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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

The official monthly magazine of the British
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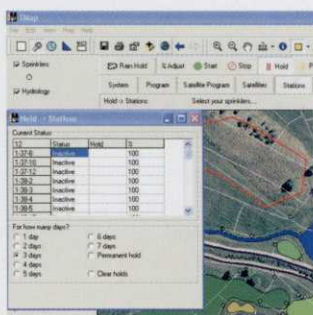
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will be with you by March 7 2006.



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When you have finished with
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Welcome

THE PERFECT BALANCE

If you were one of those who contributed towards the final attendance figure for Harrogate Week 2006 of 7757, I'm sure you will agree that it was a very good use of a few days in the second half of January.

It was my 11th Harrogate. I know I don't look old enough, but it's true, and I would honestly say that of them all this was the one where the balance between education and training and time doing business in the Halls was closest to being just about right.

Education and training is the bedrock of everything BIGGA does as an Association, borne out in the constitution and mission statement. It is the aim and duty of the BIGGA staff to provide members with opportunities to improve their education and add to their training. That said, Harrogate Week wouldn't happen if not supported by the many companies who take stand space and display their wares over the three days of BTME and ClubHouse and if everyone were to be involved in workshops or seminars and not in the Halls the trade would have no reason to attend.

By providing such a wide range of education and training, not just in the formal programme but with the newly introduced Fringe Programme to enable companies to give presentations, and by starting workshops on the Sunday, with more on the Monday, the needs of the Exhibitors, to have people passing their stands on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday area were met.

The highlight for many was the R&A's Maintaining a Sustainable Golf Course Debate on the Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. This may have had the benefit of retaining visitors who may otherwise have left for home and certainly added to the numbers in the Halls on the Thursday morning.

It was extremely pleasing to see a full house of 270 plus in the auditorium on Thursday afternoon listening to the presentations. It was perhaps even more so to see how many people remained until lunchtime on Friday to take part in the open discussion, which was conducted by none other than legendary television anchorman, Michael Barratt, now a consultant for the R&A.

The passion shown by those who contributed to the debate, from either side of the argument, was a pleasure to witness and proves that when all is said and done the issue which dominated Harrogate Week 2006 more than any other was one of pure greenkeeping.

To give us time to reflect the occasion properly Greenkeeper International will carry a feature on The Big Debate in a later magazine.

As is always the case thoughts now turn to 2007, which will be my 12th consecutive Harrogate Week. There is much to be discussed before then and plans to be made but you can be assured that everyone connected with the event will do everything to ensure that Harrogate Week 2007 offers as much for the visitor as its immediate predecessor.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

PATRONS' AWARD

On December 8 2005 the annual Patrons' Award and lunch took place at the Terraces Hotel, Stirling, where 47 members and patrons attended.

As in previous years, the Scottish Region has awarded prizes to 10 members of the Association who have supported their Sections during 2005. Each award winner received a book, attendance at Harrogate Week and three nights accommodation at the Moat House Hotel, Harrogate. This is possible only due to sponsorship provided by the patrons. Their generous and financial provision makes not only the trip to Harrogate Week possible but also so many BIGGA events throughout the season.

This year's Patron Award winners were: Dale Norquoy, Irvine GC; Alistair Storie, Beith GC;

Ian MacMillan, Murrayshall GC; Mike Lindsay, Scoonie GC; Stewart Crawford, North Berwick GC; Ryan McCulloch, Berwick-upon Tweed; George Mitchell, Newmacahar GC; John Geddes, MacDonald GC; Colin Scott, Glasgow GC; John Barr, Ranfurly Castle GC.

During the lunch the guests were entertained by John McKelvie, a former police officer who had a fund of stories of his days within the police and it was easy to see why John is in demand on the after dinner circuit. Chairman Iain Barr was an excellent Master of Ceremonies and ensured everything ran smoothly. Next year's lunch will be at the same venue on Thursday December 7 2006.

GOING FOR GOLD

Stephen Burroughs has achieved his ambition of completing his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. Stephen, who has been employed by Stock Brook The Country Club since he left school in 2004, was presented with his award at local level at Chelmsford Cathedral by Danny Crates, the Paralympic 800 metre Champion.

Part of his work towards the award included the NVQ in Sports Turf Level 2, where his Head Greenkeeper, Adrian Cornell, and Nigel Beckford, of Writtle College, put Stephen through his paces. The Staff and Management of Stock Brook are extremely proud of Stephen's achievement, and celebrated with him at a joint 18th birthday and award party recently.

"It has been a real challenge and I have learnt new skills, experienced new things. The next new experience will be seeing the inside of Saint James' Palace when I go to receive my medal from the Duke of Edinburgh," said a delighted Stephen.



Stephen, left, with Paralympian Danny Crates

CHAMPIONSHIP BACK ON



L-R: David Hart, C&CE Division Manager, John Deere Limited, with BIGGA's John Pemberton, 2006 Chairman Richard Whyman (seated) and Kerran Daly

The popular John Deere Team Championship Golf Tournament is going ahead once again this year. The Great Britain final is due to take place in September at East Sussex National, while the Irish final is booked for the new PGA National Ireland Golf Course at Palmerstown House, in Co Kildare.

In organising this event, John Deere Limited traditionally makes a cash donation to BIGGA and the GCSAI, based on the number of teams that take part. This donation goes toward supporting the respective Associations' educational activities.

McCOLM MOVES TO DUNSTON



Kevin McColm is the new Golf Course Manager at De Vere Dunston Hall, near Norwich. He has moved to Norfolk from Fife in Scotland, where he was Head Greenkeeper at St Michael's Golf Course, Leuchars.

Kevin, 27, joined the greenkeeping team at St Michael's as an Apprentice, aged 16. He moved up through the ranks and has been Head Greenkeeper for the last five years. Kevin also completed his SVQ Level 3 in Sports Turf Management in December 2004.

"I moved to Norfolk because I wanted to work for the De Vere Group. Everyone has been really friendly and I am looking forward to settling down in Long Stratton with my wife and two young sons. My ambition is for Dunston Hall to be the best golf resort hotel in East Anglia and for us to host a tour event within the next two years," said Kevin.

Dunston Hall Golf Manager, Peter Briggs said: "We are delighted that Kevin has joined us at Dunston Hall. It is excellent to have someone looking after the course with such a top golfing pedigree."

LORD AT CONFERENCE

Lord Bach, Parliamentary Under Secretary at Defra, will deliver the keynote speech to set the scene at the Amenity Forum Conference, which focuses on safeguarding the environment, complying with regulations and following 'Best Practice' in the Amenity sector. 'The Weed and Pest Control Challenge' takes place on March 1 at Warwickshire County Cricket Club's Edgbaston ground in Birmingham. The Conference is targeted at local authority managers with responsibilities for pesticide use, including managers in the utilities, sport and leisure, highways and landscape

construction and maintenance divisions. It will also be of interest to golf course and sports ground managers.

"We are delighted that Lord Bach will address our Conference. This confirms the importance that the Government is placing on supporting the implementation of best practice in the amenity sector. This Conference is an important opportunity for stakeholders to get to grips with the new Code of Practice as well as a range of environmental issues and solutions," stated Jon Allbutt, Chairman of the Amenity Forum.

HAT TRICK

Burrows Grass Machinery has clinched a hat trick of Dealer of the Year awards from French manufacturer Etesia. Their third successive award for the performance of their three depots, Leyland, Stafford and Denbigh, is their best Etesia achievement.

It was in 1991 that Burrows Grass Machinery won their first Etesia Dealer of the Year and it was their only success until the start of the hat trick in 2003. Burrows has been a dealer of the walk behind and ride on mowers and rough cutters since 1988 and is one of Etesia's longest-serving dealers in the UK.

"We are thrilled to win a hat trick of awards, which is recognition of our best ever Etesia sales performance," said Burrows Managing Director, Bill Nelson.

Bill Nelson celebrates yet
another Award from Burrows



LIFE MEMBER HONOURED

BIGGA Life Member Walter Jones has been honoured by his former club, Southerdown Golf Club. The greenkeeper, who retired from Southerdown 26 years ago, has had gates, which lead on to the course, named after him. As the photo shows, Walter, on his 90th Birthday, attended the official unveiling of The Walter Jones Gates.



Walter flanked by Southerdown's Club Captain
and Vets Captain at the newly named gates

HITTING THE ROAD

During March 2006, in conjunction with SGU, GTC and the STRI, BIGGA Scottish Region will, at three seminars in Scotland, be involved in a series of road shows that aim to improve the understanding of the role and duties of a Green Convener.

These Seminars will provide a forum for discussion and delegates who attend will have the opportunity to hear from Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers and Green Conveners who have been working together for a number of years. From their experiences delegates will gain an insight into the benefits of sound working relationship.

Notification will be sent out shortly by the Scottish Golf Union to golf clubs in Scotland inviting Greens Conveners to attend and hopefully the Head Greenkeeper/ Course Manager will accompany them also.

BIGGA Scottish Region endorses our involvement in these Seminars and would encourage as many Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers to attend and take part in meaningful discussion about the Role of the Green Convener.

Peter J. Boyd
Regional Administrator

NATURAL VERSUS ARTIFICIAL TURF

At Harrogate Week the ESA - European Seed Association - launched what is probably the most up to date comparison available for natural versus artificial turf for sports and leisure applications, claim the Association.

The report, entitled *Why choose natural turf?*, is designed as a discussion document for decision makers who are considering buying and installing a new sports pitch. It presents in clear factual detail why ESA believes natural turf to be the best long term solution for the industry. The full report is available on the ESA website, www.euroseeds.org.

In its report, ESA also shows how the dedicated research and development of grass seed breeders has ensured a healthy future for natural turf. Over the past decade, great strides have been made in the development of natural grass solutions that can tackle pitch problems such as shade, air circulation and persistency in almost every situation, however extreme the conditions.

"The evidence in favour of natural turf is clear it's better for the environment, healthier and safer for players, the most cost effective alternative to install and maintain, and the majority of football players and even spectators prefer it," stated ESA member Stephen Alderton.

ICE MAN COMETH



An eighth architect has now joined Swan Practice, International Golf Course Architects based in Essex. Snorri Vilhjalmsón, an Icelander, who recently graduated from the EIGCA accredited Masters programme in Edinburgh, has taken up a role at the company.

Vilhjalmsón, with a degree in Computer Science to complement his design qualification, brings to SGD an expertise in Autocad processing of drawings and documentation, with 3D capability. He will work alongside the seven other designers in the Swan team.

"I think this to be a great opportunity to put into practice what I have learned on my Masters Programme and to gain some real experience. I am excited to find that I am to be part of one of Europe's leading practices and am looking forward to my time at Swan Golf Designs," said Snorri.

SOUTH COAST GEAR UP FOR SEMINAR

The South Coast Section is busy preparing itself for what will no doubt be another hugely successful Seminar. Entitled 'Managing Expectations and Sustainable Golf' the Seminar will be held on Thursday March 2 at Canford Magna Golf Club.

Morning presentations will be made by Euan Grant, Old Course St Andrews; Alistair Beggs, STRI; Laurence Pithe, Crown Golf; and Paul Worster, Minchinhampton Golf Club. After lunch a presentation will be taken by Kate Entwistle, The Turf Disease Centre, while Sami Collins and Ken Richardson, from BIGGA HQ, will be providing an

update on everything BIGGA. They will also taking your questions. The day will be rounded off by the 2006 BIGGA Chairman, Richard Whyman.

The cost of the day is £15 for members and £20 for non members. For more information and to book contact Alex McCombie - 10 St Michaels Close, Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset BH15 4QT or Tel: 01202 661106; Mob: 07966 386232. You can also download a schedule for the Seminar from the events page on the BIGGA Website - www.bigga.org.uk.

JOHNSON TAKES THE REIGNS FROM MCKEE

After 37 years of dedicated service to John Deere, Alec McKee has retired. He has been replaced as Managing Director of John Deere Limited by Richard Johnson.

After gaining an NDA from Harper Adams Agricultural College in 1967, and an NDAgrE from Writtle College of Agriculture in 1968, Alec worked for four years with a John Deere distributor in Zambia. He joined John Deere Limited in 1972 as a trainee territory manager, becoming business management adviser, credit manager and commercial manager. He was subsequently appointed general sales manager in 1991 and managing director in 1993.

Richard Johnson will take over responsibility for directing the activities of the UK and Ireland branch, including both the agricultural and commercial & consumer equipment (C&CE) divisions. Richard joined John Deere Limited in 1988 as a sales trainee after graduating from Harper Adams with an HND in Agricultural Engineering. He

then became a C&CE Territory Manager, firstly for Scotland and Ireland, and then for the east and north west of England.

"Alec's broad business experience will be greatly missed. While wishing Alec a happy and healthy retirement, we also welcome Richard to his new role. Richard brings strong commercial and leadership skills to this position, and we look forward to having him as part of John Deere's European management team," commented James A. Israel, Deere & Company's Vice-President.



Richard Johnson, left, has taken over as MD from the retired Alec McKee

ELSWORTH MOVES UP THE RANKS

Syngenta has named Simon Elsworth as its new Business Manager for professional products in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. Simon will focus exclusively on turf and ornamental markets in the region.

In his new position, he will be responsible for actively growing Syngenta's market share in the UK and Ireland. He will oversee the regional introduction of proven Syngenta products and will foster relationships with key industry associations, organisations and customers. Before assuming his

new role, Simon served as campaign team manager for Syngenta UK. He has worked for Syngenta in several sales and marketing positions throughout the United Kingdom.

"Simon's appointment is a clear signal of Syngenta's commitment to the turf and ornamental markets in the United Kingdom and Ireland. This move reiterates our commitment to growing the Syngenta presence in the turf management industry globally," stated Jose Milan, Global Business Manager.



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PASSFIELD IN AS LEVETT LEAVES



DLF Trifolium has announced that Justine Passfield has joined the business following the retirement of Roger Levett.

Justine trained and qualified in agriculture at Writtle College in Essex obtaining an

HND Agriculture after three years. She initially worked on a large mixed farm before moving into horticulture and she has been in the professional horticultural industry for the last 12 years.

Justine will be supporting the Johnsons' brands and the national distributor sales force. She looks forward to learning more about professional grass and wild flower seed.

"Joining the Amenity team is an exciting challenge to broaden my knowledge and use my sales experience and training to support this sector of the industry," said Justine.

"I wish Justine all the very best in what has been a very enjoyable and challenging period in my career however I am looking forward to retirement and spending more time in the garden," commented the retiring Roger.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

Carton House Golf Club has been awarded the Committed to Green Award by the international Committed to Green Foundation. Carton House is the first Irish Golf Club to win this international honour - a distinction which is awarded to European Golf Clubs that adopt best environmental practice.

The Committed to Green Foundation's mission is to promote environmental responsibility and sustainability in golf. The Foundation is actively working to encourage more golf courses throughout Europe to adopt best environmental practices. The programme, which is supported by the European Commission, was launched by EU Commission President Jacques Santer and Valderrama President, Jamie Ortiz- Patino, in 1997.

"This is a fantastic achievement for the team at Carton House and is the culmination of five years' hard work by our Green and Ground staff. All new developments undertaken at Carton, including the construction of two world championship golf courses have been done with great sensitivity to the environment and the existing landscape. At Carton we recognise that environmental matters are of utmost importance and our management approach ensures that environmental protection is central to all decisions, policies and practices," said Conor Mallaghan, Executive Director, Carton House Estate.

RANSOMES JACOBSEN MAKES MOVES



Rupert Price

Hallam University. One year of study involved work experience at Ransomes Jacobsen's Ipswich head office and he was subsequently offered employment when he graduated. He began his career in 1997 in export sales and was promoted to Business Manager in 2000.

"Rupert is the perfect example to demonstrate our commitment to providing career progression at Ransomes Jacobsen. We identified his potential as an undergraduate and he has proved himself in his various roles over the past eight years. He has the

Rupert Price has been promoted to the position of UK and Ireland Sales Manager for Ransomes Jacobsen.

Rupert, 31, obtained a Business and Technology degree following a four year sandwich course at Sheffield

knowledge, the experience and the management skills required for this demanding post," stated Alan Prickett, Sales Director.

Meanwhile, Richard Tyrrell, 38, has been appointed to the newly created position of General Manager, E Z GO Division. Previously International Sales Manager of Ransomes Jacobsen's Specialty Products Division, in this new senior role he will be responsible for all headline aspects of the E Z GO business.

Richard joined Ransomes Jacobsen in 1999 as UK Sales Manager, Golf and Turf Vehicles, from the industrial cleaning division of Karcher. In 2001 he was promoted to International Sales Manager, Specialty Products.



Richard Tyrrell

SPORTS TURF DRAINAGE SEMINARS

Three major seminars and demonstrations of sports turf drainage machinery are to be held at three separate venues in the South West of England.

Geoffrey Davison, a name that has been associated with solutions to sports turf drainage problems for almost half a century, will lead the seminars. Geoffrey is a regular contributor to many leading publications, including Greenkeeper International, and has produced a number of publications, dealing with the science of drainage and producing quality sports turf surfaces.

A working demonstration of a number of

specialist machines will support the seminars, giving delegates the opportunity to put the theory to the test and evaluate some of the options available.

These events are sponsored by WT & RJ Jones, BLEC, British Landscape Equipment Ltd, AFT Trenchers and TYM Tractor. Dates and venues are March 28, Bodmin, Cornwall; March 29, Bridgwater, Somerset; March 30, Bristol. Morning Coffee and a light lunch will be provided.

All interested persons are welcome and they should contact Tom Jones on 01823 665030 or 07785 295239.

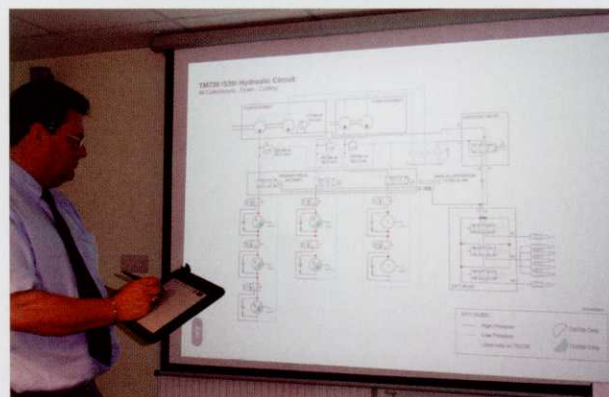
HAYTER HIT NEW HIGH

The acquisition of Hayter by Toro early in 2005 has been followed by significant investment in the Hayter factory at Bishops Stortford by the parent company. This includes a new laser profiling machine and the SAP management system, which brings together every aspect of the company's activities.

The development will boost technical training for customers and dealers, along with operator training. A new training room at Bishops Stortford, with the most up to date training aids that technology can provide, will ensure that Hayter continues its high level of training.

"Training is a time consuming and costly activity but done properly it pays huge dividends in terms of the safe use of machinery and reducing life time operating

costs. This new training room and the modern training aids that it incorporates will certainly help us achieve the highest standards of training which our customers and dealers demand as a matter of course," commented Robin Blackford, Technical Support Manager.



Robin Blackford in Hayter's new training room

INTURF GO EXPRESS



As part of a drive to increase and improve its nationwide distributor network Inturf has signed up the Johnsons of Whitley Xpress outlet at Chobham, in Surrey, to stock its high quality topsoil. Johnsons Xpress stocks a range of plants and trees to meet the needs of some of the top landscape designers, contractors, and property developers in the South East.

"From our point of view this association of two brands who share the same principles of quality and service makes perfect sense. Johnsons Xpress at Chobham is already meeting the plant supply needs of some important landscape contractors and designers, so adding our topsoil makes perfect sense," said Inturf Director of Sales, Andy Church.

Simon Lord, Xpress Centre Manager added: "I very much look forward to developing the relationship with Inturf."

NEW WAY TO MAKE A BUNKER

Digging a new bunker took an unexpected and hazardous turn for greenkeepers at Buckpool Golf Club recently. While creating the new course feature, Head Greenkeeper, Peter Fiske, and Deputy, Dave Murdoch, unearthed an unexploded World War II land mine.

The discovery sparked a security operation that witnessed a 100 metre area being sealed off for an entire day while Army bomb disposal experts carried out a controlled explosion. The blast, conducted by the Edinburgh Troop, 521 Squadron EOD Regiment, left a hole in the golf course that measured eight foot by three foot. No other damaged was caused to the course or the surrounding area.

The mines were scattered across the Moray Coast and local area during the early stages of World War II to repel the threat of a German Invasion. Once peace was declared in 1945 a concerted effort was made to clear all mines from the local area, but inevitably some escaped detection. The mine located at Buckpool GC contained 10lbs of TNT, designed to destroy a Military Vehicle, such as a tank.

"We were digging a new bunker up by the greenkeeping sheds when we hit something metal. The mine was about the size of a biscuit tin, so we took it up to the shed. We washed the muck off it to try and establish what it was," explained Dave Murdoch.

FROM SMALL SEEDS...

The Barenbrug sales team has its sights set on further growth following its best year ever. After achieving its highest turnover figure the team, now led by newly appointed Sales Manager James Ingles, announced plans to provide specialist

advice across a wide range of market sectors.

"Understanding the specific needs of our customers and how changes in their industry can effect their grass seed requirements is vital for our continued growth and success. Our market is very competitive and we need to underline that Barenbrug is offering much more than just a bag of grass seed. Now, with our team of dedicated specialists, we can select the right person to provide knowledgeable advice whatever the market sector," commented James.

Barenbrug has also appointed Jayne Leyland as UK Research and Development Manager. Jayne's appointment follows investment by the company in a significant trials programme in the UK, together with work by Barenbrug Research in Holland.



Barenbrug's sales team, front row L-R, Julie Whitelaw, Caroline Sadler, Jayne Leyland and David Linton; back row, Billy Nimmo, David Long, James Ingles and David Singleton

CRIMEWATCH COLUMN

Those unfortunate greenkeepers who have had machinery or equipment stolen from their clubs are invited to send in a description of the missing kit plus a serial number. We will then print the information. Hopefully this will lead to some recovery and perhaps make it more difficult to sell on the stolen items.

Anyone wishing to take advantage of this service should send the information to Gareth Jones at BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, YO61 1UF or email gareth@bigga.co.uk.

MASON BECOMES SHERRIFF

Sherriff Amenity has appointed Rebecca Mason as an amenity specialist covering the Yorkshire area.

Rebecca, who graduated from Leeds University, said she was looking forward to the challenges ahead and meeting existing and potential customers in her new role.

"Rebecca will be responsible for sales with a high level of technical support, backed by an efficient and effective delivery network. Rebecca's appointment continues the growth and development of Sherriff Amenity in the UK," stated Mark Pyrah, Amenity Director.



BAYER GET NEW MARKETING MAN

Alan Morris has been appointed as the new Marketing Manager for Bayer Environmental Science, covering the company's Professional Products in Northern Europe. Alan was previously European Migration Manager, based at Bayer's European Head Offices in Lyons, France.

The new expanded marketing role sees Alan claim responsibility for both the Amenity market, which covers greenkeeping and grounds care, and Professional Pest Control, which provides products for public health markets. Alan takes over from John Hall, who has moved onto a global portfolio management role.

He will be based at the new Bayer Environmental Science Head Office in Milton, on the outskirts of Cambridge - the company moved in January 2006.



GTC Education Director, David Golding, explains how you can have your say in the review of greenkeeper courses and qualification.

As we move into the New Year the GTC will be involved in carrying out one of its most important roles during the spring and summer and you can help us! As the independent body representing the golf club employers and greenkeepers, the GTC has been at the frontline of the development and review of all qualifications within the sports turf sector for many years.

Often I read "who is taking the lead" when it comes to greenkeeper education, training and qualifications and, while it's the GTC who are the designated body to do this, we are well respected by other land-based industries for the way we consult on all matters throughout our specialist sector. With the English, Scottish & Welsh Golf Unions, BIGGA and the R&A as the funding bodies plus additional support from the PGA European Tour we have the credibility and representation to influence the occupational standards for golf course maintenance and management.

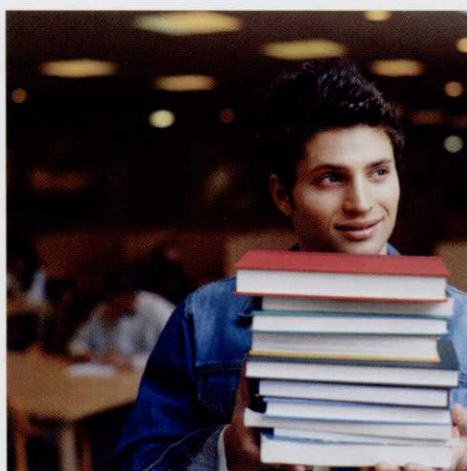
It is this structure, which has truly put the GTC in the driving seat with the Government, and we now invite you to assist us to ensure the qualifications are appropriate for the employer and the greenkeeper. This year the GTC will be involved in the review of the N/SVQ's Levels 2 & 3 Sports Turf and the HNC/D in Scotland.

