands' leg, where Alastair Ogilvie and James Lindsay shone through as the two candidates worthy of a visit to BIGGA HOUSE.

Alastair, who is a retained Fireman, attends The College of West Anglia, where he is taking his NVQ Level 2. Since 2002 he has been an Assistant at the Gog Magog Golf Club, under the tuition of current BIGGA National Chairman Kerran Daly. Alastair is part of a big greenkeeping family, with three of his relatives within the profession, and has big plans for his future. Short term goals include NVQ Level 3 in Amenity Horticulture in Sportsturf and finishing his spraying certificates, while in the long term an NVQ Level 4 and an MSC in Sports Surface Technology are in the pipe line.

"My NVQ Level 2 has really supported my thoughts on greenkeeping. It has given me the background to the career and I cannot wait to get stuck into the Level 3," said an excited Alastair, who was part of the BIGGA Open Support Team at St Andrews this year.

Deputy Head Greenkeeper at The Bedfordshire Golf Club, James Lindsay began his greenkeeping career at the tender age of 14, working at Ringdufferin Golf Club, Northern Ireland, during school holidays. James, now 27, is presently studying at Merrist Wood College, tackling a NVQ Level 3 in Sportsturf and he has a long history of education.



James has gained a National Certificate in Amenity Horticulture at Distinction Level, as well as a National Diploma in Turf Science at Myerscough College. After earning the latter qualification he was awarded a place on the Ohio State University Intern Programme, employed at the Southward Ho Country Club on Long Island, New York.

"On completing my Level 3 and gaining the appropriate experience, I would like to become a Course

Manager and eventually host a major event. I would also like to continue studying and improving my knowledge by enrolling on a degree course, as the greenkeeping profession is continually moving forward and becoming more professional," commented the well travelled Deputy.

The venue for the last stage of the Regional Finals was Kettering. Here Deputy Head Greenkeepers Alan Pierce and Daniel Spencer saw off stiff competition to make it into the National Final.



Alan, 24, works at Ham Manor Golf Club under Head man Jon Budd, after leaving his position of Assistant at Royal Eastbourne GC recently. A qualified Mechanic, Alan has worked as an On Call Service Technician at John Shaw Machinery, he also has NVQ Level 2 in Amenity Horticulture and NVQ Level 3 Sportsturf Management on his CV. He is in the final stages of his NVQ Level 3 in Amenity Horticulture at Plumpton College at the moment.

"My new position at Ham Manor is something I have aspired to for a long time, as the course is highly regarded in the local area. As for my future aspirations I would like to make the best of this opportunity and support my Course Manager. I would also like to do either NVQ Level 4 or a HND as the scientific side of turf care is something that interests me," stated Alan, whose hobbies are slightly on the wild side, as he enjoys motorcycling, scuba diving and playing the guitar in his limited spare time.

Daniel Spencer can be found at Oaklands Collage working towards his NVQ Level 3 after completing his NVQ Level 2, PA1, PA2 and PA6 in previous years. Daniel, 24, got into the world of greenkeeping at 15, gaining two weeks' experience at Bocket Hall Golf Club under John Wells. He is now the new Deputy Course Manager at Welwyn Garden City Golf Club, in Hertfordshire, working with Course Manager Brett Cox. He has been at the club since April 1997, starting out as a trainee and has qualified as a mechanic - a responsibility of his new role will be to train up the next mechanic at the club.



"At the age of 24 I believe that to become a Deputy Course Manager of one of the best maintained golf clubs in Hertfordshire is already quite an achievement. Within the next five years I would like to have become a Course Manager," said Daniel confidently.

So there you have the eight Toro Student of the Year 2005 Finalists. All will visit BIGGA HOUSE in a late week in September and compete for the Grand Final prize of the Toro Scholarship. This involves an eight week trip to the USA, where for six weeks the University of Massachusetts will be home, as the lucky winner completes a residential Turf Management Course. The trip also includes visits to the Toro Headquarters in Minneapolis and to the GCSAA Golf Industry Show, in New Orleans, in February 2006.

The final itself will entail a further interview and the completion of a survey of the Aldwark Manor Golf Course. This will include evaluating nine holes of the York based course, where BIGGA HQ is situated.

"The standard of entrant to the Toro Student of the Year competition improves year on year. In turn this makes the judge's job even harder, and we have all had to make tough decisions to get the eight National Finalists. All of those reaching the Regional Finals have gone through a selection process when 3000 students has been cut down to 25. All should be very proud of themselves, but unfortunately, we can pick only eight finalists," commented Ken Richardson after returning from his week long interviewing around the UK.

Catching the Worm

Kate Entwistle investigates nematodes, their effects on cool season turfgrasses and possible methods to control them.

WHAT ARE NEMATODES?

Nematodes are a large and diverse group of unsegmented roundworms that occur in virtually every conceivable location worldwide. They can be found in films of water in all natural soils, in bodies of water across the planet and in plant and animal tissues both as saprophytes and parasites. There are about 2000 described species of nematodes that obtain their nutrition from different plants around the world and cause damage or disease to their host in the process.

Given these facts, why should the association of certain nematodes with turfgrass disease problems still be viewed with scepticism by some in our Industry? I can only think that it is related to the relatively little attention that they have been given over the years compared with that afforded to other invertebrate pest and fungal disease problems. This is especially the case on cool-season turfgrasses although nematode damage on warm-season turfgrasses has long been acknowledged and accepted worldwide.

NAMING NEMATODES

The nematodes associated with plant diseases are commonly named so as to describe the symptoms that are seen on infected roots, for example stubby-root, root-knot, lesion and cyst rather than by their Latin names, Paratrichodorus, Meloidogyne, Pratylenchus and Heterodera for example. In other cases, common names describe a specific characteristic of the nematode's shape or anatomy, for example sting, spiral and lance (Belonolaimus, Helicotylenchus and Hoplolaimus, respectively).

These are all examples of plant parasitic nematodes but the phylum 'Nematoda' as a whole contains two additional major groups of nematodes, the saprophytic nematodes and the entomopathogenic nematodes. Any healthy rootzone will support high populations of various saprophytic nematodes. They will aid the natural breakdown of decaying organic material and their presence should be an indicator of a healthy rootzone.

Entomopathogenic nematodes of the genera Heterorhabditis and Steinernema feed only on insects and their larvae and they are currently being investigated and used as a biological control for insect pests including chafers in amenity turfgrass. These nematodes will not cause

damage to turf since they do not feed on the plant and application of products containing these nematodes can be made in the confidence that they will target only the invertebrate pest populations in the treated area.

APPEARANCE AND LIFE CYCLE

With regard to plant parasitic nematodes, those that are capable of damaging turfgrasses are generally transparent and about 1 mm long x 0.02mm wide, although their length will vary between the different genera and between males and females of the same nematode type. Male nematodes are invariably 'eel-shaped' being round in cross-section and unsegmented along their length. The females of some species, however, become swollen at maturity and can have distinctly rounded bodies. All nematodes produce eggs that hatch in to juveniles.

The juveniles often resemble the adult and enlarge through four moults, the first usually occurring inside the egg.

After the final moult, the nematodes differentiate in to male or female and the female completes the life cycle by producing eggs, either after mating or parthenogenetically (i.e. reproduction without fertilisation) if there is no male around.

The length of the life cycle will vary depending on the type of nematode and the local conditions but on average it will be around 30 days. One feature common to all plant parasitic nematodes is that they possess a stylet or 'spear-like' structure in the head end that they use to pierce the plant cells and feed on the cell contents.

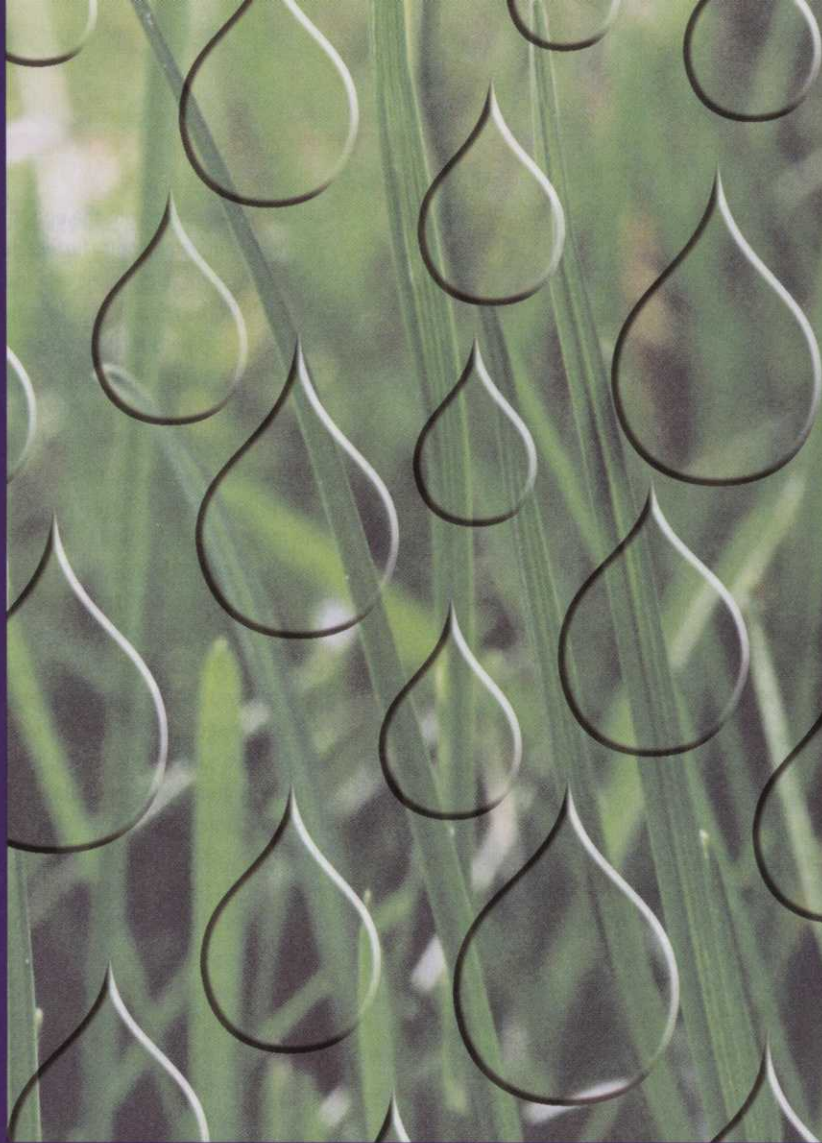
FACTORS AFFECTING NEMATODE POPULATIONS

Almost all plant parasitic nematodes live part of their life cycle in the rootzone with temperature, moisture and aeration affecting their movement and population development. Nematode populations will fluctuate both seasonally and spatially across any given area but generally it is thought that their populations frequently peak during spring and autumn. However, damage to the sward is generally only observed some time after these periods of population growth when the turfgrass is under additional environmental stress.

The exact size of any nematode population that is likely to cause damage (i.e. the threshold level) is still largely undefined for cool-season turfgrass. Details of damaging population numbers have been published for certain nematodes but much of this work refers to situations in the US



Damage to roots caused by *Meloidogyne minor* infection



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General yellowing patch symptoms of *Meloidogyne minor* infection

and since factors including rootzone material, temperature, grass type and nutrient status can affect nematode population effects, this information may be of limited value in the UK. Presently, the best way to determine population effect and cause of symptom expression is likely to be achieved by comparing population levels between affected and adjacent unaffected areas of turf. This is by no means a scientific way of determining threshold levels but it is a method that will show if local population increases are likely to be causing damage in the affected area.

The ideal conditions for maximum nematode population growth are, unfortunately, the same conditions that support ideal plant growth, i.e. mild to warm rootzone temperatures, adequate, but not excessive or limiting, soil moisture and light textured rootzone materials. Low levels of plant parasitic nematodes can be found in most rootzones but damage to the turf is caused when their populations increase and especially when affected plants are further stressed by unfavourable growing conditions or high temperature and low water/nutrient availability.

Since most nematode damage will be confined to the turfgrass roots, the symptoms expressed on the sward will resemble those generally associated with water and nutrient stress or other root feeding insects, i.e. yellowing, wilting or loss of turf vigour. Movement of nematodes can be facilitated by water movement across the sward or through the rootzone and as such, it is possible to see symptoms of 'streaking' across the sward, following the known pattern of water flow.

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMONLY SEEN COOL-SEASON TURFGRASS NEMATODES?

Over the past four years I have noticed a definite increase in turf samples received in to my laboratory where the plants are showing symptoms associated with nematode infection. There are several different nematodes that have been found, but those most commonly seen are the root-knot nematode *Meloidogyne* sp. (both on creeping bentgrass and on annual meadowgrass) and the root galling nematode *Subanguina* sp. on meadowgrasses.

Meloidogyne species of nematodes feed on over 3000 plant species worldwide and the females are referred to as sedentary endoparasites. In turf, this means that they are parasitic nematodes that enter the root, migrate to a feeding site and then become non-motile. Once the female has established a feeding site, she remains in place for the rest of her life. These nematodes are able to alter the entire physiology of the infected turfgrass plant causing significant damage as the nematode population increases.

After emerging from the egg, the juvenile nematodes can invade previously infected roots, further enlarging the swellings that are already present. Normal development of the water and nutrient channels in the roots (the xylem and phloem) is disturbed and root functions decline directly reducing plant growth and quality (Shurtleff & Averre III, 2000).

In 2001, *Meloidogyne minor* was identified as a new species of root-knot nematode associated with yellowing circles and patches that had been recorded on creeping bentgrass greens across the UK and Ireland since the late 1990's (Entwistle, 2003). Although both the male and the female nematodes enter the plant roots during their life cycle, it is the female which remains inside the root, causing the formation of so-called giant cells which facilitate her feeding and disrupt the water and nutrient movement through the plant. The stimulated deformity of the roots is clearly apparent if they are washed free of rootzone material but the female herself is difficult to see without the use of a hand lens or microscope.

Although most nematodes are colourless, the mature female root-knot nematode resembles a small, white pearl approximately 0.5mm diameter. She lives with her body embedded in the root but the egg masses that she produces during her life, which can be five times larger than the female's body, protrude on the outside of the root and are tan in colour. Each egg mass will contain up to around 500 eggs.

Comparisons made between affected and unaffected areas of a golf green that were showing symptoms of infection by this nematode, recorded differences in population levels from <100 per 100g dry soil in the unaffected areas to between 1700 and 3400 per 100g dry soil in the affected areas (Karssen et al, 2004).

The fact that these nematodes are colonising the root system of the creeping bentgrass cultivars and annually causing the yellowing patch symptoms of damage between April and November, is no longer in doubt, but what is still under investigation is how best to deal with them. Since the nematodes disrupt the healthy flow of water and nutrient through the plant it is essential to help the plant to take up sufficient nutrient to maintain its growth during the year and this can best be achieved through foliar feeding.

Encouraging strong root growth will also benefit the plant by minimising the overall effect of the damaged root system on the sward. Knowing that the nematode is present in the rootzone with the potential to cause damage will enable you to adjust your management of the infected turf accordingly to try and minimise the potential damage during times of increased turfgrass stress. We have noticed that the apparent severity of damage by these root knot nematodes declines after about 5 years and this is likely to be, at least in part, as a result of the eventual build-up of antagonists in the rootzone that will stabilise the nematode population.

Over the past four years, an increasing number of turf samples with *Poa annua* swards have come through my laboratory and which have associated root galls caused by *Subanguina* species of nematode. These galls resemble peanuts in appearance although they are much smaller, generally being only around 2mm in length. The *Subanguina* nematodes are referred to as migratory ecto- and endoparasites being able to feed from the plant cells whether they remain outside (ecto-) or live completely within (endo-) the plant cells.

After feeding on and causing damage to plant roots, they are able to move through the rootzone and cause subsequent damage to other, previously uninfected roots. If individual root galls are removed and broken apart in water, they will be seen - using a

hand lens - to release eggs and juveniles that are capable of future damage. Mechanical movement of the galls and infected rootzone is possible on affected turf but as with all other nematodes, their movement relies on the presence of a water film around the rootzone particles.

As with all plant parasitic nematodes, identification of their presence in a turf sample that shows symptoms of damage does not necessarily mean that they are the primary cause and nematodes can certainly be present in a turf area that is not showing any symptoms of damage at all. However, if symptoms of damage are present, the nematode population is high (compared with unaffected samples from the same area of turf) and there is no other possible cause for the symptom development (i.e. no fungal disease, no other invertebrate pest and no chemical/physical/environmental damage), then the nematode must certainly be regarded as the most likely cause of the problem.

There are many parallels that can be drawn between diseases caused by plant pathogenic fungi and those caused by plant pathogenic nematodes. Perhaps the most important is the understanding that the mere presence of the organism (fungus or nematode) does not necessarily mean that they are causing disease.

As with fungi, these organisms are likely to always be present but their localised populations, rate of growth and quality of the turfgrass at any given time will determine whether or not disease symptoms develop on the sward. If they do, accurate identification of the cause of the symptoms is essential and hopefully with a little more information on what potential problems nematodes can cause, you can ensure that all options are fully assessed before chemical applications or other management decisions are made.



