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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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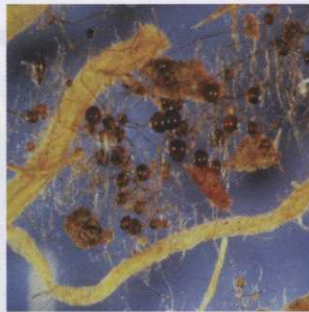
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When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.



Welcome

PERFECT SUBJECTS FOR A FLY-ON-THE-WALL DOCUMENTARY

Such has been the explosion of reality television in recent years there can't have been a walk of life not covered. We all know everything there is to know about being a property developer; chef; hairdresser; sewage worker; estate agent; policeman; hospital worker; cabaret singer on a boat; farmer; astronaut (fake); vicar, teacher; person who lived in another period of history; bus driver; member of the aristocracy... The list goes on and on.

One of the few professions which hasn't been covered is greenkeeping and it leads me to wonder what the general public would make of you guys and the job that you do.

My own view is that they would be staggered by the sheer range of tasks that you have to undertake each working day and the level of sophistication and knowledge that is involved in doing them. Sure you're not dealing with matters of life and death like doctors but it's a little more complicated than knowing how long to leave a perming solution before hair turns green.

Course Managers need nowadays to be all rounders - Jacks of All Trade and Masters of Them All. That's not something that many other people in other walks of life have to deal with. Where else could you be out changing a hole one minute and making budgetary decisions involving hundreds of thousands of pounds the next? And bizarrely, you are more likely to have complaints from members if they feel a hole hasn't been changed properly than if your budget doesn't balance! I'm sure that's what frustrates so many of you. You can have a course that is playing like a dream but it just takes someone to notice a ball washer is out of water and you'll get a letter of complaint.

Yup, I'm warming to the idea of a fly-on-the-wall documentary featuring the everyday activities of a team of golf greenkeepers.

From half past eight every Monday for half an hour the whole television watching world could see the some of the hassles you have to contend with from small minded golfers and at the same time marvel at how you can identify one type of grass from another and how you look after them all differently.

They could also see that cutting a green is much more difficult than merely mowing a lawn and achieving a straight line takes precision and no little skill.

Having visited you in maintenance facilities which range from the palatial right down to leaking tin sheds I'm sure viewing golf club members might actually be a little ashamed of the living conditions some of their greenkeeping teams have to operate in. It's not so long ago I was still visiting clubs where it wasn't so much that there wasn't shower facilities but that hot water still wasn't available.

So if there are any television producers out there looking for the one avenue of fly-on-the-wall that hasn't yet been covered, get in touch at BIGGA HOUSE.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

NEW IMAGE FOR BSH

There might have been familiar faces greeting visitors to British Seed Houses' Stand, but the UK seed company had a distinctive new look at Harrogate Week 2006.

It sported new exhibition graphics, stationery and product literature on its stand, and entertained a packed house of customers and key industry delegates at its celebrity luncheon, where cricket pundit, Henry Blofeld, amused his audience with tales from the commentary box.

The new corporate identity was created as part of the company's ongoing strategic marketing

programme. Its new image is reflected across a suite of new magazine adverts, product-led direct mail, packaging and an upgraded website with online purchasing facilities.

"Anyone who specifies or purchases seed from BSH can be confident about its quality, and we think it's important that our image reflects this commitment to quality. We've also listened to our customers' feedback so we can continue to improve the service we provide to them," said Simon Taylor, BSH's Amenity Development Director.



Caption: L-R: William Gilbert, Managing Director, Louise Clegg, Henry Blofeld, Simon Taylor, Joe Hendy, Richard Brown and Bob Scott.

BATHGATE'S BUSINESS DRIVE



Simon with the new literature

New corporate literature, designed and produced by Knutsford-based agency, Quest, is spearheading a 2006 new business drive by Bathgate Silica Sands into a range of leisure and industrial markets.

From its quarry in Sandbach, Cheshire, Bathgate is a supplier of sand and top dressings into various sectors, not least the sports and leisure markets. Its sports clients include a number of Premiership football clubs as well as several prestigious tournament golf courses, such as Royal Liverpool Golf Club, which hosts this year's British Open Championship.

Quest's brief was to design and produce a contemporary new brochure which reflected the calibre of Bathgate's client portfolio, reinforced its growing reputation as a specialist supplier, and could be used as the basis of a renewed sales drive into key target markets.

Overseen by Quest's creative director, Simon Reason, the new literature, together with graphic panels mirroring the brochure's photography and design, was produced in time for Bathgate's first major trade exhibition of the new year, Harrogate Week 2006 at the end of January.

NEW IMPORTER

Trilo UK has announced that, with immediate effect, they are the importers of the new Leijenaar Green Clipper Mower range.

Trilo are already well known in the industry for supplying vacuum machines. The extensive range now includes blowers, top dressers and flail/scarifier collectors. It was a natural progression for Trilo UK to take on a range of mowers. The units can be used by turf producers and sports ground/open areas.

"This was not an easy decision, as it is all too easy to undo a reputation that has taken years to build. However, with the Green Clipper range we feel confident that we have an excellent product and that we can build a good relationship with the Leijenaar family as we have with Trilo," stated Tim Merrell, Managing Director, Trilo UK.

ARE YOU THE SPRAY MASTER OF THE YEAR?

As a golf course greenkeeper do you take pride in undertaking the job of spraying in a professional manner? If the answer is yes, the BIGGA Golf Course Spray Master of the Year award is for you.

The winner of this unique competition, sponsored by Greenlink International in support of the product Blazon, will receive an expenses paid trip to visit the 2007 Golf Course Convention and Trade Show in Anaheim, California, USA. On top of that the golf club will receive a free, state of the art, Gambetti Barre 300 litre sprayer.

All golf course greenkeepers in Great Britain can take part. The judging panel will be looking for: Safe and effective spraying practices, accurate and appropriate record keeping, product label awareness, good chemical store management, proper sprayer maintenance and suitable waste disposal policy.

If you believe you have the right qualities and support best spraying practice, why not enter your name in the competition? Who knows, you could be winging your way to Anaheim, California as Britain's top golf course master sprayer before you know it.

Full details of the competition and an entry form will be featured in the April's issue of Greenkeeper International.

"The application of sprays on a golf course is a major responsibility and a highly skilled operation. The objective of sponsoring this award is to encourage a greater awareness of best spraying practise, promote the Voluntary Initiative and improve overall the national standard of spray application," said Richard Fry Managing Director of Greenlink International, at the joint launch with BIGGA.

DOUBLE WINNERS

A Head Groundsman and an Assistant Greenkeeper are both winners, following two separate prize draws sponsored by Vitax during Harrogate Week.

Ian Osbourne, Head Groundsman at The Richard Evan Sports Ground, Wimbledon, training venue for the Harlequins Rugby Team, and John Coote, Assistant Greenkeeper at The London Club, Kent, both received £100 worth of vouchers for BIGGA merchandise after their names had been drawn from the hat.

Incoming BIGGA chairman Richard Whyman, himself a previous Vitax winner, performed the honours on the company stand, selecting Ian

Osbourne in what has become an annual Harrogate event, while John Coote's name was drawn by International scientist Stan Kostka of Aquatrols who flew over from America to conduct a free fringe seminar at Vitax's invitation.

"We always have one on the stand, but because we were involved in the first fringe seminar programme we decided do a second draw for all attending delegates to Dr. Kostka's lecture. I'd like to congratulate both winners, and hope that John, a placement student from Writtle College will find the vouchers especially useful," said Clive Williams, Commercial Development Manager for Vitax.



EDUCATION PUSH FOR FEGGA

FEGGA Delegates representing 23 countries recently came together at the FEGGA Conference to discuss and agree policies on Education and Environment.

During the past four years, the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association has been working with and assisting Greenkeeping Associations throughout its Membership Countries in establishing formal education programmes based on an agreed minimum standard. The Members of FEGGA have now agreed in Portugal at their Conference to take the next step in its determination to create more consistency in Greenkeeper education across Europe.

The focus this year will be to develop a set of standards that will be agreed to by all associations and create a framework for all Countries to work with. This would allow Europe to have a qualification that all Countries can relate to and therefore recognise the qualification wherever one is in Europe.



NEW PRINCIPAL

Myerscough College has appointed Ann Turner FCMA as Chief Executive and Principal. This appointment comes at a time when student numbers for its diverse range of courses continue to rise, with over 10,000 students now studying at the College.

Ann, the first female Principal in the College's 100 year history, has been a long term member of Myerscough's senior management team. Having previously held the position of Director of Finance for seven years, Ann played a key role in ensuring the College achieved significant growth and enhanced its position regionally, nationally and internationally. She places great emphasis on standards and quality of teaching and learning within the College as a whole.

Ann's aim is for Myerscough to continue to offer the first class learning and development environment that students at the College have become accustomed to. Ann, who has been Acting Principal for the last two months following the departure of Professor John Moverley OBE, will formally take up post on March 1.

NETWORK GOLF

Making life easier for Secretary/Managers and Club Committees is a prime aim of new company, Network Golf - a one-stop shop for professional advice and guidance to golf clubs and golf centres.

Network Golf will offer Marketing & Business Planning, Finance & IT, Course Design and Refurbishment, Agronomy, Interim Management, Recruitment & Selection, Education and Training and Course and Clubhouse Products.

At the heart of the network is Neil Cockbill M.Sc., MIGCM. Neil has a wide range of experience in golf club management supplemented by 3 years as the EGU's Golf Services Secretary. This is backed by a successful career in sales and marketing prior to moving into the golf industry.

THE LADY IN RED

Kristie Diggelmann, daughter of Trimax UK Manager Ian, has joined the company on a short term contract to assist in the Little Addington workshop. Kristie, 20, is always happy to help out on any designated task and always has a ready smile. Her ringing laugh can brighten up the coldest and darkest day!



When she leaves later in the spring, she will go on to further her adventurous life style as, after taking time out to celebrate her 21st birthday, she will return to New Zealand to train for a position with personal development organisation Full On New Zealand.

Her role will be to coach, or coax, trainees on high ropes, an activity aimed at getting people to confront and overcome their fears. The training will take place in the wonderful setting of the Australian Blue Mountains.

MERGER

Robert Donald, Managing Director, White Horse Contractors Ltd and Mike Seward, of Seward Turf Maintenance, have announced that Seward Turf Maintenance has combined with White Horse Contractors (Northern) Ltd. The merger, completed just prior to Christmas, is seen as a strategic development for both companies.

Seward Turf Maintenance is synonymous with quality and value, offering turf renovation services throughout the UK to prestigious clients. Combined with White Horse Contractors (Northern) Ltd they will provide existing and future clients with comprehensive range of activities and services. As well as the full range of turf renovation activities White Horse (Northern) undertake new construction and reconstruction projects in addition to the design and build of drainage schemes for sportsturf.

END OF AN ERA

Garside Sands' Distribution Manager, Bob Blake, has retired from the company after 47 years' service, during which time he has been in charge of delivering over 30 million tonnes of products.

Based in Leighton Buzzard, Bob joined the company at the age of 15 as an office junior, later moving into the transport department. Since then, Bob has been responsible for Garside's distribution and has seen sand originally transported by Leighton Buzzard's narrow gauge railway for delivery into London and the Midlands by barge on the Grand Union canal, to today where Garside's silica sands are distributed across the UK and internationally.

"Replacing Bob will be no easy feat as he is a familiar character to customers and haulers alike. Garside has appointed Bob Mellor from Woodhall Spa Sand and Gravel Operation to take over the role who joins with over 20 years experience, five of which is specific to the delivery of loose and bagged products," said Colin Parke, General Manager at Garside Sands.



Bob Mellor, left, and Bob Blake of Garside Sands

TH WHITE HITS FOUR

TH White Ltd, of Tetbury in Gloucestershire, is the Ransomes Jacobsen Distributor of the Year for 2005. Not only did they win this most prestigious award, they were also winners in three other categories Parts dealer of the year, Service dealer of the year and UK Turf dealer of the year.

The awards were presented at a Gala Dinner during Harrogate Week 2006, which was attended by Ransomes Jacobsen dealers from around the world. The silver trophy and commemorative plaque were presented to the Managing Director of TH White's grounds care division, John Earley.

"From the number of awards won by TH White, it's obvious that they have had an exceptional year

with Ransomes Jacobsen product offering. The Distributor of the Year award recognises outstanding performance in all sectors of the business and they have demonstrated outstanding performance across all their markets. TH White has met, and surpassed, the standard that we demand of our distributors and have shown tremendous commitment to Ransomes Jacobsen," commented David Withers at the Gala Dinner.

Rickerby Ltd received a special award for 125 years outstanding service to the grounds care industry and ITTEC received a similar award for 10 years successful trading in the Czech Republic.

TURFWORKS ARE OPEN

The TurfWorks Thatchmaster and True Level Vibro Roller cassettes are in use to help the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, at Hoylake, prepare for the British Open, which takes place in July this year.

The TurfWorks system will enable the Greenstaff to produce and better the fine turf that the Open expects. With smooth fast and healthy putting surf aces the Thatchmaster will also be used for grooming the fairways and approaches, with the Vibro Rollers used to speed up the putting surfaces and approaches.

"I always strive with my team for the best playing surfaces available at Royal Liverpool, but in the year of the Open this is of paramount importance," said Craig Gilholm, the Links Manager at Royal Liverpool Golf Club.



TWO ON THE TROT

Turner Groundscare's retail branch at Lansdowne Road, Stamford Bridge, Tarvin, near Chester, is Turfmech Machinery's dealer of the year for the second year running, and for the fourth time in five years. Runner-up, also for the second year running, was Scottish professional grounds care equipment dealer, Nairn Brown (Glasgow) Ltd, of Busby, Glasgow.