Centres approved by the Awarding Bodies NPTC (City & Guilds) and the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) will be invited to contribute to the review, as they have the responsibility to deliver the programmes. However, the GTC invites you to have your say. These are typically colleges who have traditionally been the major providers to the sector.

Private Training Providers, such as GOSTA in Glasgow, will also be contributors to the review of the vocational qualifications. Also, individuals such as the leading turf lecturers can add their valued comments, but so can you! Those of you who have had any involvement in these qualifications, whether you are an employer, assessor or candidate/student please, let us know if you feel any changes to improve the qualifications should be considered by the review group.

We know that many land-based colleges have experienced difficulties in delivering vocational qualifications, as they are designed to be work-based. But the delivery of the qualifications is a separate issue to the development and review of the standards. The review focuses on the content of each qualification, the assessment requirements and with all vocational qualifications both practical skill and the related knowledge has to be assessed. Level 2 Sports Turf currently has seven Units and these are best explained in the GTC's training manual.

Those of you who are familiar with the manual will know that the GTC has also developed learning materials in hard-copy and CD format to assist the Training Providers, assessors



Converting theory from the college into practice on the course - you can have your input into greenkeeper training

and, of course, the students to access the correct information. We hope to have an exciting new learning option available very shortly. Watch this space!

Level 3 has nine Units, which range from technical skills and knowledge following on from the Level 2 plus supervisory skills. This qualification has proved the most difficult for young candidates to achieve. This is caused if they see Level 3 as a natural progression from Level 2 and their employer has not appreciated that supervisory duties are required to achieve the standards.

This 'problem' does not mean that the review group will necessarily be looking to lower the skills base at Level 3, as there are college based courses available that adequately cover the knowledge within Level 3. Plus, when the student is in a supervisory position the Level 3 qualification will be more appropriate.

The Higher National Certificate (HNC) or the NPTC (City & Guilds) Advanced National Certificate (ANC) are excellent qualifications and should be offered by Training Providers as an option to those employers/students when Level 3 is not deemed appropriate or achievable. The HN awards are the more academic route leading to the B.Sc and M.Sc in Sports Turf Science / Surfaces.

The HN review in Scotland is well under way and while the HNC and HND is a very tried and tested qualification it is important that the award is reviewed and endorsed by the employers and greenkeepers. The Scottish Industrial Liaison Committee (SILC) ensures that the review process is carried out in accordance with the Scottish Qualifications Authority's guidelines. The SILC is an excellent example of a Committee comprising representatives from the Training Providers, BIGGA, SGU, SQA and the GTC, who work together on all matters relating to greenkeeper training.

However, this is your opportunity to influence the content of the various awards. Current and past students in particular can assist us and please be assured that the review group will consider all comments and feedback.

The GTC can be contacted on 01347 838640.

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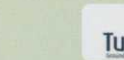
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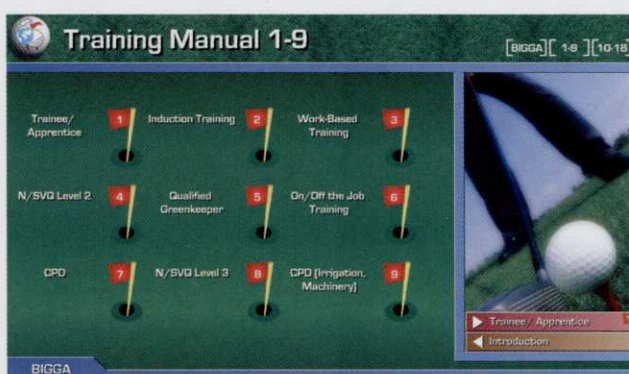
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Education Update

Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, unveils the Greenkeepers' Training and Development Manual.

The first Harrogate Week is now over and my thoughts are turning to a New Year of education and training opportunities. Many of you will have been at the AGM and heard me mention one of the projects that we are involved with. This is the introduction of a web-based Greenkeeper Training and Development Manual that will be launched towards the end of this month.



GREENKEEPERS' TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT MANUAL

When the BIGGA Board of Management set up the Futures sub-committee some five years ago, there were a number of points put forward for discussion. One of these was the need for advice on the recruitment and selection of greenkeepers, advice on how to train them and advice on how to produce the golf course managers of tomorrow.

The BIGGA Board of Management decided that the best method of presenting this advice, given the need to stick to a set budget, was to use the Internet. The Greenkeepers Training and Development Manual has been developed to be a fully interactive resource that will work with any Internet connection. However, it is best viewed using a broadband connection.

Access to the Manual for BIGGA members will be through the BIGGA website, www.bigga.org.uk. Members of the Association of Golf Club Secretaries (AGCS) will be able to access the Manual from the AGCS website, www.agcs.co.uk.

BIGGA members will need to log onto the Members' Pages and select Training and Development Manual, whereas members of the AGCS will be able to access the Manual from their members' area. Golf Club Secretaries will not be able to access any other member's only areas of the BIGGA website.

Once you have been connected, the Manual defaults to a Welcome and user guide page. This page contains information on how to use the site. You can then enter the main site by clicking on Enter the site and the Intro page appears. You can, if you wish, skip the intro and this page appears. Clicking the Hole 1 flag takes you to this screen.

The manual contains three main types of information and these are: Text, Sub Text and Video. It also contains hypertext links to other relevant web sites.

The Text tab takes you to the text related to that page, the video tab takes you to a related video clip and sub text takes you to a list of downloadable options. These options include hyperlinks, draft forms, draft job specifications, draft handbooks, etc.

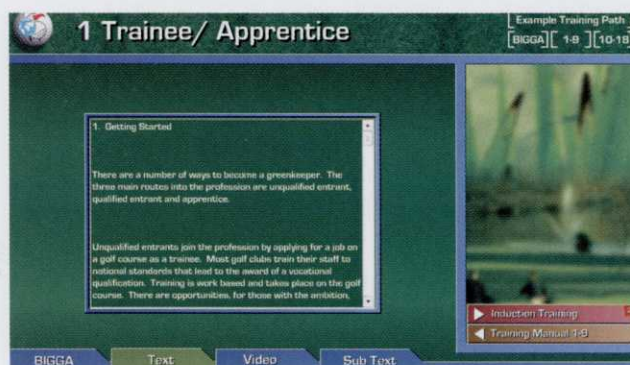
Downloading the draft form should open your default word processing package and open the relevant document.

You can then add your own information and edit items such as the golf club name and print the document. There is also a link to an example training path that shows how the site relates to your needs and to the needs of your staff.

You can enter the manual at any point and you do not need to follow in through hole by hole. For example, if you just wanted to look at the information on Estates Manager, you go straight to hole 18.

Hopefully, the golf course and golf club managers of today will be able to use the Manual to design training and development plans for all of their staff, accessing the most appropriate education and training courses at the appropriate time, leading to the managers of today helping to develop the managers of tomorrow.

Access to the site is free to all members of BIGGA and to all members of the AGCS. Non-members of either Organisation can gain access by becoming a member of the relevant Organisation.



Rachael and Gemma would like to welcome 32 new members to the Association and talk about the new benefit of membership.

Membership Update

BIGGA welcomes...

SCOTTISH REGION

Gary Muir, East Scotland
Christopher Myers, East Scotland
Michael Peters, East Scotland
Jody Wilson, Central Scotland

NORTHERN REGION

Alan Evans, North Wales
Matthew Lewis, North Wales
Christopher Lumley, North East
Benjamin Robertson, Northern
Karl Smith, Northern
Simon Wathall, Northern

MIDLAND REGION

Liam Chapman, East of England
Tomasz Fraczak, BB&O
Bryan Paton, East Midland
Dean Perrysmith, Midland
David Starkey, Midland
Nathan Webb, Midland

SOUTH EAST REGION

Toby Alexander, East Anglia
Chris Guy, East Anglia
Robert Wickham, East Anglia

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES REGION

Robert Cockwill, South West
Marcus Gilbert, Devon & Cornwall
Adam Jacobs, South West
Scott Johnson, South West
Christopher Waterton, South Wales

INTERNATIONAL

Michael Haberstroh, Germany
Aaron Huntley, USA
Roger Robarge, USA

CORPORATE MEMBERS

Mark Bowley, Essex
John Heaphy, Central Scotland
Roger Clark, BB&O

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Gary McAllister, East Midland

STUDENT MEMBER

Matthew Caple, South West

Mediation Cover is Added to the Legal Helpline

As launched at Harrogate Week we are pleased to announce that the legal helpline now includes provision for professional mediation services.

But what is mediation, and how will it benefit BIGGA Members?

A legal dispute, whether over employment, sales of goods or a claim for personal injury, can be extremely stressful and time-consuming. When a BIGGA Member is faced with a situation where legal action is required, the BIGGA Legal Protection Scheme provides a confidential, 24-hour legal helpline service, which means the member can quickly and easily find out their rights. In certain types of claim, the policy can cover legal fees to instruct a solicitor to represent the member.

However, the legal process is not always the only route available to members, and in some cases it may not even be the best process.

Redressing an issue, usually by claiming financial compensation, is not always the most important aspect. Members can be put off from making a claim for reasons that have little to do with money. In these situations, mediation can play a vital role, bringing potential benefit to both parties involved.

As an example, here are some the reasons why BIGGA Members may be hesitant about taking legal action, or continuing with a case that has already started:

- A preference to reach an agreement rather than go through the court process
- A need or desire to maintain a positive relationship with the other party after the dispute is resolved
- A need or desire for absolute confidentiality - taking a claim through the legal process means that details of the dispute are in the public domain
- A need or desire for an informal process - the legal process can seem daunting, formal and intimidating

These situations are particularly prevalent in employment disputes where the member wishes to maintain their existing employment. However, these situations can apply to any legal dispute.

For mediation services to be possible, both parties must agree to mediate, and the cost of the mediation is shared equally between the two parties, or in a member's case, by the BIGGA Legal Protection scheme. In addition, the process has further conditions:

- Both must agree to the mediator to be appointed
- The mediator to be utilised must be professionally qualified
- The process is strictly confidential
- The outcome is not imposed on either party - both parties have control over the outcome
- The process is "without prejudice" - any matters disclosed cannot later be relied upon if the matter goes to court.

But does mediation work? "Statistically 80% of cases referred to mediation are successfully settled. And clients are able to seek other remedies not available within the court process, such as an apology or a recognition of wrongdoing," said Jonathan Savitt, of Just Mediation,

Members wishing to enquire about the availability of the mediation service can do so by contacting BIGGA Legal Protection legal helpline on 0800 068 1893.



Harrogate Week Prize Draw

Our congratulations go to James Barley, of Trefloyn Golf Club, David Nelson, of Robert Trent Jones, and Steindor Ragnarsson, a student at Elmwood College, who all won a Highlander Waterproof Suit in the daily Membership prize draw at Harrogate Week.

FEBRUARY'S MEMBERSHIP DRAW WINNER

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

Our congratulations go to David Gladwin, of Carmarthen GC.



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As Easy as ABC



You never stop learning so, in conjunction with the GTC and lecturers from some of the UK's top greenkeeping colleges, GI has launched a new series which gives the developing greenkeeper the chance to add to their knowledge with some useful advice.



Gordon McGinn,
South Ayrshire Council

REFLECTIONS

A building is a very heavy object. The bigger the building the greater the weight, therefore the stronger the foundation needs to be to support it. When starting out on a career, the early stages are the foundation stages. The higher that you want to 'rise' in the industry the stronger the foundation you need to provide.

Everyone has acquired a range of knowledge and understanding particular to their own interests and experiences. Even though that may appear to have no relevance to the specialist discipline of greenkeeping many areas can be employed as an aid to understanding.

E.g. when you applied for your first post you may have prepared with training in interview skills, etc. Why? So as you could compete more successfully with the other candidates and exclude them from the post you have applied for.

Apply the same principle to golf greens; you want to make the fine grasses so successful that they can compete with and exclude a particular pest, e.g. Poa annua. Identify the strengths of the fine grasses, the weaknesses of the Poa annua - a bit like the stone, paper and scissors game from school days, each has a strength and a weakness.



Poa Annua



Fescue



FINE GRASSES

Weakness: The fine grasses have narrower leaves (smaller solar panels), so they take in less light and make less sugar, and as sugar is used in the formation of living tissue, they grow more slowly.

Strength: The narrower leaves transpire (sweat) less so the plants can survive much drier conditions.

COARSE GRASSES E.G. POA ANNUA

Strength: Broad leaves (bigger solar panels) so they take in more light, make more sugar, therefore make more living tissue, therefore they grow faster.

Weakness: The broader leaves have a bigger surface area so transpire more than fine grasses and they need much moister soils to stay alive.

CONCLUSION

Provide your fine turf with a sandy texture, open structure and keep irrigation to a minimum. The fine grasses will survive and exclude the Poa annua that will die of thirst. The above is a very simple example of applying the principle of 'Competitive Exclusion'.

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YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

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Letters

A Fescue Debate?

I am writing to express my surprise at the lack of discussion that the recent excellently researched articles on fescue greens has started. I would have thought there would have been a certain amount of argument, but it appears that no-one (apart from people who are already growing fescue) is remotely interested!

I think cutting heights on poa greens have got so low, and green speeds have got so high, that it is now extremely difficult to transfer from "predominantly poa" to "monoculturally fescue". Gone are the days, even at the seaside, where people would cut at 4 - 4.5mm and have 50% poa with some fescue and some bent.

Nowadays it seems to be a direct choice between butchering the greens to 3mm all summer and putting on sponges all winter, or accepting the stimpmeter reading is going to max out at 9 (unless there's a drought) because you can putt on firm fescue greens that are as good in February as they are in July.

We could argue all day about the need for speed or the environmental issue, but as far as I am concerned, none of the greenkeeping arguments actually matter here at all. Surely the grass that we should be aiming to grow on our greens is the grass that the architect who designed our course intended for us to grow on our greens, or the grass that was predominant when the course was laid out.

If your course is laid out on a clay soil, with hazards tucked close into the fronts of the greens, then don't feel pressured into growing fescue because it's the "in" thing to do, because the architect understood that meadow grass would dominate and designed the course to be played with soft surfaces.

Likewise, if you are working on a 100 year old links course, then you will no doubt be doing everything in your power to keep your greens as firm as they were when the course was laid out, in order to protect the integrity and subtlety of the design. That's because we all know the only way to provide our members with year round golf (that's what they pay an Annual Subscription for, after all) on firm surfaces that repel all but the best struck approach shots is to plant and then encourage the growth of fescue and do everything in our power to keep the dreaded poa from invading.

And yes, I'm sorry, but that does mean cutting no shorter than 5mm (ever - apart from maybe club championship week, when you could maybe stick them down to 4.75). Keeping water and fertiliser input to a bare - and I mean bare - minimum, cutting back on as many mechanical treatments (verticutting, hollow coring, etc) as we have to in order to keep the fescue in control.

Top-dressing until we're sick of the sight of blunt soleplates, and accepting that we are going to get constantly harassed by golfers who haven't got a clue what they're talking about. But then you don't need me to tell you that, do you? Because as a custodian of one of this country's most prized and wonderful antiques, you would never dare not look after it properly....would you?

One other point in this whole non-existent debate has occurred to me, and that is the question of why none of the World's brilliant seed scientists has yet managed to breed an annual meadow grass plant that is more efficient? Regardless of how much Jim Arthur hated Perennial Ryegrass, even he must have been impressed by the improvements that were made in his lifetime. To turn a plant that in its original form and habitat takes on the appearance of an ugly green hedgehog squatting in a sea of fine grasses (and who hasn't come up against one of those horrors in the rough of our inland courses) into a beautiful, fine leaved grass that, when planted on a tee or a fairway, actually looks (but unfortunately still doesn't play) like fescue and blends nicely into a mixed sward.

So why can't this technology be applied to *Poa annua*, creating a multi-million pound industry in this country alone, as people rush to overseed their greens with new improved meadow grass cultivars? Is it impossible to alter its characteristics to make it finer-leaved, deeper rooting, less prone to thatch-building, and more resistant to fusarium?

Imagine the possibilities for the greens on our inland courses if we could grow a monoculture of such an improved poa plant, cut it down to 2.5mm, feed it, water it, and sit back with a pint and listen to hordes of members tell us how our greens are as good as Augusta's?

While I'm here, can I take this opportunity to thank Kerran Daly for his highly enjoyable Chairman's column (which made me laugh every month). Also to congratulate everyone involved with this magazine for somehow managing to keep the whole thing fresh against all the odds.

Simon Freeman

The Marchie, Isle of Islay

BIGGA For Life

I would like to thank BIGGA for the Life Membership. I appreciate this and feel proud to own and display it. Although I have been retired from Southerndown Golf Club for 26 years I still keep in touch with some old friends through Greenkeeper International.

On my 90th Birthday I received a great honour from Southerndown, by having gates that lead onto the course named after me - The Walter Jones Gates.

Walter Jones

Life Member

Legal Help

I would like to thank the Association for all the help they have given me with my case against my golf club for unfair dismissal and unpaid wages. A special thanks to Maggie for Legal Advice and Ian Horloran for travelling up for a grievance meeting and keeping the meetings in order. Also, for his good advice during that meeting.

S Butler

A Great Week

The new Harrogate Week has come and gone and what a great week it was. Were you there?

The week was packed with education to suit everyone along with some excellent fringe event seminars. I have to commend the National Board for listening and acting on the suggestion from some members to have a sustainable golf conference and open forum. The anticipation of the conference and open forum stimulated a buzz around Harrogate I have never witnessed before and I have been travelling up north for as long as I can remember.

I'm sure on the Thursday afternoon the members and the R&A, who pushed so hard for its inclusion, felt suitably proud as they looked into a full auditorium of around 280 delegates. The coffee break filled the conference centre with a very healthy buzz of debate and a frank exchange of views. Congratulations all round to the speakers and the delegates for supporting the two days and making it such a success!

The Show was excellent as usual and all of the Stands I visited had had a successful week, which was very important during a pivotal year.

The future of the Harrogate Week now lies in our hands. With uncertainty about who will be exhibiting at the Show next year it is down to us members to give our Association unprecedented support and make sure we attend next year making it even more successful!

I would like to thank all of our staff at HQ, who worked tirelessly in organising the week and then ensuring it ran so smoothly. Just like greenkeepers they work so hard and sometimes get very little recognition for all of that hard work. We should know better! Thank you all!

Alex McCombie

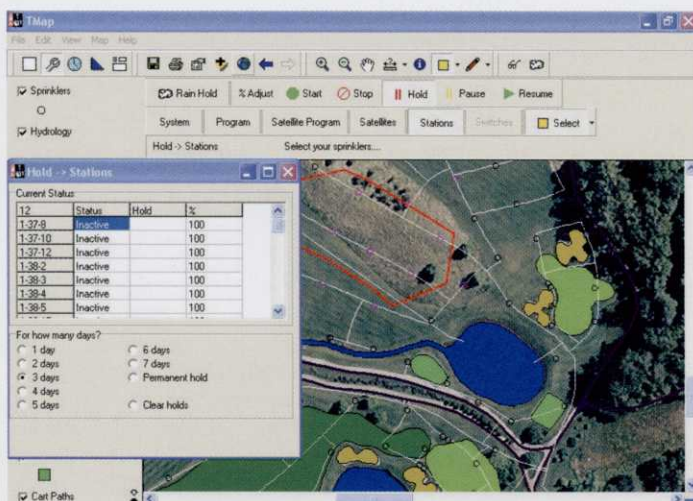
Parkstone Golf Club

The Way Forward

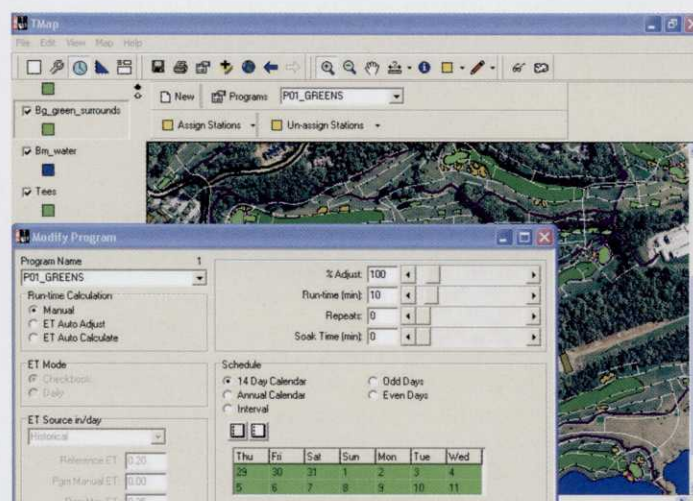
During the mid-1980s the R&A had the foresight to produce the golf course management document, The Way Forward. This document was an attempt to encourage best practice in all aspects of golf course design and golf course management, and over time encourage sufficient development to satisfy the burgeoning increase in demand for the game.

During the past 20 years there have been some outstanding developments. However, during this period there has also been an unprecedented increase in the external factors influencing the development and management of the game, not least of which is climate change.

*Continue
to learn*



Here the user has encircled, with a Red boundary, the area that has been placed on a three-day day watering hold



Through the Map, the users can easily make watering adjustments to their irrigation programs and schedules without having to go to the actual database

Historically, both drainage and irrigation designers have used average figures as a basis for design and taken into consideration a 1 in 50 or 1 in 100 worst case scenario. Recent rainfall records and trends seem to indicate that in many circumstances the average is still very much the norm; however precipitation is actually occurring as a boom and bust, famine or fortune, drought or deluge scenario.

This phenomenon has many implications on planning and design. Initially it may be necessary to remove an excess of water from the playing surface by improved drainage techniques; secondly, if we do not consider storage of at least part of this water it will be lost; and thirdly, as natural precipitation is heavier but less frequent the need for irrigation may be increased.

In the 1970s, Adams and Stewart set about the improvement of winter sports pitches by sand slitting. Golf courses have only recently caught up with this technique, which has now become relatively commonplace, especially in new-build work and to existing fairways.

However, as this system allows for relatively rapid removal of water from the playing surface, it may be referred to as a by-pass drainage system when excess precipitation is conducted away before it has time to thoroughly infiltrate the rootzone. In a new-build project this priceless supply of water can be channelled through a series of drainage pipes, lakes and open waterways - flanked with reed beds to filter out undesirable contaminants - to a holding pond. This is then pumped to a storage facility to be recycled as irrigation water, hence conserving an increasingly important resource.

Golf courses were at one time regarded as conservation areas in their own right, a green oasis in the middle of urban sprawl. Conservation measures now far exceed these basic boundaries and demand attention in a modern world. Golf courses have become even greener, with recycling the norm. Removal of surface water has to be done sympathetically and recycled. Application of irrigation water must be carefully calculated and applied, indigenous flora and fauna protected, nutrient and fungicide application reduced to a minimum and the basic archaeological fabric of the site protected.



Adrian Mortram investigates the importance of knowledge and technology when fighting against the varying elements.

TORO

Count on it.

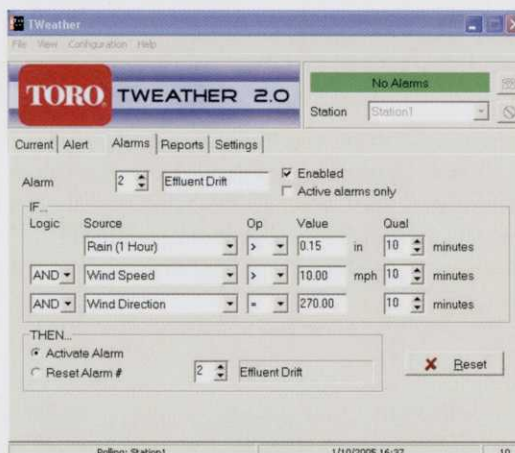
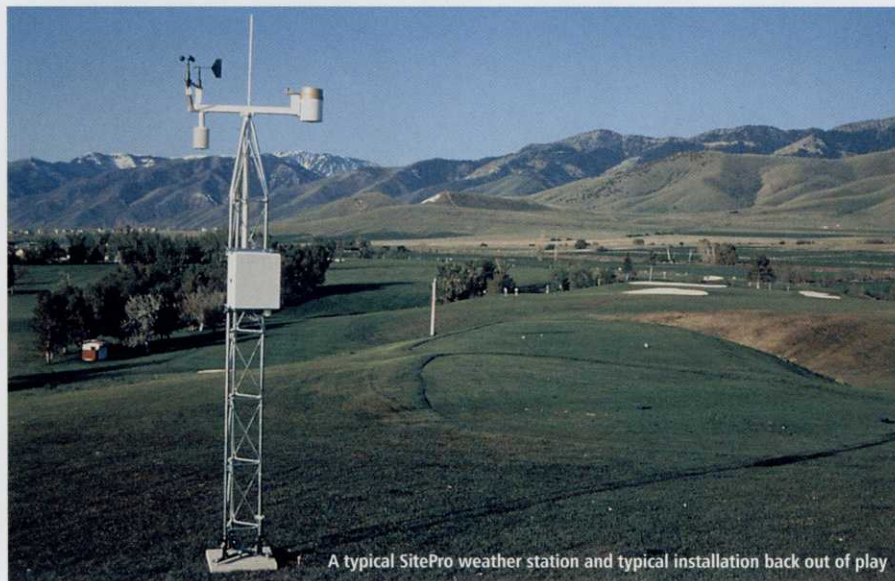
NEW BUILD

The New Dun Laoghaire Golf Course, in Dublin, has been designed and built to push back the boundaries as far as possible and encompass these developments. This prestigious project encompasses a 27-hole complex, with 33 hectares of playable surface that constitutes approximately 40 per cent of the total site. For aesthetic and practical reasons, high-tension overhead power lines, which transgressed the site, have been rerouted.