General symptoms of *Subanguina* damage to a *Poa annua* sward

Entwistle, K. 2003. Root knot nematode infection of creeping bentgrass greens. *Greenkeeper International*. February. 21-22.

Karszen G, Bolk RJ, van Aelst AC, van den Beld I, Kox LFF, Korthals G, Molendijk L, Zijlstra C, van Hoof R & Cook R. 2004. Description of *Meloidogyne minor* n.sp. (Nematoda: Meloidogynidae), a root-knot nematode associated with yellow patch disease in golf courses. *May/June 2005. Nematology* 61 (1):59-72.

Shurtleff MC & Averre III CW. 2000. *Diagnosing plant disease caused by nematodes*. APS Press, Minnesota. 187pp.

Dr Kate Entwistle works at The Turf Disease Centre and can be contacted on 01256 880246.



Subanguina radiculicola showing head end with stylet (photo: CSL)

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BIGGA currently have a great stock of outdoor clothing at fantastically low prices for all of its members. BIGGA's new range includes jackets, fleeces, trousers and waterproof suits. All products are available in numerous sizes and colours and can be purchased by contacting Rachael Duffy on 01347 833800 at BIGGA HQ.

1. The Highlander Cargo Suit is the whole package. The suit features a coated micro fibre shell and waterproof breathable lining, with two cargo style pockets, plus two pockets on the trousers. The suit comes in M, L, XL & XXL. £55



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



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



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

7. The Reversible Waistcoat has two pockets both sides, is fully reversible and has an adjustable elasticised draw cord. Teflon coated, this top comes in black and grey or navy and stone (as pictured), with sizes ranging from M - XXL. £22.50

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8 The Gear Crew Neck Fleece is ideal for work and play, is fashionable and practical. Available in S, M and L. Colours red, navy and grey. £22

9. If you truly want to be protected from all the elements then look no further than the Outerwear Jacket. This strong jacket is a acrylic coated waterproof, has a full zip with storm flap, and concealed hood. £40



10. These smart, yet tough, polo shirts are made with a fabric that actively pulls moisture away from the skin by rapid evaporation. The Dry Gear shirt is just £16 and is available in white, with either blue, green or red collar trim. The Nailshead polo shirt is moderately priced at £19.50.



It Will Never Happen

Gareth Jones locks the doors and sets the alarm as he examines the best methods and advice to keep out the criminal elements.

How many times have we uttered the immortal words "It will never happen to me"? It is a sentence that escapes the mouth with delicate ease all too frequently. Unfortunately it is also a phrase that has a nasty tendency of coming back to haunt us. We can all think back to one time or another when this has been the unhappy case, and I bet the majority of us can link it back to a time when we have been a victim of crime, either in our personal or professional lives.

If you are one of the lucky people who has yet to experience such things, you may well be sitting down and thinking just that - it will never happen to me. However, as golf becomes more exposed though the media and, as result, becomes more popular to play, so does the awareness of the criminal element that golf equals rich rewards.

Like magpies, they are drawn to the shiny objects abundant at golfing venues the length and breadth of the UK. From a member's new Callaway clubs to the greenkeeper's trusty old greens mower, if not securely locked away, a thief will gratefully except the opportunity to increase his knowledge of the inside of a golf club's facilities.

While statistics for reported crime occurring at golf clubs are impossible gain, as the majority of the UK's police forces do not have a separate category for golf, it is possible to link the latest general crime figures to the industry. The 2004/05 Crime in England & Wales Report makes for some interesting reading. Compiled from actual police recorded crime figures and the findings of the British Crime Survey (BCS), which documents people's real experiences as various offences often go unreported, the report makes a pleasing impression on the surface. The report shows a dramatic fall in the number non domestic burglaries, as incidents at business property or sporting venues are down by 14% compared to 2003/04. However, burglary, theft and criminal damage remain the highest sectors of British crime, and these elements are the biggest headache for golf club employees.

As a brief outline, London recorded the highest figures of all reported crime, 1,023,806 cases, while it was the Yorkshire and Humber Region that contained the highest theft and burglary levels. In total 589,874 crimes were recorded in 2004/05 in the area. In Scotland, the Lothian & Borders police force report a 4% increase in recorded crime compared to the previous year. Vandalism has witnessed the most significant rise in the area and mindless destruction on courses has become the bane of many greenkeepers' lives.

"Vandalism represents almost a third of recorded crime in the Scottish

Table 1: Recorded crime by region, 2004/05

All recorded crime (th)	Recorded crime rates per 1,000 population							Drug offences
	All recorded crime (th)	All recorded crime (th)	Robbery	Burglary	Theft and handling stolen goods	Vehicle and bicycle theft	Other	
258,204	100	16	1	13	34	12	20	4
782,105	115	21	2	15	39	15	28	4
589,874	118	20	1	17	42	17	24	4
424,419	107	19	1	16	34	13	21	4
531,243	100	19	2	13	34	11	20	4
481,283	100	19	1	10	35	18	16	4
1,023,806	100	16	1	10	36	19	16	3
725,813	100	17	1	11	33	11	16	3
443,622	100	17	1	10	32	11	16	3
267,642	100	16	2	13	38	14	22	4
ENGLAND AND WALES	5,562,691	100	2	13	38	14	22	4

Table 2: Percentage change in recorded crime rates by region, 2003/04 to 2004/05

All recorded crime (th)	% change in rates per 1,000 population							Drug offences
	All recorded crime (th)	Robbery	Burglary	Theft and handling stolen goods	Vehicle and bicycle theft	Other	Other	
-8	-8	-22	-18	-13	-17	-2	-14	
-5	-2	12	-17	-21	-8	-13	-1	
-13	-13	-28	-21	-18	-20	-28	-10	
-13	-13	8	-28	-14	-21	-21	-4	
-11	-12	4	-16	-6	-16	-2	-1	
-4	-5	8	4	-4	-8	-15	-8	
-1	2	17	-12	-12	-7	-14	1	
-3	-4	72	-22	12	-8	-16	-3	
-8	-7	8	-15	-17	-11	-17	-3	
ENGLAND AND WALES	-8	-7	8	-15	-17	-11	-3	

Borders and in terms of volume is our biggest single challenge. The most common acts of vandalism are those committed by youngsters often seen as a prank," has stated Challenge Divisional Commander, Chief Superintendent, Charlie Common, in a recent report.

Greenkeepers in Wales and the north east of England can sleep slightly easier at night, as these areas recorded the lowest figures. Just 258,204 crimes were noted in the north east, while Wales experienced 267,642. In the East Midlands burglary has been cut by 19% and theft has been lowered by 14%.

According to the Avon & Somerset Police thieves realise that many properties within a golf club are vacant during the day, with greenkeepers having to work a fair distance from their facilities at points. This therefore makes greenkeeping maintenance facilities a soft target. This is a view endorsed by the security experts.

"Storage facilities for valuable turf care equipment are often quite basic, this makes them an ideal target for thieves. While many mowers are now fitted with datatags, this is only a trace method and does not prevent a theft happening in the first place," said Ian Howard, Managing Director at Howardson.

So what can the ordinary greenkeeper do to keep his beloved compact tractor safe from opportunist thieves without turning the club into a venue more suited to the likes of Norman Stanley Fletcher or the Bad Girls' inmates?

The major body of advice being issued to golf clubs, by both the police and security specialists, is to cover as many bases as possible. One service or product will not be enough to halt a determined criminal, however a combination of protective methods may just keep a thief at bay. The key message is to make it as hard and as time consuming as possible for the would be perpetrator. A thief will be put off by any job that will take time as it greatly improves the odds of being caught red hand. They will no doubt move onto an easier location, rather than spend a copious amount of time attempting to break into a greenkeeping version of Fort Knox, as Nottinghamshire Crime Reduction Manager, Dave Fisher, confirms.

"On average, burglars will only spend four or five minutes trying to break in so it makes sense to slow them down. Burglars seek easy access, so the more difficult you make it for them the less chance they have of success."

There are numerous ways to do just that and protect your greenkeeping facilities and their valuable contents.



IDENTIFICATION

Marking equipment makes it harder for criminal types to sell on, while also making it easier for the police to trace the rightful owner should the unfortunate occur. An ultra-violet pen can put an invisible mark on your chainsaw, which can only be seen using a UV lamp. UV marking on golf equipment is only advised when other marking methods would reduce the value of the kit, as a UV mark can fade in time, especially when exposed to sunlight, and can be washed off so it needs renewing regularly.

Creating an indelible marker on kit, using paint or etching the golf club's name using a punching technique, is advised by the police because it is a permanent mark. However this will not be suitable for most golf clubs if re-sale is planned in the future or the vehicle is leased, plus what will the Greens Chairman say when they see you taking a hammer to your shiny new utility vehicle?

It is recommended that golf clubs invest in an organisation offering property marking and asset registration services. It maybe one of the more expensive options in the short term, but will be vastly cheaper than replacing your equipment when it disappears in the dead of night.

"Each method can fall short of providing effective identification, especially where owners apply their own marks or microdots and then fail to register the identification. What is required is a professionally installed irremovable and useable coding system that further deters thieves," said Bob Rowlands, Sales & Marketing Director at Lincmaster.

Systems are now on the market where a unique computer generated number is placed in up to 50 random recorded locations on a machine. This ensures not only the identification of the complete machine but also its component parts. Electronic tags and microdots can also be installed in random locations on a machine, however they require specialist equipment to read them.

BARRIERS & BOUNDARIES

"Golf clubs are increasingly becoming the target for opportunist thieves. With the high number of prestigious vehicles and expensive golf course equipment on site, thieves are making golf clubs their prime target," stated John McClellan, Managing Director of Jaymac Security Products Ltd.



Automatic barriers located at car park entrances have become a common sight at golf courses across Britain in recent years as they provide a reliable and robust means of effectively controlling vehicle access. Safety barriers vary in type, including rising road blockers, automatic gates and one way flow paths. The key is to find the right barrier system for your club's needs. For instance are you trying to keep thieves out, or trying to stop them escaping should they break in? There is so much choice in barrier type there is bound to be one out there to suit each club's individual wants.

Maintaining secure boundaries around a golf course is an age old concern and one that is almost impossible to solve, particularly on courses that have public right of ways. Advice from the Nottinghamshire Force for stopping machinery theft includes creating suitable access control measures. By building ditches and blocking unnecessary tracks you can force offenders to follow dictated routes out of the course. These can either be alarmed or can lead to clearings so there is more chance of them being spotted as they attempt to flee.

While thorny hedges along course boundaries can act as a deterrent, it is crucial not to conceal the greenkeeping facilities themselves. This is very much dependant on the location of the sheds and while the club may not want them on view for aesthetic reason, for security purposes the facilities must be clear from vegetation to ensure criminal types cannot hide during their acts of sin.

ALARMS

"Alarm systems are a worthwhile investment in the protection of your property. Studies reveal that it is far less likely that you will become the victim of a burglary if you have a correctly fitted and well maintained burglar alarm system," confirm the Metropolitan Police.

With so many alarm systems on the market, this area of security can be a tricky subject. A basic starting point is that the installation of any alarm should meet with British Standard 4737. This type of installation refers to hard-wired systems as opposed to wire-free. Though more expensive than other packages on the market, hard wired systems are more reliable and conform to the Association of Chief Police Officers Intruder Alarm Policy.

The Met recommends remote Signalling Alarms for large facilities and these must be maintained and used in accordance with British Standard. The reaction of the local force to their activation will be based on the assumption that an offence is taking place, but will be measured against competing urgent calls and available resources. A response will also be dependant upon the number of false activations in any 12 month period. Simply put, the more false alarms you incur the lower the police priority and the increased chances of a thief riding away on your quad bike.



Warning!



Images may be monitored for the purposes of crime prevention.

CCTV

"One of the first principals is that CCTV should not be relied on to be the only layer of security defence, it should form part of an overall security package, for instance, in conjunction with a monitored alarm, staff vigilance or internal motion detectors," advise the Cambridge Constabulary.

The main reason behind the explosion in the use of Closed Circuit Television is that it is extremely useful for both monitoring and deterring criminal activity. However, the luxury of CCTV comes at a price with hidden costs and implications that may not be immediately obvious. The equipment must be regularly maintained and suitably sited, and some systems will require additional lighting. Then decisions have to be made as to who will monitor it, will it be recorded, where will it be placed, who's budget does it come out of and if there is adequate signage to warn of the presence of CCTV, while implications from the Data Protection Act will also have to be considered.

After the system is installed it is then crucial to keep the cameras in a good working state. Making sure the camera's lense is clean and that it is covering the correct area of the golf course is vital, while tapes should be changed daily and used no more than 12 times. The picture that is produced by the system should be continually checked, so it remains crystal clear in order to identify individuals and vehicles.

"CCTV is a powerful weapon in preventing and detecting crime. But without proper maintenance, clean lenses and decent tapes it's a bit like looking at things through a snowstorm," said Sir John Stevens, Metropolitan Police Service Commissioner, in a recent press conference.

The final piece of the security jigsaw is to keep everyone at the club vigilant. From members to the green staff, everyone needs to play their part in keeping the club and its property safe. It is incredible how little things can make a big difference, by reporting suspicious behaviour, keeping gates locked and making sure expensive equipment is out of view can stop even the most skilful criminal. So cover as many aspects as practically and financially possible, stay watchful and gain advice from your local Crime Prevention Officer. Do all of these things and it really might never happen to you.

In the Shed

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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.

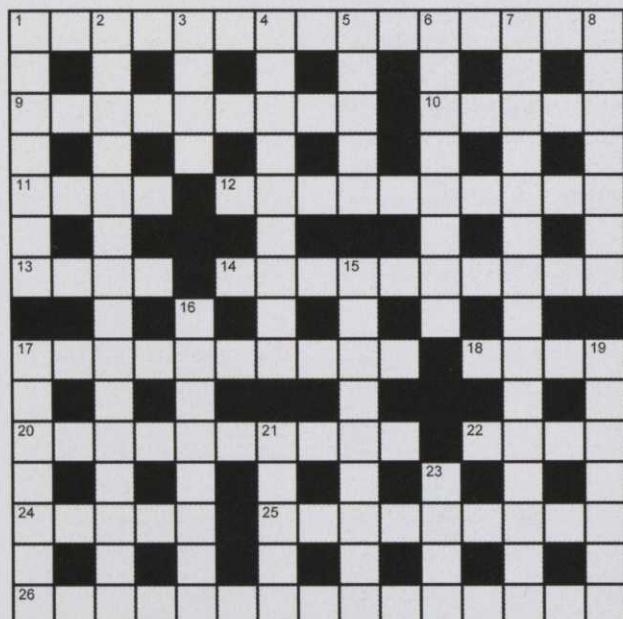
CROSSWORD - Compiled by Anax

ACROSS

- 1 Racehorse, once part-owned by Sir Alex Ferguson (4,2,9)
- 9 Genus of plants containing a milky juice (9)
- 10 Greek philosopher who taught Aristotle (5)
- 11 Type of jug in the shape of a stout man (4)
- 12 Large draft horse originating in Scotland (10)
- 13 Famous university of Connecticut (4)
- 14 Stomach upset, especially suffered by tourists abroad (5,5)
- 17 Electrified device used in herding (6,4)
- 18 Simple card game (4)
- 20 Misrepresentation through deceit (10)
- 22 Group who reached No 1 in 1997 with Barbie Girl (4)
- 24 The son of Cain (OT) (5)
- 25 African country also called Malawi (9)
- 26 The works of Matthew, Mark and Luke (NT) (8,7)

DOWN

- 1 Of spacecraft, return to the earth's atmosphere (2-5)
- 2 Renowned landscape gardener, proper first name Lancelot (10,5)
- 3 Double-reed woodwind instrument (4)
- 4 Of a business, to fail (2,5-2)
- 5 Identification mark made by burning (5)
- 6 Particularly pertinent (8)
- 7 Site of Chinese massacre in 1989 (9,6)
- 8 Breeding area for some types of birds (7)
- 15 North Korea's capital (9)
- 16 Term applied to a company with high stock value (4-4)
- 17 Pivoting rollers on furniture legs (7)
- 19 "Mind one's ---"; observe polite manners (2,3,2)
- 21 Parasitic plants collectively (5)
- 23 1975 Steven Spielberg film starring Roy Scheider & Richard Dreyfuss (4)



ANSWERS TO ALL THE PUZZLES ARE SHOWN ON PAGE 57

ANAGRAM

Can you identify these two Beatles' songs?

SEEDY TRAY

NAVY BLUE COMET

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. In tennis, who won this year's men's Australian Open title?
2. From Amarillo to which soap for rejuvenated singer Tony Christie?
3. What are The Rolling Stones, Nicole Kidman, Tommy Cooper and Ricky Gervais all about to appear on?
4. At what weight does Junior Witter currently box at?
5. Which iconic singer celebrated her 47th birthday in hospital with three cracked ribs, a broken collar bone and a broken hand?
6. What is the name of Sussex's cricket ground?
7. Which nationality is most likely to have a holiday romance?
8. Which football legend made his small screen debut as a TV talk show host in his home country in August?
9. In 1988, which golfer became the first ever to win one million US dollars in a calendar year?