Initiated in 1999, Turfmech's dealer of the year award was presented to Turner Groundscare's Tarvin branch in recognition of the outstanding sales results achieved by the firm during 2005 together with the consistently high level of service provided to owners and users of Turfmech machines. An engraved plaque marking these achievements was presented to staff from Turner Groundscare's Tarvin branch at Harrogate Week 2006.



Supplier of the Year - TYCROP

"Thanks to Turner Groundscare, we have machines at work with local authorities, contractors, golf clubs, hire firms and private customers throughout Cheshire, Flintshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside. The feedback we receive tells us that Turner Groundscare delivers consistently high levels of after-sales support to its professional customers, support which has resulted in new and repeat sales of Turfmech machines over the years," stated Turfmech's Managing Director Justin Austin.

Meanwhile, for the second year running, TYCROP Manufacturing of Rosedale, British Columbia, Canada, has been named the outright winner of Turfmech Machinery's Supplier of the Year award.

Judged by staff from Turfmech's sales, service, purchasing and accounts departments, the Supplier of the Year award is given by Turfmech to the supplier considered to have provided the best all-round support for its product range throughout the year.

FIRST FOR SHROPSHIRE

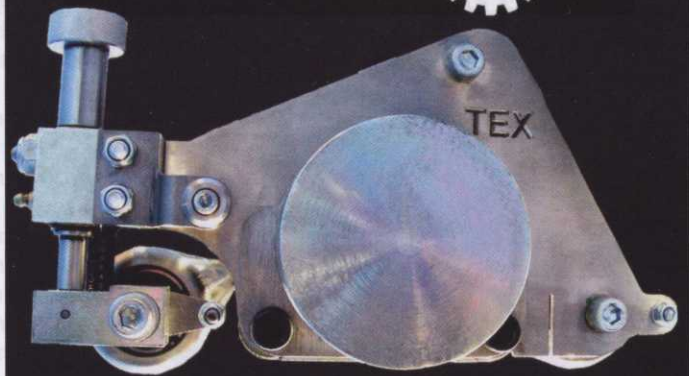


R-L: Ivan Beetlestone, Head Greenkeeper; Paul Richards, driver, and Richard Jones, Dealer of Oakley's Groundcare

The Burhill Estates Company has chosen Trimax Pegasus wide area rotary mowers for three of their courses. The Shropshire in Telford is the first club to take delivery of their new machine.

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ROBERTS REWARD

Andrew Roberts has been named as Sisis Territory Manager of the Year 2005.

Covering Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire and North Wales, Andrew is a relatively new boy at Sisis joining them in April 2004. However he has quickly earned a reputation for conscientious customer care and attention to detail, and has significantly increased sales in his territory.



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, AIne, YO61 1UF or email gareth@bigga.co.uk.

NEW AREA SALES MANAGER

Oxfordshire based Garden Tractor manufacturer Countax has announced the appointment of Phil Parry in the role of Area Sales Manager.

Phil brings with him some 18 years' experience with Briggs & Stratton engines, and a career in garden machinery spanning over 30 years, following 9 years in the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers.

Phil will cover sales of Countax, Westwood and Echo products to dealers in the Midlands, and joins the Company at an exciting time following the recent launch of the new four wheel drive products, and the new X Series tractors.

"We are delighted to welcome Phil to Countax, and feel certain that his wealth of experience in the industry will be beneficial to both Countax and the specialist dealer," said Mark Osborne, Sales Director at Countax.



IRRIPLAN GOES WHITE

Marcus White has become a partner in independent irrigation consultancy IrriPlan. He'll work alongside Giles Wardle in the business he founded and which celebrated its 10th anniversary during 2004.

Marcus joins the company from 2ic, where he was a partner for four years. He specialises in water resources and management, including abstraction licensing, hydrological monitoring and advisory services concerning the quality, treatment, storage and monitoring of water. As a Chartered Engineer, he's also an expert in reservoir engineering and design, ground modelling, site surveys and Health & Safety planning.

"It combines the skills of the two most qualified irrigation engineers in the UK golf industry, both with significant experience of working on major projects here and abroad. This will enable us to offer a wider range of services to our

existing client base within the golf and sports turf industry," said Giles.

Marcus added: "Giles and I completed our MSc degrees at Cranfield at the same time and I'm delighted that we've formed a partnership. We can now offer complete contract management for irrigation projects, from water sourcing, abstraction and storage to the engineering and design of irrigation systems and drainage."



Giles Wardle, left, welcomes Marcus White

DUKE'S TRANSFORMATION

The striking transformation of the Duke's Course at St Andrews is the inspirational result of a design philosophy that has already made American architect Tim Liddy one of the most talked-about influences in the modern game.

Tim's complete redesign of the last four holes of the Duke's Course not only strengthens its challenge to make it one of the finest inland championship tests in the British Isles but also gives the course unique potential for future major televised tournaments.

Even though the course has been lengthened by 350 yards to 7,500 yards, Tim has focused on the importance of strategic play rather than power golf

and in so doing observed the fundamentals of the original designer Peter Thomson, five times Open Champion.

His basic philosophy is that the course must, as it were, "grow" out of the landscape and not be imposed on it. Thus it must remain character with its surroundings. Consequently the high-sided bunkers, more in keeping with a links, that were a feature of the original Duke's Course are being replaced by the more typical inland, soft-edged versions.

"A common trait of my design is rewarding the player who can manoeuvre the ball. It identifies the golfer with greater ability," stated Tim.



SELWOOD PICK OF THE CROP

Avoncrop Amenity Products have announced that Jon Selwood has joined their sales team.

Jon will be the Area Sales Manager for the Essex Area calling on Golf Courses, Sports Grounds, Local Authorities, Schools, Bowling Clubs and Landscapers, promoting the extensive range of amenity products in the portfolio, along with offering technical services that are provided by the company.

Jon is well known in the amenity industry, having worked at Abridge Golf & Country Club for the past twelve years with the latter seven being as Course Manager, prior to that Jon had experience as a Groundsman at Bishop Stortford Football and Cricket Clubs.

"I'm really pleased that Jon has joined us, with his sound technical knowledge and his enthusiasm for this industry I am sure he will provide his customers with a first class service," commented Rod Feltham, Managing Director of Avoncrop Amenity Products.

NEW SOURCES PEST CONTROL

A new project that could develop new pest control strategies and even find new sources of antibiotics is being undertaken by Alan Gange, Reader in Microbial Ecology in the Department of Biological Sciences, at Royal Holloway, University of London.

The National Environment Research Council (NERC) has awarded Alan Gange over £260,000 to investigate the significance of fungi that live within plant tissues. These fungi, known as 'endophytes', produce chemicals which have been used to produce antibiotics in the past, for example taxol which is a drug being used for cancer treatment.

Focussing on the study of fungi in herbaceous plants, the project hopes to look at the chemicals being produced and how they benefit the plant and if they can make them resistant to attack. This project has the potential to change the way people view plant-insect interactions and could lead to new forms of pest or weed control.

Alan recently won the National Turfgrass Foundation Research Award for 2005 and has been a pioneer in trying to introduce biological methods of pest control into the turf industry.

"I am delighted to start this project as it has the potential to take pest control strategies into a new era, and to exploit the natural antagonisms that exist between plants and insects," said Alan.

NEW DEALER

Drainage and trenching equipment manufacturer AFT has appointed WT and RJ Jones their dealer for the South West of England. Covering Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset, W.T and R.J Jones will stock AFT machines plus a wide range of spare parts at their recently opened premises on Chelston Business Park in Wellington, Somerset.

The company, owned and operated by husband and wife team Tom and Rosemary Jones, specialise in sales, service and hire of a wide range of groundcare and amenity machinery plus also run a successful contracting business in the sportsfield and golf course sector.

"The appointment of W.T and R.J Jones as dealer for the South West of England is a coup for AFT Trenchers Ltd. Tom Jones and his team understand the needs of the amenity and golf course sector and can work with us to supply drainage and trenching machinery to customers in this area. W.T and R.J Jones have arranged a series of Sportsturf Drainage seminars and demonstrations with ourselves and their other suppliers to promote this new venture, and we look forward to meeting new and current customers at these events to build relationships for the future," said James Lane, Sales and Marketing Manager for AFT.

We'd like to apologise to new Master Greenkeeper Keith Ratcliffe MG for inadvertently calling him Kevin in last month's issue of Greenkeeper International.

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David Golding, GTC's Education Director, explains why he firmly believes the future condition of golf courses is in the hands of the Professionals.

Having attended the R&A's seminar during the Harrogate Week to debate the Sustainable Management of Golf Courses and also having received feedback from the assessors who attended an updating workshop hosted by Plan-it Training one thing is for certain Golf Course Managers have never been in a more influential position to ensure the future maintenance of courses is carried out by skilled staff and to an agreed policy.

The Board of the GTC has representatives from the R&A, EGU, SGU, WGU and BIGGA and whilst they regularly discuss how do we engage the employers in key matters such as greenkeeper training, we also continue to identify the Course Manager as the real professional person who should be advising the employer on all of the key issues relating to training, maintenance and course management policies.

The Home Unions, BIGGA and the R&A all support the development of a Course Policy Document and that is surely the best way of ensuring continuity for any golf club?

The GTC ensures that within the range of greenkeeping qualifications and training courses there is the skill of communication including development maintenance plans for consideration by the employer. Golf course managers must be allowed to manage and surely this is why employers at interview look for a person with both agronomic knowledge and excellent communication skills.

A professional golf course manager should have a major input to the policy document explaining all aspects of the way forward for the course based on the best principles and practices.

In the world of training there has been much written and debate relating to the current role of colleges in relation to the modern and most popular qualifications which are the work-based (vocational) based awards.

I have stated many times in this column the GTC on behalf of the golf clubs and greenkeepers it represents continue to be involved with all the Government bodies who determine the standards for the sports turf sector and our credibility in this area has many admirers, why?

For over 10 years the GTC has encouraged both the employer and the most senior member of staff on the golf course to become more involved with the training of the greenkeeping staff.

As a result of this campaign there are qualified coaches and assessors at many of the golf courses in Britain and this has seen far more skilled workers which has to be good for the sectors employers.

Having established this network of coaches and assessors we must ensure the Centres where trainees are registered such as colleges actually engage formerly these skills. On the job training, a little like the fescue/fescue bent/annual meadow grass debate is not new to the sector in fact in this part of the world it has been the norm for decades!

What the GTC is now actively campaigning for is that the Centres use the work-based assessor more formally that at best an expert witness or at worst someone who can tick boxes within the trainees manual/portfolio! The Centres now have staff on the road and this is where the GTC sees the partnership between Centre staff and the work-based assessor as the most important factor in ensuring only competent staff achieve the qualification.

It is the quality of the assessment that is the controlling factor in vocational qualifications and we all must put this at the heart of all on the job training.

As those greenkeepers who have attended an assessor training session all the system is asking for is that as an assessor you are constantly aware of opportunities to assess during natural working operations and at all times using the national standards. Just plan the training with the trainee and if they are registered with a Centre agree the training and assessment plan with the co-coordinator/verifier and you are then at the heart of the system! Quality training and assessment is then in your professional control.

The Centres will be encouraged to engage qualified assessors and we must not accept this drop in/one off type of assessment as the norm. Course Managers and many deputies are the obvious coaches and assessors and it will be these professional people who will ensure trainees develop with the support of the chosen Centre and the main benefactor will be the employer who will have a skilled workforce.

Please don't think that the Professional at the golf club is the person who has the skills to coach and play the game it is the terms of the dictionary "having or showing the skill of a professional; competent.

If you wish to discuss becoming a work-based coach/assessor please contact David direct at the GTC on Tel: 01347 838640 or email: david@the-gtc.co.uk.

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Education Update

Ken Richardson, Education and Training Manager, reports on his trip to the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in Atlanta, USA.

A week in Harrogate followed by a week in Atlanta, attending the Golf Industry Show, has shown me that we achieved a great deal at Harrogate Week with a minimum of resources. Yes, the Golf Club Show is larger, they have more education opportunities and more people attend, but their resources, both financial and human are much greater than ours.

As others have indicated elsewhere, there is a threat to Harrogate Week 2007 from some of the larger machinery companies deciding not to exhibit at BTME. However, we plan to have even more educational opportunities targeted at all levels of greenkeeper, at golf club secretaries, at groundsmen and at golf club professionals. We have had some excellent feedback from delegates at Continue to Learn 2006 and we are using that feedback to design our programme for 2007. You can have your say on what you would like to see included in the Harrogate Week programme by contacting me at BIGGA HOUSE.

What were my impressions of the Golf Club Show? Considering that the Show was scheduled to take place in New Orleans, then in Houston, it was a miracle that the GCSAA managed to put together such an extensive education programme and trade show. Overall, the Show was very much like Harrogate but on a larger scale.

American superintendents have the same sort of problems as British greenkeepers and their education programme contained subjects such as 'Strategies for poa annua prevention and control' through to 'Speaking with impact' both subjects included at Harrogate. Other similarities were seminars on Microsoft Powerpoint, Excel and Word, plus management subjects such as Financial Management and Project management. Some subjects such as Managing an Hispanic Workforce or Spanish for Golf Course Managers may not be quite so popular however.

What about Atlanta? Well it was big, cold (around 34F, 1°C), wet and expensive. It was also full of British and European greenkeepers. Highlights of Atlanta were the Coca Cola museum, an aquarium and dozens of shopping malls. However, the highlight of my week was a trip to Augusta National.

I am very grateful to Brad at Augusta for allowing us to visit, to Jim for hosting us so well and to Stan Zontek for arranging it all. We spent a full morning touring the maintenance facilities and the golf course and it was apparent that customer care was their top priority. We have all heard of the Augusta factor that happens each spring when the US Masters is on TV, but being there, walking the course and talking to the greenkeepers gives you a completely different view of the place.

Yes, it is a wealthy course, they have plenty of staff and plenty of machinery but the way that they manage the course is no different from many other



courses. Just one example was the use of green sand for top dressing so that golfers did not notice what had occurred.