Due to the natural environment surrounding the site, known locally as Ballyman Glen - a proposed Special Area of Conservation, and also proposed for designation as a Natural Heritage Site - there has been a requirement to screen all water leaving the site during the initial construction phase to prevent environmental damage. In accordance with the Environmental Protection statement, it has been necessary to channel all surface run-off through a series of silt fences, establish grips to ponds and create a series of large silt chambers, to prevent the discharge of unsuitable run-off.

Subsequently, the groundwater recharging within the site - by means of recharge ponds, sump, soakaways, and infiltration trenches - has resulted in an ambitious plan to interconnect the drainage water via a 42,000cu metres reservoir to the irrigation system, to collect and recycle the natural precipitation. Reed beds being used as a filter prior to recycling.

Some 140 kilometres of drainage pipe has been installed at a depth of 750mm plus, the system being designed to attenuate for the event of a once in 50 year storm, and was installed with the aid of GPS surveying. The lateral drainage is installed at 500mm plus with sand slitting to the topsoil depth of 300mm to ensure adequate connection with the lateral drainage.



Using the alarm tab, the user has set up an alarm to use with effluent water to control irrigation when the wind or run-off may be a factor due to regulatory issues

As water conservation is of paramount importance in modern irrigation design, accuracy of application is essential. Therefore the irrigation system has been designed to accommodate individual head control, taking into account location, environmental and soil characteristics.

On greens, back-to-back sprinklers allow for differing soil conditions, infiltration rates and vegetation encountered, and between the needs of the putting surface and the surrounds, and prevent minimal overflow into areas of indigenous vegetation. The putting surface has been sown with creeping bent, A4 and A6, while the backdrops of the greens have a predominantly fescue sward to enhance both definition and aesthetics.

The designed annual irrigation water usage is 40,000cu metres, with up to 870cu metres per day. However, actual water usage will be very much dependant on climatic circumstances. Data in the form of daily rainfall records, wind speed and direction and evapotranspiration will be recorded on site by means of a weather station.

There is 39 kilometres of irrigation pipework to satisfy the need of 1,200 irrigation heads each set on a five-way swing joint to aid accurate setting, the whole under the control of a Toro SitePro central decoder control system, while variable speed pumps allow for an energy efficient delivery system.

Water recycling capabilities within the golf course are up to 180 litres per second to the reservoir via a 450mm main. There is also a fire-fighting capability from the main pump unit at the reservoir to the clubhouse.

THE MEADOW

In a further attempt to encompass all relevant environmental conditions, five hectares of wild flower meadow has been sown, with the ambitious planting of more than 100,000 trees, to reflect the indigenous population of the area.

In keeping with the sensitivity of the area and the Environmental Protection statement a detailed archaeological survey was undertaken and throughout the initial earthworks a permanent surveyor recorded the site. Minor archaeological finds were identified dating back to Neolithic and medieval times. Within the site, any areas identified to be of significant interest were covered with a geo-textile membrane and buried at depth so that should they be of any interest in the future they may be revisited.

The Way Forward may not be as straightforward for existing golf courses, but current knowledge and technology is available to mitigate most of the problems of the moment, to anticipate some of the problems for the future, and to keep our industry at the forefront of innovative development.

Adrian Mortram is Managing Director of Robin Hume Associates, independent golf course, landscape and sportsturf irrigation consultants.

Course Feature

Buying into the Game

Scott MacCallum meets David Croxton, a man who not only bought his own golf club but has risen to become Chairman of the EGU's Golf Services Committee.



Do you remember a guy called Victor Kiam? He was the bloke who "liked it so much I bought the company". From recollection I think it was back in the 70s and the "it" he was referring to was an electric razor and the "company", Remington.

I mention this because David Croxton, was a member of Cold Ashby Golf Club, in Northamptonshire, liked it so much he bought it. Since then he has developed the course to the stage that it is an extremely popular venue with three loops of nine and an attractive clubhouse, while David has risen through the ranks of the English Golf Union and last year was appointed Chairman of the Golf Services Committee. He is also the EGU representative on the GTC. Oh yes, he has also done his bit for the British winter Olympics effort!

He is therefore a pretty rare beast, A golf administrator who is also very much at the sharp end of the game, experiencing first hand the effects of the game's peaks and troughs.

"The club had been up for sale for some time when I thought I'd put an offer in for it. I did have a certain amount of business experience but I hadn't been involved in golf at all and I was taking over a business which had been struggling financially which was the only reason I was able to buy it," recalled David, as we sat in his office overlooking the course.

So what was the magic ingredient? What was it that turned the club around and turned David into a successful golf club owner?

"We started smiling at people," said David.

"People appreciated the fact that we'd taken time out to learn their names and to improve the basic services like providing bacon sandwiches in the mornings."

At the time, by David's own admission, facilities at Cold Ashby weren't brilliant, with the clubhouse an old converted farmhouse offering fairly basic amenities, but the 300 members were made to feel welcome and the club began to grow.



"We built the membership up to around 500 by the mid 80s when golf was enjoying a boom time and we added nine more holes giving us three loops of nine in 1995 when more land became available," said David.

Another measure of the distance in which Cold Ashby has come is the club magazine "Tee Break" an issue of which features snooker world champions, Peter Edbon and reigning champ, Shaun Murphy, who played the course in a charity event last summer.

David is delighted with the expansion of the course from 18 to 27 holes as, not only did it make it much easier to accommodate corporate or society days without causing disruption to his own members, there was another huge benefit as well.

"It was a lot better for greenkeeping. We have a routine - although it doesn't always work - that we close nine holes every Monday for hollow-coring, or top dressing and it means that we still have 18 holes to offer the golfers," explained David.



Greg Croxton is a partner in the business



"It means that in theory every nine holes is worked on every three weeks but in reality with conflicting demands, competitions etc, they are probably done once a month and we have seen the benefits of this regime through a lot less thatch," said David, who has a close working relationship with Course Manager, Henry Bott, and his team.

"Members don't even know we've micro tined and top dressed by the Wednesday after it's been done."

David has watched golf hit a popularity peak in the mid 80s and then tail off again but he does feel that the game is beginning to make a come back.

"If fees are pitched at the right level there are probably more golfers out there now than ever before but they are a floating group which makes budgeting more difficult. However it is a business and you've got to be prepared to adapt. It wouldn't be right to think you could rely on green fee income but in reality it is fairly predictable," he revealed.

"Indeed the good news is that green fee income has gone up by round 50% in the last five years."

The best scenario is having members as this gives a regular income at the beginning of the financial year but more golfers are looking at alternatives and Cold Ashby have recently introduced a Lifestyle membership for which a member pays a reduced subscription at the beginning of the year and a reduced green fee every time he or she plays.

"It is ideal for those who want to be a golf club member and have a handicap but don't play too often."

Talking of predictability and the ability to adapt, it is anything but a predictable experience when you walk into the Cold Ashby maintenance facility as figuring alongside the usual greenkeeping kit are rows and rows of skis, ski boots and poles.

The course is blessed with some glorious slopes and a decision was

taken to install a drag lift at the top of the 18th fairway and provide the equipment necessary for anyone wishing to take advantage of snowy conditions.

"We've had some super days skiing here in recent years and the 18th fairway is long enough to provide some fun," said David, of a excellent way of ensuring a golf course is used at times when otherwise the outside facilities on a golf course would be, to keep the winter analogy alive, "in cold storage".

With David's son and business partner, Greg, taking on more of the responsibility of managing Cold Ashby on a day-to-day basis it has allowed him to take an increasing role within the English Golf Union to the stage that he was appointed the Chairman of the influential Golf Services Committee.





"Back in the mid 90s I was asked to serve on the Northamptonshire Executive and through that someone asked me if I'd become President of the county, which I did from 1998 to 2000. That led on to representing Northamptonshire on the EGU Executive and then Colin Spurr, currently EGU Chairman, and then Chairman of the Golf Services Committee asked me on-board. That's when I really got more involved and when Colin moved up I became Chairman, which has a four year term of office."

The Golf Services Committee is there to handle any club management or course management issues that the EGU feels it should tackle, which currently include advising clubs on whether they should become community amateur sports clubs which give tax benefits; the retention of membership and how to cope with declining waiting lists and cash income.

"I suppose it all came about from being asked questions. Clubs would ring up if they'd had a problem and ask the EGU for help, as with the recent licensing law changes," explained David.

"It's all about providing a service to golf clubs. We field whatever queries we can ourselves and pass on those without our expertise to consultants or experts in the field whether it be in licensing law or tax. If we are getting a series of calls on the same subject we will look to put on a seminar to cover the issues."

During the golf boom of the mid 90s the EGU, like other golfing bodies including BIGGA, were getting calls from farmers and prospective developers thinking about building golf courses and asking how to go about it.

"We tried to bring out some of the issues and help people avoid some of the many pitfalls.

"That led on to the time when the GTC was set up part funded by the EGU. We have a seat on the Committee and through that work closely with BIGGA and the R&A."

Having, as Chairman of the Golf Services Committee, taken the decision to sit on the GTC himself he has seen at much closer hand the work that goes on.

"I give BIGGA the credit for taking the early lead in greenkeeper training. In reality it was greenkeepers providing their own training. If you were to go into any other industry how often is it the worker who trains himself - it is the employers' responsibility."

That is a point which David is keen to promote.

"I think training is something for which we as the EGU representing the employers together with other employer organisations should take more responsibility and that it should be done through the GTC. A lot of the credit for greenkeeper training falls to BIGGA, and the trade, who pay for a





lot of it through sponsorships, because if they hadn't done it it probably wouldn't have been done."

David is full of praise for greenkeeper training for those at the beginning of their career but that there is still work to be done for those chasing education and training further up the career ladder.

"Training at the lower end, basic skills, level is pretty good and fairly readily available and well organised in greenkeeping, but get further up into the management and degree levels and there is still lots to be done to provide Course Managers with the opportunities of getting quality and relevant qualifications," opined David.

He is full of praise for those Course Managers who have taken the initiative to improve their education and the benefits this has had on the profession.

David has really enjoyed his involvement with the GTC and the EGU and in particular the Road Shows he has been chairing.

"I've been lucky enough to meet people like Gordon McKillop, Bob Taylor and Lee Penrose of the STRI, as well as the likes of George Shiels and Andy Cole. I spent an hour listening to Andy last Monday and another hour listening to George on Tuesday and I wouldn't have done that if I hadn't been chairing the day so my own knowledge is increasing all the time. It has certainly helped me pick up a few things.

Like Mr Kiam David is surely delighted at how things have progressed since he bought the company.



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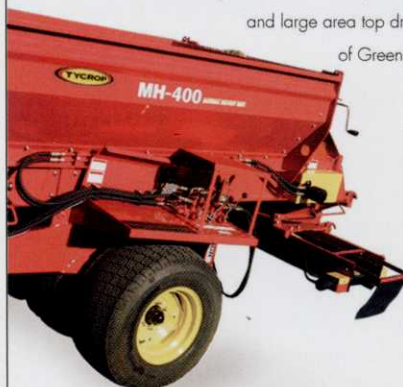
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Harrogate week

Review



Harrogate Delivers!

Like it or not we are all in the business of delivering. A football manager has to deliver either trophies or an avoidance of relegation depending upon his team's aspirations; you have to deliver quality putting surfaces; a postman has to deliver the mail while we at BIGGA Headquarters have to deliver a successful Harrogate Week each year.

Well I think we can safely say that delivery was achieved last month. A total of 7757 visitors attended BTME & ClubHouse over the three days, an increase on the previous year of 12.9%, which, by any standards, is quite a jump. To put it into perspective the increase from 2004 to 2005 was 3.7%.

A more in-depth look at those stats reveal that 46.8% of visitors were attending Harrogate Week for the very first time and meeting up with the 43% who visit most years. In addition to greenkeepers, there was an increase in the number of Golf Club Owners, Secretaries, Chairman of Green and Club Professionals and 68% of visitors had the authority to approve and purchase with 22% in a position to influence approval.

Outside of golf, visitors represented 14 other industries including theme parks, tennis, cricket, bowling, football and racecourses.

The international flavour of the week was enhanced by the attendance of people from 30 different countries outside of Great Britain, while 40% of the home audience came from the Midlands and the South.

As an Association BIGGA can't guarantee the size of the audience exhibitors will face, nor the visitor profile, but we can and do, spend a lot of time making Harrogate as attractive a proposition as possible for potential exhibitors visitors, hoping they make the decision to attend and then delivering on the promises made.

That way everyone can maximise the experience derived from devoting a period of their time to visiting Harrogate in January.



A Week In the Life

Scott MacCallum recalls a fabulous Harrogate Week.

For BIGGA Headquarters staff, having already spent 11 months and three weeks in outline, and several months in detail, planning Harrogate Week starts very early. The advance party, Pauline Thompson, arrived at Harrogate International Centre on Saturday morning to oversee the handover from the previous week's Toy Fair to BIGGA. Pauline spent the day ensuring that no damage to the Halls caused by next year's Christmas presents would be attributed to this season's latest machinery launches.



Sir Michael Bonallack looks on as Kerran Daly does the honours

Later that evening John Pemberton arrived in Harrogate in preparation for an early start the next day when Ken Richardson and Sami Collins would arrive to administer delegates for the Sunday Workshops, which this year were held in the brand new state-of-the-art Queen's Suite, a purposed build conference facility on the first floor of the International Centre. Five separate workshops ensured a real buzz to the start of the week and certainly set Harrogate Week off on the right foot - Basic Health and Safety; Project Management; Financial Management; Golf Course Design and A1 Assessor Training meant a wide range of the skills required to undertake the job of a Course Manager were on tap.

While education was being provided upstairs progress was being made in the Halls as stand builders and exhibitors worked tirelessly to ensure that stands would look as attractive and welcoming as possible come the grand opening on the Tuesday morning.



A packed house enjoyed Keynote Speaker Colonel John Blashford-Snell, right

A dinner for the speakers and BIGGA staff on Sunday evening proved to be a highly entertaining and convivial evening, proving to be an ideal half way point for those involved with two day workshops and launch pad for those conducting the one day Monday Workshops – Customer Care; Drainage; Getting the Best from your Staff; the L12 Coaching Award and the Update A1 Assessor Award.

Monday witnessed a real change of gear as more stand builders and exhibitors arrived and the remaining BIGGA staff and more delegates took part in the workshops. By the end of the week over 1000 seats had been filled by people at Workshops, Seminars or the newly introduced Fringe Seminars offered by exhibiting companies.

Monday evening and Harrogate was alive with the expectant chatter of visitors awaiting Tuesday's opening and members of the trade ready to welcome them.

At 9am sharp on Tuesday Kerran Daly demonstrated that a year as BIGGA National Chairman had not dulled his more practical skills as he wielded the famous BIGGA shears to great effect and declared the BTME and ClubHouse Exhibitions open. With that the five halls quickly filled up and the familiar sound of communal chatter started.

Tuesday morning is also the occasion when BIGGA recognises its leading lights and Award winners. Thorpeness Golf Club, led by Course Manager Ian Willett, received the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, sponsored by Scotts, Syngenta and WRAP. It was quite a week for Ian, as he also received his Award for five years of CPD attainment and was also unveiled as Terrain Aeration's Unsung Hero of the Year. Although judging by the success he'd attained earlier in the week he seemed pretty well "sung" to me!

We also cheered the 41st and 42nd Master Greenkeepers in Colin Parrish and Kevin Ratcliff. Coincidentally both are from the north west of England with Colin Course Manager at Morecombe Golf Club and Kevin at Wychwood Park, in Cheshire. They received their plaques and blazer from BIGGA President Sir Michael Bonallack MBE, who made another very welcome visit to Harrogate Week.

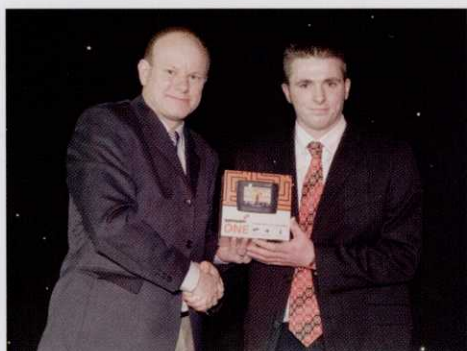
With the Awards duly presented and acceptance speeches made the audience sat down to be enthralled by the Keynote Speaker, Colonel John Blashford-Snell, who spoke on his adventures and his work with Operations Drake and Raleigh.

He later joined invited guests at the Chairman's Lunch in the Majestic Hotel where Kerran Daly presented his Club with a plaque as a thank you for being so co-operative over the past year and where BIGGA Golden and Silver Key

Education and Development Fund supporters were recognised for their generosity, including latest Silver Key member Saul Nassau.

The evening witnessed a quiz organised by Sherriff Amenity and Bailey's of





David Lees, right, receives his prize for winning Stand Up, Sit Down Bingo from sponsor Korec



Busy busy busy - it was all go in the halls!



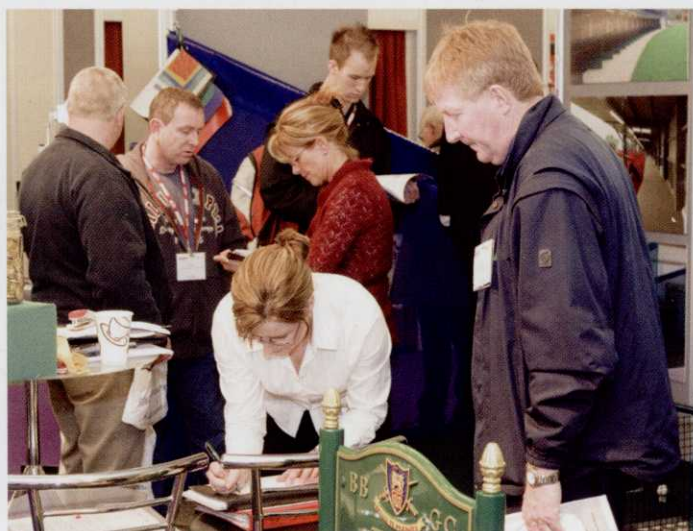
The Careers' Fair, sponsored by Toro, was again a useful component of the week



Left: The Internet Cafe, sponsored by Pitchcare, helped keep everyone in touch with the world



Richard Whyman draws Ian Osbourne, Head Groundsman at Richard Euan Sports Ground, out of the bag with the help of Vitax's Clive Williams





The Museum brought back many a memory of yesteryear

Norfolk and Kubota hosting a Casino night, both of which were in the St George Hotel. Other dinners included the annual Toro Dinner and the 60th anniversary Hayter Dinner, which was held in the Majestic Hotel. Another event on the Tuesday was Tower Chemical's seminar and Ian Batty, Sleaford Golf Club and Ronnie Myles, Scarcroft Golf Club, both won trips to this year's US Open after entering the company's prize draw.

Traditionally Wednesday is the busiest day of the week and 2006 was no exception. Many people were convinced a world record was being attempted for the most people squashed into the confined space of the HIC. It may have been, but people were too busy conducting business to notice and the 3422 visitors to the Show had a great time and kept the exhibitors exceptionally busy.

British Seed Houses hosted a lunch in the St George Hotel which eased the congestion in the halls a little and the guests were treated to an entertaining talk from Test Match Special's, Henry Blofeld, who shared stories for his time in the commentary box and hailed the work of the country's groundsmen and greenkeepers.

The afternoon saw the announcement of the welcome return of the John Deere Team Championship, which will ultimately see a team from the UK travel to the States to take part in the International event. Money from every team that enters is donated to BIGGA by John Deere, so everyone is delighted to see it back on the schedule.

BIGGA's Annual General Meeting was held in late afternoon and Kerran Daly duly passed on the crown of BIGGA National Chairman to Richard Whyman, Head Greenkeeper of Burnham and Berrow Golf Club in Somerset.

Richard took hold of the reins in expert fashion and introduced his new Vice Chairman, Billy McMillan, son of Jack, and Course Manager at Tyrrells Wood GC, near Leatherhead. Past Chairman, Andy Campbell MG CGCS, stepped down from the Board along with George Barr, of the South East Region, and was replaced by Raymond Day, Course Manager at East Sussex National GC.

The AGM was followed by the Bernhard's Reception where the 10 BIGGA Scholarship Delegates to the GCSAA Conference and Show in Atlanta were presented with their tickets. The event grows each year and the latest delegates brings to 60 the number of people who have benefited



The show allows visitors to chat with the experts

from the generous sponsorship of Stephen Bernhard and his company.

Thursday arrived and the pace didn't seem to lessen. In the past Thursdays had a different pace than Tuesdays and Wednesdays but the morning was particularly busy. Among other events, the day saw the launch of the excellent new STRI Environment DVD, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen.

Thursday was also Student Day at Harrogate Week, with the first ever Student Forum being held, sponsored by Toro. Ashley Lock, of Brigewater College, Cannington Centre, will be able to enjoy music on the move courtesy of the Student Quiz. Ashley's answer sheet was pulled out of the hat to win himself an iPod Nano.



The TT Manx, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, produced 3 winners: Ross Plumbley, Andy Halifax and Richard Barbar





The R&A's Big Debate on Sustainable Golf caught everyone's imagination and was a fitting finale for Harrogate Week 2006

The highlight of the week for many was the R&A's Maintaining a Sustainable Golf Course Big Debate which attracted an unprecedented attendance of 270. Chaired by Nick Park, Vice Chairman of the R&A's Golf Course Committee, the Thursday afternoon saw presentations from Steve Isaac, of the R&A; Alistair Beggs, of the STRI; Gordon Irvine MG, and Chris Haspell.

The audience participation element of the Debate was held on Friday morning and remarkably over 170 of the delegates

numbers was read out you sat down and the last man standing, David Lees, won a Tom Tom Sat Nav system. The losers still had the chance of winning millions on the Saturday's Lotto Draw!

The main entertainment came from The Rat Pack's Back, who sang unforgettable standards between the main course and the sweet. Several members of the audience were unwittingly dragged into the act to sing or dance which added to everyone else's enjoyment.

After the meal television comedian and impressionist Terry Alderton had everyone in stitches with a hilarious set, much of which revolved around the GCSAA's Membership Services Director Scott Woodhead, who seemed to take the brunt of Terry's anti American material. However Scott took it in good part and Terry moved on to other subjects and with his all action style kept everyone laughing.

It was a fitting finale to a wonderful week and acted as the launch pad to Harrogate Week 2007. The hard work and preparations start now!



The Rat Pack's Back belted out the old standards



Terry Alderton with his American friend Scott Woodhead

remained. They spoke or heard from a long line of distinguished Course Managers from either side of the argument. A full report on the Debate will appear in a forthcoming issue of Greenkeeper International.

While The Big Debate continued until the Friday, the Thursday evening banquet represented the close of Harrogate Week 2006 for the majority of people.

The meal in the Majestic Hotel was superb and the entertainment top notch. It started with a raffle, prizes donated by companies who attended the banquet and was followed by a reverse lottery hosted by satellite mapping company Korec. Everyone was provided with tickets valid for that Saturday's lottery and told to stand up. If one of your



THE UNSUNG ALWAYS HAPPY TO HELP

Ian Willett, Course Manager at Thorpeness Golf Club in Suffolk, and Arthur Williams, Head Groundsman at Ynysangharad Park, Pontypridd, South Wales, were proclaimed Terrain Aeration's Unsung Heroes for 2005.

At the annual awards held during Harrogate Week, Steve Gingell, Southern Area Manager for the STRI, spoke on behalf of his fellow judges Gordon Child, BIGGA, and Derek Walder, IOG, praising the winners for their selfless work with both junior members of their own green and groundstaff and those from a wider area.

"Both men maintain their sports facilities to the highest possible standard but despite the demands of the job they are never too busy to help and advise those further down the ladder. Arthur, who has been at Ynysangharad for 40 years, has been a mentor to many young groundsman and will always take time out to help people on placement, including those with learning difficulties. Ian, who took Thorpeness to win the BIGGA Environmental Award, is known for always putting his staff first, and his availability to anyone seeking help or advice. Both men freely pass on their knowledge and lend their support for no personal gain or recognition," stated Steve.