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.

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



Get Your Water Away

James de Havilland inspects the equipment currently on the market to aid in house drainage work.

Even the best courses can have problems with drainage. To help, there are several items of kit that can help produce effective DIY solutions. It is all too easy to get tripped up when writing about golf course drainage. The way in which courses have evolved, and more recent developments in how they are constructed, means there is no definitive 'right way to do it' drainage blueprint. Then there are issues to consider that will include soil types, slopes, run off areas, collection points, irrigation systems, water tables, lakes, ponds, water courses, effluent control, underground services, disruption of play, budgets, available labour; the list can be endless.

So first things first. The aim of this article is not to give a potted history of golf course drainage. Nor is it going to attempt to suggest the right and wrong way to deal with problems on an otherwise well drained course. The idea is to outline some of the equipment that is available to help a club tackle some of its drainage problems in house, with an overview of how they operate.

Starting with the basics, any drainage system will only work if water is able to reach the drains. This is pretty obvious, but it is all too easy to blame drainage when it is in fact compaction that is the cause of the problem. If water is puddling in areas that where once free draining, the first job is to find out why. All fairly obvious, but it is all too easy to overlook the impact year round mowing can have on a course that was once left pretty much mower free from October to March. Year round play does not help either.

Digging a neat small hole with a spade can help identify if there is a compaction layer and its depth. Regular spike tests can also help spot when a problem is building. It follows that knowing how the soil profile is altering is a key to understanding what work will be needed. Assuming compaction controls and aeration measures are all up to snuff, the next issue is ensuring any permanent drainage system is running freely. Again, pretty basic stuff, but it is surprising how blocked and collapsed drains can be missed when seeking to remedy a problem. Drain jetting seems to have gone out of fashion, but it can be an effective in both curing a problem and pinpointing where a drainage pipe is blocked or damaged.

With the basics in place, supplementing an existing system with additional drainage need not be difficult or costly. All a drain does is control the height of the water table to prevent the top layer of soil remaining saturated in wet conditions. Any water above the level of the water table established by an existing drainage system needs to be able to drain away via a medium that can be a slit or trench backfilled with sand, gravel or purpose developed material such as Lytag.

The simplest tools that can be used to create backfilled drainage slits are sand/gravel band drainers. These include the AFT Sandbander, this unit comprising a 1.0cu.m stainless steel hopper and hydraulically powered

vibrating single filling blade that can create a 25mm wide slit to a depth of 250mm. Twin leg variants also being available. AFT recommend the use of sand for this type of work, the unit consolidating the infill to prevent voids and to leave a firm, level finish. Shelton also offer a single leg slitter and hopper unit, but describe it as a gravel band drainer. Again, the tool produces a slit, which can be 25mm wide, and will deposit a band of kiln dried sand, gravel or Lytag at depths adjustable from 100mm to 350mm.



A basic pedestrian trencher, such as a unit from Barreto Trenchers, will be priced from £5,500, with a four-wheel drive model costing near £9,000. This type of machine is ideal for work that can include installing irrigation pipe, pedestrian control going away with the need to tie up a tractor.

For either type of blade slitter to work effectively, ground conditions need to be just right; too wet and there is a risk of damaging the turf and smearing the soil; in clay this can lead to lateral compaction. If the soil is too dry, the slits can be difficult to produce cleanly and the ground may be too hard for the blade to ease through the soil. It is for this reason the powered slitters are often seen as a more versatile alternative. As an aside, BLEC can fit its Groundbreaker slit aerators with a Sandhopper to produce four or more filled slits per pass. These units are claimed to be able to work in dry conditions.



Chain trenchers can produce a clean, narrow slot. This can be backfilled or used to install a drainage pipe. When spoil needs removal, think carefully about the trailers used to do the job. On the wrong tyres and liable to overload, a trailer can do tremendous damage.

Next up are machines like the Shelton System 25. In the place of a slitting leg is a powered trenching wheel. Again, this will produce a 25 to 95mm slit, with a working depth adjustable between 200mm to 400mm. A vibrating backfilling hopper is fitted, this allowing the slit to be filled with a drainage medium that can again include gravel or Lytag.

Unlike vibrating leg slitters, those with a powered trenching wheel can work in dry conditions, but are not recommended for use in soils that are anything more than moderately moist. In other words all types of 'light' surface 'micro' slit drainage needs carrying out at exactly the right time, but when the job has been completed there will be little surface damage, even to a green, with a good operator, and so play will suffer minimal disruption.

'Microband' drainage using sand, gravel or other infill medium will typically comprise slits of between 250 to 300mm in depth, with spacing at 400, 600 or 800mm centres. Buying a system will cost upwards of £8,500. Hiring in the equipment is possible, as is using an operator to do the job with their own slitter; Shelton suggest a green can be 'drained' by one of its operators using a powered slitter for around £650 with support from club staff.

Although the operation of these tools sounds pretty simple, getting it right takes

practice and good timing. A compact tractor of 20hp plus will be needed to power these tools, with wide, low inflation pressure tyres helping reduce the impact the tractor has on the playing surface.

Taking powered slitters one step further, Shelton and AFT also offer larger trenching units that can be fitted with soil removal elevators. AFT 'conventional' digging chain trenchers, such as its tractor mounted AFT 45 model, can be fitted with a choice of chain types or a Slitting Wheel alternative. There are also pedestrian powered chain trenchers available. These include machines from Barreto, Case, BT Trac Systems and Ditch Witch.

Trenching machines can do a great deal more than produce a 'slot' into which a drainage medium can be backfilled. They can be used to lay drainage or irrigation pipe as well as be used to install under ground services including water and electric cables. Although it is tempting to compare this type of kit with 'microband' drainage tools, the way in which trenchers can be used is different. For a start, a chain



Ian Marshall, Head Greenkeeper at Wellingborough Golf Club, has carried out in house drainage and irrigation pipe installation on the course at Harrowden Hall using an AF Trencher, AF45, fitted with a Slitting Wheel. A job quoted out at £50,000 was carried out using the pictured combination for around £15,000.



Tools such as the Shelton 'Microband' single leg gravel band drainer produce a slit between 6 and 25mm wide. Kiln dried sand, gravel or Lytag can be deposited in the slit, the depth of which can be varied from 100mm to 350mm. Soil conditions need to be right for this type of non-powered unit to operate correctly, ruling their operation out in dry conditions.

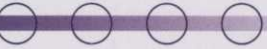
trencher such as the AFT 45 can produce an opening that ranges in width from 40 to 200mm and can be up to 1.20m deep.

The sheer volume of removed material that even a modest trencher can produce can mean there is a need for a secondary tractor and trailer to cart it away. This adds to the need to plan how and when to start using the equipment, with most courses using trenchers finding they are confined to winter project work.

Tractor mounted trenchers are not as easy to price up as all-in-one slit drainage systems simply because the list price will relate to the type of chain fitted and whether a soil removal elevator is also specified. As a guide, a basic AFT 45 frame is priced from £3,730 to which a digging chain, boom and crumbler assembly will need adding. These will be priced upwards of £2,400. Dedicated self-propelled trenchers, such as a 13hp Barreto Hydraulic Trencher, will be priced from upwards of £5,500. These units will dig down to 910mm and produce a trench from 100 to 150mm in width.



Carrying out any drainage related work needs careful consideration not only of the equipment, but the conditions as well. Note the large tyres fitted to the tractor. If the tractor wheels mark the turf, it follows that any work done to alleviate drainage problems will be compromised.



DRAINAGE CONTACTS

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T: 0845 309 0707

BLEC LANDSCAPING EQUIPMENT
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Global Centre
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Deeping St James
Lincolnshire
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T: 01778 346222

B-TRAC EQUIPMENT LTD
45 - 51 Rixon Road
Wellingborough
Northants NN8 4BA
T: 01933 274400

CASE TRENCHERS
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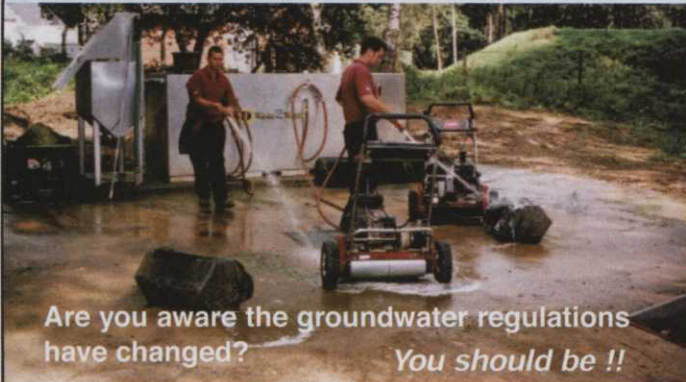
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Drain or Drown

David Shelton grabs his umbrella as he looks at the advances in drainage techniques.

The very mention of installing drainage on golf courses conjures up for many pictures of upheaval and disruption lasting weeks or even months. It was not that many years ago but drainage technology and equipment have made rapid strides in recent times. Disruption is too strong a word to use, inconvenience would be more appropriate and is now measured in days.



A Supertrrencher installing a 80mm diameter piped drain. There need be no disruption. The trailer has to spread the weight and the 4 wheels in line protect the turf

As with so many facets of modern living, technological developments have reduced costs overall rather than increased them. The approach to installing drainage has to change too. Beloved by the senior member of the Green Committee the herringbone layout, which he remembers from his younger days, has no place on today's fairways. He would frown on small diameter pipes, not realising that they may be more effective than pipes two sizes bigger.

As an example let us consider the drainage of a fairway and green that has many wet places during the six months of winter. The grass is noticeably poorer in the very wet areas and on the greens, such much so that a temporary green is generally in use. The members are not happy and the greenkeepers complain of equipment getting bogged down. The consensus of opinion is that the very wet patches must be drained.

It's decision time! Is it to be an overall scheme or just in selected areas? Time and time again I hear stories of how one wet area was successfully drained only to find another wet area appeared a little distance away. So

frequent are these happenings the only way to please everybody one has to be by formulating an overall drainage scheme.

As a general rule, the lateral drains will need to be a maximum of 10 metres apart across the fairway. They will probably be 60mm diameter land drainage pipes, installed snugly in the trench which has been dug 78mm wide. The depth may be of the order of 500-650mm. No permeable fill is placed under the pipe but will be placed over the pipe and brought close to the surface.

These pipe trenches may be topped with free draining sand, or a free draining loam based compost, which is then seeded. Better still is to turf over these 60mm wide scars with matching turf. If there is no natural fall across the fairway then the laser-guided trencher will ensure that the pipes are laid on a suitable gradient. These laterals in turn will flow into a main drain sited off the closely mown area. In this way the connecting sites, which cause the biggest scars, are less conspicuous. Nowadays drainage water is too valuable a product to waste, so the designer should consider where and how best it could be stored.



Fastflow 3 tonne capacity gravel backfiller places permeable fills at fast walking pace; no spills, no wastage

Depending on the annual rainfall, the pattern of that rainfall and the soil types, pipe spacing of 10 metres may not suffice. The spacing can be reduced to seven metres or even five metres but the budget may not allow this. Hence it is commonplace to superimpose a secondary drainage system over the piped system in those areas that are particularly wet. To spread expenditure this may be done at a later date.

Of the several secondary systems from which to choose lets concentrate on three. Slit trench drainage, synonymous with sand slitting, consists of 50mm wide trenches 250mm deep and spaced two or three metres apart. Running at approximately 90 degrees to the drainage pipes they are backfilled with gravel and topped with sand. They are effective but have drawbacks in that they leave noticeable scars down the fairway. They may need topping-up once, twice or even three times, which not only adds to the cost but also more importantly delays the rehabilitation process.

Should one purchase the specialist equipment and do it yourself or should one use a specialist contractor? What about hiring in the specialist equipment or hiring with skilled operator? Every drainage scheme is different and the various alternatives should be considered at the planning stage. One route that finds favour with those on a tight budget is to engage a contractor to install the pipes and hire or purchase equipment for the secondary drainage.

Do not underestimate the amount of materials that have to be handled. In digging a trench 200 metres long, 110mm wide and 600mm deep, 13.2 cubic metres of soil are extracted. In the loose that is approximately 20 cubic metres. In weight terms, of the order of 20 tonnes, this has to be handled and carted away in less than an hour. This trench has to be backfilled with permeable fills totalling a similar gross weight. If the trencher is laying pipe while it digs then 40 tonnes may be handled in under 60 minutes.



Gravel Band Drainage - equally effective on a green as on a fairway



25mm land drainage pipes fits into a trench narrower than a golf ball



Carrying out drainage operations in the winter months and using trailers with unsuitable wheels and tyres can easily rut fairways and surrounding areas. Undertake drainage in the drier months.

Now that waiting lists and joining fees are, for the majority, a thing of the past the golfing fraternity naturally move to the better drained courses. To remain viable golf courses on the heavier soils have to make good drainage a priority. With today's low rates of interest taking out a loan for such improvements can be a cost effective option. So what are you waiting for?

David Shelton heads Shelton Sportsturf Drainage Solutions. The company can be contacted on 01507 578288.

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The Tractor Factor

Some names just roll off the tongue as though they were always meant to be linked together. Morecombe and Wise, Torvill and Dean, Rolis and Royce, Marks and Spencer but in the world of tractors there can be no more a fruitful union than that of Massey and Ferguson.



Just as Eric and Ernie, Jane and Christopher, Henry and Charles, Michael and Tom formed alliances known the world over Daniel and Harry laid down the beginnings of a similar legacy almost 75 years ago and since then their tractors have become a worldwide institution.

Massey Ferguson tractors can be found in every corner of the world - Sir Edmund Hillary even took one to the South Pole - and there are literally thousands of Course

Manager and Farmers who have had reason to toast their faithful old red machines.

The company is now entering a new era and although tractors may no longer be assembled at the famous Banner Lane factory in Coventry - Beauvais in France is the main manufacturing base - the drive to ensure that Massey Ferguson remains in the elite band of tractor manufacturers is as strong as ever and the future looks bright.

Banner Lane will remain the UK Headquarters of Massey Ferguson's parent company of Agco until next year but a new custom built facility is currently being developed for the company at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire, to handle Massey Ferguson and the other companies which operate under the Agco banner - Fendt, Challenger and Valtra all producers of superb tractors in their own right.

That new era extends to Massey Ferguson's recently appointed Ground Care and Utility Vehicle UK and Ireland Sales Manager, a man well known to virtually everyone in the fine turf industry.

Colin Gregory only took up his new position in June but he is already well on his way to ensuring that his extensive list of contacts, friends and associates are au fait with the qualities of the Massey Ferguson range. He has also been quick to sign Massey Ferguson up as a Golden Key Supporter of BIGGA to renew a personal relationship with BIGGA that goes back to the Association's formation in 1987.

"We have eight tractor ranges from 16.5 horsepower up to just under 300 horsepower with everything in between. In fact, if you were to line up

every variation or tractor and tyre combination it would stretch for miles and miles," said the man whose enthusiasm for the industry is measured in gallons not teaspoonfuls.

Colin joined the fine turf sector 25 years ago and is beautifully placed to chronicle the changes within the industry since then.

"When I started, golf courses were using small compact tractors for aeration equipment but then there was a spell when they moved away from the compact to utility vehicles like the Workman, Cushman or Pro Gator. Now though there is a tendency to go back to compacts again but much more powerful versions than before.

"Back in the early 80s I was selling compacts up to 30 horsepower but now we have a situation where small compacts - 16, 18, 21 horsepower don't go well on the golf course and people are looking for 27, 30, 35, 40 or 47 horsepower because they need the power for larger tools like vertidrains and deep slitters. Indeed golf courses which don't run a fairway mower need a fairly powerful tractor to pull gang mowers."

However, the benefits a tractor of whatever size can bring to a golf course are growing and Colin feels the old need to have one large tractor with turf tyres has also changed. One thing is for sure, while the market for tractors for golf course use has grown so has the competition with at least a dozen companies out there trying to attract the golf course business.

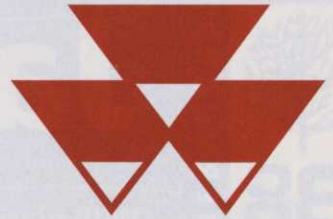
"We are synonymous with tractors. We don't sell ride-on rotaries or cylinder mowers we are predominately a tractor company and that's why people should come to us if they are looking for a tractor," he said, showing evidence of his well honed selling skills.

"Years ago it used to be that a golf course had one large, 60 or 65 horsepower tractor, but now golf courses are buying tractors up to 80-90 horsepower similar to what local authorities do, to run the really big kit."

"Golf clubs can now have more than one tractor, a small one of perhaps 20-25 horsepower, a middle range one of around 45-50 horsepower and perhaps a larger one of 75-80 horsepower depending upon the equipment they have at the club."

And while tractors can be ordered with any array of bells and whistles and Massey Ferguson can oblige, Colin is firmly of the view that there are many people who'd rather keep to the basics.