Now that I am back in the office and my jet lag is almost gone, my thoughts turn to the help that we can give greenkeepers to develop their careers through education and training.

BIGGA HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to continued sponsorship from Ransomes Jacobsen, we can, once again, offer Higher Education Scholarships to BIGGA members. Scholarships are awarded to greenkeepers attending or about to attend a course of higher education, for example N/SVQ Level 4, HNC, HND, Foundation Degree, BSc/BA or MSC.

Successful scholars are expected to keep BIGGA informed of their progress, to supply educational material for Greenkeeper International and agree to be photographed and interviewed at their graduation. Scholarships are usually awarded to cover half tuition fees.

TORO STUDENT OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Application forms for this year's competition will be sent to training providers this month. If you do not receive a copy by March 31 then please contact us at BIGGA HOUSE.

The winner in 2005, Alan Pierce, had an interesting visit to the Golf Industry Show in Atlanta. His flight back to the North East of the US was cancelled due to heavy snow and he was stuck in Atlanta until the airports opened again. It did give him time to complete his revision for his final exams.

Rachael and Gemma would like to welcome 61 new members to the Association and talk about a car hire affinity scheme.

Membership Update

BIGGA welcomes...

SCOTTISH REGION

Chris Barnard, Central
Lewys Bryce, East
Barry Campbell, North
David Cooper, Central
Dane Macpherson, North
Anthony Marr, Central
William McGhie, Ayrshire
Colin McKay, Central
Matthew McLean, Central
Kevin Muir, Central
Michael Petrie, Central
Robert Richards, Central
Andrew Richards, Central
Alan Russell, Central
William Stenhouse, Ayrshire
John Williamson, East
Graham Winter, Central

NORTHERN REGION

Shaun Conway, North West
Sam Wilkinson, North West

MIDLAND REGION

Steven Harvey, Midland
George Mennell, BB&O
Adrian Myatt, Midland
Danny Saunders, BB&O
Jonathan Shaw, Midland
Philip Vaughan, East Midland
Ashley Webb, BB&O
Simon White, East of England
Clint Woodall, Midland

SOUTH EAST REGION

Gary Cheeseman, Surrey
Liam Close, East Anglia
Stephen Goodliff, Surrey
Edward Goodwin, East Anglia
Kevin Goude, East Anglia
Barry West, Surrey

SOUTH WEST/SOUTH WALES

Adam Dando, South West
Ben Flower, South West
Simon Free, South West
Brian Gogan, South Coast
Daniel Greening, South West
Elliott Holman, Devon & Cornwall
Ian Larcombe, South West
Mark Lewer, South West
Nigel Pring, South West
Steve Randall, South West
Christian Ross, South Coast
Ben Sears, South Wales
Stephen Woodward, South West

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

Lars Bange, Sweden
Thomas Hellickson, Switzerland
Soren Nicholson, Denmark

STUDENT MEMBERS

David Feeny, East Scotland
Colin Kirby, East Scotland
Paucic Mc Groary, USA
Steve Newell, N Ireland
Steindor Ragnarsson, Central Scotland

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

David Nelson, Ayrshire
Christian Donaldson, East Midland
Colin Rutterford, East Anglia
Nick Saunders, East Midland

CORPORATE MEMBER

Gary Tait, Kent

Discounted Car Hire for BIGGA Members

BIGGA has enrolled on National's Affinity leisure programme, which enables BIGGA members to benefit from preferential rates on car and van hire in the UK and on international car hire in over 80 countries worldwide. The discounts are available when renting a vehicle in your leisure time and prices are continually checked against other companies to ensure competitive rates.



If you fancy a bit of luxury then a car from the Guy Salmon Fleet is also available at a discount. For a National car or van quotation or to make a booking you need to call 0870 191 6950.

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As the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association one of National Car Rental's most valued business customers, we would like to introduce you to **Activity Leisure** Programme, our new leisure car hire programme designed especially for you.

Activity Leisure Programme enables you to benefit from great deals when renting in your own personal leisure time, whether it's for holidays abroad, short breaks away, special occasions or even when your car is off the road.

Activity Leisure Programme offers all British & International Golf Greenkeepers and an international car hire in over 80 countries worldwide, including all the major holiday destinations. Members can also enjoy the luxury of the **Guy Salmon Fleet** in the UK from 1st November to the power of a Porsche at surprisingly affordable prices.

We want to offer you the best rate on the day so we will be continually price shopping **Activity Leisure Programme** rates against the competition. To ensure you always benefit from great rates, they will change regularly and therefore will not be published.

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Forthcoming Events

It's that time of year when all the Sections are putting the final touches to their fixture lists. As these are being published they are entered onto the events page of the BIGGA website, www.bigga.org.uk, so you are always fully up to date with what's going on in your area.

If you do not have access to the website then the Around the Green pages in Greenkeeper International contains information about any events coming up shortly.

MARCH'S MEMBERSHIP DRAW WINNER



Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a 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 Antony Bindley, of Kirby Muxloe GC.

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS:

Please be ready to quote your membership number when calling.

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- Personal Accident Insurance 01277 251000
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- Unique Insurance Quotation Service 01603 828255
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- Haztek International Health and Safety Hotline 0845 1081339
- BIGGA Merchandise & Library 01347 833800
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Letters ▶▶

Help!

I am an ex Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper and worked at various golf clubs around the UK for 23 years up until 1999. I was also a member of BGGGA, which became EIGGA and finally BIGGA and was a committee member in the Surrey Section, working at Bramley Golf Club, between 1980 and 1983 where I met and talked passionately with Jack McMillan and Kenny McNiven, amongst others. From there I took up a position at the Royal Norwich Golf Club. I hope that some of your members can help me.

I own a pedestrian certes mower, which was originally one of three units from an unused Ransomes Overgreen donkey engine triple greens mower dating back to the 1950's. The brass plate on the RH side casing states that it is a Ransomes certes MK12 made by Ransomes, Simms and Jeffries. I don't know where else to look for specific identification numbers.

It is a geared push mower with a 16" width of cut (certes mower units are listed as 12" or 14" wide, but I can assure you that this one was used on an overgreen). The cylinder has 10 blades and is approx 4.5" in diameter at present, although a new cylinder may be closer to 5" in diameter.

The problem is that the cylinder blades are now worn down almost to the webbing and it is difficult, if not impossible, to adjust the cut. I estimate that it will last until the end of this season and then the cut quality will deteriorate to the point where it will no longer cut at all.

I have tried contacting various people and companies to try to find a solution to the problem, but to date have not had any success. I am mystified by the situation as I know that certes cutting units are well renowned and some are still in use.

As I see it I have four options:

- 1) A new cutting cylinder, but that will be expensive (I have been quoted £150 net by Garfitts).
- 2) A reconditioned cutting cylinder, but I'm not sure whether anyone supplies them.
- 3) Have the blades removed and new or reconditioned ones installed, followed by grinding. This will be expensive due to the time involved.
- 4) Find a complete unit for sale. In all cases, I will probably need a new or reconditioned bottom blade. Or have my present one, allows for a height of cut as low as 3mm (1/8") reconditioned.

Am I correct? I hope someone can help, or if not can suggest a course of action or a contact who can help me?

Tel: 07905 848981; Email: bertiep@yahoo.com.

Paul Bertenshaw

Over the Pond

Having just returned from Atlanta and the GCSAA Show I felt that I wanted to drop a quick note to say thank you to all those involved in the BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernard & Co.

The week long trip was full of new and innovative ideas from across the pond and from the Delegation, which I will undoubtedly use on my return to my golf course.

I would thoroughly recommend this experience to anyone from the greenkeeping world. It was a packed seven days with access to areas of the Show, which not everyone can reach. For this I would like to thank Steven Bernard, Kim Furnell and the Bernard team. Also John Pemberton, Richard Wyman and the other Greenkeepers in the Delegation.

J. Austin

Course Manager

Windwhistle Golf Club

YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

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

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Say Cheese!

Do you fancy yourself as a photographer and do you have a golf course that you feel you'd like to show off to a wider audience? If the answer to both is a resounding "Yes" why not enter BIGGA's Golf Course Photography Competition?

You all have them. Those special places on the golf course were you like to spend time. It may be it gives you inspiration for the work you have in front of you or it might be somewhere you go to buck up your spirits when you're having a bad day. Perhaps it might not be the most stunningly attractive part of the golf course, but the chances are it will be.

That's why that special place will probably be what you chose to capture in the first BIGGA Golf Photography Competition. More and more greenkeepers are using cameras to record the work they do on their courses while, at the same time, commercially aware clubs are using photography to market themselves to the golfing public.

The BIGGA Golf Photography Competition will allow greenkeepers to display their artistic talents and earn some publicity for their club.



The winner will receive a full course profile in Greenkeeper International, a trophy and a special prize, while the 12 best will be selected for the 2007 BIGGA Calendar.

Photographs will be accepted in three forms. Prints (nine inch by seven inch), transparencies or digitally (pictures must be at least 300 psi and capable of being blown up to nine inches by seven inches in size).

Judging the entries will be a professional golf course photographer; Alan Birch, whose inspiration the golf course photographic competition has been, and Scott MacCallum, Greenkeeper International Editor.

Entries should be sent to BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF (Digital photographs should be sent on disc), by June 30, 2007.



Playing a pivotal role

The concept of applying products to the turf to encourage both soil bacteria and fungal populations has gained momentum in the turfgrass industry over the past number of years. Numerous products have been and continue to be developed to help turf professionals deal with day-to-day management challenges arising from their constant quest for perfect playing surfaces. One such group of products are biostimulants and microbial inoculants. However the actual benefits of these products are still not yet fully understood.



WHY USE MICROBIAL INOCULANTS AND BIOSTIMULANTS?

The environmental consequences of turfgrass management, in particular golf course maintenance, have captured much media attention. Unfortunately, most of it negative. Golf course greens are an extreme example of a stressed setting. On a green, the grass blade is severely reduced by regular mowing. Added to this is the removal of grass clippings, which eliminates the ability to recycle the valuable minerals they contain. Thus an understanding of the requirements of turfgrasses is among the most important factors in their successful culture.

We all know that correct nutrition is essential for the plant to carry out physiological processes and for maintaining high quality, disease-free turf. However to maintain high quality playing surfaces, particularly on golf greens, moderate to large amounts of fertilisers and chemicals are often required. The need for high nutrient quantities is often compounded by the use of inert sand-based rootzones especially on golf greens which in contrast to sand/soil greens have limited amounts of soil organic matter and require higher quantities of nutrient fertilisers. It is well known that, although sands provide favourable physical properties, they are prone to leaching of water-soluble nutrients.

Because ponds, lakes and rivers border golf course greens, fairways and tees, there is potential for fertiliser and chemical leaching and run-off, which would be a serious source of water pollution. One of the greatest potential threats is from eutrophication, which can cause excessive production of the suspended planktonic algae. Thus developing low risk fertiliser and fungicide programmes may reduce potential pollution.

THE SOIL ENVIRONMENT

Natural environments are extremely diverse and the majority contain a wide range of micro-organisms. An important soil function is the harbouring of a diverse community of organisms that includes bacteria, fungi, mites, springtails, protozoa, millipedes and many others. The most important of these being beneficial bacteria and fungi which are critical to plant health. The microbial community is essential to the decomposition of organic residues and the recycling of critical nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. Due to these activities, soil organisms help in supporting the growth of plants and absorbing, neutralizing and transforming compounds that might otherwise become pollutants in the environment.

Undisturbed soil rootzones normally have healthy populations of these micro-organisms. However in recent years it has been claimed sand-based rootzones, in particular newly-constructed ones, are relatively sterile in comparison to sand/soil rootzones. Thus, any possible benefits that micro-organisms may confer during the early establishment of turfgrass in a newly-constructed putting green are severely reduced.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF BIOSTIMULANTS

The term biostimulant usually refers to those products that are aimed at stimulating the biological content of the soil by providing food for microbes and in doing so increasing microbial populations. Sea kelp, humic acids, plant hormones, organic products, molasses, yeast extracts and vitamins are common components of biostimulants.

Kelp is probably the most widely known biostimulant in turfgrass management and contains numerous trace elements, alginic acid and plant hormones. One should remember that all kelp is not equally suitable for use as biostimulant material, with cold-water kelp containing higher levels of plant hormones than heat-processed kelp and is thus an excellent biostimulant component.

Humic acids, which are naturally occurring organic materials derived from biological sources, are also commonly found in biostimulant products. In recent times, biostimulants are often made up of a mixture of various different products, with seaweed extract/humic acid being one of the most popular.

Other possible benefits of biostimulants are based on their ability to influence plant hormonal activity. Hormones in plants are chemical messengers regulating plant development such as root and shoot growth, as well as responses to the environment. Therefore they influence overall plant growth and health.

Auxins, cytokinins and gibberellins are the principle growth-promoting hormones found in plants. When growing under normal conditions, plants have adequate endogenous levels of hormones for normal growth. However if the plant becomes stressed then the plants natural production of these hormones can be negatively affected.

Some biostimulants have added levels of inorganic and organic fertiliser to provide some direct plant growth. It is important to remember though that biostimulants, even those containing some added fertilisers, do not supply all the essential nutrients a plant requires. Some of the potential benefits from using biostimulants are given below:

- Possible reduced fertiliser requirements
- Increased microbial activity
- Enhanced plant hormone levels
- Improved drought and heat resistance
- Increased root and shoot growth
- Amplified tolerance to disease infection
- Promotion of antioxidant activity

Tim Butler investigates Microbial Inoculants and Biostimulants.

Plants typically grow well without biostimulants in favourable environmental conditions. However, one must remember that biostimulants help to condition the plant by enhancing the plant's defensive system. So when the plant becomes stressed, biostimulant-conditioned plants perform. In my opinion, it is vital that if one is to use a biostimulant programme, then it is essential to begin using it in the spring, before the summer heat and stress sets in. Biostimulants will not perform as well once the plant is stressed.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF MICROBIAL INOCULANTS

Microbial inoculants, which are often known as bio fertilisers, work differently to biostimulants in that they actually contain spores of beneficial fungi, bacteria or both. These spores are formulated into powder or water-dispersible products that can be applied to soil.