Arthur Williams, front left, and Ian Willett, front right, celebrate their achievement

The winners will enjoy a week's holiday in the South of France, with Terrain Aeration donating the hire of a house in Lanquedoc and sponsors, Turf Professional magazine and Pitchcare, donating £200 towards travelling expenses.



BIGGA Chief Executive, John Pemberton, draws out the winner of the 9 Hole Golf Competition. Jon Boorman, North Wilts Golf Club, wins £1,000 of holiday vouchers

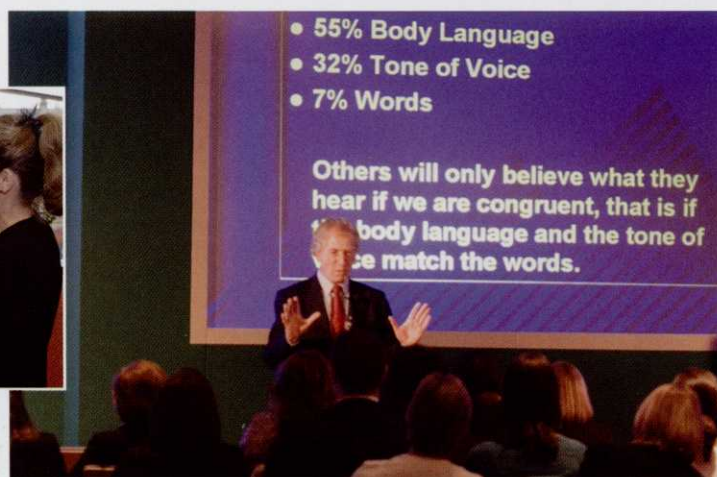


The now well sung Ian Willett with his Thorpeness team as they receive their BIGGA Environmental Prize, sponsored by Scotts, Syngenta and WRAP

FEMALE FORUM FLYING

Harrogate Week 2006 staged the third ever Women's Networking Forum. The annual Fine Turf and Sports Management Exhibition debuted the Forum in 2005, and the networking group has gone from strength to strength within its first year, which included its second meeting occurring at Saltex 2005.

Held in the Harrogate International Centre's new Queen's Suite on the Wednesday of Harrogate Week, the forum was open to both sexes and had a fine attendance of 35. These witnessed presentations from BIGGA's Sales Manager, Rosie Hancher, and Brin Bendon, Vector Training. Topics covered included Developing and Using Networking Skills and the Importance of Good Body Language. The talks were followed by an open discussion regarding the current issues within the fine turf industry.



"I am delighted to be involved in The Women's Forum which is going from strength to strength. The Forum provides an opportunity to learn skills that help you develop personally and professionally in a very friendly and relaxed environment. I was very pleased to meet so many new people this time - the word is spreading," stated Rosie.

MASTER GREENKEEPER SUCCESS FOR THE NORTH WEST

Two more greenkeepers have survived the three arduous stages of the prestigious Master Greenkeeper Scheme to become the 41st and 42nd to achieve the award. Master Greenkeepers can be found in all corners of the world but the two newest both come from the north west of England.

The first is Colin Parish, Course Manager at Morecambe Golf Club. A greenkeeper for 25 years and a Course Manager for nine, he entered the Master Greenkeeper Scheme in 1999, with enough Credits to move on to Stage 2. He had his course inspected in August 2002 and he passed Stage 3 in March 2005.

The second new member of the club is Kevin Ratcliff, Course Manager at Wychwood Park Golf Club, in Cheshire. A greenkeeper for 13 years, Keith has worked on a variety of golf course including one stint in Zagreb.

He joined the Scheme in 2000 and his course was inspected in August last year and he was successful in the two part examination in October of 2005.

"The Master Greenkeeper Scheme continues to go from strength to strength. We currently have almost 200 greenkeepers at various stages of the programme but it is a measure of the quality of work required to meet the standards that in 15 years we still have fewer than 50 Master Greenkeepers throughout the world," said Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager.



Colin Parish, top and Kevin Ratcliff are awarded their Master Greenkeeper status



The Chairman's Lunch was a chance to recognise BIGGA's Golden and Silver Education & Development fund supporters

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Success can be assessed in many different ways but one of the best is longevity. If something stands the test of time it has obviously met with the approval of a large number of people and as a result must be successful.

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Reg's son, Roy, is now a Director of Allett Mowers, and marked 40 years in the business during Harrogate Week 2006.

"Allett mowers were first produced by my father 40 years ago and I believe it is important that such an anniversary is recognised," said Roy.



The Sherriff Amenity Quiz tested the best the Fine Turf Industry had to offer on Tuesday Night





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When it comes to cutting, the TrimStar is fitted with a 36" side discharge mower, with optional mulching kit to reduce cuttings injecting them back into the turf to retain moisture and return vital nutrients back to the soil. The range of cutting heights is adjusted by a positive and robust pin-type adjustment set at four corners of the deck.

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For further information Tel: 01530 510060.

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Headland has introduced the first mini microscope for widespread use by Turf Professionals.

Just three inches high by three inches wide the new IPM Scope runs off a computer, either PC or laptop, and sends digital images straight to the screen. With magnification rates from 40x to 140x the instrument combines power with portability, and combined with a laptop can be used in the field. Once viewed, magnified material can be frozen, stored, emailed or printed in the usual way.

For further information Tel: 01223 597834;
Web: www.headlandamenity.co.uk.



MASCOT GROWS

Rigby Taylor has introduced numerous new products into its Mascot range. Green Spread is a completely BSI PAS 100 accredited, non peat, high quality compost produced from recycled green and woody plant materials. It has a high and measurable level of quality and consistency, offering the user a guaranteed standard of excellence batch after batch.

Mascot Magnet Rapide is a chelated liquid iron producing a prolonged and rapid enhancement of turf colour. Magnet Rapide also contains an enhanced leaf penetrant system which helps the iron move rapidly into the plant where it can have maximum effect. This results in a rapid green up (within 12 hours of application) and with long lasting effects (up to 6 weeks from one application).

Mascot Guardian is a range of high quality mini granular fertilisers for use on golf and bowling greens, tennis courts, ornamental lawns and sportsfield areas. Not only do Guardian fertilisers provide traditional nutrients, but they also contain amino acids which will help the turf to withstand the rigours of stress, and an Enhanced Root Developer (ERD) for improving root establishment and development.

For further information Tel: 0800 424 919; Web: www.rigbytaylor.com.

VARY THAT SEED

Sisis has introduced a new version of their Variseeder. This compact seeder is designed for use on golf greens, tees and approaches and can be used with any tractor with 3 point linkage and can be adapted to fit most trucksters.

The Variseeder 1300 has a wider working width and a simpler, more accurate method of selecting the seeding rates. It utilises a studded roller, specially cast, with seeding rate being variable and is simple and accurate to set by single lever. An Ultra Fine seeding roller is available for sowing pure bents. A transparent cover is fitted for seed level visibility.

Surface disturbance is minimal so overseeding can be carried out without taking the ground out of play. The Variseeder 1300 offers a fast work rate and low maintenance with few wearing parts.

For further information Tel: 01625 503030; Web: www.sisis.com.



UNIVERSAL MAINTENANCE

Making its Harrogate Week debut was Wiedenmann's new Super 500, a multi purpose turf maintenance machine that can be used as a scarifier, flail mower or turf sweeper depending on the attachments employed.

The fully floating heads with 1.6 metre working widths, be it brush, slitter or flail attachment, ensure a clean, even pass over undulating ground and the powerful, high performance vacuum collects cuttings and other debris and deposits them into a 2,500 litre hopper.

The 2.1 metre high dump facility on the CHD model allows for easy tipping into bins and trailers and is an optional extra on the basic sweeping model.

Other options include rear lights; a floating rear axle which allows the Super 500 to follow undulating terrain more easily; a front roller to help reduce the chances of scalping and in cab remote control to allow the operator to change the three operating functions head unit lift and lower, hopper lift and hopper tip.

For further information Tel: 0141 8143366; Web: www.wiedenmann.co.uk.



NEW ELECTRIC UTILITY VEHICLE

Extra comfort and convenience are provided by John Deere's new TE Gator utility vehicle, which is the latest addition to the T (for Traditional) Series range and replaces the existing E Gator electric model.

Powered by a whisper-quiet electric motor, the TE Gator offers a clean, durable and efficient option for a variety of amenity, turf and golf course applications, where users are concerned about noise levels and exhaust emissions in the workplace.

Featuring improved operator comfort with more legroom, adjustable seats, front-end storage and a cupholder, this latest model now has a forward, neutral, reverse switch on the dashboard, instead of the previous floor-mounted gearstick. There is also a new option of four-post ROPS or cab protection.

This four wheel, two seater electric utility vehicle has a top speed of 15.5mph and offers the same advantages as the established petrol and diesel Gator models: low ground pressure to help prevent ground compaction; a wide wheelbase and low centre of gravity for stability; simple, smooth and reliable operation; and easy access to all service points for convenient maintenance.

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



RIDE ON FRONT

New from Kubota at Harrogate Week 2006 was be two high performance Diesel out front ride-on rotary mowers designed for day-long commercial mowing operations. Kubota's new F80 Series comprises the F2880



and F3680 models, rated at 28hp and 36hp respectively.

Apart from delivering more power than the machines they replace, the new mowers feature enhanced operator comfort, more durable cutter decks and a 25 per cent improvement in lift capacity, enabling them to deal comfortably with the most demanding commercial mowing applications. In common with their predecessors, the F80 Series out front mowers are powered by Kubota's E-TVCS water-cooled diesel engines, renowned for their low levels of noise, exhaust emissions and fuel consumption, making them among the quietest and most cost-effective machines in their class.

For further information Tel: 0800 0231111; Web: www.kubota.co.uk.

DO THE MATHS

New formulations launched at Harrogate Week 2006 for Johnsons included Rye Green and J5. The latter provides year round colour and is very hardwearing under close mown conditions, ideal for golf tees, fairways and driving ranges. Rye Green is a choice for the renovation of extremely worn greens, incorporating a top rated turf type Perennial Ryegrass, which provides excellent recovery and hardwearing qualities.

Also available from the Johnsons portfolio is Villa, a new Velvet Bent, promising to set new standards in green's quality. With double the shoot density of a traditional Agrostis and improved colour and fineness of leaf, the new cultivar is worth finding out more about.

For further information Tel: 01386 791102.

HOLLAND ON INCREASE

The latest additions to the New Holland line-up are the TC31D-A and TC35D-A, which have 31hp and 35hp capacities respectively, and further enhance the breadth of New Holland's TCD-A range.

To minimise weight and the risk of compaction, New Holland has used the same chassis as is used on the existing 27hp TC27D-A. This gives more power without any significant weight increase. New tyre options are also offered for the optimum tractor footprint. Both models have 4-wheel drive and can be fitted with New Holland's SuperSteer front axle, giving an unrivalled 76° of turn angle.

New Holland's aim to design tractors for the 21st century is reflected by the modern styling throughout the TCD-A range. Their curvaceous panels look good and are highly practical, such as the sloping engine hood, whose narrow profile gives excellent all-round visibility.

For further information visit www.newholland.com.



BERNHARD GOES DOUBLE

Bernhard and Company, manufacturer's of Express Dual and Anglemaster grinders, announced two new products at Harrogate Week.

The Express Dual Blade Thinning Attachment is a new accessory ideal for those golf courses that want to do an annual relief grind without compromising the legendary speed and ease of use of Express Dual. The Attachment allows for a relief grind to be carried out on the Express Dual without taking up any additional workspace. Blade thinning attachment is mounted to the lift table and is easily positioned to allow for normal loading and unloading of mowers while still permitting normal use of the lift table.

The new and improved Rotamaster 4000 has a clamp mechanism and fast aligning jig bars. Blade mounting is now easier and faster than ever before, delivering significant benefits in overall cycle time. Rotamaster ensures both ends of the blade are sharpened equally with the precision only an automated machine can deliver, so your rotary blades have a superior edge with consistent balance for a better quality of cut, resulting in longer lasting blades and better looking grass.

For further information Tel: 01788 811600.



TO THE MAXX

Primo Maxx is the new liquid growth regular developed by Syngenta and brought to the UK turf market by Scotts. It's designed for use on all forms of turf, from fine golf greens, to tees, fairways, semi rough and rough areas. It can also be used on sports pitches and coarser landscaping applications.

Trials have been carried out at 25 golf and sports sites in the UK which have proven the product makes turf stronger, healthier, more resistant to drought, more vigorous at lower cutting heights and better able to survive in stressful conditions. In addition, a tighter, denser surface can be achieved, providing superior fairways and faster, more uniform putting surfaces.

Primo Maxx makes turf stronger by increasing both root and lateral shoot growth. It works by blocking the production of gibberellic acid late in the cycle, which effectively limits cell elongation.

For further information Tel: 0871 2205353;

Web: www.scottspprofessional.co.uk.

STRI UNITE WITH RANSOMES

The Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) has launched 'Sustainable Golf Course Management' a combined DVD and CD Rom package to stimulate awareness of the ecological and environmental impact of golf in today's society. The production of both items has been sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, the Ipswich based turf equipment manufacturer.

The DVD is a television quality, 30 minute presentation showing the positive side of the golf industry and is aimed at players, the general public and those in the golf sector to raise awareness of the importance of golf courses within the landscape. It will also give recognition to the ecological and environmental management practices that are taking place on golf courses throughout the UK.

The DVD features a series of interviews with proprietors, course managers, greenkeepers and golf officials with contributions from other related organisations including English Nature, Committed to Green Foundation, STRI, Scottish Golf Environment Group and BIGGA.

The hour long CD Rom takes an in depth look at specific ecological management issues and provides practical advice and guidance to operators and managers of golf courses. Best practice is at the heart of the content which comprises interviews with greenkeepers who have tackled and solved specific eco and enviro related problems.

For further information Tel: 01274 565131.



TORO IN THE SAND

Called the Sand Pro 5040 and 3040, they join Toro's existing 2020 model and are fitted with a powerful 18hp Briggs & Stratton engine. They also feature a three wheel series/parallel drive system for optimum traction when working in all types and sizes of bunkers, including those with steep faces and uneven contours.

The Sand Pro 5040 has a 7.5in ground clearance and the Sand Pro 3040 a 6in.

Many of the attachments for the Sand Pros are new, whereas others have been redesigned to make them easier to attach and remove. For bunker repair and maintenance, there is a selection of rugged attachments such as a spring rake, tooth rake, spikers of various widths, a manual or hydraulic blade, a variety of mats, a finish grader and leveling bar. They are designed to minimise manual work and produce the finest landscapes and bunkers.

For further information Tel: 01480 226800.

NEW ARTICULATORS CUT A DASH

Lastec introduced a new version of its out-front mowing deck, the Articulator 425EF, at Harrogate Week. The new model is a 2.4 metre wide, fully articulating rotary deck, offered with specially engineered kits to be mounted on six major brands of traction unit. Three independent decks follow ground contours to provide the effect of four small push mowers. Cut height is easily adjustable from 2.5cm to 12cm.

Also making its debut was the 3372 Articulator Turbo Diesel with grass collection facility and a striper-roller. The 3372 is a three-deck machine with 72" cutting width, designed to provide superior manoeuvrability and cut quality to conventional mid-mount and out-front units.

For further information Tel: 01622 812103.



**More New Products
from Harrogate Week
next month**

TALKING HEADS

Compiled by Gareth Jones

1

How was Harrogate Week 2006 for you?



Name: Bretton King
Position: Managing Director
Company: Ecosolve Limited
Location: Wiltshire
Exhibition Stand: M3

It's been a good week. We have had a good diverse customer base call in. We have had new people visit us and old clients. The most positive aspect is the amount of international visitors we have seen again this year. The number of quality leads builds year on year.



Name: Colin Gregory
Position: Sales Manager, UK and Ireland
Company: Massey Ferguson (AGCO)
Location: Coventry
Exhibition Stand: M11

Harrogate Week has gone very well. It's having the customers, the target audience in one concentrated place that makes it so good. It's been highly busy for us, so we are not complaining at all.



Name: Hugh Frost
Position: UK Technical Manager
Company: Novozymes Biologicals
Location: Warwickshire
Exhibition Stand: A29

The Show has been very exciting and extremely busy. There is a renewed interest in biologicals and that has been highlighted with the interest on our Stand. So we have been very busy over the three days of the Exhibition. It's been good as a varying range of people have been able to come up and give their thoughts on biologicals to us.



Name: Karl Barowsky
Position: Proprietor
Company: Classic Teak
Location: Hartlepool
Exhibition Stand: Q71

Overall, very, very good. We have had some good positive leads. Tuesday and Wednesday were very busy and very good. Thursday was slightly quieter. We provide for the entire leisure industry, golf courses being a major area, and the Show has allowed us to meet many people within this area over the week.



Name: Nick Gray
Position: Business Development Manager
Company: Bathgate Leisure
Location: Cheshire
Exhibition Stand: C31

Very good, as we have had regular enquiries throughout the week. The second day was extremely busy - with a lot of profitable enquiries, which we hope will develop into orders. Thursday has been the busiest final day we have ever had. So it's all good news as far as we are concerned.



Name: Paul Davies
Position: National Account Manager
Company: Ifor Williams Trailers
Location: Denbighshire
Exhibition Stand: B38

This is the second time we have attended this Exhibition. We have had both present and new customers on the Stand and it has been very busy. We went to the Hire Show in London in 2005 instead of here and after that we decided that Harrogate is where we actually see the end user rather than the hire companies.



Name: Robert Clive
Position: Director
Company: 360 Golf
Location: Surrey
Exhibition Stand: Q35

We are very pleased with the Exhibition. It is our first time here in the form of 360 Golf. Previously we were here under the banner Barrefield Golf and Barrefield Construction. The Show is evolving in the right way and from our point of view it has been a very worthwhile event.

2

How does 2006 compare to previous years at Harrogate or other Exhibitions in general?

Every year we find that people from Europe do come to this Show. We are the sole distributor to the UK, Europe and the Middle East, so it is important we see those international customers. We are witnessing more of them coming in, with more former eastern block countries visiting. So the visitor field is spreading further. That's a good sign.

Compared to other Exhibitions this is better as it gives you the targeted audience you need and want. The interesting thing this year is that there are more non-golfing customers going through the doors. Football clubs, local authorities, that sort of thing are visiting this Show, which automatically increases our customer base.

This has been my first year here, but Novozymes' third. Compared to other Shows this one has been very focused. It has been thorough in the coverage of some of the vital aspects of the industry. It's been very open and relaxed. It's very educated orientated and that's been very good for learning about the industry, which helps our customers.

This is our first year at Harrogate Week, but we do some other shows. Here some of the leads we have generated have been very positive. So I would say I'm very happy with what I've seen of this Show at present.

It's a lot, lot busier. We've had many new enquiries this year. We don't expect to come here and get a full order book, however we get a load of enquiries that often develop into orders down the line. This is what we want and the point of the Exhibition really.

Being much busier is the main difference, it has been much more successful. We've got people here not just buying for golf clubs, but many other areas too, which is great. We've even had horsebox trailer brochures taken away, which we didn't think would happen. The customer base is clearly wider this year.

Personally this is my first time at Harrogate. It is difficult to make comparisons with other Exhibitions as we go to a number of different Shows with different target audiences. But for what this Show is we are happy with the way it's panned out for us.

3

Harrogate Week provides unrivalled face-to-face contact with targeted clients, how important is this to a business?

You can only explain a certain amount in a brochure, but when clients come here they see the machines and develop a greater understanding of it. Plus if you have a client who has used the machine before, you can introduce them to a new client. This Show allows these meetings to happen, not just during the Exhibition hours, but at night too.

100%. You get different types of people walking along the Exhibition halls. All browse around, but some will just quietly pick up the brochure and go, while others will come up and talk to you. Both ways work well - as they have seen the product and have the details - you can then make sales on the back of that.

This is extremely important. One to one contact is everything. People will buy over the Internet and over the phone, but only after they have met the people they are actually dealing with. Human beings have to meet human beings and this Show does just that.

There is no substitute for actually sitting down with and talking to the people in the street. It's a people world and a people industry - people deal with people. No amount of direct mail or phone calls beats actually meeting and talking to people. Plus they can actually see and feel the quality of the product. It's crucial.

We treat the Show as a development for our business. We send out fliers, make calls, brochures, etc, but when people come to this Show they come to us rather than us going to them, so it makes a big difference. It doesn't stop when the Show does - it goes into the evening. Meeting new clients is basic to our business.

It gives us positive feedback. Seeing the end user allows us to take on board any improvements we need to make. They get to see the products, while we can ask them what needs changing on them to make the equipment even better for our clients.

Absolutely vital. Our business evolves around getting to know the client and knowing their needs. As a company we need to develop a client's trust, particularly on the consultancy side. They are relying on our integrity as well as our knowledge, so we have to have a close relationship with them. This Exhibition allows us to do that.

4

Is there anything that the organisers could modify or add to make the Exhibition even more successful?

Our concerns are the same as BIGGA's - what happens if the big players disappear? Is the Show still secure? The Exhibition is the main stay of BIGGA. We need BIGGA to be strong, so the Show continues - because if it doesn't we as a company have nowhere to go. Harrogate Week is as important to us as it is to BIGGA.

As far as we are concerned we are very happy with how Harrogate Week has gone. This Show is more customer orientated than many others, so is great for us. Thursday is always the quietest day - maybe it should just be two days.

Other Exhibitions use a scanning system where you have a light pen on your Stand. Instead of giving out and receiving business cards, you scan their badge. In turn this goes to a computer and provides you with the contact details of everyone who has visited your Stand during the show. You can then follow up your leads and that would be very useful here.

Well you always want more visitors no matter how many come. But in principal I'd say no. It's a well laid out Show, with lots of people milling around and we've had useful enquiries. So in general no, I think they have it reasonably spot on.

I'm sure the organisers are aware that they have to keep changing and adding things to attract the people. Quite often there is something new that visitors haven't seen before, so the turf professionals have to keep coming in order to keep up to date and the organisers most continue that.

I don't think so. Everything has gone well, so I have no complaints. It's just good to be here promoting our products. We have a vital target audience at Harrogate Week.

As a company we offer management consultancy as well as golf course construction. We would have liked to have seen more secretaries, green chairman, managers and committee people here. So we haven't met too many people from that area, but on the construction side we have made many interesting leads.

5

Do you have any particular memories that stick in the mind or funny stories from Harrogate Week 2006?

What sticks out is the quality of people and the leads we have had, plus the number of international people here. The British base is crucial to us, but you have to look to the future and building the international field is vital to us and this Show helps that.

I have no funny or embarrassing stories - honestly.

Having a range of nationalities here is great, but the odd language barrier or misunderstanding can take place. There's been a few times I've been having a conversion with an international visitor and we have been on completely different tracks due to the different use of certain words.

Nothing that I've been privy to as yet, but it always comes out the woodwork afterwards. By and large it has just been a good Show and I can't say more than that. It's been new ground for us, we haven't been here before, but will certainly look at coming back next year.

Not many I want to repeat in Greenkeeper International for fear of incriminating people. But it has just been a very good week. The Education side is important for the industry as a whole, not just greenkeepers, but for the people who exhibit too. Harrogate is a very friendly town and the time at night has been well spent helping our business develop.

The week has just gone so fast because it has been so busy. Harrogate is a nice town and a great place to hold the Show. Here you can meet and entertain clients and colleagues on the night, as everyone is based in the town.

Many, but I couldn't tell you. In general it's been a very good week. We have had a lot of fun and are looking forward to coming back.

Why, When and How

Simon Barnaby advises on nutritional input for fine turf management.

In recent years, I believe there has been a shift towards a more 'naturalistic' approach to managing turf - especially on golf courses - with a backlash against the 'green is God' attitude. However, this type of approach does not mean there is a need to sacrifice healthy turf and good quality playing conditions. In fact many would argue that this approach is essential to achieve this aim.

WHY DO WE NEED TO APPLY FERTILISER AT ALL?

- To supply essential nutrients for growth.
- To encourage healthy turf and aid recovery.
- To replace nutrients removed (clippings).
- To encourage uniform surface conditions.
- To enhance turf appearance.
- To balance soil nutrients.

WHAT IS MINIMAL INPUT?

The term 'minimal nutrient input' is regularly seen in agronomic reports or articles on turf management - but what does that actually mean? It doesn't necessarily mean a small or low amount of nutrient inputs.

The minimal amount of nutrient input is the lowest amount possible to create healthy turf and good playing conditions. The difficult part is working out what that minimal amount is to achieve this aim. The person best placed to answer this question is the turf manager.

We know that there are a number of essential nutrients (16 in some text books, less in others) that the grass plant must have in order to survive. These are split into two main groups - macronutrients are the ones needed in the greatest quantities, and micronutrients are needed in varying lower amounts.