"You can get too much sophistication and people don't want it as there is more to go wrong. Rather than an electric switch they want to pull a lever so they can get a feel for what they are doing," said Colin, who took time out of his schedule to meet many of his greenkeeping friends and customers at The Open at St Andrews.



MASSEY FERGUSON

Scott MacCallum meets up with Massey Ferguson's new appointment, a man who has been around the industry for 25 years.



The history of the company can be traced back to the mid 1800s and links two men on two continents.

Daniel Massey started to build agricultural equipment in a workshop in his home of Ontario, Canada, in the 1840s, while Ulsterman, Harry Ferguson, was the man who created the three point linkage which transformed modern agriculture. The remarkable Mr Ferguson was the first man in the British Isles to build and fly his own aeroplane while he also designed the suspension system on the Lotus racing car.

The union between the two men came in the 1930s and by the 50s Massey Ferguson was a true colossus in the agricultural machinery industry with as much as a 60% market share which translated to as many as 60,000 tractors a year in the UK alone.

Colin is keen to eat into market share of the golf tractor market and at the time we spoke he was in the process of recruiting a Sales Manager for the south with another coming on stream for the north and Scotland shortly.

"They will be set up with demonstration equipment and will work closely with the dealer network. If we have a potential new customer keen to look at a Massey Ferguson it is important that they see one in situ," he said.

"Many of our dealers have people with fine turf experience but the more successful we are the more likely they will be to appoint a specialist in ground care. Dealers can bend my ear whenever they want and we will put in demonstration equipment wherever they want to help them with sales."

While tractors are Massey Ferguson's real claim to fame it would be wrong to overlook their AgTV quad bikes that were launched a few years ago. Superbly constructed with a frame which enables tools to be carried around the golf course the AgTV has quickly found favour with Course Managers as a means of getting around the golf course effectively.



"The market is increasing and you do see more of them on golf courses not as a replacement to the utility vehicle but as a means of getting across the course. Our 250cc machine is a two wheel drive machine while the 300, 400 and 500cc come in either two or four wheel drive with automatic on the top two models and fully independent suspension."

Colin was delighted to have renewed his association with BIGGA and sees the opportunities it brings to meet people as extremely valuable.

"I enjoy meeting people and getting to know what they want and what they need and BIGGA provides opportunities with events like The Open, Harrogate and Regional and Section events. It's what BIGGA is all about and what I'm all about," said Colin, as he fielded calls from all over the country on his overworked mobile.

He is a big supporter of Harrogate and is delighted that the introduction of ClubHouse has seen more Club Managers and Club Secretaries attending the Show.

"It's all down to results and if you get the Club Manager or the Secretary going round with the Course Manager we are more likely to get sales."

He's also looking forward to attending Golden and Silver Key meetings.

"It's important to me to be involved not only with customers but competitors as well and I'm looking forward to meeting my colleagues from the other companies."

Meeting up with Colin again you can't help but feel that Massey Ferguson have made a very astute appointment. In football parlance he is the inspirational, hard working, been there and done that midfielder signed just before the start of the season. A man to turn losses into draws and draws into wins and you can be sure that the Massey Ferguson name won't be missing from any shortlist if one of his many contacts is in the market.

I wouldn't call him Roy Keane to his face though.

Jazzing It Up

With places now to be won on the 2006 BIGGA Delegation to New Orleans, USA, GI tracked down three of the 2005 party, which travelled to Orlando, to find out what they gained from their once in a lifetime experience.

Less than a month after the UK's leading Golf and Turf Management Show, BTME & ClubHouse, the GCSAA Golf Industry Show will be held in New Orleans, USA. Taking place February 7-12 2006 in the Big Easy, the BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard, is again offering the chance for 10 greenkeepers to win a trip of a lifetime to the American Show.

Previous BIGGA Delegates have been delighted with the chance to find out what life is like for US Superintendents. As well as visiting the week long GCSAA event, which includes seminars and workshops, the 10 greenkeepers have the opportunity to visit numerous leading American golf clubs to see first hand how the Americans cope with the demands for ever higher turf presentation standards.

GI tracked down three of the 10 greenkeepers who went to the Show, which was held in Orlando in February 2005, to discover their experiences and views on the greenkeeping profession both sides of the pond.



L-R: Terry Crawford, Tim Rockey, golfing legend Jack Nicklaus and Robert Needham

Tim Rockey, greenkeeper at Parkstone Golf Club, Dorest, discovered from his involvement in the BIGGA Delegation that Superintendents in the US have massive operational budgets and staffing levels, compared to the UK.

"What absolutely amazed me was the amount of machinery and the standard of workshops and maintenance facilities, where everything looked branded new," said Tim.

The Delegation trip involves visits to some of the leading golf courses in the US, with one of these trips, to the Ritz Carlton Golf Resort, leaving Tim stunned by the amount of money spent on bedding and pot plants alone.

"Planting schemes were changed five times a year and they employed 30 staff just to maintain this aspect. The total operational budget for the course was in excess of \$3,000,000, which was divided into budgets for the exterior planting, interior planting and on the golf course itself.

"Their style of management is quite different. Generally a course has a Superintendent, his Deputy and an Irrigation Technician with the remaining staff, mainly Mexican, trained up for just one job. With our courses everyone needs to be versatile and we are definitely more multi skilled," concluded Tim.

Terry Crawford, who is Course Manager at Clandeboye Golf Club, Northern Ireland, also had his eyes opened by the BIGGA Delegation. The trip confirmed the Course Manager's views on certain aspects of greenkeeping, while leaving him surprised at other elements.

"One thing that is the same for superintendents in the US and greenkeepers in the UK is that we all face tremendous demands from members. We can go under stress just like the grass plant," said Terry.

A dedicated greenkeeper for 25 years, Terry has tended the Clandeboye course for the last 15 years, but the greenkeeper's visit to the states courtesy of BIGGA and Bernhard has led to a major change in his course management at Clandeboye, namely a lighter top dressing programme, after all these years.

"I had been dressing the greens heavily twice a month but since my trip, to get a truer, faster, cutting surface with the same cutting height, I apply a lighter application once a week. Obviously we have far less staff than in the US but it must take a US Superintendent with more than 40 staff a lot of organisation to achieve good end results".

Head Greenkeeper at Hickleton Golf Club, Doncaster, Robert Needham was another one of the 10 BIGGA members who benefited greatly from his time in the States on the Delegation.



The 2005 BIGGA Delegation - You could be one of the 2006 party heading to New Orleans

"The main thing I noticed was the weather was a lot warmer than it is in Yorkshire," joked Robert when recalling his trip. "However this does create problems as we learnt from Champions Gate Golf Club. In Florida the snow birds, visitors from abroad and Americans from the north, want bright green courses to play on. This is not necessarily conducive to good greenkeeping but in spite of this they do manage to create excellent courses throughout the year.

"With 60,000 rounds of golf at Champions Gate two-thirds of play takes place in the first three months, so this puts tremendous demands on the course. The US throws much more money at golf, whereas we have to be very careful with our budgets, which are well structured," stated the Headman, who has been in the profession for 28 years.

One of the major elements that hit home on the trip was the superb greenkeeping facilities at most US courses. This is a fact not lost on Robert as Hickleton are currently in the process of building new, better facilities for their greens teams. Measuring 30m by 15m, dedicated new buildings have been created with the old shed being used as a maintenance facility.

To apply for one of 10 places on the BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard, contact BIGGA HOUSE on 01347 833800 for an application form. Entry is open to all BIGGA Greenkeeping members. Closing date for completed entry forms is September 9 2005.

Your Letters...

Good Friend Gone

It is with great sadness that Lloyds and Company announce that Ray Potter, our Sales Manager, died suddenly in the early hours of Sunday August 7 2005 while on holiday with his family in the West Country.

Ray has worked in the turfcare industry for many years and had been with Lloyds for the last 10 years; he had a lovely personality and was liked by everybody he came in contact with. Ray will be great loss, not only was he a superb colleague but a wonderful friend to all that worked with him and he will be sadly missed.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this sad time.

Previous to Lloyds Ray had enjoyed a distinguished career as a professional footballer. He joined Beckenham Town as a youth player in 1951 and moved to the ground staff of Crystal Palace on leaving school at 15. In 1959 Ray was transferred from Crystal Palace to First Division side West Bromwich Albion where he went on to play over 220 First Division games.

The funeral took place at Portchester Crematorium, Hampshire on Friday August 19 2005 at 1pm.

Clive Nottingham

Lloyds and Company Letchworth Ltd

Look after Number One

I couldn't help but notice that in recent months you have been looking for new ideas to help educate your members in your Tip of the Month Section, I have a suggestion.

For the last ten years people have been regurgitating articles on the maintenance of grass, soil, pipe work and engines. This is all well and good but there has always been a failure to comment on the most important maintenance tool, the greenkeeper.

How many greenkeepers have ended up with injuries such as tendonitis, trapped nerves, dermatitis, bad backs, and stiff joints? Not to mention the psychological effects of dealing with 600 members!

I think it is about time we started to pay more attention to ourselves. Perhaps you could employ a general practitioner to look into the health problems greenkeeping staff can encounter, their treatment and long-term effects. I am sure it would produce some interesting articles of great value, especially to the younger members who are all in one piece!

Mark Aynsley

Still the Sun Shines

Sunday July 10, Belleisle, The Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich. Again the sun splitting the tress, not to mention to few old bald heads suffering for lack of sun tan lotion. Golfers have got to the stage where they expect a good day for Harry's Quaich and we have never had a bad one. We feel that Harry must have some influence up there since for the past five years the weather at Belleisle has been perfect for golf on that Sunday in particular.

At 9.30am 130 golfers, good, bad and indifferent, stood on every tee on the course awaiting the blast from the claxon to engage in the struggle to secure the Harry Diamond Quaich for their foursomes. Stableford is an excellent way to play a sociable game of golf, not for the perfectionist, but it gives the sluggers a chance to do their wee bit even if you can't get out of the odd bunker and you hit the odd ball astray, someone else in the team getting the 1, 2 or 3 points to keep the team's peckers up. The great thing about a Stableford shotgun start is that we all finish at the same time and, believe it or not, everyone, or nearly everyone, waited for the presentation.

This year Harry's brother, Hugh, presented the prizes to the runners up. The Quaich was won by Steven Mason, Darren Dunlop, F. Alexander and J. Wilson and Harry's wife, Jessie, presented them with their prize. Harry had a big family of daughters. They were all at Belleisle to assist in any way, from mixing with golfers to just sitting around and smiling and being pleasant. I asked the girls: "Were there any boys in the family?" I was told by many coy looks: "There are two." Sometimes being a male can be hell.

As I have said in past years, it gives me a lift to know that the Belleisle Club and the Diamond family work for a year brings this very popular golf tournament to the memory of Harry to a successful conclusion which they most certainly have achieved this year.

It would be amiss of me if I did not mention the condition of the course. Billy Fulton and his staff are to be commended for the improvement of Belleisle over the past five years. It is a course well worth a visit to any greenkeeper passing that way, and if courtesy and respect shown to the six greenkeepers who played in the Competition are anything to go by I am sure you will get a homely Ayrshire welcome.

Another year has slipped away and another Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich Tournament has been won by worthy golfers. We look forward to 2006 to again play in this competition to the memory of a great friend and greenkeeper.

Cecil George, BIGGA Life Member

YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

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

A Trip of a Lifetime

Alex Shore, the 2004 Toro Student of the Year, reminisces on his prize to study in America at the University of Massachusetts for eight weeks.

When I was told I was going to be nominated for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award by my college lecturer, Andy Wight, I was surprised and honoured. But hearing my name called out as the winner of this prestigious award was just out of this world.

I was overwhelmed when I received a letter from Ken Richardson to say that I had made the National Final at Aldwark Manor, Yorkshire. The final for me came after an exhausting few days of preparing for the European Tour Event, the Heritage Competition held at my club - Woburn. I quickly had to turn my attention to preparing for what would be a very memorable weekend.

The final was made up of eight finalists from all over the country. After I had met all of these extremely keen and knowledgeable young greenkeepers I realised just how hard it would be for the judging panel to pick a winner. Any one of us could have won. I'm sure all the finalists will agree that the friendships created in Yorkshire will remain with us for a long time to come.

The final involved an interview with Peter Mansfield, Andrew Brown, John Pemberton and David Walden, and writing a report on Aldwark Manor's golf course. At the end of a nerve racking day we were gathered in the hotel for the results to be announced by Ken Richardson. With the quality of the other finalists you can only imagine the surprise, shock and delight when I heard my name called out as the winner. Thanks to everyone involved in the weekend, including the other finalists, for making that weekend a truly memorable experience.

After the final there was much to do before I could leave for the States. There were forms to fill in, a visa to get and many phone calls to the 2003 winner, Keith Scruton, with all sorts of question about the weather, university and where to get a decent beer! This did a lot to calm the nerves. I was in constant contact with Christine Wilson, who is Peter Mansfield's Secretary at Lely UK. Christine was organising my once in a lifetime trip and made sure I was in the right place at the right time. Christine must have been glad when I finally left for the States and stopped phoning her.

The next thing I had to do was attend the American Embassy in London, to secure my visa. With Christmas fast approaching there was little time to spare. After a few nervous days my visa turned up on Christmas Eve with only three working days before I flew out. A visit from Peter Mansfield brought delivery of my final itinerary, complete with tickets and traveller's cheques. It was only then that it sunk in that I was really going to America.

The flight over to Washington was done in style. My Managing Director at Woburn, Eddie Bullock, had very kindly arranged for me to fly first class. I could get use to all that legroom. On arrival in Hartford I was greeted by rain and a very cold wind, the weather was going to take some getting used to. After a short taxi ride I arrived at the Quality Inn in Hadley. Just two doors down from my room in the hotel, I met Craig Weberly, the Australian Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

The next day, with little time to settle in, I had to catch the 6.30am bus to the University of Massachusetts for my first day of study. It was very strange, new people, getting use to the American way of studying and dealing with the time difference. We were given a quick introduction to the 74th annual winter turf school and straight into lectures.



A satisfying reward after all that hard work

After our introduction we were handed a list of reference books that they required us to buy. So it was off to the bookshop to purchase \$800 worth of reading material. They would prove invaluable throughout the course, but very heavy when it came to getting them on the plane home.

My class consisted of 44 students of different ages and backgrounds, 36 Americans, six Canadians, one Australian and me, the only Brit, all with varying degrees of experience. In the States and Canada most of the golf courses are closed over the winter due to the snow, a perfect time for greenkeepers to study.

The first few days were a massive learning curve, from doing turf calculations in feet, gallons and inches, to dealing with chemicals and insects that I had never dealt with before. However, it was still very interesting learning about the different weeds, pests and grasses and how to manage them. I found the first few days hard, being 5000 miles away from home, friends and family took a bit of getting use to. Once the homework and tests started, there was little time to miss home. Subjects such as soil science, entomology, arboriculture, turf calculations, turf management, irrigation, turf diseases, financial management, weed management and golf course design were all started in the first week.

During my second week we had all started to feel more at home. Finding our way around this massive campus took some time. In some cases it would take 25 minutes to walk from one classroom to another. The whole campus was on a massive scale and resembled a town rather than a university.

During the weeks we started project work and reading assignments. The tests were coming thick and fast with most lecturers giving a test on their previous class. This meant in order to keep up we had to form evening study groups back at the hotel and study for the exams. Most days were 8am to 5:30pm intense with lectures. We clocked up over 250 hours of lectures.

Along with our regular lecturers we were lucky enough to have some guest speakers. One of these was Bill Spence, who is the Superintendent at the Brooklyn Golf and Country Club. He spoke on how he prepared the course for the 1999 Ryder Cup. This was a good opportunity to ask questions about staging such a major competition. At Woburn we have had several major competitions but nothing on the scale of the Ryder Cup.

Along with all this studying I had to quickly learn the rules of basketball and ice hockey in order to support the university teams. In the campus there was a 20,000 seater football and ice hockey stadium, along with a 10,000 capacity basketball arena. The minute men, as they were known, always put on a good show. I was able to attend these games with some of my new greenkeeper friends.

Weekends also gave us all an opportunity to catch up on washing and writing postcards home. This was also the time to phone home and speak to my wife and family. It was also time to stock up on microwave meals at the "Big Y's" supermarket. When you only have a microwave and a small fridge in your room it is difficult to produce too many culinary delights.

As part of the Toro prize Craig and I were invited to attend the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in Orlando, Florida. The show happened to fall the weekend before the end of the course, a well deserved break from studying. After a three hour flight, we arrived in Orlando for a whirlwind two days. A quick freshen up and it was off to the President's Dinner, where it was nice to meet up with some familiar faces from BIGGA and my college lecturer. The following day was spent looking round the Show, before returning to Massachusetts early on Sunday morning to complete the last few days of the course.



Class of 2005

Finally the end had arrived at UMASS; it was time for the Graduation Dinner. A few of us decided that a stretch limo was the way to travel for this occasion. It was a great relief to receive my certificate. The night was my last chance to say goodbye to everyone before the next stage of the trip. I had made some great friends and learnt tremendous amounts from my time in Massachusetts. It was not time to say goodbye to Craig, the Aussie, as he was travelling with me on the final leg of my trip.