Bacteria occur in the greatest numbers in soils and are possibly the most diverse in their physiology. Bacteria within the genera *Azotobacter*, *Azospirillum*, *Enterobacter* and *Klebsiella* are efficient, free-living, nitrogen-fixing organisms, taking nitrogen and converting it to a form that plants can use. Bacteria from the genera *Pseudomonas* and *Azospirillum* are well known for their growth-promotive effects. These bacteria are commonly included in microbial inoculant blends.

The nitrogen in inorganic fertiliser sources is in a form already available to the plant. No microbes are required. However, for organic sources, we often forget that microbes are required to convert the nitrogen into a form that can be used by the plant such as ammonia. Synthetic organic nitrogen fertilizers include ureaformaldehydes, sulfur-coated urea, resin-coated urea and isobutylidenediurea.

In some cases, large populations of bacteria may give rise to what are known as suppressive soils. These are basically soils that have conditions ideally suited to disease development and have the disease pathogen present yet no disease occurs. This may be due to the activity of the bacteria, which inhibit turfgrass pathogens by competing for resources and producing antibiotic compounds.

Fungi are also a very important component of microbial inoculants. These fungi can be present as spores, hyphae (see Picture 1) or colonized roots. Mycorrhizal fungi are among the most popular fungi used in inoculants. Mycorrhiza refers to an association between the plant and fungi, where the fungi colonize the plant's root system during times of active plant growth. Several types of mycorrhiza fungi form mycorrhiza with grass plants, with arbuscular mycorrhizae also known as endomycorrhiza being the most common.



An arbuscule attached to a root



Soil hyphae establish contact with roots and penetrate the root's surface

Mycorrhizal fungi function by hyphae of the mycorrhizae penetrating between and inside the outer cells of the plant roots. Once inside the root, the fungus forms special coiled hyphae called arbuscules that provide increased nutrients to the grass in exchange for food for the fungus. This hyphal network within the soil is a vital component of the soil ecosystem. The mycorrhizal fungal system will in time form a dense network around the grass root system and provide the grass plants with plenty of food and water. This dense network ensures that the grass plant will be able to access a lot more nutrients than if it were depending solely on its own root system.

- Potential benefits of microbial inoculants include:
- Enhanced plant nutrient availability
- Lower fertiliser requirements
- Superior pathogen resistance
- Better stress resistance
- Improved soil porosity and thus increased water and air movement
- Augmented plant root length and number
- Reduction in thatch build-up

However, it is important to remember that mycorrhizal colonization can be greatly influenced by soil phosphorus levels and herbicide use. It has been shown that high phosphorus levels can severely reduce fungal colonisation, while large volumes of herbicides can desiccate fungal populations.

Looking to the future, I feel that biostimulants and in particular microbial inoculants will play a pivotal role in turfgrass nutrition and maintenance. I believe that these products will never or could ever replace the use of fertilisers and fungicides. However, they may allow us to be less dependent on traditional turfgrass practices by an integrated approach and ultimately contribute to a reduction in fertility and chemical inputs.

Tim Butler is carrying out research in the area of turfgrass nutrition for a doctorate degree at both University College Dublin, Ireland, and Michigan State University, USA.

Pictures courtesy of Professor Nair, Michigan State University, USA

Course Feature

Golf. The Future?

Scott MacCallum travels to north London to see a complex which might just kick start a new wave of young golfers and gives more playing opportunities for the more time-poor player.

If I'm struggling to sleep - tossing and turning about how to make Greenkeeper International a better read - I often play a round of golf in my head. I might start on the 1st of the Old Course, St Andrews and take in the best holes in the world of golf until I nod off usually about three under par with four to play.

Greg Evans, Course Manager at the new Northwick Park complex in Harrow, North London, doesn't need to close his eyes to imagine such an eclectic course - he's looking after some of the finest holes in golf every day of the week.

Northwick Park, in sight of the new Wembley Stadium, is a revolutionary new venture, designed to open golf up to a wider participating audience and provide a solution to those who feel the game takes up too much of their time.

The complex boasts a two tier driving range; restaurant cum coffee shop and bar; gym, baseball batting cages; enormous golf shop; a state-of-the-art short game practice area; five coaching studios; children's course; an adventure/crazy course and, of course, those famous holes.

The six hole course - there are actually eight, but two are rested on a weekly basis - offer golfers the rare chance to pit their wits against the challenges that face the biggest names in golf.

Let's just run through them. The 1st is the par-3 6th at the Riviera Country Club in the US, with its famous bunker in the centre of the green; the 2nd in a shortened version of the 16th at Ganton; the 3rd is the par-3 6th at Oak Hill, where Costantino Rocca made a hole-in-one during the '95 Ryder Cup match; the 4th is modelled on a traditional Gleneagles fairway with the 9th green at The Belfry; the 5th swaps between the 12th at Royal Birkdale and the 8th at Royal Troon - the world famous Postage Stamp, while the 6th flips between those two frightening par-3s on Augusta's back nine, the 12th and 16th.

Northwick Park is owned by Playgolf, which has traditionally been a driving range operator, and was the brainchild of Peter McEvoy and Ricky



Northwick Park greenkeeping team

Willison. Peter, the legendary British Amateur, is the last amateur to make the cut at The Masters and inspirational Walker Cup Captain while Ricky is a former Walker Cup player and European Tour player who is now pro at Ealing Golf Club, the club where, Greg, the new Course Manager is a member.

The initial spark for what has become known as Urban Golf came from Ricky who visited a golf complex while playing a tournament in South Africa.

"He paid a fee and spent most of the day practicing and thought it was a great idea," explained Greg, no mean golfer himself as a former winner of The Berkshire Trophy, the English Champion of Champions and member of the England "B" squad.

Ricky then discussed his ideas with Peter and they took the idea to



1st green and fairway - Riviera Country Club in the US



What the site looked like before work started on the 1st

Playgolf who had purchased the old rubbish tip on which Northwick Park now exists and which was earmarked for a more conventional range and short course.

Peter and Ricky's enthusiasm for the project, experience and skill sold the idea to Playgolf and they then set about designing the golf course on land that to the untrained, even trained, eye offered little by way of clue as to what might be possible.

"They walked the site and saw a mound and Peter suggested that it could be the mound to the left of The Postage Stamp and they moved on from there," explained Greg.

"Peter wanted an Augusta element to the course and also a Ganton hole, as that was where he had captained the Walker Cup team to victory. The rest fell into place based on the knowledge they had of holes around the world. They wanted the Riveira Country Club hole as the bunker in the middle of the green is such a distinctive feature."

St Andrews has not been forgotten as there is a tribute to the Road Hole green, complete with Road Hole bunker, on the short game area.

Prior to taking over, Greg was self employed to give himself enough opportunities to play amateur golf, when Ricky introduced him to Playgolf who offered him the chance of becoming Course Manager.

"I saw it as a challenge and a fresh new idea and I was keen to become involved."

He joined just after the course had been constructed by Midland's-based Delta Golf and seeded and he started putting a greenkeeping infrastructure into place.

"I was on my own for six months then employed Warren Clements, from Ealing GC, as my Deputy six months later, two more staff followed in the autumn of 2004 and then a further four last summer," said Greg, adding that four of his staff are Polish.



The 5th - Royal Troon and Royal Berkdale



Would you believe that this is now the 4th!

"The team is superb. They all work hard and learn quickly which has been important as some of them didn't know anything about golf when they started. It has only been since last November, and the grand opening, that we have had golfers on the course so they have had to learn rules and etiquette. This, in itself, has helped me become a more effective communicator and manager.

"It has been a great experience for me setting up the team and ensuring everything has been put in place with regard to machinery, maintenance facilities, policies etc."

The team is worked extremely hard as tees and greens are hand cut - there are eight greens on the course plus the equivalent of several more on the practice green and short game area, while there are 26 bunkers on the course plus another six in the practice area.

They also have to collect balls from the driving range - up to 40,000 while they are also responsible for the other outdoor areas including the baseball cages.

"We top dress and verticut on a weekly basis but it can be difficult on the fairways as the course sits on four inches of sand with rubbish underneath. You can be digging up iron bars and all sorts of things.

"Golf starts at 8am and will go on until dusk - play will be limited to 200 rounds a day at 15 minute intervals - so we have to have everything done before the start as you can't do the front nine first when there is only six holes and everyone is round in an hour."

The greens are all built to USGA specification, sown with creeping bent (G6) while the fairways are a mixture of rye grass and fescue. Each hole is presented in the style which befits the nature of the course it came from. The 1st has rye grass fairways and sports a diamond cut; 2nd is fescue and cut half and half and receives very little feeding with gorse to give it the inland links look; the 3rd and 4th are rye and diamond cut the two 5ths



The 4th - 9th green at the Belfry

Course Feature

receive no feeding and are cut half and half while the 6th Augusta holes are diamond cut with the greens striped while in the winter there are artificial azaleas and rhododendrons until the real McCoy develop and the seven pine trees were moved from the short game area and need daily watering. There are also three types of sand been used - PS White, Leighton Buzzard Medium and Silver White, brought in from Plymouth.

"The links bunkers have been revetted, it was taken on as an in-house project, but we are discovering that they are still settling. Other problems are being caused on the Riviera bunker with the green suffering from sand blast and people taking divots," said Greg, who added that the entire complex is contained within 33 acres.

"The creeping bent has been superb. It was germinating within five days of it being sewn and after two months we were cutting at six mil. It is very labour intensive - we poa pick the greens after every cut a job that takes about five minutes per green - but it produces superb putting surfaces."

The team is also working hard to improve the collars where initially seed had become mixed in. A two year programme involving the Graden, hollow coring and overseeding has been instigated.

Agronomist John O'Sullivan, from Ireland, has been retained to assist with any problems with the creeping bent as he has experience based on his time as Superintendent at Waterville and Druid's Glen.

"Other courses with creeping bent in this country include The Grove and The Wisley and they are top quality venues which regular golfers would struggle to get on. People can come here, pay and play and experience the greens," said Greg, who added that he played his greens a couple of weeks before and is convinced there would be none quicker in the country.

Indeed, Middlesex County Union are to base themselves at Northwick Park, a move assisted by Greg, a former Middlesex County Champion.

"We only previously had one practice facility in the county and I used to practice on the 13th green at Ealing, having to move when golfers arrived. I think our practice facilities are on a par with those at Woodhall Spa (the EGU's National Golf Centre)."



The 6th - the 9th and 12th at Augusta

The nature of the course is that temporary greens won't be possible and although Greg has closed the course for frost in the time the course has already been open he is sure there will be pressure on him to keep them open all year round in the future.

What struck me when I arrived at the Centre, and its leisure centre-style reception facing the two tiered glass backed driving range and flanked by the restaurant and coffee shop on one side and the golf shop on the other was the enthusiasm being shown by the young clientele.

It was half term and the place was full of young children from every ethnic background, dressed as young kids do, in tracksuits, baggy trousers or football tops, some wielding baseball bats and helmets and others carrying golf bags and clubs. The range was full and while the quality of the golf swings would have David Leadbetter waking up in a cold sweat they were all enjoying the game of golf as their parents or guardians enjoyed a latte or a glass of wine. It was as far removed from the conventional scene at a traditional golf club as it is possible to be and might just open the door to many more new golfers.

"Playgolf are hoping to open another in Glasgow and Cardiff has also been mentioned. It is urban golf and I think there is a big future in it," said Greg.

In the meantime he will enjoy his trip around the world every time he walks his special little course.



The 5th at Royal Troon's world famous Postage Stamp

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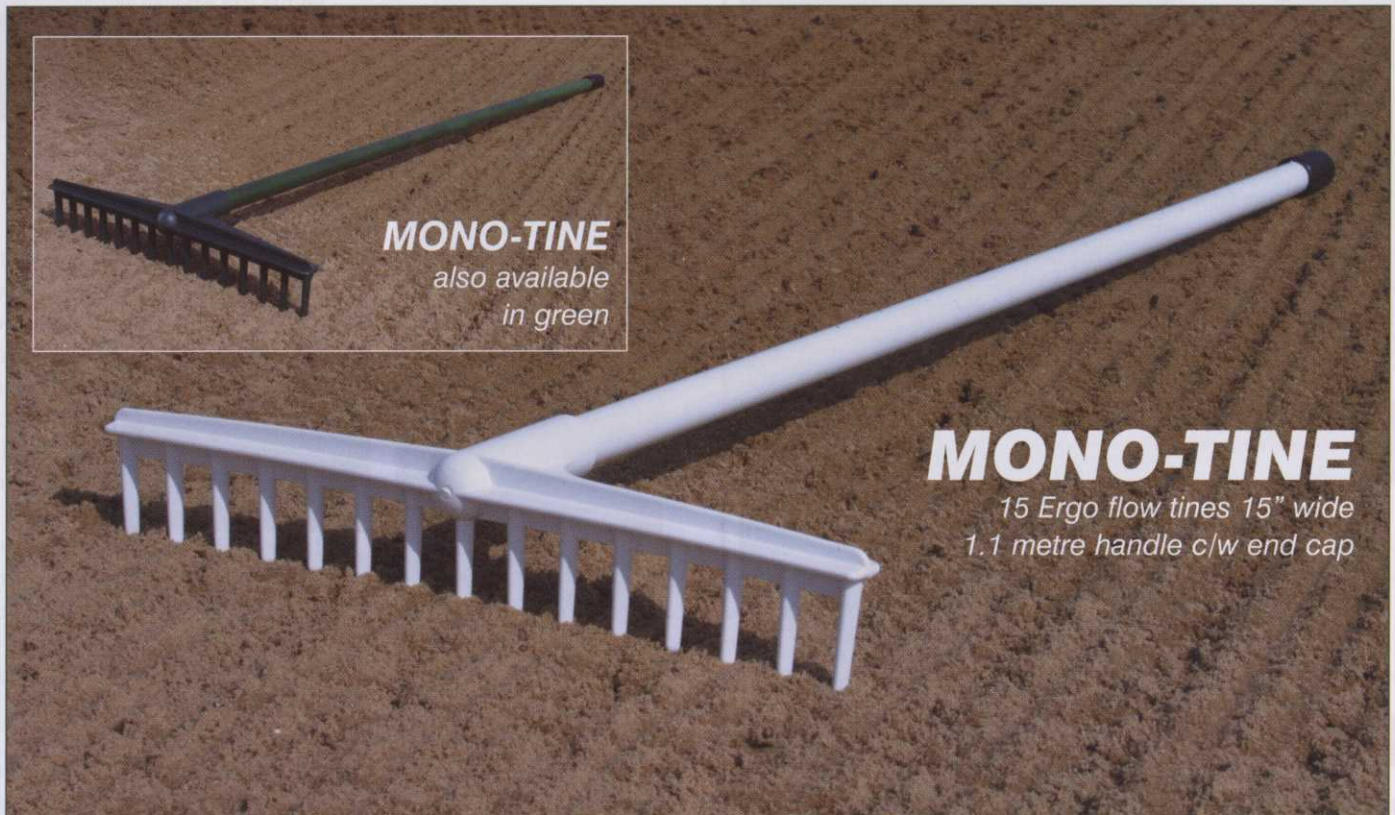


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Variety is the Spice of Life

While the use of fescue in Denmark has been making the headlines, Danish grass breeders have continued to develop other varieties which they feel have golf applications. Miranda Chambers reports on the work being carried out.