MACRO	MICRO
Nitrogen	Iron
Potassium	Zinc
Phosphate	Copper
Calcium	Manganese
Magnesium	Molybdenum
Sulphur	Chlorine
	Boron
	Sodium
	Silicon

WHAT IS THE MINIMAL AMOUNT?

Essential nutrients are all as important as each other; it's just that some are needed in far greater quantities than others. It is also true that many of the essential trace elements are already present in soil rootzones in large enough quantities. However, if you are considering sand construction rootzones, then micro as well as higher amounts of macro nutrients may have to be applied.

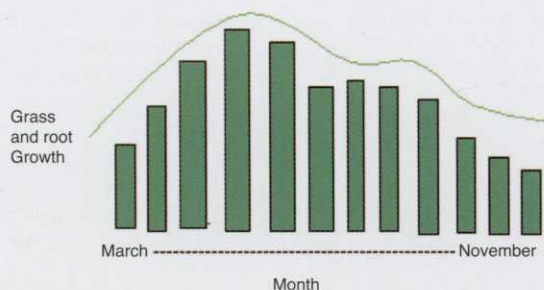
Typical recommendations for nutrient (N) input for golf greens are as follows:

- New USGA green construction - 200 - 250kg/N/Ha/Yr
- Older USGA green construction - 140 - 180kg/N/Ha/Yr
- Soil based green - 80 - 150kg/N/Ha/Yr

When to apply – a guide

Match nutrient timing with growth peak

(Application times vary depending on location and weather conditions)



When considering other essential nutrient inputs, the usual NPK ratios are something like 4:1:3 - 3:1:2. Although there are always influencing factors, for example timing. An autumn application may have an analysis such as 2:0:2 - 2:0:3 - 2:1:3 (or no nutrient at all). However, there are obviously a number of factors that need to be considered before specific nutrient input advice can be given. These include:

- Sward species composition
- Rootzone/soil type and construction
- Climatic conditions
- Maintenance level - budgets
- Timing
- Turf manager's objectives

The last point (turf manager's objectives) is a crucial factor - all of the others are fairly standard pieces of information that allow a decision to be taken or advice to be given. Even as long ago as 1920s, experts recognised this fact:

"A common mistake in turf management is to imagine that because one form of treatment benefits one course, that it will necessarily benefit another," stated Dr. A. Mackenzie, in 1920.

The turf manager's objectives may be as simple as maintaining current sward conditions, although he may want to embark on a new maintenance regime that attempts to eradicate *Poa annua* and increase bent grass. These two different objectives may/should influence the type and amount of nutrient inputs for that particular turf area.

HOW DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH TO APPLY?

Soil/tissue/sap analysis can help the turf manager to make up his own mind. Fertiliser programmes are only really ever a guideline. When you are working in a natural environment it is inevitable that natural factors will affect the amount of nutrient needed, for example rainfall, irrigation, temperature, sunlight etc.

One of the buzzwords at the moment is to 'balance' soil nutrients and this is a very important part of nutrient input management. Too much of one nutrient can restrict the uptake of other nutrients (e.g. Potassium and Magnesium).

Another influential factor is pH. Excessively low or high pHs can influence nutrient availability, and this can sometimes be overlooked when it comes to formulating fertiliser programmes.

Having discussed the above, the bottom line is: 'if it isn't broke, don't fix it'. It's an old adage but one well worth remembering. I see a lot of soil analysis that can appear as if there should be problems with the turf, and that vast amounts of nutrient are needed to rectify deficiencies. But the actual turf surfaces are very good.

In this situation the advice is to keep doing what you're doing. Soil analysis really only comes into its own when there is a problem with the turf, or it's generally not performing as well as possible and you want to make sure it's got all the nutrients it needs to achieve your aims.

WHY IS IT BAD TO APPLY TOO MUCH NUTRIENT?

- Waste of money - product and labour.
- Detrimental to turf health.
- Soft growth susceptible to wear, reduced root growth.
- Encourages turf disease.
- Poor playing conditions.
- Environmental implications.

Within the next five to 10 years it's possible that nutritional/fertiliser input will become as regulated as chemical input. In agriculture, this has already started with the introduction of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs), which place restrictions on timing, types and amounts of fertiliser that can be applied.

Environmental damage caused to watercourses through nutrient pollution is one of the biggest concerns of authorities today. If too much nutrient is applied, excess Nitrate and Phosphate in watercourses can cause Eutrophication leading to decreased diversity, increased weeds, etc. Scotts research has shown that when applied correctly, leaching risks are minimal on golf course turf.

WHY IS IT BAD TO APPLY TOO LITTLE NUTRIENT?

- Waste of money - product and labour.
- Detrimental to turf health.
- Poor playing conditions.
- Poor or slow growth susceptible to wear.
- Encourages turf disease.

When we consider turf health, one of the things we are taught early in our careers is that too much nitrogen, especially at the wrong time of year (e.g. late autumn), can encourage soft, lush growth which can cause turf disease - especially fusarium patch (*Microdochium nivale*). This is true, but it is also true to say that too little nutrient at certain times of the year can also encourage disease. Research has shown that certain trace element deficiencies (e.g. manganese) in sand construction greens can influence the occurrence of Take All Patch (*Gaeumannomyces graminis*) disease.

Experts, such as Dr. Ruth Mann, STRI, and Dr. Entwistle, Turf Disease Centre, agree that UK and Eire are seeing more unusual diseases and pests over the last few years and well-known diseases, such as Anthracnose (*Colletotrichum graminicola*), appear to be on the increase.

Anthracnose is a disease that attacks grass plants when they are under stress, so any factor that causes stress to the plant will increase the likelihood of disease attack. Anthracnose mainly affects *Poa annua* in UK and Eire (basal rot, not foliar). If this disease is increasing, it would indicate that *Poa annua* is under stress.

One theory could be that with changing climatic conditions we are seeing more grass growth going into the winter months. If there isn't enough nutrient for the turf to grow in a healthy way, this may be putting a stress on the turf resulting in disease attack, especially in autumn and spring. This is a tricky situation to deal with, because if you apply more nutrients in the autumn you will run the risk of encouraging Fusarium patch disease.

HOW SHOULD NUTRIENT BE DELIVERED?

There are lots of different ways to feed turf - it's really a case of what works best for you in your particular situation. Options include liquids, water solubles, conventional granulars, slow release, controlled release, etc. Liquid and foliar applications are becoming more popular as they can be easily tank mixed and give the turf manager flexibility with inputs and allow maximum control of growth. Granular products are still seen as the main approach to apply nutrient by many turf managers.

The main points to look for when using granular products are:

- Rapid breakdown
- Consistent spread pattern
- Granule uniformity/Particle distribution
- Homogenous granule
- Good longevity
- Ease of application/handling
- Performance
- Value for money
- Proven through research

The last point is particularly important.





OTHER 'MACRO' NUTRIENTS

Oxygen, carbon and hydrogen are macronutrients obtained from air and water, and they are the building blocks for grass plant growth. These three essential nutrients, when combined in the presence of chlorophyll and light through the process of photosynthesis, form carbohydrates - the sugars used to provide plant growth.

Plants are therefore not obtaining food directly from the soil mineral nutrients. These nutrients are just the raw materials used to manufacture food via photosynthesis. While it is well known that low oxygen levels will have a detrimental effect on turf health, recent research from Gange (2004) suggests that low carbon levels in golf green turf may also be responsible for poor turf health.

CONCLUSION

I have always maintained that the most important nutrient is oxygen. Much effort can go into trying to get the perfect balance of nutrient, irrigation, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and chemical inputs, although without oxygen none of the above really matters. No other inputs can work effectively without a healthy, free-draining rootzone that can support a thriving soil microflora population. Therefore to summarise:

- Keep turf maintenance as simple as possible.
- All essential nutrients are as important as each other, just some are needed in greater quantities than others.
- Use soil, tissue, water analysis occasionally to ascertain current nutrient status - especially useful as a diagnostic tool.
- Practice some form of IPM, including considering use of proven bio products as part of the overall maintenance programme.
- Consider effects of irrigation inputs.
- Don't forget - oxygen is the most important essential nutrient.

Simon Barnaby is from Scotts. The company can be contacted on 01473 830492.



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With this unique sprayer added, a Workman becomes a liquid asset.



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Turf, Turf Everywhere

Fine turf is popping up in the strangest of places thanks to new technology, as Gareth Jones found out.

The global population is ever increasing. There are over 6.8 billion living souls in the world, at the time of writing, although some of that figure will resemble more zombie than human as they attempted to recover from another exhilarating, successful and hectic Harrogate Week. With this continually rising amount of people needing somewhere to rest their weary heads, the demand for new housing has dramatically exploded. These dwellings have to be built somewhere and as a result it's not poa annua that should be feared of dominating our grass types - its concrete.

Large green fields are becoming extinct as grey carpets of cement are laid across the globe as the base for new urban jungles. Schools are selling their playing fields - poor little Jimmy has nowhere to practice his football anymore - and farmers are releasing their property to developers to solve income troubles. It all adds up. Currently, the backdrop to many lives is not colourful natural fields - it's dark man made walls. We are at a very real point where the only way to see grass is next to a Viking relic in a natural history museum.

The good news is that the turf is fighting back. Fed up with being destroyed by concrete, the green is now taking over the grey. Advances in technology have resulted in a resurgence of grass in previous barren areas of large cities. New turf products, such as Lindum's Grassfelt, mean that lovely soft turf can be laid practically anywhere - brightening up otherwise dull, dead land.

Being grown on a biodegradable felt has resulted in grass becoming a living carpet - a feature that can be utilised wherever you care to look. It is not just the obvious areas, such as the golf course or football pitch, that are benefiting from an injection of new technology in fine turf. Places where you would never have dreamt turf could be laid are now covered in lush green grass. That's just the way we like it!



Yum, a nice big Wedding Cake - This grass sculpture can be found in the courtyard of the Marriott Hotel, Westminster



Lindum's Grassfelt used in steel sculptures as part of Yorkshire Forward's 'The Green' project



Anyone for tennis?



This courtyard looks so much better with a nice living sward



Fine turf isn't just for the golf course - it really can do anything



You aren't seeing things - that really is grass in the middle of London



Can you beat this?



Loch Lomond, courtesy of Brian Morgan

Look out for the launch of BIGGA's new golf
photography competition in next month's issue!

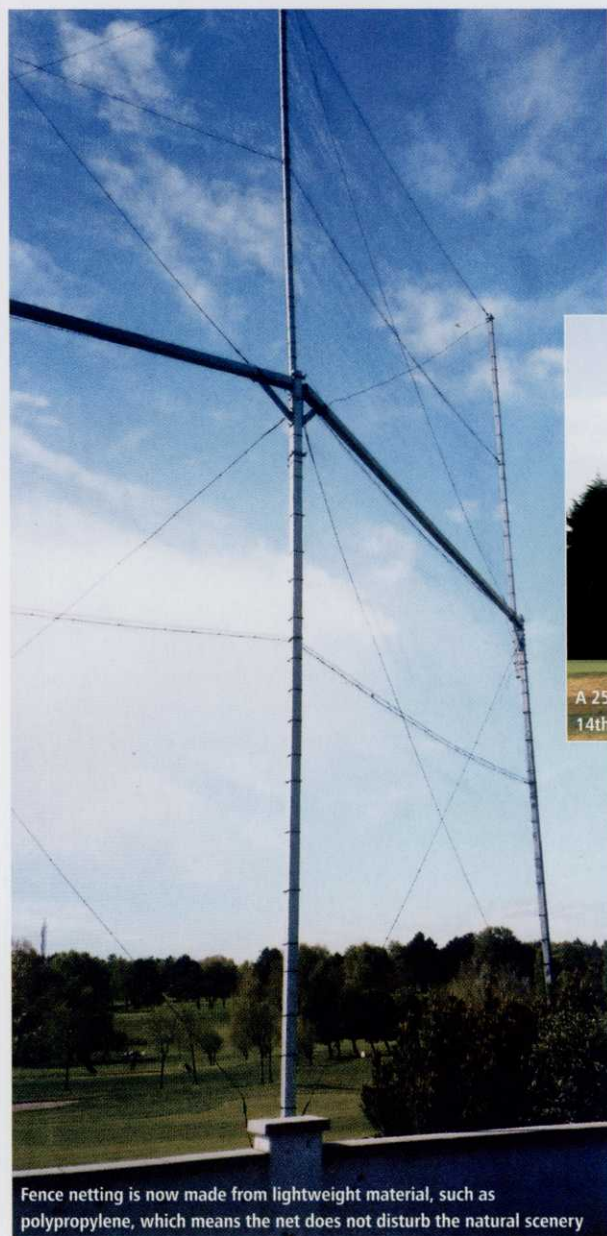
All Caught Up!

Gareth Jones rigs himself up as he takes a look at the protective netting that can be installed at golf clubs to solve those tricky health and safety dilemmas.

Being a novice golfer, and that's putting it the nice way, I have a major error within my swing that causes my ball to dramatically fly off to the right. If facing a cruel dogleg it's wonderful to see your soaring Titleist arcing majestically around the protruding hazard to the awaiting green. However, when you are attempting to hit the damn thing straight down the middle of the fairway it's not pride and joy I feel but embarrassment and anger.

My personal golfing troubles and dented esteem apart, this is actually a very serious health and safety issue at the majority of golf clubs. While a player losing ball after ball as he slices out of bounds might mean great business for the pro shop, it could mean a hefty law suit landing on the doormat of the golf club.

On the course both greenkeepers and players are at risk from misplaced shots. Often a muffled cry of Fore does not provide the needed time to dive behind the trusty utility vehicle to avoid the oncoming missile. Driving ranges can be even more dangerous.



Fence netting is now made from lightweight material, such as polypropylene, which means the net does not disturb the natural scenery

Beginners or seasonal players testing their brand new Big Bertha that they got from Santa are happy to spend all their time seeing how far they can hit it. Surely the further the ball goes the better player you are? Practice balls fly left, right but rarely centre and so the range must be safely sealed to protect the rest of the club and it's fragile members.

Passing pedestrians, neighbours and traffic are not safe either. A modest connection from even the weakest of golfer can send a ball looping high, wide and handsome out of the course and into somebody's skull or through a neighbour's window. Hexham Golf Club were recently involved in this scenario.

The opening of a new car dealership behind the 14th green meant that the club had a decision to make - shorten the hole by 90 yards or erect a ball stop fence. The choice was an easy one; with a 20m by 90m long fence being created that contained a 25mm by 25mm green mesh netting.

"We were able to work with the greenkeepers to minimise any course impact. The end result is an extremely high fence that Hexham can be proud of," recalled Lawrence Green, of Tildenet, who installed the fence.

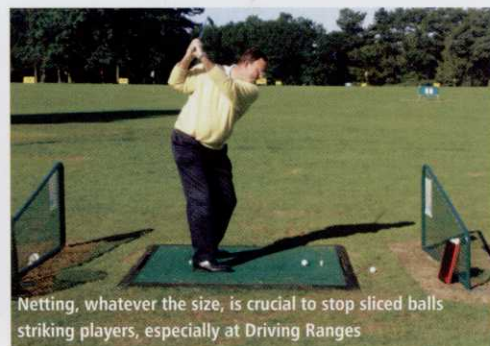
This protective netting is a major way to solve the predicament of the famed but feared 150 yard slice. Fencing has become a vital necessity for any club wanting to shield passing pedestrians, vehicles and property from wayward golf balls.



A 25mm mesh fence protects the car dealership located behind the 14th at Hexham Golf Club

Traditionally knotted nets have been used for this purpose, with specialist fencing companies, such as Tenax, stating that this is "a must when providing protection from high impact shots". However, large runs of knotted netting can become very heavy and be difficult to install. An increase in the weight of the nets means stronger support fixings are required and these need regularly maintaining.

Many net fencing systems are now created using lightweight materials, such as polypropylene. This eliminates many of the concerns related to knotting netting, including damage caused by differing weather conditions. These can be easier to fit and have lower maintenance requirements, although any type of net fencing should be



Netting, whatever the size, is crucial to stop sliced balls striking players, especially at Driving Ranges

examined frequently to spot wear, damage and holes.

So erect that fence to halt those ill timed sliced shots shooting out of your course, before you find yourself building a barrier around it to stop all those injured, complaining neighbours getting in.

Made to Measure

Scott MacCallum travelled to Cornwall to meet BIGGA's new Chairman, Richard Whyman.

It goes without saying that being the Chairman of an Association like BIGGA requires a certain amount of communication skill – the ability to make impromptu speeches on all subjects at the drop of a hat and the capacity to chat with members at every stage in their career, as well as top officials of greenkeeping and golfing bodies from all over the world.

So when Richard Whyman says, and indeed demonstrates, that he, "can talk for England", and that 16 years as Devon and Cornwall Section Secretary have taught him to think and speak on his feet you get the strong suspicion that he is ready made for the job of BIGGA Chairman.

Richard is very well aware of the type of person he is, the style of Chairmanship he will employ and how his strengths differ from his predecessor as Chairman, Kerran Daly.

"Kerran has written in the magazine, and on the website, very well and has put in train the new Secretaries' Website page which, once it is being utilised fully, will become an extremely useful tool for the Association. I'm a social, communicative person who prefers to talk with people and that's how I will learn what's going on in the Association," said Richard, as we sat in the upstairs lounge of Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club, which had just hosted a Devon and Cornwall Section event, and which had been his place of work for 18 years.

For the last three years he has been Head Greenkeeper at the prestigious Burnham and Berrow Golf Club, in Somerset, widely regarded as one of the finest links in the south west of the country, a fact reinforced by the fact that during his Chairmanship year Richard will be preparing the course for the English Amateur Championship.

"I'd been extremely happy at Bude for 18 years but Burnham and Berrow was one of the few jobs in the south west which could have tempted me.

"When it came up I talked it over with my wife, Denise, and I thought that at 43 if I didn't take the opportunity it might not come up again. It was the right time as my son, who has recently joined the greenkeeping staff at Carden Park, was just finishing school and my daughter was about to go to university. The easiest decision would have been not to move but I would have been here today and in my comfort zone," said Richard, who was made a life member of the club when he left and who spent the Section Day catching up with many of his old members who recognised him and just wanted to say hello.

Richard's entry into the greenkeeping profession came two years after he had taken up the game of golf at 14, he decided that he'd had enough of school at 16. A reluctance to work in a factory and a keen desire to work outside drew him to another of the fine south west links courses, Saunton, where he began as an apprentice.

"I'm a Devonian, born and bred in Barnstaple, and I started playing golf with my dad, who was returning to the game after a layoff. We joined Ilfracombe – Saunton was closer but prestigious and expensive to join – and, although I was never going to be a great golfer, I caught the bug."

At Saunton he first worked under David Rawlins, and then Brian Summers and began his greenkeeper education.

"I started at the local technical college in Barnstaple but the golf club wanted a more greenkeeper orientated course for me so I did my City and Guilds on one of the first greenkeeper courses in the country at Warwickshire College.



"The course was still feeling its way. I remember one machinery lesson where we were picking up hay bales off the sports field," he smiled.

When he was 21 he moved on, becoming Deputy Head at Lee on the Solent, home club to one of BIGGA's most well loved characters and supporters.

"Jim Fry [a BIGGA Honorary Member] was the Chairman of Green when I was there and he used to drive us to Section events in the South Coast Section in his Roller. It was great pulling up at a golf club in a Rolls Royce, climbing out and going into a Section event."

The lure of his beloved Devon and Cornwall drew him back to the job of Head man at Bude and North Cornwall, although the move was tinged with a little regret.

"When I left Lee and Solent were just about to start quite a bit of construction work and I would have enjoyed becoming involved with that," said Richard, who despite his West Country roots is an avid Leeds United supporter, borne out of the Yorkshire side's early 70s dominance in his formative years.

But the prodigal son returned, on the same day as the Brighton bomb nearly wiped out Margaret Thatcher and the Tory Government of October 1984, and his Association work was about to begin.

"When I returned it was still the BGGGA and I sat on committees quite quickly both on BGGGA and subsequently BIGGA. Gordon Child was Section Chairman at the time and he nurtured me along. I soon became Chairman



myself, although I never had any real desire to move forward with BIGGA. It just happened."

To demonstrate just how that works Richard explained that, when Chairman, he was called by the Section Secretary at the time, Jim Wood, to say he was leaving the industry to work for the War Graves Commission and he wanted to drop off the Section stationary.

"All of a sudden I was left with all this stuff and I'd become Section Secretary. I'll always remember my first meeting. It was at Teignmouth GC and I was worried. I had about 50 people turning up and I had to organise golf, meals, meet the speaker and then make a speech myself, all of which was new to me. I spent the night before rehearsing my speech which, by midnight, was driving my wife mad. It all went very well and when that happens you get a real buzz. I'm sure Don [Hunt, the D&C Section Secretary] got a buzz out of having 52 here today."

As Richard progressed in the role he became more and more proficient and, by his own admission, he enjoyed every minute of it.

"Although it took up a lot of time – I do gas for England, it's one of my failings – when I used to chase people up I couldn't just throw down the phone I had to have a chat about how things were and when I had 10 calls to make it could take all night."

He gave up the role when he moved to Burnham and Berrow, although he remained a member of the Devon and Cornwall Section, but he admits it was probably good for him to step back because much as his time at Bude and North Cornwall he was in a comfort zone.

"Meetings were much simpler to run by the end and the speeches just rolled off the tongue," he said.

"The biggest thing for me of being Section Secretary was that I learned how to use a computer. That has been very useful to me and I don't know if I'd be able to use a computer like I do today if I hadn't been Section Secretary," said Richard, who also credits the role as the reason he has made so many contacts within the industry and met so many people, including the Duke of York, whom he was introduced to at the opening of BIGGA HOUSE.

The call, which was eventually to lead to the Chairmanship of the Association, came one August evening in 2004.

"I'd just finished a barbecue with the family, and enjoyed a couple of beers, when the phone rang and it was Kerran inviting me to become his Vice Chairman. I had to think long and hard about it as it is a big commitment. I spoke with my wife, daughter, Nikki and son, Andrew, who were very keen and then the golf club and I was pleasantly surprised at how supportive they were, particularly when I explained the time commitment required."

So what sort of Chairman will he be and what does he want to achieve?

"As I said I'm a social guy and I'd very much like to visit every Region and meet as many people as I can but I do have work constraints, including that English Amateur Championship, and I might not get to as many functions as, ideally, I'd like.

"I'd like communication to improve and particularly from member to Headquarters because it is a two way thing and members must feed back as if HQ gets nothing back it will stop being fed down," said Richard, who

will also be doing whatever he can during his year in office to ensure a successful Harrogate Week 2007.

Another of his aims is to create a means for the next generation of Board member to come through the ranks.

"I'd like to see at least one youngster being elected to all Section Committees by the end of the year. We need people to be nurtured the way Gordon did with me, serve a couple of years on the Section Committee then, if they are good enough, progressing to the Region and then the main Board. Although we do have a committee structure very similar to the ones we complain about in clubs I can't think of another way of working and I believe the structure of the Association is good. However, what you don't want is a regurgitation of the same old people," said Richard, who at 46 sees himself as the last of the old school of greenkeeper.



2005 Chairman Kerran Daly, right, hands over the BIGGA reins to Richard Whyman

"I'm probably more passionate about this than most because my son has just entered greenkeeping and we don't want the next generation to be held back, not being given a chance and not having their ideas about running the Association coming forward," said Richard, who said he will be taking a step back once his term is over, although always be available in the background to help when asked.