Craig and I flew to Minneapolis to Toro HQ. This stage of the trip was done in style, staying in some very luxurious hotels. In Minneapolis we met up with John Faber - the Canadian Winner of the Award. He joined us for a trip around the Headquarters of Toro, in Lyndale.

On arrival we were given the tour of all the testing facilities. We were shown how Toro test their machinery to stand up to the stresses that us greenkeepers put their equipment through. After lunch we were taken to the Shakopee manufacturing plant. This is where many of the parts for the Toro machinery are produced. The tour showed us how complex and precise the manufacturing process is.

Robots and lasers aided skilled engineers to construct the parts. These parts are then sent to Toro's assembly plant in Tomah, Wisconsin. Many of the machines in this facility cost over a million dollars and made our workshop at Woburn look very small in scale.

The following day we were taken to Tomah, a three hour drive away. This was a very interesting day, seeing how the parts were welded together, dipped in the famous red and black colours of Toro and assembled to create the machines we all know at the 300,000sq ft factory. We had the opportunity to be the first people to sit on the machines as they came off the production line before

being shipped to their new homes all over the world.

After catching flight number six, Craig and I arrived in sunny California. Temperatures of 21°C were a welcome relief from the snowy conditions we had become used to over the last seven weeks. On this part of the trip we visited the Toro irrigation department where we were given a tour of the department and test facilities. It was interesting to see how irrigation parts and systems were designed and tested.

After a very interesting day it was time for Craig to make his long journey home. It was strange saying goodbye as we had had many adventures together.

However, the thought of spending a well deserved week's holiday in Los Angeles with my wife, Hannah, was very appealing and bought me back down to earth a little. So, after 64 days, eight flights, seven hotels, temperatures between -30°C to +21°C, and one too many burgers, I returned with enthusiasm and energy to put into practice all the knowledge I was fortunate to learn.

After my once in a lifetime trip, some people deserve a big thank you. Firstly, Andy Wight, of Oaklands College, for nominating me, Keith Scruton for all his hints and tips, Eddie Bullock, Chris Hunt and the team at Woburn Golf and Country Club for supporting me throughout. Thanks also to the team at BIGGA for giving me this fantastic opportunity and to the staff at the University of Massachusetts. Finally, to Peter Mansfield and Christine Wilson, of Lely UK, Andy Brown, of Toro Europe, Barry Beckett and Jace Bertsch, of Toro - Minneapolis, and Kenne James, of Toro - California, for all their individual involvement in the competition.

This whole experience will stay with me for many years. I feel honoured to have had this unique experience and wish good luck to all the nominees for the 2005 Competition.



The 300,00sq ft Toro Factory, Tomah



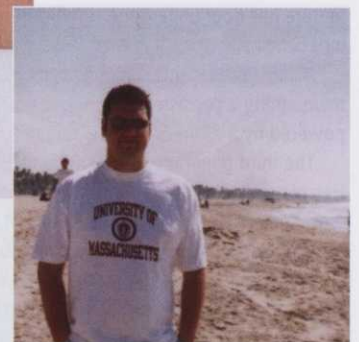
Florida - GCSAA Exhibition



Wrapping up warm was a must in Massachusetts



After completing the turf course it was off to visit Toro HQ in Minneapolis



Sun, sea and surf - at last

NEW PRODUCTS

IT'S ALL IN THE SIGN

A new range of club and course signage is being introduced by Eagle. To extend the range of zinc and bronze signage, Eagle is introducing a new range incorporating granite. Besides corporate, entrance and directional signage, the new granite range will be available in three main sign formats.

As a mow-over range in circular, square and rectangular shapes for both tee-based hole and distance information and as fairway yardage markers. As an alternative to zinc and bronze for the tee plates on the classic timber twin-post signage system. As a similar option for the tee plates on the single timber post range of signage.

The attraction of polished granite lies in the widely-held perception of its high quality, but for club managers and greenkeepers it also has other more practical qualities, including polished granite, which is extremely durable and very easy to maintain and keep clean. The sign's information is reproduced via a computer-generated stencil. A sandblasting process, into which weatherproof enamel paints are finally inlaid, then defines the lettering and figures.

For further information Tel: 01883 344244.



THE ALL ROUNDER

A new product moulded in the shape of a golfbag has been released by the Polytank Group. The Polytee Golfbag Bin will not only help to keep golf courses and driving ranges free from litter, it will encourage impulse sales at golf shops and sports retail outlets, and could even generate extra revenues through advertising, according to the company.

The Polytee golfbag bin, manufactured in tough, durable medium density polyethylene, can be used either as a waste receptacle, outdoors and indoors, or in-store as an eye-catching dispenser for golf clubs, golf balls and other merchandise at the point of sale.

Polytee offers a great opportunity for small businesses to benefit from advertising and sponsorship revenues. These units are ideal for carrying the logos or promotional messages of external organisations. Alternatively, customers can use Polytees to advertise their own facilities and services claim the manufacturer. Available in a wide range of colours and it is supplied complete with inner moulded liners.

For further information Tel: 01772 632850.



TAKE A LOAD OFF

The LoadRunner Micro-Dumper, from LoadMaster Engineering, is designed to make moving heavy or bulky materials easier.

The narrow, 28in (715mm) wide LoadRunner benefits from a two-axes Tumbletip self tipping mechanism. This allows the bucket to roll forward, clearing the front of the chassis before rotating to discharge. This facilitates tipping without the need for hydraulic or manual assistance. It also lowers the centre of gravity for increased stability.

The LoadRunner has select drive 2/4 wheel drive, whereby a friction system transfers power from the permanently driven front wheels to the rear wheels, as required, via an intermediate idler wheel. This improves handling, reduces fuel consumption and permits quick tyre changes to suit conditions on site. Several different tyre options are available including super wide low ground pressure tyres for use on very delicate turf.

For further information Tel: 0870 3867377.



ENERGY SAVING CHAINSAW

The STIHL MS 650 is equipped with an anti-vibration system, which effectively absorbs vibrations even at high speeds. This saves energy and lets the saw operator work more comfortably, without tiring.

The secret of the chain's soft cut lies in a newly profiled cutter that enables a shock absorbing effect as the cutting edge enters the wood. Together with

the effective anti-vibration system of the MS 650, this makes working with this chainsaw much more comfortable.

Functions include hot and cold starting, run and stop can be controlled via the master lever control on the MS 650. This is both convenient and safer, as the operator's hand does not need to leave the handle.

For further information Tel: 0800 137574.

ZERO TURN

Ferris' commercial family of zero turn mowers offers four wheel suspension as standard. This feature has now undergone significant improvements on the new IS 4500Z, combining front wheel independent suspension with rear wheel

Active Performance Suspension (APS) delivers greater comfort, speed and traction while maintaining a consistent cut. The IS 4500Z is offered with a 61" rear or side 10-gauge deck and is powered by a 27hp CAT diesel engine.

The third generation IS 5000Z now offers a range of advanced features including the new Ferris Hercules spindles designed to give three times more life and an up-rated rear suspension arrangement that incorporates new cast iron A-Arms enabling new softer springs with intrinsic absorption qualities. In addition, the Monroe shock absorbers have been finely tuned to match the exact requirements of the machine and operating conditions, delivering optimum chassis dynamics and allowing the operator to work even faster in greater comfort.

For further information Tel: 0121 5110400.



DEERE ADD TO SERIES

John Deere have launched their brand new commercial mowers alongside a new compact tractor and a new range of Gator utility vehicles.

The 7H17 Commercial hydrostatic walk-behind mower is the first designed by John Deere for European conditions with a dedicated rear discharge deck, and is ideal for a variety of demanding commercial grass cutting applications. It features a 17hp engine and a 48in rotary mower deck, fabricated from heavy-duty 10 gauge steel for durability and a longer working life.

The new small chassis 2020 Series compact tractors join the larger mid and large chassis models in the 20 Series range. These 24 and 26hp machines offer increased torque and lower fuel consumption from a Tier 2 low emission engine, a new hydro transmission and a new deluxe cab. There is also a choice of new 'drive-over' mid-mounted rotary mower decks for easier attachment, including a 60in rear discharge unit. The new T (for Traditional) Series are the latest additions to the Gator range, and will include TE, TS and TX models.

For further information Tel: 01949 860491.



FIVE ALIVE

Newly launched is the Series 5 range from Hunter Grinder equipment. Series 5 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 which are aimed not only at ensuring the best possible performance, but are also designed to address any health and safety issues that have arisen in recent years. In particular to ensure the operator can achieve a precision edge for maximum quality of cut, with greatest ease, speed and safety.

All models in the Series 5 range are now built on cast iron beds for stability and strength, 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. The Amazon Series 5 bottom blade grinder has full guarding.

For further information Tel: 01207 270316.



IT'S A MARATHON NOT A SPRINT

Marathon, the long release organo-mineral fertiliser range of Melspring International BV, is now available in a 2-5mm outfield range. In order to strengthen the position of Marathon in the UK, Melspring has nominated Sherriff Amenity as distributor in Great Britain for the 2-5mm outfield range.

Marathon fertilisers do not contain nitrate. The ammonium and long chain urea are buffered in an organo-mineral complex and hardly leach to groundwater. The Marathon Outfield range consists of the following formulas: Marathon Spring 16-4-8+2MgO+0,5Fe, Marathon NK 12-0-14+2,5MgO+0,5Fe, Marathon Repair & Preseed 7-13-9+2,5MgO and Marathon Autumn 7-1-21+1MgO+0,3Fe, which is suited to the wet and mild winters of Great Britain.

For further information Tel: 01638 721888.

THE AERAVATOR

The latest addition to the range of Blec machinery is the new Aeravator Multi-tine. This machine features a vibrating multi-tine rotor system, which will penetrate the hardest terrain with very little surface disturbance. It will sow all types of seeds accurately in random format without regimented lines.

The Aeravator Multi-tine is equally effective operating on fine turf, such as golf greens, bowling greens, sports turf areas such as fairways and sports pitches, or even on bare soil, aerating the surface as it performs its task. The Aeravator Multi-tine produces 600 holes per square metre, it is fitted with a swing hitch that allows it to turn a tight circle on the move ensuring maximum coverage and mobility.

For further information Tel: 01778 346222.



MAX POWER

With the introduction of the three model C-Max range of tractors, McCormick is giving turf care operators and contractors a further choice of a power unit to match different implements and working situations.

In terms of size, weight and power, the newcomers slot neatly between the smaller McCormick New F series, which comprises seven models from 58hp to 99hp, and the full-size agricultural type McCormick CX XtraShift models, which go from 73hp to 102hp. The McCormick C-Max is a full size but lightweight cabbed tractor suitable for all manner of groundcare jobs, from loader and trailer work to mowing and turf aeration. All three versions are powered by Perkins 1100 series engines - a 3.3 litre three cylinder in the 58hp C60 Max and a 4.4-litre four cylinder in the 68hp C75 Max and 82hp C85 Max.

The tractors come with a choice of simple two wheel drive or the added traction that comes with four wheel drive, plus integral front axle disc brakes for added security both on and off the road.

For further information Tel: 01302 366631.

NEW CHUTE

Campey Turf Care Systems have launched a new attachment that further increases the versatility of their Dakota 410 and 411 Turf Tenders.

The Cross Conveyor Chute fits conveniently in place of the rear spinner discharge assembly and is hydraulically driven. In transport mode it quickly slides and clamps within the width of the 410 or 411, and in use the chute extends to enable discharge of material neatly at the side of the left-hand rear wheel.

The Chute facilitates spot treatment applications, such as backfilling drainage channels and topping up bunkers accurately. The conveyor belt speed and rate of application is controlled from the driving position by the electro-hydraulic control panel.

For further information Tel: 01260 224568.





News from the Chief Executive

Plans for Harrogate 2006 are slowly coming together and as you will see from other parts of this magazine there will be a massive increase in education on offer when compared with previous years. This will be spread over a six day period and there should certainly be something for everyone, from Student to Manager, and no matter whether you are a Greenkeeper, Groundsman, Golf Club Official or perhaps employed in one of the other turf related activities.

On August 18 we held an Open Day for Exhibitors, both current and potential, at Harrogate International Centre (HIC). The morning included a presentation by myself, Rosie Hancher and Ken Richardson and was specifically designed for them to be able to gain a better understanding of the scope of Harrogate Week and give them an opportunity to discuss the future direction of our event with the BIGGA Management Team. The day was well supported and there was representation from all aspects of the broad exhibitor base. In explaining the benefits available to both exhibitor and visitor it quickly became apparent that it is generally not appreciated how complex an event this has become and how today it is much more than just a show with a few 'fringe' activities. The exhibitors would like to see more visitors from not only golf course or golf club management but also anyone involved in turf care, especially decision makers or those who influence decisions.

The advantage of attending Harrogate Week as a visitor, whether in full or in part, will be widely marketed over the coming months and a web site has been developed to enhance ease of access to information. The address is www.harrogateweek.org.uk and the site is now online. I encourage you to have a look at it and welcome any suggestions for improvement. These can be emailed to me at john@bigga.co.uk or, of course, there is always traditional mail or telephone. Many of the exhibitors have offered to help with the promotion of Harrogate Week however members can also assist in this area.

I would like to thank HIC for use of the facilities on the Open Day, Crown Venue Catering for providing lunch, 2/10 Productions for managing the audio visual requirements and Joe Manby Limited for providing a registration booth.

I am aware that I and those of my colleagues based at Headquarters have not had as much opportunity this year as in the past to visit Region and Section events. We propose to address this by attending some of the Autumn and Winter events even though the workload at HQ shows no sign of easing off! I am also in the early planning stages of arranging more regular meetings with Section Secretaries, perhaps on a regional basis interspaced with a less frequent visit to BIGGA HOUSE.

Please do not forget that the Regional Administrators are members of HQ staff and as such attend HQ staff meetings on a regular basis. Communication is an ongoing challenge and we will be looking at ways of improving the flow of information. There is always an open invitation for anyone, member or not, to visit Headquarters and if you would like to incorporate this with a stay at the hotel then we can arrange for you to take advantage of our preferential rates.

John Pemberton

SCOTTISH REGION

East

After a wet start to the year, summer has finally arrived with record temperatures in July putting a smile on the face of both greenkeeper and trade alike! There have been a few reports of brown patch, which I am familiar with from my time in the Thames Valley, but I have never seen north of the border before. A disease which attacks bents and fescues, it frustratingly leaves our old friend poa annua alone.

On behalf of the Section I would like to congratulate Craig Gilholm, former Deputy to Colin Irvine at Muirfield, on his appointment as Golf Course Superintendent at Royal Liverpool. With the Open Championship at Hoylake next year I am sure Craig will not have much time to draw breath. Also on the move is former Section member Alan Purdie, who has been appointed Course Manager at a new golf complex in Northern Cyprus - look out for visitors with buckets and spades Alan.

A young man making the headlines at present is John Gallagher (Junior). An extremely talented golfer, John made the decision to take a year out from his career as a greenkeeper at The Merchants to concentrate on his golf. This is already proving successful with a runners up medal and a quarter final finish at the recent Scottish Amateur Championship at Southernness.

Finally the autumn outing will be held on September 21 or 22, the exact date and venue to be confirmed shortly.

Mike Dooner

North

Well here we go, this is my first news report as I have taken over from Iain Gunn, who has now moved on to a new position as Head Greenkeeper at the North Shore Golf Club in Blackpool. A long way from Strathpeffer I hear you say, he will be able to take his frustration out on the donkeys on the beach now instead of sheep. That will be a nice change for him. I am sure we all wish him the best of luck, so now on to the rest of the news as there has not been any from our Section for a couple of months due to the change over.

The first thing I would like to do from the Committee and members is pass on our condolences to John Crawford and his family on the sad loss of his partner, Ailsa, our thoughts are with them.

The North Section held the National Tournament at McDonald Golf Club, Ellon, on June 23 and the course was in great condition, there was not a blade of grass out of place. So well done to John and his squad, also well done to Peter Boyd as the competition ran as smoothly as ever. Congratulations must go to Mark Main, from Moray, for winning the Friendship Trophy (Best Nett) at Ellon and qualifying to represent the North Section in the BIGGA National Championship in October - Martin will be chuffed. I will let you know how he gets on as soon as I hear, but the best of luck for now.

By the time this news reaches you we will have played in the Norrie Whytock Trophy at Auchterarder. The team was John Geddes (Captain), Mark Main, Neil Kidd and Dean Mitchell, so hopefully we will have retained the trophy.

As you are all aware our autumn outing is at Garmouth & Kingston Golf Club on Thursday September 15. Hopefully it will be a nice day and a good turn out. I would hope everyone will have their money in before the date as I would prefer not to be taking money on the day.

The AGM golf outing this year is on October 13 and is at the beautiful and picturesque Swailend Golf Course at Newmachar (okay so I milked it a bit). No honest, the course is in great condition and if you have not played it yet, the course it is well worth the visit. Another date for your diary is the spring outing, which is going to be at the Montrose Championship links on Thursday May 11 2006.