The main objective in the management of golf courses in Denmark is to achieve sustainability, where the management and use of golf courses relies on the conditions of nature. This means low input of fertilisers and irrigation with little or no use of pesticides. Sustainability has been defined by the R&A as: "Optimising the playing quality of the golf course in harmony with the conservation of its natural environment under economically sound and socially responsible management".



Comparison of three different red fescue types

In order to achieve "sustainability", grasses are managed according to which species are wanted on the green thus offering different options. These include a mixture of fine fescue or fine fescue and *agrostis capillaris*, or more recently *agrostis canina* (See recommended mixtures later). Fertiliser and mowing required would be 40-80kg N/ha/year and 4-6mm. Alternatively *agrostis stolonifera* as a straight would require 150 - 200kg N/ha/year and a mowing height of 3-4mm.

Fescue is the most sustainable grass used on Northern European golf courses and Denmark has featured heavily in its promotion. This style of management was recently debated during Harrogate Week 2006 where issues such as the relevance to this programme in the UK, the influence of existing and future legislation, budgetary constraints and environmental concerns were discussed. Chris Haspell, Course Manager, Horsholm GC in Denmark, spoke about the use of fescues in Denmark where 50% of clubs have introduced the grass.

In general the aim of management is to provide optimal growing conditions in order to avoid using products to repair damaged courses due to inferior practice. Restrictive irrigation and feeding is used to control the growth of *Poa annua*. Good quality, healthy greens are promoted as the main goal.

The aim of grasses on fairways should not be to be kept green all year round but to follow the natural variations over the year.

HOW ARE WE TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT?

A great deal of focus is being placed on the breeding of main species; *Festuca rubra*, *Lolium perenne*, *Poa pratensis*, *Agrostis capillaris* and *Agrostis canina* as seen at DLF Trifolium's breeding station in Denmark

"We are concentrating on the following areas for all species: high turf quality all year around, high tiller density, therefore more competitive varieties than *Poa annua*, high resistance to most common diseases, like red thread and fusarium, and good colour, not yellow especially under low

input nitrogen regimes and persistency," explained turf breeders, Niels Christian Nielsen and Niels Roulund.

"Grasses should be able to survive many years. Wear resistance is important, particularly for perennial ryegrass," they added.

CHARACTERISTICS OF TURF SPECIES:

Perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*): New generations of perennial ryegrass have very high tiller density with very fine leaves. They have started to be comparable to strong creeping red fescue but with much better wear resistance. They are easy to establish as well.

Strong creeping red fescue (*Festuca rubra rubra*): New, improved varieties have much higher tiller density and improved turf quality with finer leaves than older varieties. The stolons create a dense mat which can be instrumental in closing up damaged sod. The newest varieties have better resistance to red thread and winter fusarium.

Slender creeping red fescue (*Festuca rubra litoralis*): This species has a very high shoot density and excellent turf quality especially during summer months, where it has good growth even during dryer periods. High tiller density results in an increase in thatch production which has to be removed by verticutting to keep the turf in good growth and free from disease. Compared to chewings, slenders have a higher susceptibility to red thread and fusarium.

New slender creepers like Cezanne can tolerate mowing at a cutting height of 5-7 mm very well. Fescues on greens are generally much healthier than bent grasses and easier to maintain with less demand on verticutting and sanding.

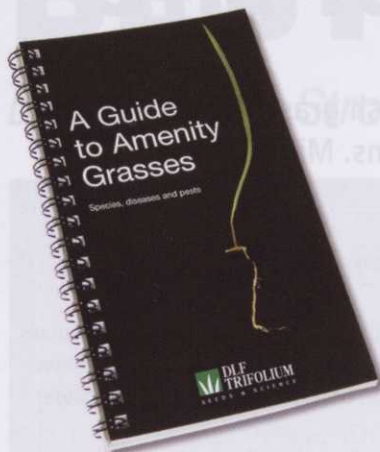
Chewings fescue (*Festuca rubra commutata*): This species has very good shoot density with the best turf quality during spring and autumn. Chewings fescue is less susceptible to disease than slender creepers and therefore more forgiving with a low management regime. The tolerance to low mowing is as good as slender creeping red fescue.

Chewings fescue is very well suited for mixtures with slender creeping red fescue for greens and fairways.

Smooth stalked meadow grass (*Poa pratensis*): Smooth stalked meadow grass is traditionally slow to establish but when established it produces a high quality turf. Wear tolerance is very good, making it suitable for use on fairways and tees. Smooth stalked meadow grass is able to spread underground with the aid of rhizomes and thus fill divots. It knits



Niels Roulund



Examining Microcover



"What strikes me is the weed free fairway and rough." Per Knudsen

together well so that whole plants are not easily removed in divots, therefore has good use on tees. Smooth stalked meadow grass tolerates mowing heights down to 13-40 mm very well. Some varieties are susceptible to *Dreosclera*. It is common to see yellow rust in late spring and autumn but the grass is not killed. Mildew may be seen during the same periods.

Browntop (*Agrostis capillaris tenuis*): Historically browntop has been the major component on greens due to its ability to tolerate low mowing. In Denmark it is normally used in an 85:15 mixture of red fescue and browntop.

SEED MIXTURES

Traditional mixture:

- 45% slender creeping red fescue
- 40% chewings fescue
- 15% browntop bent

Modern overseeding mixtures:

For overseeding purposes bent and fescue mixtures are best sown separately due to the dramatic difference in seed size.

Straight fescue mixtures are especially useful for early and late season renovation of greens tees and fairways because of the larger seed size. This mixture is best sown by direct drilling into the surface at a depth of 4-6mm.

J Fescue

- 25% Carioca chewings fescue
- 25% Musica chewings fescue
- 25% Barpearl slender creeping red fescue
- 25% Cezanne slender creeping red fescue

Straight bent mixtures can be used to renovate worn greens once soil temperatures have risen. They are best broadcasted onto the surface with a top dressing. This is true for traditional bent mixtures and the new cultivars of *Agrostis canina* like Villa which are best sown as a straight.

Greenmaster

- 75% Manor bent
- 25% Heriot bent

With proper management a very nice playing surface cut at around 5-6 mm, can be obtained. A level of management, including verticutting and topdressing is needed. Due to the milder winters *Fusarium* and other diseases occur from late October onwards until winter frosts commence. Input of nitrogen in Denmark is not as high as other countries.

Growth of fine fescue is kept at optimum level which prevents *Poa annua* appearing.

Creeping bents (*Agrostis stolonifera*): Some top level golf clubs are using creeping bents on their greens obtaining a lovely playing surface under a high management regime, which most clubs cannot afford. The turf quality is excellent but the Danish climate means that good greenkeeping is needed to address the weaknesses of creeping bent thatch buildup and the susceptibility to *Fusarium* in autumn and winter, which can be a very serious problem.

HOW DO WE SEE THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOLF COURSES CHANGING AND ARE WE ADAPTING OUR BREEDING TECHNIQUES ACCORDINGLY?

As the development of golf courses demand greater emphasis on sustainability, the use of species and breeding for abiotic stress tolerance (drought - cold), disease resistance and low input will become even more important. DLF Trifolium has already addressed the issue of low cutting management of fescues with cultivars like Cezanne slender creeping red & Musica chewings fescue, in order to use these species on greens instead of high input bent grasses especially creeping bent.

Development of microcover is an interesting concept and offers an alternative "green" nitrogen source which could be especially attractive on golf courses in semi rough areas.

"What strikes me is the weed free fairway and rough we have achieved after the microcover mixture has been established. We look forward to this continuing. A fresher, greener colour is visible with less input required. On the tees I have noticed the clover closes up the gaps quickly by the dense spread of stolons," said Per Knudsen, Greenkeeper, at Viborg GC.

By having turf trials in countries where conditions affect trials every year e.g. low temperature and snow cover in Poland and heat and drought in France, breeding can focus on testing for abiotic stress. The same applies for diseases where trials are performed in areas where these diseases are seen regularly e.g. crown rust in France, red thread in Denmark and the UK, *Fusarium* in Poland and Denmark, brown patch and gray leaf spot in Maryland, Kentucky USA.

"Our programme has a major advantage compared to our competitors as we have a multi location testing facility and therefore tests for abiotic and biotic stress are more accurate," explains Niels Roulund.

"Since it is very difficult or impossible for one variety to be resistant to all possible diseases we hope, with the resources of genetic engineering, to obtain a general disease resistant strain which would save the environment a lot of fungicides - and ultimately gain permission to use this in the market place. In areas where insects are a problem we are working hard to identify specially effective strains of endophytes which are living in symbiosis with *Lolium* and *Festuca*."

'Miranda Chambers is UK Marketing Manager for DLF Trifolium Ltd. She can be contacted on 01386 793135. www.dlf.com / www.dlf.co.uk

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Protecting Our Sports

Richard Minton examines the need for good stewardship when it comes to chemical usage.

While chemicals remain a vital management tool in preparing sports surfaces, campaigners would like to see their total demise. Therefore, as an industry we must ensure that good product stewardship provides little, or no concern to fuel their argument.

Green campaigners could have a major impact on the preparation and protection of golf courses and sports fields throughout the UK, if they ever succeed in their aim to dramatically reduce, if not introduce a total ban of pesticide use. The National Association of Agricultural Contractors (NAAC), who are the trade association for all contractors, including the Amenity Sector, have been campaigning on behalf of the industry to ensure that a balanced argument into the benefits of pesticides are put before the government departments responsible for decision making with regard to future use.



While it is clearly understood that pesticide use should be a last resort, and that introduction of best cultural practices should minimise their use, they do have a role to play. The devastating effect of disease and weeds on playing surfaces would soon impact on the quality expected by those participating in sport today. Weeds especially, are very difficult to control, with no viable option to pesticide use - hand weeding would involve huge labour resources and costs.

For this reason, good product stewardship is essential, ensuring minimal environmental impact and giving the green campaigners negligible ammunition to support pesticide withdrawal. In agriculture, pesticide use is strictly governed by advisors & agronomists, and assurance schemes are in place governing application. In the amenity sector this is not always the case.

Even though the regulations are in place, pesticide application is poorly policed, often leading to misuse and possibly water contamination - the very ammunition looked for, to persuade the regulatory powers to introduce restrictions. Taking advice from BASIS qualified advisors, ensuring application is undertaken by fully qualified personnel, using the correct application equipment and with all the necessary legal and H&S documentation in place are the minimum requirements that anyone considering pesticide use should accept.

The NAAC can advise on contractors who fulfil the minimum requirements and they are also able to advise on the many schemes in place to ensure that, even if undertaking application in house, all legal and H&S requirements are met.

PLANNED WEED CONTROL

Amenity weed control is a high profile, very public operation, which is often carried out in sensitive areas such as in schools, on pavements, parks, urban green spaces, golf courses and sports pitches. It must

therefore be carried out to high professional standards, by qualified operators, protecting both the public and environment.

The client demands tidy, weed free public spaces, often within tightly controlled budgets. This can only be achieved if the contractor and the client work together to put in place a realistic and achievable weed control programme, to ensure that amenity contractors are able to provide a professional, efficient, safe and effective service.

Weed control programmes must be realistic and practical, with contractors being given greater notice if they are successful in an application, to allow proper planning and management. The contract term should also allow for the necessary investment in machinery and trained labour in order to bring together a planned, achievable weed control program, using only approved products.

Checks should be carried out by clients to ensure that operatives are meeting contract requirements, and likewise, contractors should carry out internal company audits, to ensure that employees are complying with company policy.

Within this framework, contractors must be kept properly informed and be given the flexibility within agreements to perform their operation responsibly, safely and in a timely way, for the most effective and environmentally responsible control of the weeds. This will provide both environmental and economic results to benefit clients, contractors, the community and the environment.

UNDERSTANDING PESTICIDES

A clear understanding of pesticides and their use will hopefully ensure that those using them will make the correct decisions, with regard to all aspects of application. 'Chemical' methods are defined as the use of pesticides to control weeds in amenity areas. 'Chemicals' may include natural and synthetic products.