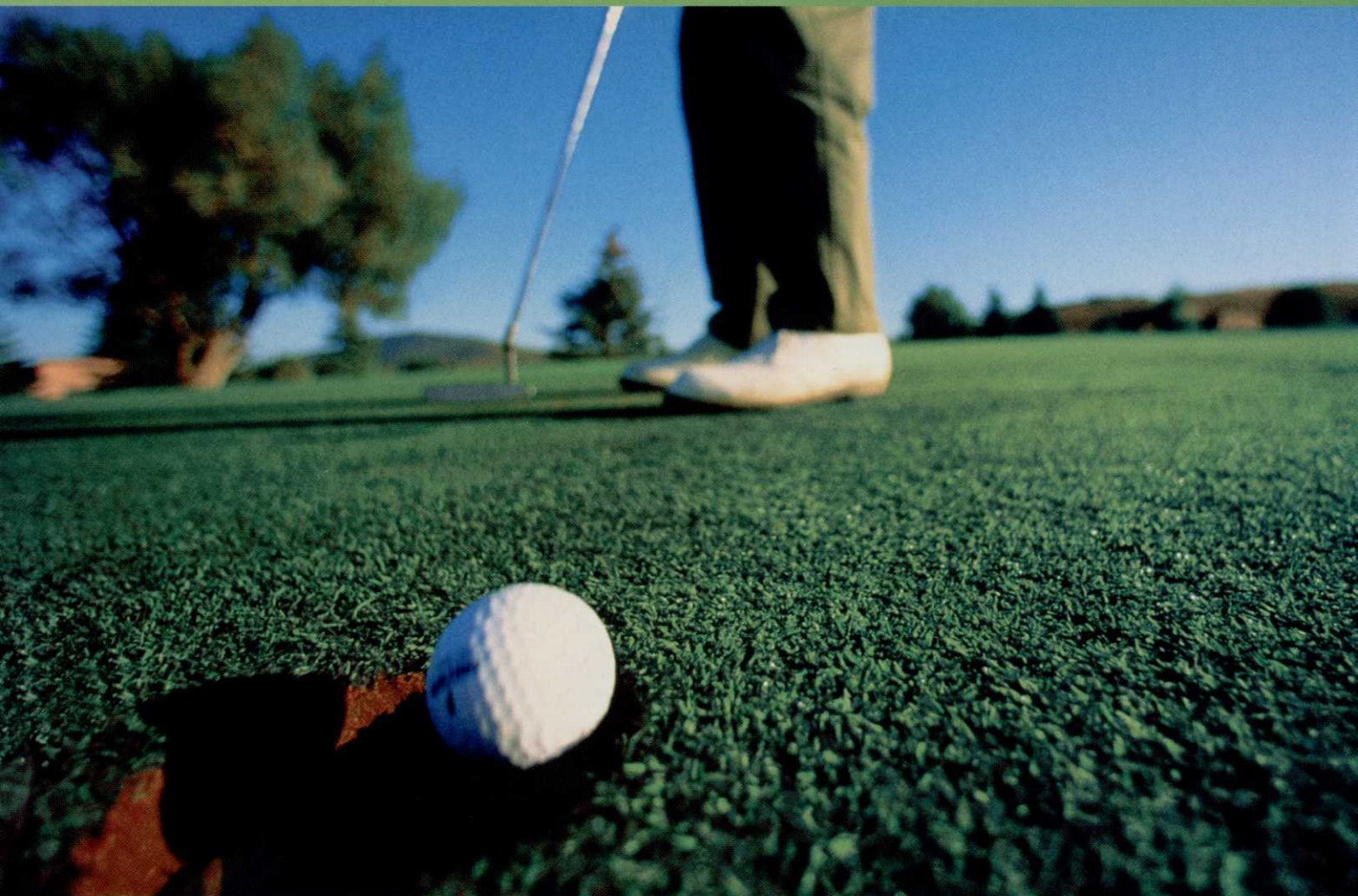
"The best thing that happened to me was giving up the Devon and Cornwall Secretary job for two years when I joined Burnham as I had got very blinkered. I've returned with a different outlook and see no major problems at all when, as Secretary, there seemed many. It was good for me to take a step back and I'd recommend that to others – give it up for a couple of years, let someone else have a go and then return."

Richard is really looking forward to his Chairmanship and particularly the opportunity to attend the GCSAA Conference and Show, in Atlanta, and the Canadian Superintendents' Conference and Show when he will head to Vancouver where he first visited as a member of the very first Bernhard Scholarship trip.

One thing you can be sure about with Richard is that he will make the most of his year and enjoy it. He was, after all, made for the role of Chairman!

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In the Shed

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

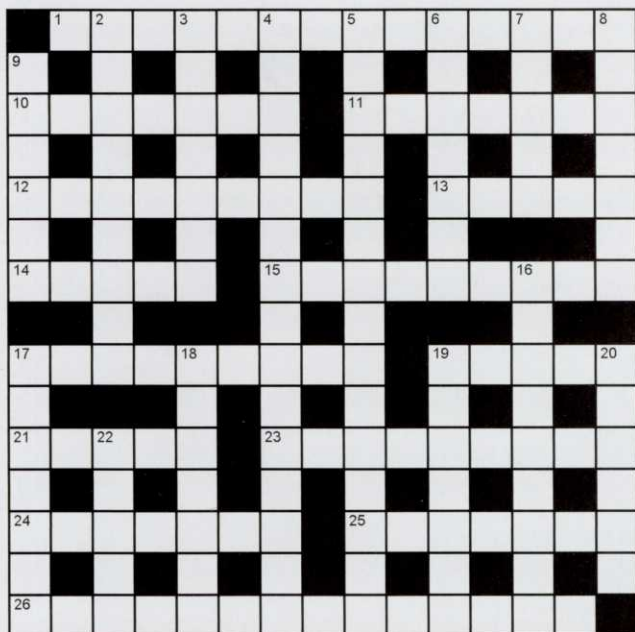
CROSSWORD - Compiled by Anax

ACROSS

- 1 Form of motorsport in which contact is permitted (5-3,6)
- 10 Establish as fact (7)
- 11 Peninsula extending into the Gulf of Mexico (7)
- 12 Inherited by descent (9)
- 13 Cause confusion, mislead (5)
- 14 Recognised (5)
- 15 In a lawless manner (9)
- 17 Stage name of British singer Joscelyn Eve Stoker (4,5)
- 19 Body of religious teachings (5)
- 21 Greek island, popular holiday destination (5)
- 23 Fulfilled (9)
- 24 African river, flows into the Mozambique Channel (7)
- 25 Of a style reminiscent of much earlier times (7)
- 26 All at once (2,3,4,5)

DOWN

- 2 Persistent, single-minded (9)
- 3 Deep, vivid red colour (7)
- 4 Whatever happens (4,4,2,5)
- 5 Arts venue in South Kensington (5,6,4)
- 6 One who practices self-denial for religious purposes (7)
- 7 Entomb, bury (5)
- 8 Passage between seats (7)
- 9 Anti-aircraft artillery (3-3)
- 16 Gilbert & Sullivan operetta also called "The Town of Titipu" (3,6)
- 17 Whirlpool bathtub tradename (7)
- 18 Press together (7)
- 19 Usually reliable money-making project (4,3)
- 20 Take off, subtract (6)
- 22 John ---, central character of the 1982 film First Blood (5)



ANAGRAM

Tony Blair is in his final stint as Prime Minister, the Tory's have a new man at the helm and the Liberal Democrats are now searching for a new leader. So can you work out these two famous politicians – one British, one foreign?

THAT GREAT CHARMER ENDLESS INSOBRIETY TRIP

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. In what year did Australia make their only previous appearance in football's World Cup finals?
2. In cricket, who is the new coach of Leicestershire?
3. Which Celtic League rugby union side play at Stradey Park?
4. Which 17 year old became the youngest player to score a Football League hat trick in April 1988?
5. Which jockey rode Hedgehunter to win the Grand National in 2005?
6. Which Coca-Cola Championship club play at Loftus Road?
7. European light-welterweight champion Junior Witter suffered his only defeat against which American?
8. Which venue will stage the 2006 Heineken Cup final?
9. Spanish club Real Sociedad hail from which northern city?

SUDOKU

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

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

Supplied by www.dailysudoku.com

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

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



ANSWERS TO ALL THE PUZZLES ARE SHOWN ON PAGE 55



News from the Chief Executive

Welcome to our new Chairman, Richard Whyman, and his Vice Chairman, Billy McMillan and I look forward to working with them. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Andy Campbell MG, who leaves the Board as Immediate Past Chairman, for his relentless energy and enthusiasm and wish him every success in his new job with the Old Course Hotel in St. Andrews.

Thanks are also due to George Barr, who is replaced on the Board by Raymond Day as the representative for the South East Region. Kerran has been an inspiration to us all with his column and I am sure that he has thrown down a difficult challenge for Richard to beat!

With over 7,000 visitors representing 31 countries there is no doubting that Harrogate Week placed BIGGA well and truly on the international scene. The event is firmly placed in the diary of those involved in either turf management or the administration of golf and many of the delegates took advantage of the diverse package of education available. Despite the perception of Harrogate being buried somewhere in North Yorkshire it still proves to be a popular venue and provides a perfect focal point for the industry.

Thankfully gone are the days of Harrogate being seen as an excuse for a trip away from home or work when the chance to have a drink (or two) was foremost in some visitor's thoughts. Last week I was proud to be associated with an industry, whose representatives and members conducted themselves and their business in a very professional manner.

The success of the week very much depends upon the support of the members and their colleagues, members or not, and I hope that many have taken inspiration from Harrogate Week 2006 and will make a determined effort to attend the event in January 2007. It is a matter of fact that due to budgetary constraints certain major companies have chosen not to exhibit in 2007 however plans are already underway at HQ for an expansion of the education while the actual configuration of the exhibition halls will be decided after the booking deadline of February 28.

I have received unprecedented support for the future from both exhibitors and visitors and together we can make Harrogate Week 2007 an event to beat all others. It was particularly heartening to see the major organisations in the golf industry working together and I intend building on this for next year.

With the prospect of spring around the corner then I and the rest of the management team at HQ will be looking at Regional and Section fixtures with a view to making visits and meeting members. I hope to renew some old acquaintances as well as make new ones and hope that members take the opportunity to support their Section.

All too often members are quick to criticise their local committee but slow to get involved themselves. Please do not be afraid to come forward and offer a little bit of help, even if on a casual basis.

Finally, for the benefit of those of you who read my column last month I can confirm that I have rejoined a club, but I have yet to tell my wife. Maybe some flowers on Valentine's Day will soften the blow!

John Pemberton

SCOTTISH REGION

ANNUAL SCOTTISH REGION CONFERENCE

The 2006 BIGGA Scottish Region Conference will take place at the Business Learning Centre, Lauder College, Dunfermline on Tuesday March 7.

This year's speakers include Ian Tomlinson, Course Manager from Rungstead Golf Club in Denmark, Richard Windows, Agronomist with the STRI in Scotland, and Euan Grant, Course Manager, Old Course St. Andrews. Other speakers include Dr Colin Fleming, Research Scientist Queens' University Belfast, Ann Murray, of the European Turf Laboratory Stirling, and finally David Snowden, European Technical Director Floratine Products.

Cost of the ticket is £32, which includes Tea/Coffee on arrival, coffee/pastry at the mid morning break and buffet lunch.

Full details and booking forms have been posted to all members and further forms can be obtained by contacting Peter J. Boyd, Regional Administrator on Tel/ Fax: 0141 616 3440 and e-mail at pj.boyd@btinternet.com.

East

A club very much in the news this month is Berwick Golf Club, known to many of you as 'Goswick'. During October 2000 the club commenced a major reconstruction of the course, with all works carried out in house by the Course Manager, George Thompson, and his team. Assisted by three part time labourers during the months of October to March the works were finally completed in 2004. The end result, which is a credit to all involved, includes four new greens, seven new championship tees, three realigned fairways and numerous new bunkers.

All materials used were sourced from the course, creating drainage ponds and wetlands areas, which are a great draw for wildlife. The prize for all their hard work arrived just before Christmas, with the announcement that Goswick has been appointed as a regional qualifier for the British Open from 2008 - 2012.

The recipients of the Patrons Awards this year were Ryan McCulloch, of Berwick Golf Club (in the news yet again), and Stuart Crawford, of North Berwick West, who each received a free trip to Harrogate Week. Hopefully their respective Course Managers will now benefit from this trip now they have returned.

During December I had a discussion with Tom Murray, Course Manager at Ratho Park. Tom is heavily involved with the Scottish Environment Group (SGEG for short), who runs a Golf Bag holder scheme. This scheme involves a number of key people of whom Tom is one, keeping a library of books and ideas on environmental issues. Areas covered include information on pond construction, tree planting and creating wetland areas. This information is available for use by all greenkeepers currently in training or others looking to improve their course's environmental potential. For further information Tom can be contacted by email on t.d.murray@blueyonder.co.uk or by telephone on 07709 960163 or a full list of Bag Holders in the east area can contact Elspeth Coutts at Elspeth.coutts@sgeg.org.uk.

Finally, belated congratulations to Ian Kinlay, Head Greenkeeper at The Glen Golf Club, for being included in the BIGGA Delegation of 10, which is Atlanta bound in February to take in the GCSAA Golf Industry Show courtesy of Bernhard & Co. Hopefully on his return Ian can be persuaded to write a few lines on his trip for this column.

Until next month
Mike Dooner

North

New members to the North Section this month are Dane Macpherson, Trainee Greenkeeper, Spey Valley GC; Andrew Aitken, Greenkeeper, Spey Valley GC; Barry Campbell, Greenkeeper, Spey Valley GC. Spey Valley Golf Club is the new course in Aviemore, which is attached to the Macdonald Hotel Group. They are working under Bob Mackay, who is the Course Manager.

Robert Patterson

West

Welcome to this month's report. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable Christmas and all the best for 2006. During November we held our annual night out at the Studio in Glasgow. There were approximately 45 in attendance, once again it was a

great night with plenty of entertainment, that was just from the members, and the comedian was good as well.

The only problem was that it was a Saturday night and a few of the boys weren't allowed out, so I think next year we will revert back to a Friday. If anyone would like to see a change of venue please get in touch, as we are always open to discussion.

I attended the Patrons' Award Dinner during December, at the Terraces Hotel in Stirling, which once again was a first class venue. The speaker on the day was John McElvie, who is a former colleague of Peter's in the constabulary. He gave us a first class turn. Many thanks John on behalf of the Association. Also thanks to Peter for arranging the dinner and for his hard work beforehand, and to the Terraces' staff for their attentiveness and making us very welcome.

I would like to congratulate the Patron Award winners from the West Section, who are John Barr, Ranfurly Castle, and Colin Scott, from Glasgow Golf Club. Many thanks for all you have done for your Section over the past year.

We have a new Committee member in the Section - John Barr, from Ranfurly Castle. John has agreed to come on and do a stint after many hours persuasion in the Wallace Bar Renfrew. I know John will do a great job and we look forward to seeing him at his first meeting in February.

Other Committee news - John Robertson, Hilton Park GC, stepped down at the last AGM. John was the Education Convenor for many years and did a first class job. On behalf of the Committee and myself I would like to thank you very much for your efforts and all the best for the future.

The fixture list for 2006 will be sent out over the next month informing all members of events planned, also seminars and golf outings for the year ahead. Once again Richard Aitkin has kindly sponsored the fixture card.

On a sad note, I announce the passing of Joe McKean, a long time member of the Section, who was also a past Secretary of SIGGA. Joe was a member at Haggs Castle Golf Club and will be sadly missed. Our thoughts go to his family and friends at this sad time.

During spring/early summer we hope to arrange an open day with the Fairways Group. Times and venue will be printed as soon as possible. With a wide range of their products on show, including Textron, Iseki, etc.

The Scottish Conference will once again be held at Larder College, Dunfermline, on March 7. There will be a wide range of speakers on the day, so if you haven't yet booked then do so now.

A happy New Year to all the Drimsynie die hards. We held our autumn outing during October. The winner on the day was Robert Bruce with Davy, the local chef, finishing second. It was a fantastic day, apart from the heavy rain at the end. I would like to thank Bryce Houston, the President of the die hards, for arranging the day's festivities. We look forward to returning in March for our spring outing. Hopefully we will be back to full numbers.

Any news, etc. please get in touch on 07970 366 355.

Fraser Ross

NORTHERN REGION

North West

I hope you all enjoyed Harrogate Week and took in a few of the seminars. I thought the education side of the Week was superb, so congratulations and well done to everyone involved in making Harrogate the only place to be.

Fixture lists are going to be sent out to everyone in the North West Section this year. Here is a little taster of what is to come in 2006.

North Wales Section Seminar, Carden Park, February 21; Spring Tournament, West Lancashire GC, April 20; Summer Tournament, Morecambe GC, June 15; The Autumn Tournament will be at St Annes Old Golf Club, date TBA.

As always, to play in the spring, summer or autumn tournaments you must send a cheque for £20, payable to BIGGA North West Section. The address to send your cheque to is Bill Merritt, The Lodge, Beacon Park Golf Club, Beacon Lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU.

Please don't leave it until the last minute to book your place, as the golf club caterers need to be informed in plenty of time and Billy gives everyone a hard time. If anyone has any news or just needs a little bit of advice, please contact the

Secretary, Bert Cross, on 0151 7245412 or myself on 0151 2894625. If you are on the World Wide Web my email address is jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk.

Chris Sheehan

Northern

Apologies to my regular readers who will have noticed that my column was missing last month. I admit that I missed the last post, so to speak. However, albeit rather belatedly, I have a number of pieces of news for you now.

On October 5 we were privileged guests of Woolley Park Golf Club for our Autumn Tournament and AGM. Sadly it was again a poor turnout. The results on the day were as follows.

Division 1. 1. Andy Slingsby; 2. Dave Collins; 3. Rob Gee. Division 2. 1. Stuart Mason; 2. Keith Grey; 3. Adam Speight. Division 3. 1. Jo Baxter; 2. David Heaton; 3. Andy Scaman. Trade. 1. Ian Collett; 2. Gary Potter.

Our thanks to Phil Rowbotham and his staff for producing a fantastic golf course, and to all the clubhouse staff for a superb meal.

December 10 was the date for Christmas Golf and 'Night Out'! Luckily, this year I'm not aware of anybody being arrested. Although I have heard that a member of the Crow Nest staff felt, shall we say, "a little unwell" in a Halifax drinking establishment and was sent home in disgrace.

I won't say whom it was, but suffice to say it wasn't Rob or Damian! I'll bring you the results next month, when hopefully I'll have located the scores, but if I remember correctly it was Team Mike Brear who walked away with the champagne. Again, a big thank you to Martin Heggy, Jo, Paul and everybody else at Bradford Moor Golf Club for what everyone agrees was a great day.

Adam Speight

Cleveland

Well Harrogate Week has come and gone and I hope things have gone as well as usual. I'm sure a lot of BIGGA members supported the BTME Exhibition. Things are very quiet and there is little to report. I'm led to believe that the mild, moist weather has resulted in a lot of fungal attacks recently. Bad news for the greenkeeping fraternity, but great for the chemical salesmen! It's an ill wind, eh boys!

I heard a nice little story the other day about three men in the pub for a little drink. One was from Glasgow, one from Dublin and the third from the Boro. They spot Jesus sitting at the bar and get the waiter to give him three drinks. The Jock sends a double whisky, the Mick sends a Guinness and the Smoggie supplies a pint of lager. After he'd finished the drinks Jesus walks over to the trio to thank them.

Firstly he shakes the Dublin boy's hand and the Irishman shouts "A miracle, a miracle my arthritis has been cured!" Jesus then shakes the Glaswegian's hand and the Jock exclaims "A miracle, a miracle my bad back has been cured!" As Jesus approaches the Boro boy, the Smoggie pulls away and shouts "Beggar off Jesus, I'm on disability!"

Not much good news on the football scene with the three Premier teams and the Pools doing badly. Darlo have put a good run together - hope they can keep it up.

Don't forget - Barry Walker's quiz at Teesside Golf Club is Wednesday February 8, commencing at 7.30pm. Any news to me on 07831 214879.

Terry Charlton

Sheffield

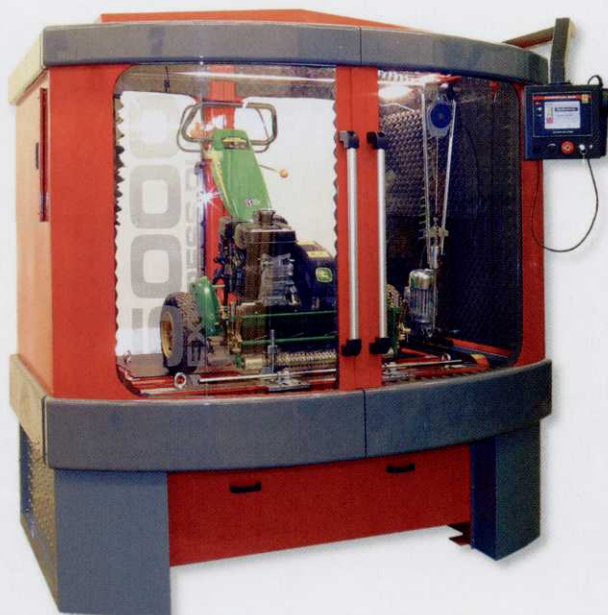
On December 12 we held our Christmas Competition, sponsored by Rigby Taylor, at Rotherham Golf Club. On behalf of the Section I would like to thank the club for giving the courtesy of their course once again. Thanks also go to the bar and catering staff for providing an enjoyable meal and excellent service.

On the golf side of things it was a lovely golfing day for December, sometimes a bit to sunny when playing holes into the sun! Rotherham was in great condition. Well done to Dave Chappell and his staff for doing an excellent job. Thanks go to Mike Brear, from Rigby Taylor, for sponsoring the event once again and to all other trade members who provided prizes. This year everybody who played got a prize to go home with! There was some excellent golf played and the eventual winner, with 27pts from 12 holes, was Joel France. Well played Joel!

Results: 1. J. France, 27pts; 2. D. Chappell, 26pts; 3. R. Jones, 25pts; 4. G. Brittan, 25pts; 5. S. Currie, 25pts. Well played everyone! Guest winner was Mike Brear. Well played Mike!

After the golf we held our AGM and with a good attendance it ran fairly smoothly. There was one change to our Committee with Colin Hoppe standing

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down. Thanks for all the work you did Colin. Kevin Kelsall was elected on to take his place. Gordon Brammah is trying to get a library running in the Section, but we want to know if anyone out there needs any books for study or reference. If so, the Section may be able to buy them and then add them to the library! If this is so, please feel free to contact Gordon on 07814 043220 or 0114 2308469 to discuss things further.

Last piece of news this month, and it is quite a big piece. On March 23 we have arranged a lecture to be given by Peter Alliss. After a lot of hard work Gordon has persuaded him to give us a talk, which will be held at Rotherham Golf Club once again. You should be receiving or have received details of this event in the post, this will be a very popular day.

Any news please contact me as usual on 07793111845 or jv.lax@tesco.net
John Lax

MIDLAND REGION

East Midlands

Last year's Christmas Tournament was graced with one of football's all time greats, Gary McAllister. He is a golf club colleague of myself and has a CV that reads as follows: Motherwell FC 1980; Leicester City 1985; Leeds 1990 (league champions in 91 & 92); Coventry 1996; Liverpool 2000 and a winner of five trophies that include a League Cup, FA Cup, UEFA and UEFA Super Cup and a Charity Shield; plus a short spell as Player Manager at Coventry. Gary gave a thrilling hour long Question and Answer session at Charnwood Forest Golf Club after the Christmas Tournament.

Gary answered questions of all types ranging from missed penalties to life as a manager as well as plenty of footballing stories. Gary very generously gave his time for free but asked that we make a donation of £250 to our local Rainbows Hospice, which cares for terminally ill children.

In recognition for what he did we also made him a Trade and Associate member of the Association and hope to see him at some future events. We also asked him to wear the BIGGA tie when he is working on the TV for Sky - so watch very carefully!

We trust he had a good day because he also won the Trade and Associate prize with a magnificent 34 points on a cold and very windy day beating Simon Hedley on 30 points and David Smith with 27.

Other results in the 0-14 category were Andy Marsh, 39; Nigel Colley, 34; and Keith Smith, with 32. In the 15-28 category Craig Watt won with a fantastic 46 points from Frazer Harrison, 35, and Ross McCarthy, 31pts.

Thanks to everybody, particularly Head Greenkeeper, Tim Allard, who made the day so successful and to Rigby Taylor for their sponsorship.

Richard Barker

Midland

Our Christmas event was held at the wonderful Links Formby GC on December 2. Our thanks to the club for affording us such a sumptuous venue at so prestigious a course. The course was presented to a standard which can only be aspired to. Such being achieved by Derek Pothsthaite and his obviously excellent greenkeeping team. Our greatest of thanks to you all.

The results of the day were: 1. D. Fellows & D. Clewes; 2. A. Cornes & R. Thomas; 3. M. Gash & R. Thwaites; 4. J. Ganley & P. McCrainor. Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin went to L. Swann & M. Hughes respectively. Thanks to M. Chamberlain, Tacit, for the once again excellent prize table.

As you may or may not know I have never really been a football fan (I can hear it now - "ponce"). So imagine my surprise when I received a phone call from Steve Bruce asking why their number one fan's wife was accompanying their sons (Nick, Andy and Richard) to home matches. He did say that Karen was perhaps a little more pleasing to the eye. Seriously though, V. Lee, Course Manager, Great Barr, has been through the mill health wise this year. Just to let you know that we are all thinking of you Vince and wishing you a speedy recovery so as you can enjoy your 40th on the 16. Happy Birthday mate.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome five new members to our Section. S. J. Harvey, A. Myau, J.D. Shaw, C. Woodall and I.S. Beech. I hope that you shall take

advantage of the many opportunities our Section provides its members. All please remember that the events provided, whether they be purely educational, a combination of pleasure and the afore said, or simply useful (Midland Section Calendar). Such takes a huge amount of organisation and effort from all of your Committee, and such is done so only to serve the members of our fine Section. Please support our events, without such we are all wasting opportunities and further advancement!

With the above in mind, the educational visit to the JCB factory in Uttoxeter is planned for the April 5. If interested, please call Rhys: 07775 581615.