Another new member has joined our Section. David Sutherland, an Assistant Greenkeeper at Reay Golf Club up in Caithness. So welcome to the Section and we hope to see you at an outing soon.

I cannot finish without saying well done to Robert Patterson and his staff for the superb condition of the course at Royal Aberdeen for the British Seniors Open. Knowing Robert, I am sure he is very proud of what the club and himself achieved over the whole Tournament.

If anybody has any news they would like to put in the report you can get in touch with me at home Tel: 01224 821574; Mobile: 07711274525; Email: dalengc@hotmail.com.

Dale Robertson

West

Welcome to this month's report, I hope you are enjoying the warm weather, it makes a change from the last couple of years. I attended the Scottish National Tournament at McDonald Golf Club, Ellon. It was a fantastic day with the course in first class condition, also the catering and bar service were excellent, many thanks to all the staff at the club. I travelled up with three other members of the West Section, Ian Mackay, John Barr and Brice Houston. Hopefully next year there will be a better turn out as it's a great event.

Gavin Jarvis and Cecil George attended the recent Harry Diamond Memorial at Ayr Belleisle Golf Club, many thanks for representing the Section. I apologise for not attending as I was on my holidays.

The Spring outing will be held over Cardross Golf Club on Thursday September 22. This is a fantastic course so I hope to see a big turnout on the day. We will be playing our annual match against the Club Masters on Monday October 3 at Helensburgh Golf Club. We will need a team of 12 on the day so anybody interested please get in touch. The Annual Dinner will be held at Victoria's Nightclub on Saturday November 26. This includes a three course dinner and Christmas party night. Tickets will be £25 per head. Tickets are now on sale from any Committee Members.

Well that's all for now hopefully more news next month. Tel: 07970 366355; Email: Karen.ross@tesco.net.

Fraser Ross

SECTION NOTES INFORMATION

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

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

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

NORTHERN REGION

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; Health & Safety Update; Golf Club Policies and Management; and The Need for Healthy Soil.

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 mobile or by email at petelarter972@aol.com.

North East

Having followed in the footsteps of Russ Black and Steve Pope I was lucky enough to be picked for bunker raking at The Open at St Andrews this year and what an experience that turned out to be. Just to put you in the picture of what it's like, it is certainly not easy getting up very early every morning. Everyone had to be down at the course from 5.30am to 7.30am, regardless of what time you were allocated to be on bunker duty. Long days hanging around for your turn like myself who's Thursday match teed off at 3.48pm followed by a 5 hours 50mins round and I was not the last match either.

This year we were lucky, as we did not have to do any divoting because, with the Old Course having a large staff, they did it for us whereas next year at Hoylake it will be probably be the bunker rakers' turn.

If you think we were down early in the mornings spare a thought for Bert Cross, Peter Boyd and Elliott Small. There were the people who were in their portakabin waiting for the rakers to book in. Let us not forget Ian Holaran, who was standing on the first tee making sure the bunker raker turned up on time most of the day, but also introducing the raker, referee, lady scorer and the person carrying the scores.

So if there is anyone out there in the north east Section who fancies going to the Open next year give it a try, you may get lucky enough to be drawn out, there was approximately 150 applicants this year, so you had a one in three chance of being picked. You meet other greenkeepers from around the country as well as from abroad, this year they came from USA, Sweden, Spain to name a few, and the biggest plus is you see golf at its best. I was fortunate this year, I only had eight bunkers all week to rake, some were not so lucky as me so before you send your form in its harder work than you think.

Matfen Hall's new driving range is now open and its quite impressive. A six bay sheltered building, playing off grass instead of mats, also the new 9 holes, which is under construction, now looks like its going to be a good test of golf, it should be ready in a couple of years' time.

The autumn competition is at Foxton this year, postcards will be sent out in due course.

Jimmy Richardson

North West

Today I received news of the sad death of Jim Entwistle after a long illness. Jim worked as a representative for Alpha Amenity and was a great friend to greenkeepers in the N/W. I can remember when he worked for



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



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
 Tel: 01476 550115

Trident and always turned up at any golf tournaments with a prize for the table. Each year the Committee met for the Chairman's Dinner and Jim would sponsor the day. He will be sadly missed by his family and also by the N/W greenkeepers.

The Summer Tournament was played at Childwall GC on July 27 and we had a great day. The course was in magnificent condition, as always, due to Dave McAvoy and his trusty staff, who also played on the day. The weather was kind to us and the caterers did us proud with excellent food. Many thanks to Childwall GC for allowing us courtesy of the course. 22 members attended and some good scores were recorded. The results are:

Best Nett and winner of the Reg Vickers Trophy. Peter Hogan, 78-12-66. Best Gross. Stewart Brown, 73-1-72. Vets Prize. Bert Cross, 90-13-77. Guest Prize. Gary Potter, 84-16-68. Longest Drive. Jim Grainger. Nearest the Pin. Stuart Brown.

The Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin were sponsored by Bathgate Leisure and were presented by Nick Gray. I think we will have to do something about Peter Hogan, as he keeps winning. Also I think we should have done a drugs test on Jim Grainger after seeing the distance he hit the ball. Anyway, a good day was had by all. Thanks to Childwall Golf Club.

The next golf after the Autumn Tournament will be the Whitelaw Bowl to be played at Penrith GC on September 14. If you wish to play please contact me in plenty of time. The President's Day and AGM will be at Wilmslow Golf Club on December 5. Please try to attend, I will give you a reminder next month. That's it for now, but you can contact me on 0151 7245412 or 07761 583387.

Bert Cross

Sheffield

There is not a lot of news really this month just little bits. The line up for the autumn seminar has been finalised and you should be receiving your invitations in the post very shortly. The date for the seminar is October 24 with a 10am start, coffee from 9. There will be some interesting lectures, so I hope as many of you as possible will attend to make this a success.

Our match against the Northern Section was a very close affair, but we eventually just lost out at the very end 3 1/2 to 2 1/2. Better luck next year lads. Our thanks go to Hillsborough Golf Club for letting us hold the event there. Well done to Ian Whitehead and his staff for the condition of your course.

Congratulations go to Steve Pickering on being appointed Head Greenkeeper at Grange Park Golf Club. Steve was at Rotherham Golf Club. Good luck Steve. Good luck to Alan Sampson in his new job, he has recently left Wortley Golf Club to become Area Rep for Bob Wild Grass Machinery Ltd. A new member this month. Carl Pigott, from Retford Golf Club. Hope to see you at our events soon Carl!

The speakers for the October Seminar are as follows: John Holt, Martin Jones, Jonathon Gaunt and John Stirling. The cost of the seminar is free and there is a buffet lunch and a free raffle with quality prizes. Invitations will be sent out shortly and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis so get your replies in ASAP.

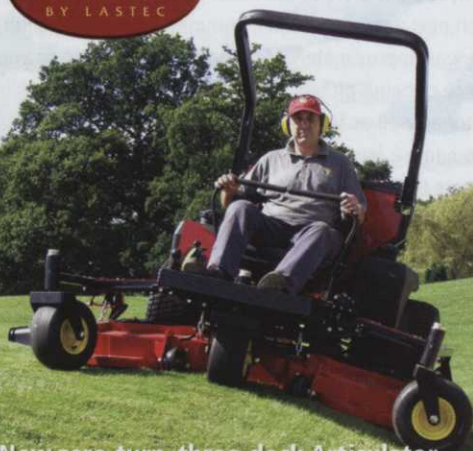
Once again any news don't hesitate to contact me on 07793111845 or at jv.lax@tesco.net. I am pleased to say that I have received news from you out there, so there is some life out there. Hopefully this will continue.

John Lax

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North Wales

Hopefully this magazine gets through your door in time for the IOG Show down in Windsor, I believe the BIGGA team have a shared stand there with the GTC so if you are traveling down make sure you pop in for a chat and receive all the latest information on courses and what benefits are available to you.

Sorry that the August notes did not go to print, I just missed the deadline. Anyway back to July and LFQ at Lundin Links in the Kingdom of Fife, what a class golf course that is! It's a true test even though wind was calm and the sun shining we still managed two day's scoring over par and hopes of another Open bag job faded in the harr (the name for Scottish mist) that came in from the sea over the home of golf. I must congratulate Willie, the Head Greenkeeper, and his staff for presenting a fine Open Qualifying links and the time they spent early in the morning until late after practicing had finished fine tuning the cut.

Respect also to Brad Faxon and Lars Broveld for the 64's and 65's and if you have the time to dedicate your soul to playing golf you should get back all you put in and with a little rub of the green and lady luck thrown in on top these guy's deserve just that. No that's not disappointment in my voice, it's credit where credit is due and at the end of the day we are all in with a chance and after two Open's back to back it would be rude to expect another. Anyway here is to Hoylake next year! Watch out world we'll be back.

On home turf in the Wales Section Geriant, from Llangefni GC, has been up to the Shetland Islands to represent Wales at bowls. Flat green Bowls that is and he has had to practice miles from home as there is nothing flat in Wales, I am sure it's just an excuse for a lad's weekend but we will keep it quiet from his wife and I will let you have the results for you next month.

The Second Neil Thomas Memorial Day was held up at Aldwark Manor at the end of June and a North Wales team that was hand picked. We plotted our way around the tricky parkland course in York, finishing leaders in the clubhouse, it was not until the last quarter of the field came in were we relegated to 2nd, then 3rd and then just out of the prizes into 4th place. Neil's wife and family were there to present the prizes and a good day was had by all.

A little story this month from one of our members, who shall remain nameless, who had a visit from the turf excellence delegation, comprising of members from all over the world, including Asia and Japan. When asked a question from an American delegate: "Do you get any trouble with vermin on the course?" Our Head Greenkeeper said do you mean rabbits and the like? Yes was the response, do you have anything in place for that? The greenkeeper quickly replied: "Yes we have a recycling programme for rabbits, during the night a local guy comes with his gun, shoots the rabbits and bags them up, the next day he takes them along to Chester Zoo, where they are then fed to the Lion's and once they have worked their way through, he brings them back to the golf course and we put the deposits around the flower beds to help growth!" This just goes to show you do need a good imagination when questions are asked of you on the spot. Well done Richard.

September is here so book your hotels for Harrogate 2006 to make sure you get a room or why not book the trip to the GCSAA Show in New Orleans in February and grab some Oysters from the ACME Oyster bar or do some jiggling around in the Mardi Gras? I have got some bead necklaces if you want any. See you next month for our Autumn Tournament at Eaton GC.

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn - andrew@acorngolf.co.uk



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; Health & Safety Update; The Need for Healthy Soil; and a Course Walk at the adjacent Northampton County Golf Club, an Open Qualifying Course.

Invitations will be sent to all BIGGA Midland Region members during September, but if you don'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 mobile or by email at petelarter972@aol.com.

East Midland

This year our Autumn Tournament was transferred to a Summer Tournament as numbers needed to be increased, as the turnout consisted of 37 members this proved to be the correct decision. So on July 7 at Cosby GC we held our first Summer Tournament. The day's weather however must have thought it was an autumn competition as it was fairly cool and cloudy with a little rain. The course was set up in excellent condition by Andy Wood and his staff, although the greens proved rather to quick for most competitors. The eventual winner, with 34 points, was Nigel White, Stractoft GC.

Category 1. 1. Dave Leatherland, Kedleston Park, 29pts; 2. Chris Brown, Horsley Lodge, 26pts. Category 2. 1. Adi Porter, Greetham Valley, 30pts; 2. Antony Bindley, Kirby Muxloe, 30pts. Category 3. Chris Hingle, Cosby, 30pts. 2. Thomas Dann, Cosby, 30pts. Trade Winner. Simon Banks, Banks Amenity Products, 28pts.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cosby GC for courtesy and hospitality of their fine course and to also thank David Flanagan and his staff for an excellent meal. Special thanks should go to Banks Amenity Products for sponsoring the prizes and to Tacit for Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive. Our next event is the AGM Tournament at Norwood Park on November 2, so don't forget to contact me for your form as they will not be posted.

Antony Bindley

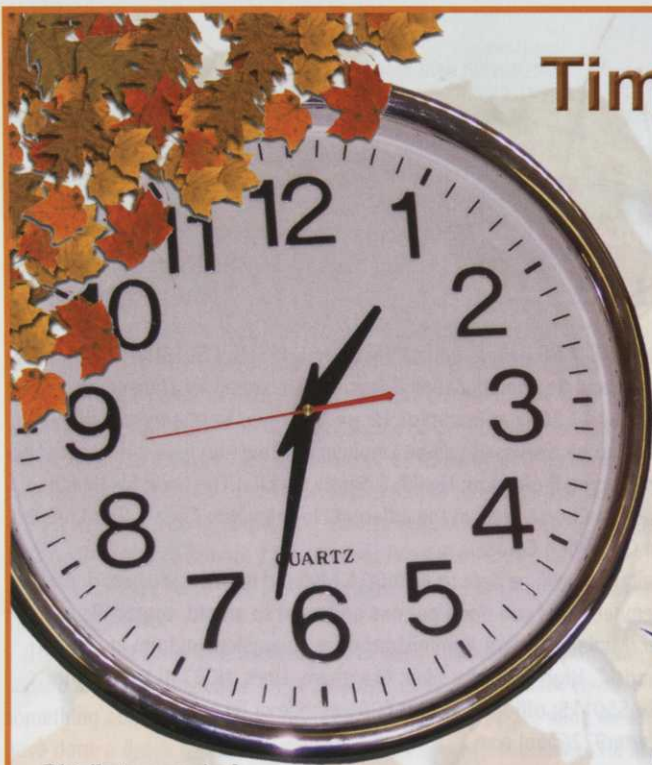
Midland

Well autumn is on the way, our last chance to enjoy the luxury of sitting on a mower without tears streaming down one's face with cold. Just the usual drainage repairs, construction projects and, if lucky, a little aeration to look forward too. Well at least the trout are fat, the berries are ripe and the leaves are in colour. Just keep that picture in mind during our lovely winter.

Our Summer Tournament was held at Redditch GC on July 22. We were blessed with great weather of which made the day all the more enjoyable. The course was in excellent condition and stands as testament to the qualities of Phil Thorington and his very fine team. Thank you to you all for your fine efforts. Also our thanks to the Capitan for making us so very welcome.

The results of the day were: Best Gross. M. Hughes. Nett. 1. D. Croton,

Time to think of Autumn



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40pts; 2. S. Mucklow, 37pts; 3. M. Hughes, 35pts; 4. P. Woodham, 34pts; 5. G. Cunningham, 32pts; 6. D. Underhill, 32pts; 7. S. Hall; 32pts. Trade. N. Tyler, 32pts. Longest Drive. P. Dunstan. Nearest the Pin. P. Woodham. Our thanks to Amenity Technology for sponsoring the main prize table. Also thanks to WWB Minerals for Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin and Turner Ground Care for drinks on the course.

And now for the births and marriages section. Congratulations to Richard "Tiny" Dimmock and partner, Sophie, with the birth of a little girl, Faith, also to Kevin Booth and partner, Lesley, on the arrival of baby girl, Charlotte. Also congratulations to Lee Swann who was married in August, I believe that one of the gifts was a rolling pin Lee.

It is with the greatest of fondness and respect that Mike Hughes and the team at Edgbaston GC wish Mathew Palmer all the very best in his new venture in Yorkshire. Mathew has given 11 years of excellent service at Edgbaston and is moving to Leeds to join his fiancée, Amanda. You shall be sorely missed by your old work mates, but there are some great pubs up there, if she lets you out. It'll be right though.

By the time you read this you should have received the revised/amended fixture entry forms for the autumn golf event, Shirley GC, September 13. Don't forget that the AGM is also to be held there at around 5pm. The Christmas event is on Friday December 2 at Formby GC. Also enclosed are details of this year's Angling Match, which is to be held at a private pool in Hopwood on Sunday September 18. The event is being sponsored by our old friend Nigel Tyler, of Alpha Amenity. For further details please call me on 07816 410 552.

I have the unfortunate duty of reporting that Hughie McIlwaine has passed away following sometime of illness. Hughie was a devoted member of the green staff at Walsall GC for some 30 years. I personally shall always remember him when salmon fishing as he gave me a recipe for such that the main ingredient was Juniper Berries. Our condolences to his family and friends. Hughie shall be sorely missed, but fondly remembered.

Finally it gives me great pleasure to welcome five new members to our Section, these are A. Brougham, D. Underhill, E. Devenney, S. Mapes and P. Dunstan. Please remember that we run many different events to which we hope you shall find of benefit in both an educational and social manner. Please support them and be assured that you shall be made very welcome.

Sean McDade

East of England

Well boys just about another season over - it doesn't seem five minutes ago that it started. Doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself.

Not much news this month, so give me a phone lads, even if it's only to tell me that Burghley have broken the land speed record - Hey, Simon! There are two bits of news from Milton however. Firstly, I must congratulate Geoff Davis on his retirement. 32 years at PMGC, no wonder you have gone bald mate. Good luck and best wishes for the future and may all your bells ring true. Also well done to Tim Parsons, 25 years at PMGC, there must be something in the water around here.