A pesticide is defined (Food and Environment Protection Act (FEPA)) as any substance, preparation or organism prepared or used, among other uses, to protect plants or wood or other plant products from harmful organisms; to regulate the growth of plants; to give protection against harmful creatures; or to render such creatures harmless.

The term 'pesticide' therefore, has a very broad definition, which embraces herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, rodenticides, soil-sterilants, wood preservatives and surface biocides among others. Chemicals are applied via a knapsack, boom sprayer or via specifically designed application equipment.

'Chemical' methods suffer from an 'image' problem, in that the use of 'chemicals' tends to be viewed with some caution. However, the pesticides used in amenity areas are rigorously tested, to get Government approval for use, and, if used correctly by properly trained operators, this method should not present a high risk.

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Pesticides should only be used when necessary, and, if the benefits from using them outweigh any risks to the public and environment. When deciding whether to use a pesticide, a number of considerations are needed including: alternative means of control; possible harmful effects of the pesticide; the nature of the pest; the likely amount and cost of damage; previous experience of dealing with the problem; and the likely effectiveness of the pesticide.

If it is decided that a pesticide is the most appropriate method of weed control, then risk and COSHH assessments are required to ensure that the safety of the operator, public and environment are properly protected in all circumstances.

The major advantage of using chemical methods of weed removal is that, often, a much larger area can be effectively treated per day than with mechanical methods. Advances in application technology ensure accurate targeting of the problem weed or disease, and reductions in the amount of chemical used. In addition, chemical methods may offer longer lasting control of regeneration of weeds at least cost.

TOXICITY COMPARISONS

Comparing glyphosate, the most widely used herbicide, with a few everyday products. LD50 is the accepted scientific measure of acute toxicity to mammals, e.g. rat's dog's mice and humans. Acute LD50 is the one hit dose needed to kill half the members of a normal population. The figures given are for milligrams of the given active ingredient per kilogram of body weight of adult rats. It is accepted that this can be extrapolated up to the size of a human.

It is worth noting that it is the dose of anything that makes it a poison or toxic, not its inherent characteristics. Current regulations (COPR 1986), allow substances to be classed according to their potential hazard or toxicity using the LD50 measure.

- 0-5 mg/kg - extremely toxic
- 5-50 mg/kg - very toxic
- 50-500 - toxic
- 500+ - low toxicity
- 5000+ - not classified as toxic.

Product	Active ingredient	LD50* (mg/kg body weight)
Roundup	Glyphosate	6000+
Coffee	Caffeine	192
Anadin	Paracetamol	273
Aspirin	Aspirin	1000
Vitamin A	Vitamin A	2000
Shampoo	Selenium sulphide	138
	Zinc pyrithione	221
Pepper	Piperine oil	800
Vinegar	Ethanoic acid	3310
Salt	Sodium chloride	3000
Tobacco	Nicotine	53

- Coffee is approximately 30 times more toxic
- Paracetamol is approximately 22 times more toxic
- Vitamin A is approximately 3 times more toxic
- A certain shampoo is approximately 43 times more toxic
- Pepper is approximately 7.5 times more toxic
- Salt is approximately 2 times more toxic
- Nicotine is approximately 113 times more toxic



RISK FROM PESTICIDES USE

Operators handling and applying pesticides must comply with a wealth of legislation and be suitably trained. In addition, appropriate health and safety controls must be put in place. While historically, the amenity sector has had a voluntary industry Code of Practice for the Use of Pesticides in Amenity and Industrial Areas, (the 'Orange Code'), this is currently being integrated into the agricultural 'Green Code' by the Pesticides Safety Directorate and Health and Safety Executive, to form a mandatory revised Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Plant Protection Products. This is due to be published in early 2006. Whilst rigorous, such controls are an essential element of pesticides stewardship.

The mismanagement of weed control chemicals can lead to public safety concerns. It is therefore very important that all the necessary precautions are put in place, including meeting legal requirements, voluntary codes and label requirements, ensuring that the public and domestic pets are kept away from sprayed areas where necessary.

Water pollution can also be a serious issue if pesticides are not applied correctly. This can arise because many amenity chemicals are applied on hard-surfaces with 'run-off', and near drains.

The EC Drinking Water Directive sets a maximum level of 0.1 μ g/l for any individual pesticide and 0.5 μ g/l for the total level of pesticides in drinking water, irrespective of toxicity. The Environment Agency routinely monitors pesticide concentrations in surface waters and is able to monitor exceedances

CONCLUSION

Weed control and related services are vital to the management of golf courses, sports pitches, pavements and parks etc. which need to be undertaken following all of the very strict legal and H&S guidelines applicable today. Planned weed control programmes using approved products, applied by fully trained and certificated operators, will ensure good product stewardship, giving little or no concerns to those wishing to see the demise of all chemicals.

As has been illustrated, the majority of chemicals used in amenity today are far less toxic than many items in every day use and found in our kitchens or bathrooms and, if used correctly, present no danger to the public or the environment.

Richard Minton is Managing Director of Complete Weed Control and can be contacted 0800 7832884.

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Modern fairway management has certainly benefited from the introduction of 'lighter' mowers with narrower units. This has not made the actual job any easier, a wet mild spring and fast growth sometimes stretching mowing capacities to the limit. The key is having the capacity to cope

Making Light Work

Making Light Work

James de Havilland hops on the current crop of light ride on mowers.

When trailed gang sets first started to be replaced by ride-on fairway mowers, the choice of models on offer was initially limited. Indeed, some of the earliest ride-on models had much in common with the five-gang commercial cylinder models upon which they were based. Fairway mowers have now changed considerably, but the trick still remains in matching the right mower to the job.



With five 21 inch units, the 2 and 4WD Toro Reelamster 5200-D and 5400-D can be specified with 5 or 8 bladed 5 inch cylinders. In damp conditions, all-wheel drive can be of benefit, even of a relatively flat fairway



John Deere 3225C and 3235C models feature 22 inch cutting units, this now universally popular format being the size Deere has stuck to from day one. Cab option is increasingly popular, offering protection from the elements and stray balls

If the mowing equipment clock suddenly turned back to the mid-80s, many courses would be in trouble if modern kit had to be replaced with the best that was offered back in 1985. Staffing levels would probably need to be doubled and members would notice a dramatic change in the look and play of greens and fairways. Lost balls would triple overnight.

A bit of an exaggeration? As it is not possible to go back and both manage and play a course as it would have been a couple of decades in the past, it is difficult to say. But anyone who has an intimate knowledge of a given golf course will no doubt agree that greens now tend to be far more consistent and faster, roughs are ringed with more forgiving aprons and year round play and winter mowing is far from unusual. The whole look and feel of a course now would be very different than it could have been back then.

A key change, however, would be in the fairways. Although mowing heights have not necessarily altered, the quality and frequency of cut certainly has.



Alternate day mowing is now common in high season, and the 'ultra' light fairway mower, with diminutive 5 inch cylinders and 18 inch cutting units, is available, albeit with a relatively limited market.

Early ride-on fairway mowers would typically offer five sets of 30 inch units with 7, 7.5 or even 8 inch cylinders. By the time John Deere entered the golf market with its light fairway models in around 1993 with its 22 inch units, it offered a choice that could include 5 inch cylinders. Fast forward, and Jacobsen has been brining in its 18 inch ultra light 1880 models for a couple of years.

This has lead to a pretty diverse range of ride-on fairway mowers. At the standard end, it is possible to have a model like the Jacobsen Fairway 405 with its seven 26 inch units and the Toro Reelmaster 6700D, also with seven gangs but 22 inch cylinders. At the other extreme the 18 inch five gang Jacobsen Super Light LF-1880 is offered with diminutive 5 inch cylinders.

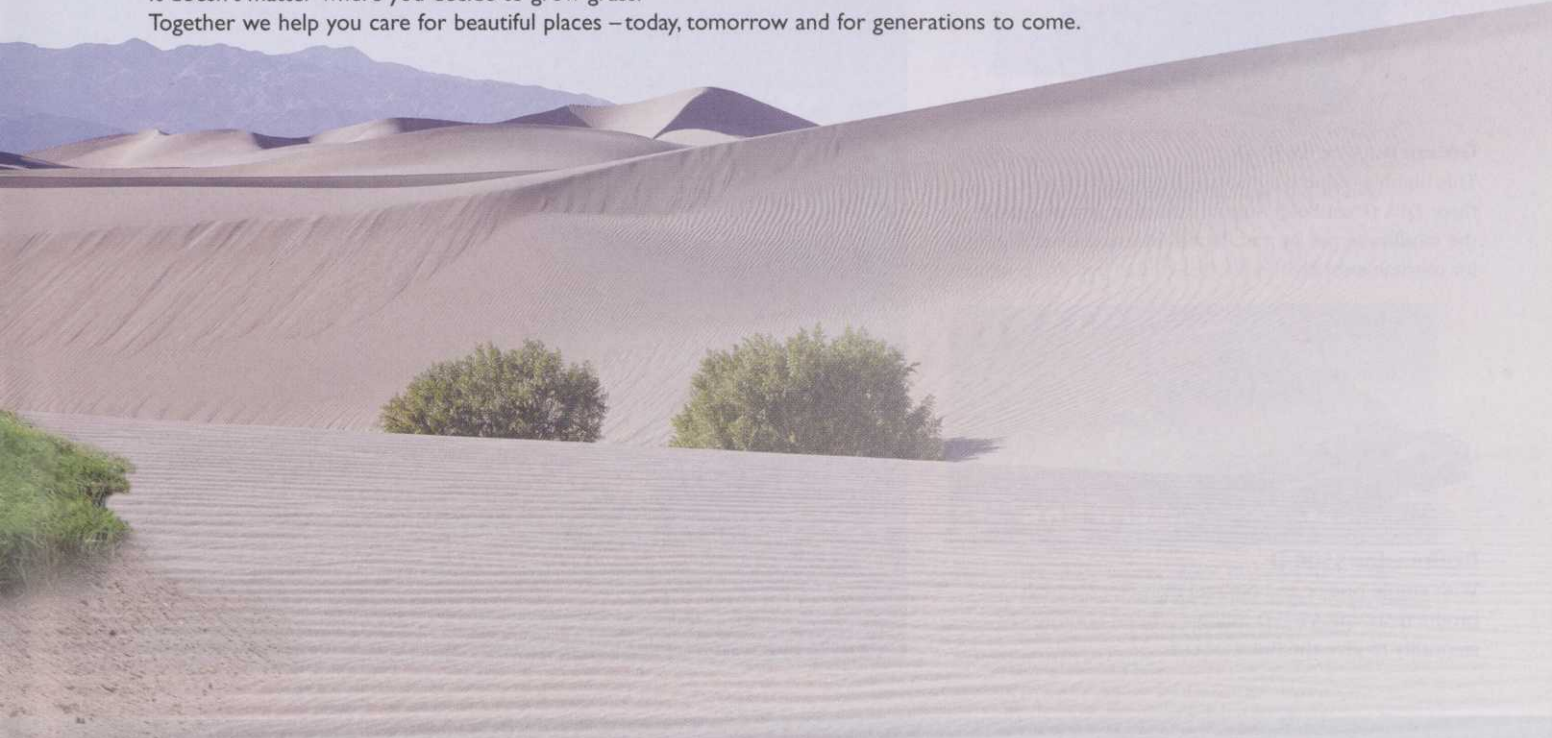
As such, it is useful to divide what is on offer into standard, light and ultra light categories. The description of course relates to the cutting units, but it is fair to say lighter units are associated with a physically lighter mower as well. Sit the extremes of what is on offer next to each other and it is soon apparent that the bigger the units, and particularly when seven as opposed to five gangs are fitted, the larger the power unit becomes.



No, Hayter has not entered the light fairway mower market with its 26 inch unit FM524, but it is a relatively light machine in terms of ground bearing pressure, the company putting this at between 10 to 24 psi depending upon specification and tyre pressures

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Making Light Work



All obvious stuff. But it is when visiting a course that has made a progressive switch from a 'standard' ride-on to increasingly lighter models that the differences in the look of the fairways can be noticed. So too can fairway management. Light mowers are less able to tackle long wet grass and the odd stone or patch of soil that were easily digested by heavier models can spell a trip to the workshop on an ultra light model.

Stepping into the dangerous waters of generalisation, links type courses with fine grasses are more likely to adopt smaller 5 inch diameter reels, parkland courses perhaps erring toward a larger 7 or 7.5 inch cylinder. Again in generalisation territory, the smaller diameter units will be maintaining a cut height of 12 to 13mm, the larger 15 to 16mm.

As is often the case, however, local conditions and available water have a tremendous influence on how a given course mows its fairways. There are also different mowing heights that can be dialled in depending upon annual rainfall. Winter mowing heights are also a consideration. In many cases a cosmetic winter mow will see mowing heights increased to 18mm plus. None of these are cast in stone and as such it will always pay to know how mowers differ and how what is the right choice now could well change in the future.