It is with the greatest of sadness that it falls upon me to have to report that A. Southam, Hanson Aggregates, has passed away. Allen was a great supporter of our Section for many years, and indeed (on a personal note) he was more than instrumental in the start of our Section's annual angling match. Indeed, the standards for the event were set by Allen. Our deepest of sympathies to Allen's wife, family, and friends. You shall be sorely missed, Sir.

Congratulations to P. Adams, Deputy at Shirley, and lovely wife, Sam, on the arrival of their baby girl, Liley mae, in December. The chaps at Shirley are "well made up for you both". Maybe a future greenkeeper or have you both more sense!

On February 22 K. Booth, Assistant Greenkeeper, Stourbridge GC, shall embark on a charity walk from Kidderminster to Tal-y-bont in Wales, some 106 miles. This being to raise funds for Cancer Research at St Richard's hospice in Worcester, and also to honour Kevin's late father Michael Booth, who tragically passed away last year at the young age of 58. Anyone wishing to sponsor this most important charity via Kevin's walk please contact me on: 07908 421015. I certainly shall be doing so to the tune of £10. Come on follow suit, and I don't mean hearts. Greenkeepers don't walk, just ask any member!

Finally, just time to congratulate A. Jones on his new position as Deputy at Penn GC. Must be something about Penn, I went there from Austria, and Adam goes there from Sweden. Obviously the challenge of a different language (bin and bae, think about it) draws one.

Sean McDade

BB&O

The horse racing, golf playing residents of Ascot and Bagshot must number among the luckiest folk in England for right on their doorstep lie two breathtaking eighteen hole golf courses. The Berkshire, the Red and the Blue, were designed in 1928 by Herbert Fowler - a master among golf architects - whose other great works include Walton Heath and Saunton in Devon. The Red and Blue courses occupy some 400 acres of Crown land over which Queen Ann's carriage used to pass en route to hunting in Swinley Forest. This was the venue for the BB&O Turkey Trot and Annual General Meeting held on a bright but chilly December morning.

The format for the day was a shotgun start with 72 players eagerly awaiting the delights of the Red Course comprising of an unusual six par three's, six par four's and six par five's and famed for its glorious tree lined fairways. A splendid mix of mature pines, chestnuts and silver birch provided the setting for a truly challenging event where the rough consisting of heather ensured that the wayward hitter was heavily punished.

After a few Dennis Wise Putts, "nasty litter five footer", and many Son in Law Shots, "not quite what I had in mind", a fantastic day's golf was had by all. A sumptuous carvery followed with the finest roast beef and turkey on the menu cooked and served to perfection by the attentive and helpful catering staff that made us all welcome throughout the day. Sincere thanks to our hosts, The Berkshire, Secretary Lt. Col. John Hunt and Chris Lomas and his green staff for preparing the course to a first class standard and accommodating our every need at the AGM.

The results were as follows: 1. David Rowland, with local knowledge from The Berkshire GC, 40pts; 2. Alistair Higgs, The Blue Mountain Man, 38pts; 3. Matt Weatherstone, count back. Nearest the Pin was Ray Tapper, from Burnham Beeches GC, and J. Snyman, with a monster hit securing, The Longest Drive. The winner of the trade prize went to yours truly, with 34 points, after narrowly beating Clive Parnell, from GEM Professional.

Thank you to Joe Crawley and Barry MacCluskie, from Avoncrop, for sponsoring this year's Turkey Trot and providing for the first time The Avoncrop Cup, to be presented every year to the winner of the event.

Section Chairman, Sid Arrowsmith, presented Christian Doyle and Brian Payne, from Burnham Beeches GC, with the BB&O Shield. They were the deserving winners of the Autumn Invitational, held at Oxford City GC, in August 2005.

The New Claret Jug, sponsored by JE Ely, for Golfer of the Year was presented by Mark Ely and Sid Arrowsmith. This went to none other than Carl Small, from Ellesborough GC. Truly a living legend amongst the disabled.

Thank you to all our sponsors throughout the year. We all have had great time and continuous support from the trade, which have included Scotts, Avoncrop, Tacit, Vitax, Rigby Taylor, Turner Groundcare, JE Ely, Gem Professional, European Turf Technology. I have not forgotten the scorecard man, good old T.H. White.

Congratulations to Simon Banks, from Banks Amenity, who has joined the first time dad club with a baby girl.

The Annual General Meeting followed and Sid Arrowsmith was voted on as the new Chairman for the Section followed by John Scoones (Secretary), Mitch Stewart (Treasurer), Alistair Higgs (Handicap Secretary). Frank Booth, Gareth Acteson and new comers Bill Paterson and Dan Lightfoot are the General Committee members. Not forgetting yours truly as the scribe for another year.

Lets see what the New Year has to offer and wishing you lots of luck and a fantastic year ahead in the Chinese Year of the Dog.

Mark Day

Mid Anglia

The Christmas Texas scramble event, which is always very popular, was this year held at Dunstable Downs Golf Club. 98 players turned out for a great day's golf resulting in some excellent scores. All the teams wanted to shake Gary Boulton's hand for his pin positions on the day and some wanted to shake him by another part of his anatomy! Sorry Gary, they made me write that.

Big thanks go out to Course Manager, Frank Scullion, and his team, all the catering and bar staff for providing an excellent meal and friendly service. The day was sponsored by Avoncrop and these are the results.

1. D. Housden, T. Deale, A. Henderson and R. Housden; 2. A. Barker, D. Charlton, S. Kelly and R. Osbourne; 3. D. Hodkin, B. Brown, M. Fance and M. Rees. Longest Drive. Alan Grew.

The day was also time to present the bandit, sorry, Player of the Year Award. This was sponsored by Turner Groundcare and this year it deservedly went to Richard Saunders. A special presentation was also made to Geoff Smith, who recently retired from his post at Veralum Golf Club after many years of service. We wish him well in his retirement.

That's about it for this month, look out for 2006's events in the next issue.

Bob Butfoy

SOUTH EAST

Surrey

The following is from my November 2005 Around the Green report that was mislaid. It began with an opening paragraph relating to the number of marriages, births and job moves. A quiet month. Hence none. It then went on to thank all those readers who had contributed to my Italian holiday fund. Again none. So the following is a précis of the rest of my November offering.

The autumn tournament did take place on September 21 at West Surrey GC and I am informed that the event was very well supported by some 55 golfers, that the course was excellent, the meal a culinary delight. The sponsor was Rigby Taylor. I mention the sponsor's name early in my report because I did receive a complaint from one of our previous sponsors, who supplied the prizes for the McMillan Tankard at Sunningdale GC, namely Grass Roots. Jim Russell, a spokesman for the company and, I understand, one of their more senior managers, did point out to me, in rather colourful language, that I had omitted their name from the Sunningdale report. I apologise for my mistake and promise you Jim that when we next meet as some recompense, I will be delighted to accept any alcoholic drink of your choice.

The autumn tournament results were: 1. Garry Rowe, 44pts; 2. Mark Raisbeck, 40pts. 3. Derek Cunliffe, 39pts. Longest Drive. Gavin Kyle. Nearest Pin. Greg Smith. The hidden pairs prize. Garry Rowe and Gavin Kyle. The snappiest dresser prize. John Ross, whose flame red shirt deserved all the comments it got. Please remember that this information is not first hand but does come from a reliable source. Name and address available in a brown envelope for a small administration fee.



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



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
 Tel: 01476 550115

The other big event that took place in September was the last test match against the Australians; the prize, the Ashes. As mentioned earlier, I was holidaying on a remote island in the bay of Naples. With very limited news from the outside world I resorted to texting somebody in England for the result. I chose Ron Christie, an unbiased Scotsman, who informed me that England's batting had collapsed and that Australia had batted well and had retained the Ashes.

I only realised the truth when we boarded the plane at Naples and sat next to a young man. He, by coincidence, was an Australian and sat crying in his lunch and did not seem over keen on discussing the real outcome of the match and England's glorious victory.

Up to date news now follows with our colourful Secretary, John Ross, wanting to bear from all you would be Rooneys end Beckhams to play football against a PGA team. Please contact John on mobile, 0798 6584304 or email jr003q6640@blueyonder.co.uk.

Job moves in Surrey include Eric Kinlon's appointment as Deputy Course Manager at Richmond GC and also joining the team at Richmond is Dan Norsworthy. Spencer Hawkins has moved from North Hants GC and is now Course Manager at Oak Park GC at Crondall.

Our programme of events in 2006 will be available soon and remember that I need your news to help remove my usual waffle from your Section's monthly Around The Green.

Brian Willmott

Kent

Hi everyone and welcome to a much shortened version of Kent Section news. It appears that nobody had any news to report for this column so all I have for you this month is to remind you about a big day for us on February 7.

Firstly, our final seminar will commence at 10am at Hadlow College. These days have been really good and well supported, so thanks to everyone who has attended and I hope you gained plenty out of them. This seminar is to be followed by a Night Golf event straight afterwards at Birchwood Park.

For anyone who hasn't experienced night golf before I can assure you that this is great fun and I hope as many of you as possible can make it.

I hope the New Year has started well for everybody and best wishes for the coming season.

Rob Holland

London

I know what you are thinking. When I read this, I probably will not believe it too. Yes, finally the London Section has something in Around the Green. It has been a while but due to my predecessor getting a new job at a great golf club things have been a little quiet. My congratulations to Alec MacIndoe on his move to Newbury and Crookham GC. Thanks for all your hard work on the Committee and for doing the Around the Green reports.

The London Section had its Turkey Trot at Porters Park Golf Club on Wednesday December 7. The course was in marvellous condition, it felt like summer until I realised I was frozen to the spot while looking at the great views. Martin Smith and his team must have worked so hard, as I did not see a leaf on the tree lined course. The food was fantastic and the bar staff were always happy to help.

The prizes went to the following. 1st place was the team from Northwood. In 2nd place it was Crews Mill 2 and in 3rd place, again, Crews Hill 1. Rob must be giving

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his guys lessons! My thanks go to Mick Fance, from Scotts, for sponsoring the day and thanks to the other companies who donated prizes. My thanks on behalf of those who played to Porters Park Golf Club for an excellent day.

The AGM was held after the meal. The AGM went very quick with two Committee members stepping down Alec MacIndoe, who I thanked earlier, and Paul Clark, who has been Secretary for the last four years. Paul has done a great job and I would like to thank him for all his hard work. We do appreciate it. Replacing Paul is Aaron Percival. I'm sure Aaron will do a great job.

The next Committee member to join our Section is Tony Dyke, from Wyke Green, who is a great bloke and will do a great job! Once again, Rob and Peter Phillips are staying on with David Badham and Jamie Lomas. Thanks again to them.

Lee Cox, Course Manager from Mill Hill, and I will try to write something in Around the Green for the London Section every month. We will try to keep you up to date with events, so we can see some more faces at events! In addition, we would invite you to get in touch to inform us of any news or ideas you would like to see included in this section. Tel: 0781 8410333.

Matt Plested

East Anglia

How long have we been going to Thorpeness in the winter? Yonks, and every year we see an improvement. As Boycey would say 'It just gets better and better, don't it?' Preparing a course in the summer is a piece of ---- compared to winter. Well done to Ian and the crew.

On December 14 112 people played in the Turkey Trot Texas Scramble. Shotgun start 9am and we were all sitting down just after 2.30pm ready for our Christmas dinner. Who said miracles only happen on the 25th? We have got more than a few prizes to go through along with their invaluable sponsors, so pay attention, I'll be asking questions at the end.

The 1st team and winners of the CMW prize were the Royals, David Hawkins, Robert Whiting, Stuart Plummer and Roger Plummer; 2. Stowmarket, James Gill, Matt Gill, Richard Burl and Wayne Thrower; 3. Thorpeness A Team, names withheld. Nearest the Pin, of which there are several. 2nd, sponsored by Aitkens, Richard Mitchell; 7th, sponsored by Tomlinson Groundcare, Robert Ransome; 10th, sponsored by Bartram Mowers, Roger Plummer; 16th, sponsored by Ben Burgess, Dominique or Dominic O'Brien; Nearest the Pin in 2 on the 6th, sponsored by Prime Irrigation, Stuart Edge; Nearest the Rope on the 1st, sponsored by Tacit, Brian Richardson, retired.

Longest Drive on the 4th, 0-15 handicap, sponsored by Lely UK, John Howard; Longest Drive on the 18th, 16-28 handicap, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, Stuart Patterson; The Longest Drive in the simulator, sponsored by Mick Fance of Scotts, Robert Whiting. Your question is, who is the retired man on the rope? Correct.

Moving swiftly on... The President's prize went to Robert Ransome, for maintaining a superb course on a shoestring budget or putting it another way, making a silk purse from a pig's ear (it can be done). The Clarkson Cup goes to Suffolk, Aldeburgh to be precise. Edward did have something to say (4mins 25 secs). The drift was more teams would be welcome next year. Thorpeness, Ufford Park and Eaton won environmental awards in 2005.

The prizes were presented by Stewart Robson, Thorpeness Captain. The Club Director, Tim Rowan-Robinson made a very welcoming speech, which was greatly appreciated by all. We also had BIGGA's top brass, Kerran Daly, who was very complimentary about our Section.

Bob Chesham bought a new driver, it cost him £14.99. He was dead chuffed because it went further than Brian Richardson's (retired) what cost him 100 smackers. A John Deere 'tractor' was auctioned and raised £60 for McMillan Nurses and the Section made £350 profit for the year.

Then came the AGM. All went quite smoothly thanks to the tireless efforts of Ian, Steve and Martin. There were a couple of 'rumbles', the first one about start times - a phone call to Ian the night before by those who really want to know will sort that out and save Ian more work. The issue of slow play is also quite simple, especially when playing a Stableford, as we nearly always do.

Just say 'This is a par 3 and you have played 6 and we haven't reached the Ladies tee yet, Pick it up! Or 'Hurry up, my tax runs out at the end of the month' - subtle hints like that. Seriously though, all these rumbles should be sorted out prior to an AGM, then egg is avoided. Then again perhaps you can do a better job, who knows?



Jane Jones
SOUTH WEST AND WALES
Tel: 01454 270850

The next AGM will be our 10th - time flies. Kerran Daly reckons we're the best. He also would like everyone to continue to support Harrogate Week, the trade and visitors alike.

Talking of trade, we must say a massive thank you to our lads who support us to the hilt. It's not always the amount that's put in, it's also the effort that goes with it. We really do appreciate everything, whether it's a golf ball or a gold watch. Our lads and lassies are as follows.

Symbio, Aitkens, Vitax, Amenitwise, Toro, Atherton & Ellis, Tomlinson Groundcare, Bartram Mowers, Textron, Ben Burgess, Tacit, CMW, Sisis, Collier Turfcare, Sherriff, Consultant Clarkson, Rigby Taylor, ETT, Scotts, Headland Turf, Prime Irrigation, Lely UK and Ransomes Jacobsen.

'Are we nearly there yet?' I hear you cry. Almost. Just to say a massive thank you once again to Thorpeness for yet another great day on a great course and marvellous hospitality. I hope you all had a good Christmas. See you all in this New Year. I think I'll go and have a lie down after all that.

Mick Lathrope

Essex

Nothing exciting to report this month apart from the fact we have had snow, hard frosts and sub-zero temperatures. This leaves me wondering why I set my alarm for 6 every morning and rush out of the front door to endure these wonderful weather conditions... It's all good fun!

As I write this report, my mind is formulating the attack plan for Harrogate. Will it be BTME, Wetherspoons, Pizza Hut, Lloyds, then you know where? Or will it be BTME, Lloyds, Kentucky Fried, Wetherspoons, followed by you know where? The choices are endless, but one thing is guaranteed... that morning after feeling! By the time this hits the press, it will all be over... I'll let you know how I got on.

If any of you avid readers have anything you wish to see in print - publishable that is - then do not hesitate to call me on 07963 310603.

Richard Williams



South West

Imagine the scene. It's 6am on January 2 2006 and I'm driving an open top sports car on the coast road between Cap D'Antibes and St. Tropez in the South of France. The sun reflects vividly and strongly from the surface of the sparkling blue Mediterranean Sea. Temperatures are hot enough outside the car, but even hotter inside, as with a gentle squirm the scantily clad female in the passenger seat nuzzles closer and closer.

She breathes my name, at first in a husky whisper and then for some inexplicable reason much louder, while digging me in the ribs, kicking my foot, and yelling "Paul, Paul, when the hell are you going to get up? That alarm's been ringing for the last five minutes". Yes, it's well before dawn on the first day back at work after the Christmas break, and I'm not quite ready to face it. I groan and send the wife downstairs to put the kettle on while I return to the South of France. Needless to say, it doesn't last long.

When I get back to work, I find that we've actually taken record green fees over the Christmas period, and there's quite a bit of work to do to straighten everything back out. Maybe not that surprising considering that the weather was either frosty or wet, and a couple of days frosty and wet at the same time. Never mind, the Treasurers happy, that makes the Secretary happy, and that means I'm off the hook for the time being.

At least I've shaken off the flu that I had all over the run-up to Christmas. "You office boys are always going down with something," said Mr Sympathy, Nobby Knight, grumpily on his mobile, with the wind howling away in the background. Actually I reckon I caught it by sitting on an open cab mini-digger for three days solidly, building a new 4th tee the week before, so there.

So apologies for missing the Landown Christmas Tournament event. I'm told that the course was scarcely recognisable from two years earlier, and it is without any hesitation that I award the prize for this year's Most Improved Course to Head Greenkeeper, Jon Jarvis. Many thanks Jon. It was a credit to you and your staff. By

the way, I may have dreamt up the bit about the prize.

Prizes were as follows. Division 1. 1. John Keenaghan, Chipping Sodbury, 39pts; 2. Ian Cornwall, Secretary, Lansdown, 37pts. Division 2. 1. Chris Sealey, Chippenham, 36pts; 2. Adrian Bennett, Kendleshire, 36pts (countback). Division 3. 1. Joe Turner, Textron, 39pts; 2. Jamie Acton, Weston Super Mare, 39pts (countback). Highest score on the first hole - it's that man again - Mike Harris with an unstoppable 16 strokes, including several out of bounds off the tee. Mike wins the scraper and de-icer, presumably so he can see where he's driving in future.

Many thanks to our Patronage Partners and all sponsors on the day for such an impressive prize table. The raffle, again sponsored by our Patronage Partners, raised £235 for the CLICK charity. This has been very gratefully received by the Trowbridge branch, with thanks to all members. Many thanks also to Lansdown Golf Club for the courtesy of the course, and the superb meal afterwards.

Keep the responses coming in to Marc Haring for the Educational Courses. These are not easily arranged, so take advantage while they're available. Again, thanks to our Patronage Partners for sponsorship.

Congratulations to Gary Hawley, of Filton Golf Club, who has been appointed Course Manager at Henbury. Gary, who was previously Deputy at Bristol & Clifton, had been in charge at Filton for six years and is really looking forward to a brand new challenge at Henbury. 2006 looks like being a year to remember for Gary - a new job, and his wife expecting their first child. Sleepless nights for more than one reason probably.

Must be fairly quiet elsewhere in the Region - at Minch, Kevin Green's company, Greenscape Imaginative Designs, are lined up to come back in to the Avening Course and move and reshape another 12 bunkers commencing February 16. We are also removing another 100 or so mature pine trees and replanting with beech. Five years ago I had almost 40 giant Leylandii cluttering up the Avening course, we're down to the last half dozen or so now, and counting.

I'm giving a PowerPoint Presentation to the public in Minchinhampton Town Hall in a month's time, about the virtues of golf and the environment. Considering the Old Course has been on most residents' hit lists for over 100 years, it should be quite an interesting evening. Apparently, trouble started in the early 1900s when the local vicar paid the butchers boy sixpence to sink empty meat tins into the Common so he could putt. A walker trod in one of the holes in the dark and turned his ankle. He went straight round and dug up the rectory lawn to teach the vicar a lesson, and so it goes on. I can hardly wait.

Wayne and the team at Cotswold Hills have completed relaying the second green, and are moving on to bunker improvements, reshaping the edges of another five. Forestry is also on his list with 100 odd trees scheduled for removal.

At Cirencester, Dave, Richard and the team are also busy on bunkers, both rebuilding and adding new ones - as a well-known member said having driven into a bunker, which hadn't been there the week before, "and a merry Christmas to you to". Dave is also overseeing some pretty impressive Cotswold stone wall rebuilding work at the main entrance to the club. There is an old water pumping station on the club's premises, and one end of an ancient arched stone viaduct. This runs under the main A435 road, built to take drainage water over a hundred years ago. Just another example of the historical interest and value of a golf course. Shows what great places we have.

Please drop me a mail with any other details of interesting works or features. It can't be just me Wayne and Dave surely. Email: paul.worster@tesco.net; or Tel: 01453 837355.

Paul Worster

South Coast

February already! As I wrote this I was busy getting prepared for Harrogate Week and still in detox. Detox and Harrogate just shouldn't be mentioned in the same sentence. We have at last had a cooler winter, although it doesn't seem to have had the usual effect on our Fusarium outbreaks and we all have to deal with frost greens and course closures.

Winter programmes are at full speed and we are already dreaming of spring and summer and warmer temperatures, although it seems to be fairly warm around the fires that seem to be constantly burning at Parkstone. Yes we are removing some more trees as part of our heathland restoration program.

Let me be the first to congratulate Fred Deamen on his selection onto the BIGGA and Bernhard's Delegation, which will travel to the GCSAA Show in Atlanta later this month. I know Fred is delighted and looking forward to a memorable trip of a

lifetime along with making new friends from the UK and the USA. Having been myself I know exactly what to expect, a gruelling schedule but a fantastic time! Take plenty of pictures Fred and we look forward to hearing all about it at next year's Section seminar!

Our Section seminar has been finalised and details should be with you all now. The seminar is on March 2 at Canford Magna Golf Club. The theme for the day is managing expectations and sustainable golf, which is still highly topical at the moment. Speakers on the day are Euan Grant, Head Greenkeeper, Old Course St Andrews; Alistair Beggs, Northern Area Manager, STRI; Laurence Pithe, Director of Agronomy Crown Golf; Paul Worster, Course Manager, Minchinhampton Golf Club; Kate Entwistle, The Turf Disease Centre.

The day is sponsored by BIGGA Gold and Silver Key holders, Tower Chemicals and Banks Amenity Products, and our thanks go out to them for their valued support. Price for the day is £15 for members and £20 for non members. This includes coffee on arrival and lunch. I suggest you return your completed application forms with full payment promptly as last year's sold out very quickly and places are again limited.

All payments should be sent to Alex McCombie, 10 St Michaels Close, Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset BH15 4QT. If you have any enquires then call me on 07966 386232.

Many thanks to Phil Sharp, of Sharp Golf, for again sponsoring our fixture cards. These should also be with you now. If you haven't received yours please contact me.

I will report on Harrogate Week next month and leave you with this thought 'Live each day with a positive purpose set firmly in front of you. When you have a reason, you will find a way'.

Until next month
Alex McCombie

Devon & Cornwall

To coin a phrase by the well know actor Victor Meldrew "I don't believe it". Another year has arrived upon us, where has the past year gone? By the time this article is printed in the February issue of Greenkeeper International I will be thinking of all the golf clubs that will be holding their AGM. I immediately think new Captain and Chairman of the Greens' Committee, and all the Head Greenkeepers thinking "Oh no, not him again".

The new Captain will endeavour to make a name for himself by adding more bunkers, when the previous Captain removed the ones that he was driving into with his tee shot. The new Chairman of Greens, who has a handicap of 2 or 3, will endeavour to set the course up for all the single handicappers with their big Bertha Drivers, and using the modern Pro V Golf Balls, without any thought to the average members. The backbone of any club are the members who play off a handicap of between 12 and 24, take part in all weathers, never moan and who enjoy a few pints and a meal after playing.

It is unfortunate that the players with low handicaps will always moan to the Committee when they have had a bad round, and the Committee Members will take note and try and keep them happy. This is mainly because they are frightened they will lose them to another club and not have a strong team for the inter club competitions. Having been Chairman of the Greens' Committee at my own club for many a year in the late seventies/early eighties, I can honestly say I have seen it all before. So I wish you all good luck for 2006.

2005 ended with our Christmas party at Okehampton Golf Club on December 6 with a marvellous attendance and another full house. We are so lucky because we virtually take over the course and club.

A big thank you must go to Clive, the Club Secretary, and his Committee for allowing us to use the Club's facilities for the day, and it goes without saying to the members as well. I can't think of many clubs that would be so generous.

The day commenced with 50 golfers participating in a Greensomes Competition with a Shotgun Start. The non golfers went on a course walk, ably led by Richard Wisdon, the Head Greenkeeper, who was under strict instructions to lead them to behind the seventh green where the hospitality tent was situated, need I say any more. A huge thank you to P.J. Flegg from Otter St Mary for their sponsorship for the day, not to mention the hospitality tent. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Paul Watson, the Sales Manager, Clive Ralph, the Sales Representative, and Joe Turner, the Area Sales Manager for Ransomes Jacobson, who helped make the day go with a swing.