The results for Immingham are as follows: 1. Les Howkins, 38pts; 2. Rob Welford, 37pts; 3. Russ Moody, 35pts; 4. John Jarrel, 33pts. Guest Prize. Robin Purtes, 37pts. Longest Drive. John Jarrel. Nearest the Pin. Robin Purtes.

Well done Rob, the course was in super condition, and I do mean all of the course because there was a few of us who saw parts of the course possibly you didn't know existed. Our thanks also go to Nigel Lovatt, Toro, who did us proud with sponsorship.

Allan Walker

BB&O

What a Gem! Henley GC, in all its green splendour was a fantastic venue for The Gem Summer Rose Bowl Tournament held on June 30. Just a few miles away, the Royal Regatta was in full swing, with rowers competing at every level and the pimms and pink gin brigade blocking up the already congested traffic through Henley Town. This did not deter us in any way as 40 hopefuls, from all over the Section, managed the road network, arriving on time to compete for the Gem Crystal Rose Bowl.

Clive Parnell, Gary Tait and the Governor, Richard Haynes from Gem Professional, were the main sponsors, and together with Harry White, Captain of Henley GC, presented the Gem Trophy and prizes to the winners. On behalf of the Section, Sid Arrowsmith presented Harry White, Captain of Henley GC, with a cheque for £50 to aid the Captain's yearly charity fund.

The results were as follows. In 3rd place was Carl Small (disabled) with 36 points, in 2nd was John Bowness, Deanwood Park GC, and in 1st place with a magnificent score of 46 points, having played his career best game of golf, was Dominic Lewis, Datchet GC.

The Rigby Taylor Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive was won by Matt Smith, Sonning GC, and the Turner Putting Green Competition was won by Ian Upton, Rye Hill GC. Yours truly took the Trade Prize and a sovereign from Bob the Builder.

Thank you to Henley GC for courtesy of the course and the excellent gastronomic delights served by the Henley catering department. The course was in tip top condition and credit to Steve Shaw, Mitch Stewart and all the Henley green staff for their efforts in preparing the course which was much appreciated by all.

The next event on the agenda is a social Clay Pigeon Shooting Day to be held on the September 20 this year, at West London Shooting Grounds. So, clean up that blunderbuss and stick it in your diary before you forget.

Damien, from Lambourne GC, replaces Jason Brooks, from Burnham Beeches GC, who has started a new job and relocated to Lincolnshire where the challenge of Woodhall Spa GC awaits him. We wish Damien and Jason best of luck in their new positions. Ray Rosser has borrowed Brian Payne's super duper NHS crutches after losing his footing and has been off work for several weeks. We all wish you a speedy recovery back to the Section events.

Dominic Lewis, Datchet GC, after his splendid win, which must have gone to his head, got down on one knee in Dublin and proposed to his girlfriend, Sam. Congratulations! Honeymooner Rob Surgey has tied the knot after a church wedding in Derby (where on earth is Derby?) and is now taking advice from the local family planning clinic.

If any member has any news or views they would like to share or would like more information about the Section and forthcoming events you only have to call John Scoones on 07880 550 380.

Mark Day

The BB&O Chairman's Message

Dear Member

Those of you who were able to attend the Summer Tournament at Henley GC in June enjoyed a great day and therefore congratulations are due to Steve Shaw, Mitch Stewart and the greenkeeping team for a superbly presented course.

Please keep an eye on future events within the BB&O Section with the Invitational Tournament soon at Southfield GC and the popular clay pigeon shooting - so, as always, please try to support your Section and Committee.

Interesting news comes from the trade regarding fungicides. More environmental products are now available for our usage that should help us all in the battle against fusarium in the damp, warm late autumn weather.

Good greenkeeping to you all.
Sid Arrowsmith - BB&O Chairman

Mid Anglia

The summer meeting was held at Mount Pleasant Golf Club, the course was in fantastic condition so big thanks go out to Gav and his team. The day was sponsored by Tacit, who supplied some excellent prizes. So thanks also go out to them.

We all sat down to a great meal after some great golf, so once again thanks to the Simkins family for their hospitality. The results were as follows: 1. D. Hodkin, Knebworth; 2. J. Smith, South Beds; 3. G. Simkins, Mt. Pleasant. Trade. S. Crossdale. Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive. Tim Webb. Our next event is at Heydon Grange, near Royston, on October 6. Get your entries in now!

One last thing, ex BIGGA member, Mark Ellis, has been in touch and would like his friends to email him all the latest news. Mark moved to Spain around about a year ago and is missing his mates. His address is mjellis@tiscali.es.

Bob Butfoy

SOUTH EAST

SOUTH EAST 2006 REGIONAL SEMINAR

The 2005 South East Region Seminar is to be held at Benton Hall Golf Club on November 9 2005.

The day promises interesting, entertaining and informative subjects and lively debate. For more details and to book your place contact Clive Osgood, Regional Administrator, on 01737 819343.

Surrey

I'm writing September's report on my birthday, August 2, and once again I am grateful for my continuing youthful looks and athletic figure. As I approach the end of another decade I often reflect on how fortunate I have been to have met such a very agreeable section of the population. Yes, you've guessed, its you members of the greenkeeping profession. I write this in all sincerity and now think of many of you as my adopted sons and very occasionally daughters, and hope that you see me as more of a father figure than a business acquaintance.

In another few years I will retire and hope that this gentle reminder ensures that you will, like all good sons and daughters, remember that my Jaguar car is very thirsty, my booze bill will not diminish as my age increases, and that I hope to continue with my two holidays a year. If this brought a tear to your eye, please place anonymous cash donations in the box provided (marked pension) in the rear of my van.

Now to the McMillan Tankard Competition, played for on the new course at Sunningdale. We thank Mark Openshaw, Deputy Course Manager, for providing us with this excellent venue, the artisans for the use of their clubhouse and our own John Ross for arranging the buffet. The weather was reasonable for the early starters, but rain did affect many of us who started later and I personally blame it for my and my playing partner's bad scores.

Due to problems beyond the Committee's control and the inability of anyone to remember the correct placings, the following is the best I can report. 1. Andrew Dennis, Lalcham GC, 43 pts; 3. Anthony Freeman (our beloved Chairman), 37 pts; 4. Gareth Roberts, Hankley Common GC. Longest Drive. Simon Kirkham. Nearest the Pin. Andy Reason. Not only will Andy Dennis be cut from handicap 18 but he will always regret that he was the only player not to enter the sweep!

Steve Swanson has left Claudon Regis GC and is now Course Manager at Wild Wood GC. Nigel Moms, ex RAC GC, is now Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Epsom GC.

The Surrey Bowl has now reached the semi final stage. Ron Christie and Roger Tydeman play Simon Kirkham and Darren Woodward at West Surrey GC. Mark Harvey and yours truly play Barry Roberison and Gary Rowe at either Epsom or Banstead GC. The final will be played at Foxhills GC and the result will be in next month's edition.

Brian Willmott

Sussex

It was great to see so many people at the last golf day, which was held at Haywardsheath Golf Club on July 14. We had a turnout of 39 to the team event, with three man teams. On the day it was baking hot and may be one of the last real days of summer. The course was in fine form unlike my team's performance. I would like to thank Haywardsheath GC for a great day, with a special thanks going to the greenkeeping team.

Now to the golf, this event was sponsored by Rigby Taylor, so thanks to them. In 1st place, with 116 points, were Chris Wells, Jak Edmonds and Dave Roddis. 2nd place, with 104 points, was Darren Mitchel, Aaron and Stuart Stacey. The individual prizes could not be won by a player who had already won a prize, so the winners were: 1. Ian Beale (aka Gary Ogilvy), 40 points; 2. Kevin Murray, 37 points. Congratulations to all those guys who won.

Away from the golf there have been something happening within the Sussex Section. We must say a fond farewell to Stefan Antolik, who is moving over to South Africa. So we all wish him the very best for the future and he will be greatly missed. On that note I would like to congratulate John Hills on his appointment as Course Manager at Cooden Beach. Also I would like to congratulate Matthew Crosslegs, who got married on July 2 to Clare Gilby at Worthing GC. Some more good news is the birth of a baby daughter for Steve Vogels and the birth of a baby boy, Jamie, for myself. So congratulations to us both.

The next golf is on August 31 at the Dyke for Sussex v Surrey. Good luck to both teams.

Rob Hudson

Essex

The Essex Golf Day that was originally planned for October 6, is now happening on September 29 at Bentley Golf Club.

**SOUTH WEST
& SOUTH WALES**

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES 2006 REGIONAL SEMINAR

This year's South West and South Wales Regional Seminar 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, Head Greenkeeper at Hilton Templepatrick, Belfast; Andy Campbell, Head Greenkeeper at Carden Park; Jay Dobson, Agronomist. 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

Hi guys. What a long season this is turning out to be. Just as we all thought that the worst of the hot weather was behind us, and the courses would recover nicely for the autumn competition season, out comes the sun again and adieu to most of the grass. Is it my imagination or are drought symptoms and effects worse this year than normal? Considering that there hadn't really been a prolonged period of hot dry weather, we seemed to go pretty brown pretty quickly. Maybe the grass had grown more than usual in the cooler, damper periods and then been really knocked for six by the sun. Why worry? By the time this hits the shelves, it'll be pouring with rain again.

There was certainly a warm welcome at Long Ashton for the Section Summer Tournament. "A bit crispy" was James Braithwaites' description in the bar before the tee off. He was being a little over critical I thought, the course was in really good shape given the conditions and there was much to be proud about. I hadn't played Long Ashton for maybe nine or 10 years and was seriously impressed with the amount of bent grass that has developed in the greens during that time. James and I chatted about maintenance and under cross examination he confirmed the greens receive around 5kg N each year, and cut at 4mm in the summer and top dressed twice per season.

James would like to top dress more often and will invest in more efficient spreading equipment in the near future. A wetting agent has been applied this year and has certainly helped protect against dry patch. He has a programme of tree maintenance and removal, some 40 trees, mostly Leylandii, were removed last winter. The development of the trees was certainly one of the biggest changes over the 10 years, the course was much tighter than I remembered it.

I had the very great pleasure of partnering Matt Hawker and Richard Carter for the afternoon. Richard is a one handicap county player from Lansdown, but Matt and I soon wore him down to our level. Erratic was the only way to describe my golf and the fourth hole was a good example. A tweaked drive left into the heavy rough and a hack forward left me still half buried in the rough, but now behind a single tree less stake. No chance of a drop, as it wasn't on a direct to the pin nor interfering with swing or stance. Not much chance of moving the stake either as it had obviously been hammered in by Geoff Capes or someone. So I hit the ball and hoped for the best.

Actually, I aimed for the stake thinking that like every other shot that afternoon it was bound to miss. I felt the ball part my hair before the sound of it hitting the stake top dead centre with a hefty thwack prompted me to duck. The rebound went about 50 yards back down the hole but at least had the common decency to stay out of the long rough, and seven was not a bad score for the hole after that. After that things got really bad. Richard Carter however carried on playing imperiously, hitting both the par four 8th and 16th greens with his tee shots and getting two putt birdies on two of the par fives - not too shabby.

Matt, on the other hand, carried on cheerfully holing nothing, before hitting a gem of a tee shot on the par 3 17th hole comfortably winning the Nearest the Pin. Unfortunately, he tempted providence as he walked up to the green remarking that the last time he won a Nearest the Pin he was so excited he three putted. Happily the prize then had been a bottle of whisky. So half right this time.

John Bachelor, of Long Ashton, was the worthy winner of the competition with a net 68, which unbelievably included a ten, from Pete Havard with a 71 and Jamie Acton also with a 71. Matt Hawker won Nearest the Pin and Paul Godwin won Nearest the Pin in two shots on the par 5 18th hole. By far the bravest guy in the room was Dave Rosselli who didn't even look slightly embarrassed at picking up a prize for the highest score of the day (108), but never gave up. One notable casualty was Craig Fudge. Having lost a couple of balls early on and turned his wrist or something in the long rough, the lure of the first day of the Ashes Test on the widescreen TV proved too much. Dashing into the lounge after walking in from the 10th. England had bowled the Aussies out and were just about to commence batting. In Craig's own words, by the time he'd had a comfort break, grabbed a cold beer and settled comfortably in an armchair, England were 10 for two and effectively out of the match.

John Bachelor wins the chance to represent the Section at the National Tournament in the autumn, the sponsorship of our patronage partners has provided this prize. We wish John the best of luck. I'm sure the fact that John changed the holes that morning had nothing to do with his winning. It never works for me.

Thanks very much to Long Ashton for their friendly welcome and hospitality. Thanks particularly to Ivor, James and the team for the fantastic condition of the course and to our patronage partners for their sponsorship. As James said at the dinner, as a Section we very much appreciate this sponsorship, please remember our patronage partners in your purchasing decisions.

Finally, there's one golfer at Minchinhampton who won't mess with me again. I was cutting around the practice chipping green with our Toro Rotary Sidewinder when a guy turned up and started pitching balls onto the green before I'd finished. He was totally oblivious to me glaring at him, but I managed to finish without being hit and lifted the units to drive away through the long rough.

As I did so, the blades hit a stray range ball, which arced spectacularly out of the back of the deck right at head height. I actually had to shout fore and he just managed to duck out of the way. Last I saw of him, he was striding purposefully across the driving range, presumably to deliver a stinging lecture of safety to the Pro, who was minding his own business quietly giving a lesson. Whoops. Keep the information coming in. 07768 394593 or 01453 837355.

Paul Worster

South Coast

What a great summer of sport we've been treated to so far this year. Tiger Woods was back to his very best in winning his second Major of the year at St Andrews. The Open Championship lived up to everyone's expectations and we were treated to some fantastic golf from the field which also saw Colin Montgomerie re-emerging as a force in the Majors, thoroughly enjoying it too. Euan Grant and his team must have felt very proud in producing superb playing conditions for the week and it was great to see Euan in the presentation party. Congratulations Euan, you are a great credit to our profession and Association!

I have just spent a very tense weekend watching an enthralling second Ashes Test match. I have to say it is without doubt the best Test match I have ever seen, although I didn't enjoy the Sunday morning as much as I anticipated. With the Series now level it's everything to play for and I'm very hopeful that we can at last keep the Ashes in this country. Sadly I am jetting off to Spain for two weeks and will now miss most of the action but will scour the local bars for some live coverage if my wife will let me!

We've had a fairly quiet month in the Section again with the irrigation systems trying to keep our courses alive during the hot and dry spell. Moors Valley was again the venue this year for the Scott's Management Trophy. The sun was shining and a keen breeze made for testing conditions, although it didn't reflect in the scoring. Winners on the day were: 1. Upavon GC, 82pts; 2. Alresford GC, 81pts; 3. Sherborne GC, 77pts. Longest Drive. Mike Ricketts. Nearest the Pin. Derek Sweetenham. Nearest the Pin in 2 on the 18th was Mike Ricketts.

Many thanks to Moors Valley for their superb hospitality. Desmond Meharg was a great help in organising the day. Thanks Desmond. Many thanks to Ian Noble, Shane Hodgkins and the greenkeeping team for producing an excellent course; we take it for granted now. Also thank you to the catering staff for keeping us fed and watered so well. Tournament Organiser, Chris Sturgess, did a great job in organising the day as usual, thanks Chris!

The Management Trophy continues to be a great success and this would not be possible without the valued sponsorship from Scotts. Many thanks for your continued support, long may it continue.

Our next golf day will be the Autumn Tournament at Sherborne Golf Club on October 11. We will also be holding our AGM as well so if you would like to bring up anything to do with the running of the Section then make sure you are there. You may even wish to join the Committee, drop me a line if you do. Those wishing to play golf please send a cheque for £19 made payable to BIGGA South Coast to Chris Sturgess, 31 Bay Road, Sholing, SO19 8EZ.

My contact details are email: a.mccombie@ntlworld.com; mobile: 07966 386232

Until next month.

Alex McCombie

Devon & Cornwall

In my last report for Around the Green I mentioned that the rain in Spain falls mainly in Devon and Cornwall. Now having recently spent 10 days in France on a golfing holiday with Liz, my wife, the greenkeepers would give their right arm for a splash. We played golf in the Vendee area in the South West Region, just above Sablé D'Olonne, where the average temperature was 35°C and on two days reached 37/38°C. Having been visiting the area for some 20 years I have been lucky enough to get to know some of the greenkeepers and professionals. On paying the green fees they apologised for the lack of grass on the tees and fairways. It is really becoming quite

serious, in spite of the drought conditions one advantage is that my golf improved dramatically with the balls going much further than they would do normally.

It was very interesting to talk to some of the greenkeepers and learn that they face similar problems to the UK, lack of money, too many members or directors telling them how to manage their course. Nothing changes does it!

On my return I commenced work by visiting golf clubs on the north coast of Cornwall and Devon, and I suddenly realised how lucky we are. That it is the golfers who are blessed with such fantastic links courses in the area, such as West Cornwall, Trevoze, St. Enodoc, Perranporth, Bude, RND, and further up the coast the East and West Courses at Saunton. I would like to draw your attention to one course in particular, St. Enodoc.