Popular for its versatility, the five-gang Toro 5500-D is fitted with 22 inch units with 7 inch cylinders. Available with a choice of 5, 7 and 11 blades, it is this type of mower that can be specified to cope with different mowing conditions



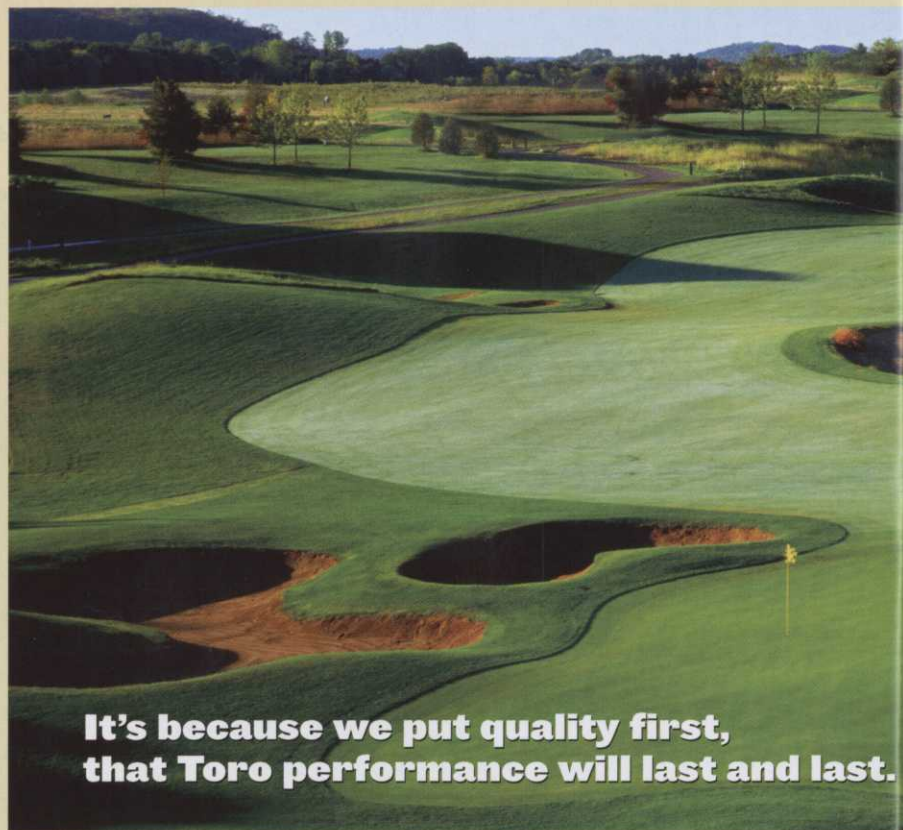
Greensmaster 3250-D

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Perversely, some suggest it is winter mowing that has influenced the uptake of light fairway models. With grass growing on through the season, being able to get onto the fairways to cut it with a physically light machine is a key issue. Compaction remains a concern, the footprint of light fairway mower often enabling grass to be cut in conditions when a larger ride-on is best left in the shed.



Jacobsen LF3400 and LF3800 models look pretty much the same, but offer a choice of 34 or 38hp power units to drive the five 22 inch units. The more powerful model is offered with 7 inch cylinders, against the 5 inch units on the 3400



The diminutive Jacobsen LF1880, now offered in Turbo 33hp form, is claimed to be the lightest fairway mower on offer. Its narrow 18 inch cutting units even have the option of 'greens' specification 11-blade cylinders



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Efficient Practices

Phillip Armitage discusses Bentgrass Water use rates and efficient water management practices.

Prehistoric man seems to have appreciated water's importance. He realised that rainfall was often inadequate for his crops because irrigation was being practiced at the beginning of recorded history. The Egyptians and Babylonians built dams to store water in 5000BC; the Persians (Iran) built extensive tunnels to bring the water down from the hills, many of which are still in use today. The Spanish invaders of America found elaborate irrigation projects in Peru and Mexico, while the Indians of south western Arizona had extensive canal systems (Masse, 1981).

Throughout time we have understood and appreciated the importance of plant and water relationships. In recent years we have become more aware that a good quality water source is an increasingly restricted commodity. It is now absolutely essential that golf course managers encourage techniques that reduce water wastage and encourage more efficient watering practices whenever possible. Professors all around the world are currently involved in research aimed towards identifying and understanding plants' individual traits at a molecular level. This information helps us all to understand more about the abilities of individual cultivars and their capability to respond to high levels of drought, wear and shade.



Fan operating behind the bentgrass swards

BENTGRASS TRIAL

An experiment aimed to identify the exact level of water required by different types of bentgrass subjected to a variety of environmental conditions was carried out (Armitage, 2001). Mature bentgrass swards were used in this experiment and were grown in Bingley, West Yorkshire, at the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) and then transported to Preston to start the experiment.

These swards were constructed in 1998 on a USGA profile and subjected to a close mowing trial there on, until March 2001. The bentgrass swards were cut at 5mm during the summer months and 7mm during the winter months. The bentgrass swards were broken down into the following varieties:

- Bentgrass varieties (Species, Common name, Commercial name);
- A - *Agrostis tenuis*, Browntop bentgrass (cv. BAR AT 894)
 - B - *Agrostis stolonifera*, Creeping bentgrass (cv. Penn A-1)
 - C - *Agrostis canina*, Velvet bentgrass (cv. Avalon)
 - D - *Agrostis castellana*, Highland bentgrass (cv. Highland)

The bentgrass swards were transplanted from outdoors into plastic plant pots (130mm in diameter). The plant pots had been prepared earlier by tagging and placing circular pieces of matting into the bases with stapled strands of matting on the underside which would then loosely hang through the plant pots and then through holes in the water pots lids.

The water pots located directly under each of the bentgrass sward pots, contained a set level of water of 400ml. These water pots were refilled daily and a record of the water used up in mm was measured. This method was chosen as it enabled plants to uptake water in response to stress at its own rate. Another reason was that by applying water to the plant through the roots the potential for water wastage was significantly decreased from potential problems such as uneven distribution, wind drift and evaporation.

16 bentgrass swards - four of each cultivar of bentgrass - were kept in this condition in the greenhouse, which was still for one month. Two further sets of 16 bentgrass swards were also kept in the greenhouse house.

One set was placed in front of a fan at low speed. The second set was placed in front of a fan at a higher speed. This was done to replicate wind conditions.

RESULTS

Table to summarize the results of the average daily water use rates (WUR) of each bentgrass variety in each microclimate

	WUR	(mm)	
	No wind	Low wind	High wind
Browntop	3.00	4.25	5.00
Creeping	3.25	4.00	4.50
Velvet	3.75	5.00	4.75
Highland	4.00	4.00	5.00

Table 1. Results of the water use rates (WUR) for the bentgrass experiment (mm)

The bentgrass results were reasonably accurate, although some bentgrass plots died off due to an inability to cope with sudden changes to watering through the root systems. However, the majority of the plots were able to withstand the stresses exerted upon them.

This experiment shows that the daily uptake of water from the bentgrass was around 3-5mm depending on the cultivar, and environmental stress. This information should be treated with great interest when selecting a grass cultivar for a particular environment! Precise water use rates that demonstrate the performance of any grass under different environmental stresses, in particular - heat and wind, offer the potential to make a better judgement of water requirements, resulting in improved water efficiency and better performance by the turfgrass.

Please remember that these figures do not take into account several



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Overhead irrigation system operating on a golf green

other influential factors that are typically associated on a golf course such as height of cut, close mowing, verti-cutting and high wear; mainly because these issues are sometimes difficult to replicate on an experimental basis. However, it is possible to see that as each stress is added into the equation the likelihood of increasing the turgor pressure on the plant becomes higher.

EFFICIENT WATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

These water use rates can be used to help coordinate an efficient watering programme. The basic level of watering needed by the plant therefore ought to be around the 3-5mm of water per day. Irrigation systems that are directly connected to weather stations that aim to monitor wind, rainfall, and humidity and soil temperatures will also help us to understand plants requirements and the correct amount of water required.

It is recommended that water is applied to a surface in a uniform distribution pattern. Ideally, irrigation systems should be designed with appropriate spacing in order to suit the requirements of the grass on each surface, i.e. approximately 21 - 35mm per week.

The irrigation should be delivered through mains pipe work to each sprinkler at an even rate of flow and pressure. Energy efficient pump units, pipe work with no leaks and pressure sensors connected to solenoid valves are encouraged to help apply exact levels of water evenly. Additional sensors ought to be used to ensure that sprinklers are operated during the correct weather conditions. Watering during windy periods with rainfall is highly wasteful and should be avoided at all cost.

It is also recommended that water is applied in large quantities, such as 8mm in one application, ideally directly after aeration in order to reach down into the soil profile. Three days after this application of water the next review for watering should take place. The two days between should apply water using the following techniques;

SYRINGING

Supplemental irrigation (syringing) is another irrigation technique that is crucial to enhancing summer turf survival on golf greens. Mid-day wilt, even with seemingly abundant soil moisture, is common with creeping bentgrass and annual meadow grass, especially with close mowing. Head Greenkeepers are forced to keep greens at low cutting heights, even during summer stress and heavy traffic.

This results in a shallow root system that cannot effectively use water, even if soil moisture is adequate deeper in the rootzone. Syringing applies water to correct plant deficits, reduces plant tissue temperature and removes substances from the leaves. Syringing calls for 2.5mm or less of water, primarily to the turfgrass leaves.

HAND WATERING

Hand watering is similar to syringing, this involves applying more water. Hand watering treatments apply enough water to penetrate into the crown and soil surface interface. This allows the water direct contact with the bentgrass' shallow root system. As the name implies, hand watering is often labour intensive. It should be restricted to those greens or green areas where moisture stress symptoms have been visually noted.

Water management practices that encourage root depths to be extended can significantly help nutrient uptake and the plants ability to withstand other stress factors in the long term. Several grasses on existing greens shall suffer to cope with such an aggressive watering regime in the short term, and these practices should be slowly worked towards over a period of time. These watering techniques require daily inspections of the greens throughout the mid morning/afternoon for any signs of drying out.

It will also be necessary to hand water individual areas with a light syringe. These individual areas or micro-climates are often termed 'hot spots' by Interns working in the US and shall occur mainly on heavily worn areas, around the flag stick, or on high undulations. By carrying out this style of watering on greens, it is possible to apply water in a more specific amount for each individual plant.

SUMMARY

In summary, the main principles encouraged to help golf course managers are:

- Monitor and record current and future water usage, applications and weather patterns.
- Check irrigation systems performance regularly.
- Apply a base level of water to the greens on a controlled basis using the automatic irrigation system.
- Top up greens water requirements through daily inspections of the greens and light syringing where necessary.
- Water immediately after aeration in order to encourage deep rooting.
- Aim to apply water appropriate to the environmental conditions.

It is clear that more knowledge of individual micro climates around the golf course are needed in order to help grasses survive under heat stress and meet the demands of optimal water efficiency. It is also clear that while improvements have clearly taken place over time, a great deal of further research in this area is certainly encouraged to be carried out.

REFERENCES

Armitage, P.D. The effect of wind and heat on water use rates for bentgrass. Unpublished.

For further information on irrigation issues or agronomic support, contact Phillip Armitage at the STRI on philip.armitage@stri.co.uk.



NEW PRODUCTS

GREEN MASTER

Scotts' has unveiled an improved range of Greenmaster Liquid fertilisers. The improved products are based on more than just NPK and trace elements. Every product in the Greenmaster Liquid range now includes TMax, a powerful nutrient uptake activator which improves the rate of nutrient intake by the grass plant and ensures the turf has a consistent colour with no rapid tail off.

TMax ensures that the liquid application spreads out and sticks onto the leaf to maximise the leaf area for nutrient uptake and reduce leaf run off. In addition, TMax enables nutrient to move through the soil profile to the root area. Here it makes available previously locked up nutrients resulting in better nutrient balance in the soil and improved turf quality.

The new range includes four core products High N, NK, High K and Spring and Summer. There are also three speciality products STEP liquid (a trace element mix), Iron 4 (Fe 4% ESDA chelated) and Ca Booster (08 00 00 + 10% CaO + TE).

For further information Tel: 01473 830386;
Web: www.scottsprofessional.co.uk.

REEDFELT

Lindum Turf has joined forces with British Flora, a UK aquatic and wild flower nursery, to produce the company's latest innovation, Reedfelt.

A combination of Lindum's Grassfelt technology, using a biodegradable felt made from recycled British textiles, and British Flora's high quality reeds, Reedfelt provides a lighter and more sustainable alternative to traditional coir blankets.

Aimed mainly at landscapers, local authorities and environmental agencies, Reedfelt can be used for the stabilisation of waterways and wild margins as well as water filtration treatment. British Flora, whose core business is bioengineering, specialise in the production of native reed species, collecting seed and plant material from all over the country. The two companies believe the product will also find favour at golf clubs for use in lakes and water runs, amongst other things.

For further information Tel: 01904 448675; Web: www.turf.co.uk.



CAST OVER THE WORM

The Wormcast Company has unveiled a new range of products for turf care at Harrogate Week. The company's wormcast products: Wormcast Organic fertiliser and probiotic soil conditioner and new development especially for turf care, liquid Wormcast Wormcast 'T'.

Kent based, The Wormcast Company successfully launched Wormcast last year for the gardening market and is now keen to make this product available to the sports, landscaping and turf industries. It is an organic fertiliser and probiotic soil conditioner made from casts produced by millions of earthworms and contains beneficial micro organisms in abundance.

Wormcast aims to appeal to those looking for a versatile organic product which improves soil quality, encourages healthy growth, deters pests and diseases and has many other benefits such as improving germination and turf quality.

For further information Tel: 0845 605 5000.

TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

A new flail head has been introduced for the Fern range of hedge cutters distributed in the UK by Rustons Engineering to give a particularly high quality cut on hedges and grass verges. It can be top mounted or rear mounted and has a 115cm width of cut.

The flails on the new TJ120 head are arranged in a spiral on the heavy duty rotor, which gives more overlap than is possible with a conventional linear arrangement, so a finer finish is achieved. The rotor is balanced electronically, with the counterweights bolted on the end shields where they cannot be damaged or knocked off.

The hood is a double skin structure with replaceable side skids and rubber protection at the front. The clearance between flail and casing gradually increases, which produces a turbine effect, so the cut material is discharged particularly effectively, giving higher work rates. The adjustable rear roller not only controls cuffing height but can also be moved out of work for hedge cutting.

For further information Tel: 01480 455151.



MAPPING FAST

Korec, a UK Mobile GIS and Mapping GPS solutions company, is launching its new FastMAP Greenkeeper Golf Course GIS and Management system.

FastMAP Greenkeeper has been developed following extensive research into the maintenance and operation of all types of Golf Course, and is designed to provide greenkeepers with the ability to survey any changes to the course template and keep an up to date and accurate digital course map.