The Shotgun Start certainly made a big difference to the running of the day, especially for the caterers. It meant that everyone was able to sit down for the

Christmas dinner at 1.30pm.

After lunch we were entertained by Adger Brown, a comedian from St Leonards on Sea, who was one of the best we have ever been entertained by. He had us splitting our sides with laughter from start to finish. This was followed by the draw prize giving. Thanks to our members' generosity and the trade members we had some 65 prizes to be distributed, not to mention the food hamper supplied by Our President, John Palfrey of Avoncrop, and the wine at the table.

The winners of the P.J. Flegg Greensomes competition were as follows: 1. T. Hirst and L. Overy, 36pts; 2. P. Standen and S. Gaylard, 36pts; 3. T. Martin and W. Hutchinson, 33pts.

Owing to the heavy rainfall the previous day, the competition was played over 15 holes and I would like to thank Richard, the Head Greenkeeper, for presenting the course in such good conditions. Well done Richard.

Looking forward to meeting you all at the Warren Golf Club on Wednesday February 15, which will be sponsored by Barenburg.

Have a great year.

Donovan O Hunt
Events Coordinator

South Wales

Quite a quiet month, not much info or gossip going around. I hope all that attended Harrogate Week had a good time.

The results from the winter Christmas competition, held annually at Pyle and Kenfig, on Friday December 9 are: 1. Daryl Bray, Morriston, 36pts; 2. Kerry Jones, Garnant Parc, 35pts; 3 & Best Trade. Nick Rawlings, Complete Weed Control, 35pts; 4. Nigel Ruck, Glynhir, 33pts; 5. David Gladwin, Carmarthen, 33pts.

Longest Drive. Jamie Probert, Pontardawe, Nearest the Pins. Nick Rawlings, Alun Crichton, Colin Thomas and Adrian Masters.

Best Aggregate score throughout the season, over four competitions, is David Gladwin. How good a golfer is he going to be now he is retired? Pleased to see Daryl Bray back in the winner's enclosure. The missus let you attend one of our golf days I see. Apologies for absence on the day from - Keith Price, President WGU; Course Manager Ray Hunt; Captain of P&K, John Saville; Chairman, Russell Anderson - away cruising the Med; IPC, Angus Macleod - Childminding duties; Golf Team Captain, Andy Roach; and our old friends, Marion and Gordon Child - whom we hope has made a full recovery and is well again.

Thanks to club for there hospitality and to the caterers, Rob and staff. I am informed the carvery Christmas dinner was excellent. Many thanks to Ray Hunt and his green staff. I am also informed the course, as always, was in great shape, greens running about 11 on the stimp and at 7mm.

33 golfers took to the course and 45 attended the dinner. A great day thanks to John Mullins and Vitax together with Kim Davies and Celtic Mowers for their continued support and sponsorship. Big thanks to all those who brought along prizes for the raffle.

Change of fixture date - The Golf Management Trophy, at Neath Golf Club, will be played on Thursday July 27 instead of 20th to avoid clashing with The Open at Hoylake.

We would like to wish Herbie Probert, from Pontardawe Golf Club, all the best for a long and healthy retirement. Hopefully, we will still see him on our golf days or they are going to be very quite indeed. Fixture cards will be issued shortly when all events have been confirmed - still awaiting on one. The series of winter education evenings are well under way and I look forward to catching up with you all there.

Angus Macleod

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

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

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

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

Word limited for Section notes: 500-600.

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and horizontal breathing pores. Hazel
produces large broadest at the base,
giving way to a projected point at the tip.
Each leaf is coarsely toothed with unequal
teeth. Leaves are generally dark green in
colour supporting soft, white hairs on the
underside veins.

With regard to fruit, male catkins produced
through winter. Female flowers forming
red protruding tassels occur in mid
February after pollen of same tree is shed.
Nuts are often clustered and protected by
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Recruitment



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WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF OUR WINNING TEAM?

The Belfry have hosted many prestigious tournaments such as The Ryder Cup Matches, the Benson and Hedges International Open and is home to The Quinn British Masters in 2006.

We are currently looking for highly motivated individuals to strengthen our existing greenkeeping team in a variety of roles.

Head Greenkeeper - Brabazon Golf Course

The ideal candidate will have NVQ3/4, HND Golf Course Management, PA1, PA2, PA6 Spraying Certificates, along with a minimum of 5 years experience at Head Greenkeeping level.

Assistant Greenkeepers

The successful candidate will have NVQ2 and a minimum of 3 years greenkeeping experience.

Summer/Student Greenkeeper and Gardener

Experience is preferred but not essential

Assistant Grounds Manager

The ideal candidate will have NVQ3 or HND in Horticulture and spraying certificate.

If you feel you have what it takes, why not call the Human Resource team on 01675 477022 or apply with a CV and covering letter to:

Louise Allton, Human Resources,
The De Vere Belfry,
Wishaw, Sutton Coldfield, B76 9PR

or alternatively you can apply online by sending your CV to: jobopportunities@thebelfry.com

Recruitment

MID-HERTS GOLF CLUB

requires a GREENKEEPER

to join a team of 5 greenkeepers to maintain an 18-hole heathland course near to the village of Wheathampstead, Herts.

Applicants should possess an NVQ Level 2 or equivalent with a minimum of three years greenkeeping experience and a good knowledge of the game of golf.

The successful applicant will be highly motivated and enthusiastic.

Please apply in writing to: The Course Manager, Mid-Herts Golf Club, Lamer Lane, Gustard Wood, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8RS

Jack Barkers Keele Golf Centre

Applications Are Invited For The Following Positions:

1ST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants should be qualified to a minimum NVQ level 2 or equivalent and have a good knowledge of the game of golf.

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

TRAINEE GREENKEEPER

Applicants should have a good knowledge of the game of golf.

Ideally the candidate will be enthusiastic, committed and have a high level of motivation with a strong desire to learn.

Salary package for both positions will be negotiable according to experience and qualifications.

Application in writing with a current CV to:

Nick Worrall, Jack Barkers Keele Golf Centre, Keele Road, Newcastle, Staffordshire ST5 5AB



CARDROSS GOLF CLUB

The course is parkland with many mature trees, set between the River Clyde and low moorland hills.

The Club was established in 1895, is a busy members club and popular with visitors and golfing societies.

COURSE MANAGER

Applicants are invited from suitably experienced and qualified candidates to fill the position of Course Manager when our present Manager retires in August 2006 after 32 years service at the club.

The successful candidate will possess the following attributes and skills:

- To lead a staff of four full time and some seasonal.
- To update and follow existing five year plan working with an agronomist.
- To work within set budgets.
- Understand Health & Safety and Environmental Management issues.
- Have considerable experience in working on parkland courses.
- Relevant spraying qualifications.
- Good mechanical understanding and ability to do running repairs.

Applications should apply in writing, enclosing a full C.V. to:

Iain Waugh, Secretary, Cardross Golf Club, Main Road, CARDROSS, Dumarton, Argyll & Bute, 82 5LB
E-mail: golf@cardross.com www.cardross.com

Closing Date: Monday 17th April 2006



COVENTRY HEARSALL GOLF CLUB

Assistant Head Greenkeeper

Established in 1894, Coventry Hearsall Golf Club situated within a mile of Coventry City Centre is seeking a self motivated applicant to strengthen the existing team.

Applicants should have had at least 5 years greenkeeping experience and have NVQ level 2 with PA 1a/2a/6a spraying certificates as minimum qualifications.

Reporting to the Course Manager this is an opportunity for an innovative and career minded individual to join our progressive team.

In the first instance please write with full CV and current salary package to:

Anthony Richards, Managing Secretary, Coventry Hearsall Golf Club, Beechwood Avenue, Coventry CV5 6DF.

Closing Date: 1st March 2006.



BLACKWATER VALLEY GOLF CENTRE

Head Greenkeeper c18K

A great opportunity for a highly motivated Greenkeeper to further improve our award winning 9 hole golf course and driving range facility. You will require N.V.Q. level 2 or above and possess good machinery operation and maintenance skills.

Please forward C.V. and cover letter to Anthony Walters.

Closing date 20th February 2006.

Blackwater Valley Golf Centre

Chandlers Lane, Yateley, Surrey, GU46 7SZ Tel/Fax: 01252 874725

Head Greenkeeper

We are looking for an enthusiastic Qualified Head Greenkeeper for our 9 hole Golf Course, we are rated as the most difficult 9 hole Golf Course in Germany.

The applicant should have experience in all aspects of Greenkeeping, with NVQ level 3, or the equivalent, and spraying certificates PA1, PA2 and PA6.

An ideal opportunity for someone looking to broaden their horizons, at a small course with high standards.

Salary is negotiable, help will be given in finding accommodation, for further details please contact:

Mr Frank Aufderheide
Club Manager

Applications in writing, or per e-mail:

Golfclub Herford
Heideholz 8
32602 Vlotho-Exter
Germany
E-mail: info@golfclubherford.de

Recruitment



COOMBE HILL GOLF CLUB

Require a
DEPUTY HEAD
and an
ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The Deputy Head Greenkeeper will hold the following:

- NVQ level 3 or the equivalent working experience
- PA1, PA2, PA6
- Chainsaw certificates
- Knowledge of Health and Safety
- Knowledge of Irrigation systems
- Proven leadership and motivational skills
- Have experience of working at the highest standards
- First aid certificate would be an advantage
- Salary negotiable to experience and qualifications

The Assistant Greenkeeper will hold the following

- NVQ level 2
- Desire to work to the highest standards
- Certificates would be an advantage but training will be available
- 3 years experience
- Salary in line with GCGS recommendations

The successful applicants must fit into a young energetic highly motivated team.

Applications in writing with a full CV and current salary to:
Sean Whipp, Coombe Hill Golf Club, Golf Club Drive,
Off Coombe Lane West, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT2 7DF
sean@greenkeepers.fsnet.co.uk

Closing date: 24th February 2006.

PITLOCHRY GOLF COURSE GREENKEEPER

A vacancy has arisen for a suitably experienced Greenkeeper as first assistant to the Head Greenkeeper.

The successful applicant will:

Possess an NVQ Level 2 or equivalent with a minimum of 5 years greenkeeping experience.

Be fully conversant with modern greenkeeping methods.

Possess all current spraying certificates.

Be skilled in the use and routine maintenance of golf course equipment and machinery.

A competitive package is available to the successful candidate which may include accommodation if required.

Applications in writing with CV to: The Company Secretary, Pitlochry Golf Course Limited, Pitlochry Estate Office, Pitlochry, Perthshire, PH16 5NE

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An attractive salary & benefits are available to the successful applicant depending on experience & qualifications

Please apply in writing or by email enclosing full C.V. to:

David Evans, Contracts Manager, Hopton Industrial Estate, London Road, Devizes SN10 2EU
Tel: 01380 727384 email: david.evans@jvstrong.co.uk

Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club

Applications are invited for an experienced

COURSE MANAGER

Established in 1888 South Wilts is a top class 27 holes chalk downland private members club consisting of a Par 71 18 Hole Main Course and a Par 34 9 Hole (Bibury) Course. A new irrigation system is currently being installed.

The successful applicant will be fully qualified to NVQ3 or equivalent, with A1 and all spraying certificates. Suitable experience in a similar post will be an advantage.

This high visibility 'hands on' position is available from 1 May 2006. Salary is negotiable.

Apply in confidence and in writing with full CV:-

For the personal attention of
The General Manager
Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club
Netherhampton
Salisbury
SP2 8PR

Email applications will not be accepted.

The closing date for applications is Saturday 18 February.

GREENKEEPER / MECHANIC

Erlestoke Golf Club

(Under new ownership)

Are seeking to employ a Greenkeeper / Mechanic. The successful candidate will hold a recognised Agricultural Machinery Maintenance Certificate or have a provable knowledge of equipment maintenance and ideally be qualified to N/SVQ Level 2 in sportsturf maintenance.

Please apply in writing, including your C.V. to:

Erlestoke Golf Club, Erlestoke, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 5UB

CLANDON REGIS GOLF CLUB



Clandon Regis

Requires an

Assistant Greenkeeper

A hardworking and reliable person required qualified to N.V.Q. Level 2 and holding PA1 PA2 and PA6 spraying certificates.

Applications in writing with full C.V. to:-

Contact Paul Napier - General Manager: 01483 224888.

**Clandon Regis Golf Club, Epsom Road,
West Clandon, Surrey GU4 7TT**

Battle Golf Club

Highly motivated

Head Greenkeeper

required for 9 hole golf course.

The successful candidate will be committed, enthusiastic, reliable and hard working.

Must possess NVQ Level 2 or above and have good machinery and maintenance skills.

Closing date: 14th February 2006.

Apply with a copy of your C.V. to:

Clare Lyons, Battle Golf Club, Netherfield Hill, Battle, E. Sussex TN33 0LH

Denton Golf Club Ltd

Invite applications for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

We are seeking an experienced and suitably qualified person who will head a small hardworking team.

The successful applicant will have the ability to present the course at the highest standard and be capable of helping plan the future development of the facility.

Salary and working hours to be negotiated.

Applicants should forward a CV to: The Hon Secretary, Denton Golf Club Ltd, Manchester Road, Denton, Manchester M34 2GG or e-mail dentongolfclub@btconnect.com

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Accept, Trompetterstraat 32, 5361 ER grave, Netherlands



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Responsibilities will include Managing the Greenkeeping teams on the Nicklaus and Cheshire Golf Courses as well as the Estates and Landscaping team.

The position requires an individual with drive, ability and enthusiasm to oversee the golf course development plan as well as maintaining the golf courses to the standards expected by De Vere customers. Candidates must have the skills to lead and motivate a large and highly skilled team.

The successful candidate will have a minimum of 5 years experience in as a Golf Course Manager, preferably gained within a Hotel Resort environment. They will have relevant Qualifications, and a good knowledge of Health and Safety legislation. The ideal candidate will be conversant with all modern Greenkeeping techniques and be active within industry Professional Bodies.

In return we are able to offer a competitive salary and benefits package including private Healthcare & a Contributory Pension Scheme.

Please apply in writing with a current CV and salary expectations to:

Christine Lowrey, Human Resources Manager, De Vere Carden Park, Chester CH3 9DQ
E-mail: Christine.Lowrey@devere-hotels.com



Northenden Golf Club

Invite applications for an

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

Northenden Golf Club is an 18 hole golf course designed in 1913 that has recently upgraded all greens to USGA specification.

The successful applicant must be enthusiastic and motivated to be part of a strong team of 6 to help establish & maintain the new greens plus all other greenkeeping duties. They must have an NVQ Level 2 or equivalent with a minimum of 2 years experience working on a golf course.

Salary will be £15,500 per annum with substantial paid overtime available.

We are looking to fill this vacancy as soon as possible.

Please apply in writing or via email with a CV to:

Peter Garnett, Course Manager, Northenden Golf Club,
Palatine Road, Manchester M22 4FR
or manager@northendengolfclub.com



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83440 Tourrettes, France
www.fourseasons.com/provence

PYLE AND KENFIG GOLF CLUB

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DEPUTY LINKS SUPERINTENDENT

Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club is a championship links course situated on the Bristol Channel with panoramic views across to Somerset and the Gower Peninsula. During 2006 the club will host the Home Internationals and stage the Welsh Amateur Championship.

Applications are invited for the above position from dynamic professionals seeking to advance their career by gaining championship links experience.

Applicants should already hold a supervisory position.

Strong man management skills and an enthusiastic positive nature are a prerequisite for this position. Communication skills are also vitally important as you will be required to make presentations to the golf club committee from time to time.

Experience of modern machinery and PC operated irrigation systems are required, plus NVQ Level 3 and PA1, PA2, and PA6 spraying certificates.

We offer excellent working conditions, plus a competitive salary.

Applications in writing plus a curriculum vitae to:

Raymond Hunt, Links Superintendent, Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club,
Waun y Mer, Kenfig, Bridgend CF33 4PU

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SALARY: £35k + BONUS + PENSION + CAR

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SALARY: £25-30k + BONUS + PENSION + CAR

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To apply, please send your CV and current remuneration to John Oldfield, jo@optimizegolf.com or post to the address below.



OptimizeGolf

Roseberry Court,
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Dean Wood Golf Club

Require

Experienced Assistant Greenkeeper

with a minimum of 2 years experience

Qualified to NVQ Level 2/3

Spraying Qualifications would be an advantage

Apply in writing with a current copy of CV to:
Chris Halker, Dean Wood Golf Club, Lafford Lane,
Upholland, Skelmersdale, Lancs, WN8 0QZ

Closing date 28th February 2006.

FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Required at

Leeds Golf Club

There is a vacancy for a First Assistant Greenkeeper to join our existing enthusiastic team.

They must have a minimum of 5 years greenkeeping experience and be qualified to NVQ Level 3 or equivalent and hold a PA1 and PA2 or PA6 certificates.

The successful candidate will be motivated and provide evidence of long term commitment. This position will report directly to the Head Greenkeeper.

Competitive rates of pay and further training opportunities are available.

Please apply in writing with your C.V. by 3rd March 2006 to:

The Secretary, Leeds Golf Club Ltd, Elmete Lane, Leeds, LS8 2LJ

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

To join a new progressive team to work at this mature parkland golf course.

The successful applicant must possess the relevant qualifications & experience.

Competitive salary available.

SEASONAL STAFF ALSO REQUIRED.

Please contact:

Mr G.W. Finney,

Managing Secretary,

Mickleover Golf Club,

Uttoxeter Road, Mickleover,

Derby, DE3 9AD



1st April to 30th September 2006

We are looking for enthusiastic, hardworking individuals to join our Team during the 2006 golfing season.

Dundonald is a new Kyle Phillips-designed Links Course opened in 2004, owned and operated by Loch Lomond Golf Club.

If you wish to gain experience in a links golfing environment this could be the opportunity you are looking for.

You can find further information about Dundonald on our web page www.lochlomond.com

To apply for a position please send a covering letter and C.V. to:

Frank Clarkson, Golf Course Superintendent, Dundonald,
Ayr Road, Gables, Irvine, Ayrshire, KA11 5BS Scotland
Email gcmdundonald@lochlomond.com



Are you ambitious, keen to learn and progress?

Then you should look at being part of the professional course management team at The London Golf Club, amongst the top clubs in the British Isles.

Host of The London Seniors Masters, the position offers Tournament Experience as well as Construction Projects as part of an ongoing course investment and enhancement program.

Considerable investment continues to take place with the purchase of new machinery on both courses designed by Jack Nicklaus and Golden Bear Design.

We have Assistant Greenkeeper vacancies and also seasonal positions for individuals who are hard working, well motivated and prepared to work within a team of dedicated professionals. Successful applicants will have sound practical skills and experience with a strong desire to learn and progress.

Candidates should be qualified to NVQ2 or be prepared to study towards it, whilst part of our team.

Sounds exciting ?

Contact: Peter Todd on 01474 879200 or email lgcgreenkeepers@aol.com

Rossendale Golf Club

Due to impending retirement applications are invited for a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The applicant should be an experienced Greenkeeper, with a good technical knowledge of Greenkeeping and Course Construction and have the imagination to further develop the course.

Applicants should also be suitably qualified and have the management skills to train staff and prepare and monitor budgets, together with a sound knowledge of Health and Safety regulations.

Apply in writing with a full CV to:

The Greens Chairman, Rossendale Golf Club, Ewood Lane Head,
Haslingden, Rossendale, Lancs BB4 6LH

Feature listing from February 2004

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; Hellidon Lakes; Power Mowers;
Pest Control; Cutting Heights Survey; Nozzles

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

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

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

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

October 2005; Laleham GC; Dollar Spot;
Utility Vehicles; Bio Oil; Pneumatic Fracturing;
Best Practice

November 2005; Chipping Norton GC;
National Championship; Course Construction;
Fertilisers; Servicing

December 2005; Harrogate Week Preview;
BIGGA Delegation; Environmental Competition;
Fescue Debate; Irrigation

January 2006; Bearwood Lakes GC;
Course Furniture; Nicklaus Design; Seed;
Alternative Fuel; Disease Survey

Chairman's Column



Back to the Future



One sunny evening, back in the summer of 2004, I was enjoying a family barbecue when the phone rang and to my surprise it was Kerran asking if I would consider becoming his Vice Chairman. In utter shock I asked Kerran for time to consider such a honourable and illustrious position.

After discussing the role of Chairman with my wife, family and employers and with their full support I contacted Kerran with my acceptance. In turn, I would like to thank you, the members, for doing me the honour of appointing me Chairman for the forthcoming year at the AGM. I would also like to thank my employers, Burnham & Berrow Golf Club, together with my dedicated greenkeeping team for the encouragement and support they have shown for my coming year as Chairman.

This year is likely to be challenging with regard to Harrogate Week 2007, but I can ensure you that we will uphold an excellent level of communication with all parties. Your elected Board and staff will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of you, the members. I would like to welcome Billy McMillan as my Vice Chairman and Ray Day to the Board; I am sure both gentlemen will be of great benefit to our Association. I would also like to thank our retiring Chairman, Andy Campbell, and George Barr for their business-like approach during their time on the Board.

Time has already moved on so quickly, my children tell me it's an age thing! However, now is the time to reflect on the very successful Harrogate Week. With record numbers of people involved in our industry gaining quality education which was catered through an educational programme of workshops and seminars organised brilliantly by Ken and Sami, who succeeded in providing more quality and breadth than ever before.

The week commenced on Sunday January 22 delivering five excellently presented workshops. Feedback from all Delegates concluded that the workshops were very productive and fun which set the tone for the rest of the week and encouraged the closing workshop's - Maintaining the Sustainable Golf Course, presented by the R&A - attendance of over 250 Delegates.

Turning my thoughts to the BTME and ClubHouse Show - which again was a sell out - I am happy to say that this was truly the only place to look at the suppliers that matter within our industry. All of the exhibitors I met were very pleased with the quality and quantity of visitors they welcomed onto their Stands.

I can recall the very first BTME, many years ago, where people I met could not believe I had travelled all the way from Cornwall to attend. It is fantastic and a real reflection on Harrogate Week that today we welcome Delegates from all over Europe and various parts of the World.

As I am writing this, my thoughts return to 15 years or so ago when travelling back from York with Gordon Child. He informed me of his vision of a week when greenkeepers would be able to get together and see the latest products while discussing and developing their skills. We have now achieved this and more, as we welcome and support the Secretaries' Association, R&A, GTC and the Golfing Unions during the week.

At this point it would be incongruous of me not to thank John and the whole team at HQ who worked tirelessly to ensure Harrogate Week turned out to be yet again hugely successful.

This year I intend my monthly articles to recognise members who have given so much to our Association in a feature called Champions of BIGGA. This month's Champions of BIGGA are my own staff, who work to a very high standard, sometimes without the recognition they deserve. So stand up and be proud lads, namely Mike Dodd, Paul Dunn, Andrew Briggs, Noel Smith, Craig Dunbar and Gary Pither.

On closing my first article I would like to pay tribute to the retiring Chairman, Kerran Daly, for his excellent year in office. He did not let on how well he would write his articles over the last year but he had a wee smile on his face when I approached the subject recently.

My aim as Chairman is to continue the work Kerran has done alongside John Pemberton and all of our staff to improve overall communication at all levels.

Richard Whyman
Chairman

Recruitment



HADLEY WOOD
Golf Club

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- Knowledge of computerised irrigation systems.
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- Effective management skills and the ability to motivate staff.
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plus overtime

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- A valid driving license
- Strong on-going commitment to personal development

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"an admirable and handsome facility"

Farnham Park - *The Times Guide to Golf Courses*

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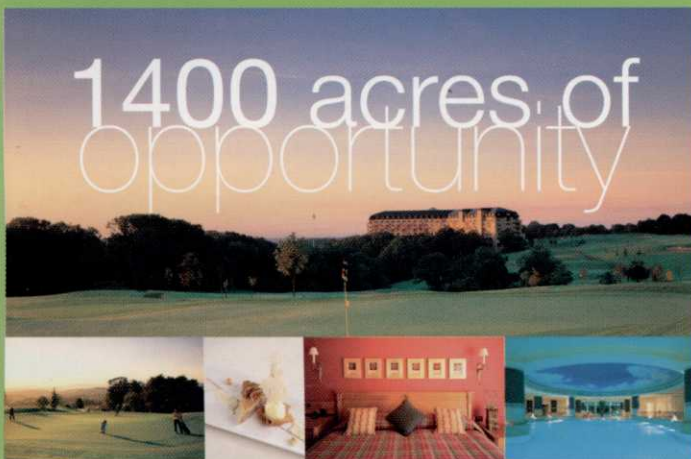
e-mail: personnel@southbucks.gov.uk

by writing to: The Personnel Unit, South Bucks District Council, Capswood, Oxford Road, Denham, UB9 4LH or online at www.southbucks.gov.uk/council/jobs

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Greenkeeper

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