Last year the club approached Peter McEvoy, of Walker Cup Fame and brilliant amateur playing career, to look at the course and come up with proposals for a Course Development Plan for the future. It is worth noting that James Braid altered the course three times after it was constructed in 1890. Peter McEvoy stated if you are standing still you are going backwards. It was not long before John O'Sullivan and an agronomist from Ireland came to assist Stuart Dymond, the Head Greenkeeper, and his staff to bring about some changes to the Church course.

In January this year Stuart and his team commenced to re-vet 18 original bunkers. Once this was completed a further 11 new bunkers were constructed and also re-vetted. This September the English Amateur County Championships are being held at St. Enodoc, so further alterations are being prepared for the Tournament. In spite of the fact that the Church course is very challenging it is only 6243 yards off the white tees, so to lengthen the course a further 9 tees have been constructed. Stuart mentioned that this should give the course a further 400 hundred yards.

In the autumn the 13th green will be reconstructed and sometime early next year the 16th will also be done. It is very pleasing to note that in spite of all the alterations the Church course still maintains its character. Just before I left St. Enodoc I stood on the 2nd Green with Stuart, what a marvellous view looking down the fairway. The greens were full of fescues, fairways with more grass than I had seen them for sometime and blue skies. I think Peter McEvoy summed it up when he said: "St Enodoc defends itself as a test of golf in the subtle way that only a genuine links course can." Congratulations Stuart and your staff, I have never seen the course in such superb condition. I just hope the members appreciate it.

Finally I would like to conclude by reminding students that the Duchy College have the following announcement:

1. Work Based Learning (Apprenticeships and NVQ Training) programmes in Greenkeeping start at the Duchy College in September for NVQ 2, and in January '06 for NVQ 3. Proposed candidate names to the Duchy ASAP please. There is a limited number of supported places for the over 25's on a first come first served basis. Contact Liz Clarkson at Duchy College on 01579 372220 for further information.

2. All Head Greenkeeper Assessors with candidates registered with Duchy College should attend update training at Stoke Climsland October 19. Contact as above.

Donovan O Hunt - Events Co-ordinator

South Wales

We are well into the summer, going through a mini heat wave, hope all you links boys are coping. In addition to the sun, I bet Peter (Fescue) Lacey is burning his Poa with a blowtorch.

Our Vice President, Henry Steads' wife, Norma, is home following her

recent operation, she starts radiotherapy and chemotherapy soon. She is in remarkably good spirit considering what she's going through. On behalf of the Section we wish her a speedy recovery. The Section would like to wish our President, Ray Burrows, a long and happy retirement. He will be sadly missed. He would always meet you with a hearty laugh, tough act to follow as President, we will still be able to catch up with him at our various functions. He was a Sales Rep with many years' service with Avoncrop. Congratulations to his replacement Ceri Richards and we wish you all the best in your new position.

The new Nicklaus designed Mychynys Peninsula Golf Club officially opened on Sunday July 10 with a match between Brian Huggett and Gary Nicklaus, son of Jack Nicklaus. In addition, it is also hosting the Ladies European Tour Competition in August, all the best to Course Manager, Jeff Robinson, and his team.

The Scotts Golf Management Trophy is full with a team of 20 golf courses taking part, at Llanishen Golf Club, the results will be in next month's magazine.

Rigby Taylor Matchplay results: Kerry Jones & Jamie Probert beat Henry Stead & Colin Thomas, Adrian Panks & Gary Humphries beat Phil Williamson & John Pettifer, Graham Blum & Steve Barley beat Barry Smith & Mark Parson, Russell Anderson & Peter Holmstrom beat Nigel Edmunds & Andrew Edmunds, J.B Jones & Ceri Richards beat Alan Abel & A N Other, Andy Roach & Mickey Davies beat David Gladwin & Tony Horne, Peter Lacey & Steve Mills beat Mike Norfolk & Andrew Hatcher and Craig Campbell & Joe Curtis beat Graham Down & Chris Sharp.

Shock result just in, the defending champions for the last five years, Daryl Bray and Leigh Davies, have been knocked out by Daryl Jones and Leyton Seymour and apparently they had already booked the day off for the finals.

Pencoed Open Day went well, the Section held a stand, thanks to Peter Lacey for flying the flag again for BIGGA. Glorious weather and it was encouraging to see interest in greenkeeping from school leavers. I think the careers advisors and BIGGA need to get together and promote our industry to school leavers looking for a very good profession outdoors.

Congratulations to Andy Roach, our Match Captain, for winning Student of the Year at Pencoed College for his Level 3 portfolio. All the best to Paul Discome, Greenkeeping Lecturer at Pencoed, on his one week placement at Southerndown. I am sure Gary has some good jobs lined up relating to sheep.

Dates to remember, Autumn Tournament to be held at Raglan Park on Thursday October 20 at Raglan Park. 1.30pm tee off. Also on this date is the AGM, an agenda will be sent with the details. I am to be kicked of as my two year stint as Chairman is over, so please attend, it is the last time you will have to tip your hat to me.

Match v South West at St. Pierre Resort, Thursday August 18. Tee off at 12.30pm, sponsored by Inturf and Scotts. Shirts will be provided on the day.

Angus Macleod

NORTHERN IRELAND


The past month has passed so quickly everyone seems so busy with work commitments it is becoming increasingly difficult to switch off and take a break. My notes for this month I'm afraid are going to be very brief as I have basically been unable to meet the deadline with reports from Clondeboye GC Charity Gold Day ran by Terry Crawford and our Section National Championship Qualifier played at Royal Co Down on August 9. A full report on both the events will be featured in next month's Greenkeeper International.

The Qualifier Competition was well attended and the two worthy winners on the day were Noel Crawford and Michael King, from the home club. Local knowledge and guys on their game proved the deciding factor, so well done lads. Enjoy the trip to the Championship in Nottinghamshire in October.

I would encourage our golfing members to consider travelling over to the National Championship on October 3 & 4 at Worksop GC and Sherwood Forest GC and join Michael and Noel in supporting the event. So why not contact the lads at Royal Co Down and get advice on travel and accommodation arrangements. Also contact BIGGA HOUSE on 01347 833800 to book your place on the Championship and get advice.

Finally, best wishes go to Noel Crawford, who is getting married to his fiancée, Sandra, in Las Vegas on August 31.

Ken Henderson

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Recruitment



Henbury Golf Club

The Club invites applications for the posts of

COURSE MANAGER

Henbury Golf Club is an 18 hole traditional, but forward thinking private members club established in wooded parkland to the north of Bristol in 1891.

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

- A minimum of 5 years experience as Assistant Head or Head Greenkeeper.
- In depth knowledge of turf management, irrigation, drainage & equipment maintenance.
- Recognised greenkeeping/agronomy qualifications (min. NVQ Level 3 or equivalent, PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates plus chainsaw certificates)
- Strong supervisory and management skills.
- A proven ability to prepare and work within an approved annual budget.
- A proven ability to prepare work programmes and meet deadlines.
- Fully compliant with current Health & Safety legislation, to include risk assessments.
- A strong team leader with communication skills at all levels is considered critical to the successful fulfilment of the role.
- A keen and competent golfer or at least fully familiar with and knowledgeable about the game of golf.
- Awareness of environmental and wildlife practices.

This is a great opportunity for a committed, hands on, enthusiastic, motivated and hard-working greenkeeper to lead and manage a dedicated team to further develop and maintain the golf course.

DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

- A minimum of 5 years greenkeeping experience.
- Must be hard working, enthusiastic and self motivated.
- A good knowledge of machinery maintenance and irrigation systems.
- Qualified to NVQ Level 3, PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates.

An excellent salary package is on offer for both positions.

Please apply in writing by 30th September 2005, with your C.V. indicating which position you are interested in to:
The Managing Secretary, Henbury Golf Club, Henbury Road, Westbury on Trym, Bristol BS10 7QB

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For an application pack, please see our website or write quoting Ref 11561/HRJ/M2 to the Recruitment Section, Human Resources Department, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ.

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PRESTON GOLF CLUB

has a vacancy for an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The ideal candidate will be experienced, with a minimum qualification of NVQ Level II. Spraying and chainsaw certificates would be advantageous.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate a history of hard work, enthusiasm and motivation.

Salary and benefits package negotiable according to experience.

Apply in writing, enclosing your CV, to:

The Club Secretary, Preston Golf Club, Fulwood Hall Lane, Preston, PR2 8DD.

Closing date for applications - 30th September 2005



MOORTOWN GOLF CLUB

Venue of the 1929 Ryder Cup



Requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

An opportunity has arisen to work at one of the North's premier inland championship courses which has hosted many prestigious tournaments during its 96 year history.

Applicants should be qualified to a minimum of NVQ Level 2 with a minimum of 3 years experience. Subject to performance further Training will be also be available.

Competitive rates of pay. Closing date for applications: 23rd September

Apply in writing with full CV to:

The Secretary/Manager, Moortown Golf Club, Harrogate Road, Leeds, LS17 7DB.

Recruitment

BRUCEFIELDS FAMILY GOLF CENTRE

Golf Course & Driving Range Manager Salary circa £25K

We are seeking a self motivated individual to supervise and lead our Greenkeeping staff in the enhancement of the course & driving range.

The successful applicant should have a minimum of 5 years experience and be fully conversant with modern greenkeeping practices. NVQ level 3 or equivalent and PA1, 2 & 6 spraying certificates would be required.

Please apply in writing with CV, showing current salary. Closing date for applications 23rd September 2005.

Kirsty Stewart, Managing Director,
Brucefields Family Golf Centre Ltd,
Pirnhall Road, Bannockburn, Stirling FK7 8EH

ALRESFORD GOLF CLUB

We are looking for an

Assistant Greenkeeper

to join our hard working team of professionals

The Successful applicant will have the following:

- NVQ level 2 in Greenkeeping or equivalent
- A minimum of 3 years experience
- Understand Health & Safety
- Be keen to learn and hard working

We offer full 7 - day membership to the golf club, CGS Recommended Salary and BIGGA membership, a generous bonus each year and ongoing training in Greenkeeping.

Closing date, end of September 2005.

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

Mr Stephen Privett, Course Manager, Alresford Golf Club,
Cheriton Road, Titchborne Down, Hampshire SO24 0PN

HENDON GOLF CLUB

Invite applications for the post of

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

This is an ideal opportunity for a committed, enthusiastic, self-motivated person to join our team.

Applicants should be qualified to NVQ Level 2 and hold PA1, PA2 and PA6 certificates.

Apply in writing with full C.V. to:

Mr R McMillan, Course Manager, Hendon Golf Club,
Sanders Lane, Mill Hill, London NW7 1DG.



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SHOOTERS HILL GOLF CLUB

Require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The successful candidate will ideally have;

- 2-3 years experience of greenkeeping
- NVQ2 or equivalent preferred
- PA1, PA2 and 6 and advantage
- Awareness of modern greenkeeping practices and current health & safety regulations
- Be hardworking and self motivated

Please apply in writing with current CV to;

Craig Rodwell, Head Greenkeeper, c/o SHGC Ltd,
Lowood, Eaglesfield Road, London SE18 3DA

MURRAYFIELD GOLF CLUB LIMITED

REQUIRE A

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

APPLICANTS SHOULD HAVE A MINIMUM OF 3 - 4 YEARS EXPERIENCE AND HAVE N.V.Q. LEVEL 2 OR EQUIVALENT

CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

PLEASE APPLY IN WRITING TO:

THE CLUB MANAGER, MURRAYFIELD GOLF CLUB LIMITED,
43 MURRAYFIELD ROAD, EDINBURGH EH12 6EU

RYE GOLF CLUB



HEAD GREENKEEPER

Rye Golf Club invites applications from experienced candidates for the position of Head Greenkeeper on this famous East Sussex Links course, home of the President's Putter.

Experience on links course management deemed to be essential.

Full applications, with C.V. to: -

The Chairman of Green
Rye Golf Club
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Applications to be received by 7th October 2005



Grange Golf Club

Rathfarnham, Dublin 16

A long established premier club, situated in the south side of Dublin invites applications for a

COURSE MANAGER

To supervise and lead its greenkeeping staff in the continuing maintenance and enhancement of its 24 hole parkland course.

The primary responsibilities of the position are as follows:

- Maintenance of the golf course to a consistent and high standard
- Management and development of all course staff
- Administration of project and maintenance programmes
- Assistance in planning and the ability to work within financial budgets

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

The following skills, qualifications and experience are required:

- Significant golf course management experience
- A good working knowledge of modern golf course management practices and techniques.
- In depth knowledge of turf management, irrigation, drainage and equipment maintenance
- Experience of golf course construction and grow-in.
- Effective management skills and ability to motivate staff
- An understanding of the requirements of Health & Safety legislation
- Good communication and IT skills
- The ability to play golf and to empathise with the requirements of a large and diversified playing membership

Salary and conditions are negotiable depending on experience and qualifications and will reflect the importance of this senior position.

Written applications, including full CV should be sent to:

Mr J A O'Donoghue, Secretary Manager, Grange Golf Club, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16
E-mail: - secretary.manager@grangegolfclub.ie

Closing date for applications is Friday 30th September, 2005

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chairman's Column



Wake Me Up When September Ends



Quote from a BIGGA member - Bulletin Board - August 2005:

"I had all but decided not to renew my BIGGA membership... I will wait to see what happens between now and the end of September"

You have just come in from cutting the tees, the middle unit was playing up and you are wet through and fed up. Whoever used the machine last did not fill it up as they were supposed to do and old so and so cut in on the 10th tee again and held you up. Bearing this in mind, I probably come quite far down your list of priorities but now that you have finished reading the job adverts, the section notes, done the crossword, checked to see if there are any juicy letters, I am hoping that the above quote might grab your interest enough to get your attention.

So, you are sitting there underpaid, getting no respect from your current employer and no one will give you proper training. You love the work but the work environment and your future prospects are depressingly uninspiring. You are not getting the recognition you deserve and you are being treated badly. 'So what are you, Mr Chairman, and BIGGA going to do about it?'

Well, having been Chairman for nine months I can relate a little to your frustration. I too am beginning to become agitated that I am not going to fully achieve my major goals in my one year of office. However, to answer your question, I can report that the business plan review is making good headway.

'The business plan review is making good headway? Just what is that supposed to mean. Words, words, words and yet more words. How is it going to help me?'

The business plan is a written statement of what we want our Association to do for its members. It will be specific with set targets and target times for our staff to achieve. For example we have already set a target of 200 additional members per year for the next five years. We set these targets in conjunction with our staff and once set, it is up to their professional expertise to attain them. In this way we can measure the performance of the Association and its staff and get them to concentrate on the areas we feel need most improvement.

'Alright, alright Kerran, we get your drift, but how is this going to help me?'

Well that all depends on the targets we set, but here are just one or two small examples of the goals I personally would want to see achieved.

EDUCATION

Equalise, in percentage terms, the numbers of members receiving BIGGA education in all categories of membership and then increase each category by 5% per annum. For example, an increase in Course Manager education only, without a corresponding increase in education for assistant greenkeepers, would not be acceptable. Equalising the education for all categories of membership would mean that the HQ staff would have to find ways of getting BIGGA education to you, Joe Bloggs in the dead-end job, not just provide education for those who it is easier to provide it for.

Set up, by a given date, the opportunity for all new members to attend a residential course on subjects such as an introduction to BIGGA, how to manage yourself and your career and basic greenkeeping philosophy and practice. I believe we need to sell BIGGA to young greenkeepers, we need to show them we care about them and I believe that if we enthuse them early enough we will have supporters for life. It would be good for us but it would be even better for them.

WELFARE AND SUPPORT

Set up, by a given date, well-publicised and trained, local support panels, consisting of Regional Administrators, other greenkeepers and possibly sympathetic Golf Union officials for help and support with welfare matters. I feel that it would be much better, when you are vulnerable, to have an understanding ear to turn to in the first instance rather than a Legal Helpline representative who you do not know and who does not understand your industry.

COMMUNICATION

Set up, by a given date, a bulletin board exclusive to Regional Administrators and Section Administrators to improve communication and share best practice. We have Sections being very well run and Sections that struggle from time to time. If we could get all Sections sharing ideas directly, then I feel we could soon all benefit by offering more local activity and support. There is a wealth of talent and commitment out there in the Sections. It should be harnessed for the benefit of all.

I was with my daughter in the car the other day and she put on a CD. It was not my usual sort of music but I quite liked it so I asked her what it was. I was somewhat chided for not knowing it was 'Wake Me Up When September Ends' by Green Day. I am really hoping that our wavering member, quoted at the beginning, will, at the end of September, decide to stay with us and help us with the wake up call to all members to aid future greenkeepers through education and collective support.

It would be worryingly easy for our Association to become expert at providing only what the already advantaged amongst us want. With your support we can provide opportunity and advancement for all. There are many times when you cannot get help but there is never a time when you cannot give it.

K. Daly

**Kerran Daly
Chairman**

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