This can be used to calculate precise area and distance measurements which are available at the finger tips; to keep an historical record of all course features including Drainage and Irrigation layouts; to redesign and survey new Hole Templates; to accurately locate buried or hidden features; to printout risk assessment maps for greenkeepers and contractors and much more.

For further information Tel: 0151 9313161.



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Aitkens have developed the new Blade range of grass seeds in conjunction with the world's largest grass seed breeding and production company.

The company has carefully blended the Blade mixes with fine mixtures which have some excellent characteristics. These include shoot density for true surface, freedom from disease, cleanness of cut, good summer or winter colour. The medium and heavy duty mixtures strengths include excellent live ground cover, wear tolerance, recovery, visual merit and density. There are nine Blade ranges, including Bent, Fescue, Creeping Bents and Dwarf Rye.

For further information Tel: 01977 681155.



NEW MODELS

Available now are a new generation of hedge trimmers from Stihl. The new models, Stihl HS 81 and US 86, not only deliver superb trimming and cutting performance, they equally cut vibration levels. With fuel consumption reduced by 20% and a fuel tank enlarged by 25%, the new model hedge trimmers cut running costs too.

The Stihl HS 81 has double sided blades and the HS 86 has single sided blades for the broad sweeping motion some users prefer. Each model is available with a choice of blade lengths and both are offered in either hedge trimming or cutting configuration making a total eight variations available in the range.

For further information Tel: 01276 20202; Web: www.stihl.co.uk.



SPRAY PRO

Launched by Techneat Engineering at Harrogate Week, the Acuspray Pro provides a precise, highly reliable and safe technique for the application of liquid fertiliser, herbicides and fungicides to sports pitches, lawns, pathways and other areas.

Featuring an entirely new positive displacement diaphragm pump, designed and manufactured by Techneat, the walk-behind design Acuspray Pro will consistently deliver spray at 400 l/ha to ensure even coverage of grass and good spray penetration for effective results. Direct-drive metering starts spraying as the machine moves forward, and cuts off instantly when the operator stops; achieving highly accurate and precise application. An on-off trigger control is fitted to facilitate moving between spraying areas.

For further information Tel: 01353 862044.



REDESIGN FOR DAKOTA

Dakota has introduced its totally redesigned Turf Tender product line for the 2006 model year. Designed with the operator in mind, the new Turf Tenders have fewer parts and are easier to use, adjust and maintain. The new features also give operators greater material handling control from the seat, providing safe, fast and easy adjustments during the job.

New to the 410, 412 and 414 Turf Tenders is an electric control box with digital readouts to give operators precise control over spreader settings. The 410 control box also features a Honda key start and throttle up switch for engine models. A new rear conveyor converts the 410 topdresser to a material handler and fits every mounted and pull type 410 model, regardless of year.

For further information Tel: 01260 224568;

Web: www.campeyturfcare.com.



BUFFALO HOG

JK Inc, providers of niche turf technology products, unveiled the latest addition to the Buffalo Range at Harrogate Week 2006, Europe's largest indoor turf management exhibition. The Buffalo Hog is a versatile utility bike, with fuel economy of up to 120 mpg.

The Hog is primarily for leisure and golf course use, but can be used on the road for short journeys of around 1.5km for agricultural or similar purposes. Its 11 inch wide tyres, combined with its low weight, means the Buffalo Hog has an extremely low ground pressure making it ideal for sensitive soil or turf applications.

Available in diesel or petrol, the Buffalo Hog is set to change the face of Golf Course maintenance, providing a solution to a range of towing and transport issues.

For further information Tel: 01763 208142.

A REEL TRAILER

Rain Bird, the irrigation equipment manufacturer, has launched its new line of Hose Reels including a Hose Reel Trailer. The Trailer's ergonomic design and rugged construction makes hose handling easier, quicker and more efficient. It attaches easily to most off-road golf work vehicles or carts with a clevis pin hitch.

The Trailer is made from 40" x 40" heavy gauge steel bed, and is predrilled for the Rain Bird range of Heavy Duty hose reels. The Trailer is highly versatile, being designed with additional space for tool trays and accessories. It comes with dual tapered automotive-style bearings and solid steel axle for smooth, reliable operation. Fitted with pneumatic tires, the high quality wheels are recessed under trailer bed to eliminate snagging of trees and shrubs.

Handling around the golf course and the greenkeeping compound is made significantly easier with the extra long 32" trailer tongue, which allows for sharper turns and easier back up. With a maximum weight capacity of 400-lbs, and a 15-mph maximum speed, it is intended for off-road use only.

For further information Tel: 01438 314583.



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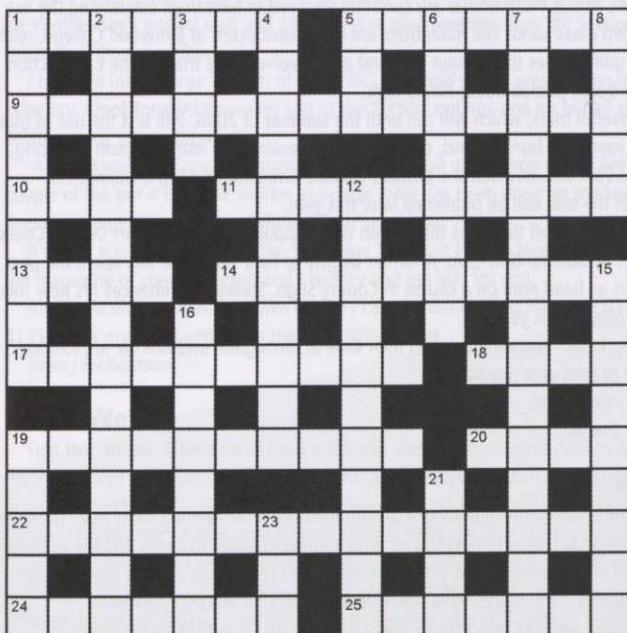
CROSSWORD - Compiled by Anax

ACROSS

- 1 Self-centred, conceited person (7)
- 5 Theatre performance, typically in the afternoon (7)
- 9 Female nightwear with very short elasticated legs (4-4,7)
- 10 Alternative name for abominable snowman (4)
- 11 Acquired through strenuous effort (4-6)
- 13 Without legal force, not binding (4)
- 14 Southwark prison, central location of Dickens' "Little Dorrit" (10)
- 17 Fastener for securing items to be dried (7-3)
- 18 In a short while (4)
- 19 Contrite, repentant (10)
- 20 Son of Isaac, brother of Jacob (OT) (4)
- 22 New York stock exchange price indicator (3,5,7)
- 24 Attempt to deceive (3,2,2)
- 25 Rank of nobility above viscountship (7)

DOWN

- 1 Pertaining to earliest stage of development (9)
- 2 M25 or M60, for example (7,8)
- 3 Short name for 500 mile motor race (4)
- 4 Capital of Florida (11)
- 5 Name given to fairly long, unstyled hair (3)
- 6 Mausoleum at Agra, India (3,5)
- 7 "Everybody needs somebody" (Douglas might disagree!) (2,3,2,2,6)
- 8 Calmed, comforted (5)
- 12 Broadcast, make widely known (11)
- 15 Continually - literally, until sickness (2,7)
- 16 Gunfight (5-3)
- 19 Inspection of accounts (5)
- 21 Laugh mockingly (4)
- 23 Period of time consisting of two or more eras (3)



ANAGRAM

Can you figure out these two tennis players?

RUGGED KISSER

GIANT IRISHMAN

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. Who resigned as Wales Rugby Union coach in February sighting family reasons?
2. In cricket, which Nation did Australia beat in the VB Series final?
3. In which city was the 2006 Winter Olympics held?
4. How many goals did Middlesbrough beat Chelsea by in February?
5. Who was named Asian Golfer of the Year, following a season in which he won four titles and came top of the Asian Tour order of merit?
6. Who did Newcastle play in Graeme Souness' final game in charge?
7. In Rugby League, the Bradford Bulls became World Club Champions after defeating West Tigers, what was the final score?
8. In the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary Eddie 'The Eagle' Edwards represented Britain in the ski jump, what position did he finish?
9. Which Scottish International was sent off against Wales at the Millennium Stadium in this year's Six Nations?

SUDOKU

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

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

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 49



News from the Chief Executive

Congratulations to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America for organising such an excellent conference and exhibition in Atlanta, despite all the trials and tribulations that they faced in 2005. The BIGGA Stand continues to attract a lot of interest each year and on this occasion it was visited by many of our American members, together with a great number of American Superintendents who are keen to enrol on the Master Greenkeeper programme.

Once again Bernhard and Co sponsored 10 BIGGA members to attend the event and I am sure that the delegates found the experience invaluable.

The GCSAA hosted this years International Summit that was attended by representatives from a great number of countries. Over the last 15 months a focus group, of which BIGGA is a member, has been working on universal policies in respect of environmental management and also the role and responsibilities of a Course Manager. These were put before the Summit and were unanimously adopted. A copy of these will be available in the near future from BIGGA Headquarters and from the Association's website.

It seems that BIGGA is being evicted from its offices at Aldwark, or so the rumours would have you believe. I was questioned about the Association's future recently and I can assure members that BIGGA HOUSE can remain the Headquarters for as long as the Association chooses, or at least until the expiry of its 999 year lease on the land!

It is a matter of fact however that Marston Hotels have approached the Association with a view to buying BIGGA HOUSE for its own use and this is clearly where the story has gone astray. I am in the process of looking at the alternatives and will report to the Board in due course.

Plans for Harrogate Week 2007 are already underway and we have received a significant amount of support from exhibitors. Sadly the major machinery manufacturers have chosen not to return in 2007, however at this stage we have no intention of closing any of the halls. There are a number of companies looking to increase their floor space that may require their relocation and we have received a number of enquiries from new companies wishing to exhibit.

Over the coming weeks Ken Richardson and I will be having meetings with the other bodies in golf to establish the basis of the education programme for Harrogate Week 2007. I hope that when the time comes the Association can rely upon the support of its members.

John Pemberton

SCOTTISH REGION

Ayrshire

I hope you are all in fine fettle and have made good progress on your winter repair work.

I've been made aware of five new members to our Section. They are Richard Davis, Brighthouse Bay, Andrew Kirk, Brighthouse Bay, Ian Gray, Belleisle, Kenneth Gilroy, Shiskine, Steven Knaggs, Dumfries & County. So a warm welcome to you and hope to see you at Southernness in the spring. No pressure!

As mentioned, our spring outing will be played at Southernness Golf Club on Tuesday April 25. Times are reserved from 11am. I don't think it will be too difficult to keep our recent good turnouts for the outings as Southernness is regarded as one of the best courses the West of Scotland has to offer. See ya there!

It would be remiss of me not to mention the great news for Ayrshire as The Open returns to Turnberry in 2009. The Ailsa Course has undergone a bit of toughening up in January and February with 19 new bunkers added and a further 11 planned later in the year. There will be a couple of holes reshaped and around six new championship tees to be built also. So exciting times ahead for Ayrshire greenkeeping!

Oh! I nearly forgot to say, I hope those who travelled to Harrogate enjoyed themselves and didn't get filled up on marshmallows! Yes that's an inside joke!

Any news, call me on 07939104701.

Denis Tweddell

East

I start this month's report on a sad note by reporting the death of Ralph Bullock in January, he was 77. During his career, Ralph spent time as Head Greenkeeper at both Barnburgh Castle and Seahouses Golf Courses finally retiring in 1993. During his retirement years he still found time to tend the lawns on a part time basis at Ladykirk Estates at Berwick upon Tweed. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family at this sad time.

For those of you who have not yet received Kevin's newsletter, the fixtures for 2006 are as follows. Spring Outing - Dunbar Golf Club, April 25; Willie Woods - Haddington Golf Club, August 23; Autumn Outing - Glencorse Golf Club, September 27.

This year marks a first for Musselburgh Golf Club with their appointment as a regional qualifying course for The British Open. The key date when all roads lead to Monktonhall is Wednesday July 5. In preparation, Course Manager, Tom Shepherd, and his team have carried out various improvements, which include two new championship tees.

The Scottish Golf Environmental Group acting on behalf of WRAP (The Water and Resources Action Programme) are currently involved in field trials concerning the use of recycled glass sand. The main trials are being conducted at Elmwood College, with various golf courses throughout Scotland also involved. The trials in the East Section area are being carried out at Ratho Park.

The overall trials, which will run until the summer of 2006, will test the use of glass sand in rootzone, bunker sand, divot mix, top dressing and astroturf path surfacing. At Ratho Park this involved the practice bunker, divot mix and top dressing. The results of the trial will be published later this year.

The news hot off the press this month is the appointment of Stewart Duff as Course Manager at Gullane Golf Club. A former deputy to Paul Seago, he has spent the past five years as head man on a course in County Sligo. Stewart commences his new role in early May of this year.

Finally, I trust everyone enjoyed their time at Harrogate, and like me are looking forward to next year already.

Until next month

Mike Dooner

North

Christmas and New Year seem a distant memory now. January must have been one of the driest for a long time with very little rainfall or snow to speak of. The predicted cold spell hasn't materialised yet but I'd better not tempt fate as we'll probably get the snow and ice in March/April when were looking for warmer weather.

Harrogate went as smoothly as ever I am told, as I wasn't there this year. The Seminar and debate on the Fescue issues was very well attended and there were some lively discussions on a very emotive subject. Lets get some more discussions

going on important topics like aeration, top dressings and fertilisers so that we can gauge opinions and feelings on these areas of the job, which are just as important as the grasses.

The next couple of months will be a busy time for all greenkeepers with hopefully some early growth and the chance to put down some early top dressing to improve surfaces. I don't know if anyone out there has had major problems with Leather Jackets but we have had an epidemic of them this year. The population of grubs in the soil has been massive so there has been a bit of spraying done here to remove them. The Crows and Seagulls think all their prayers have been answered here with the amount of grubs laying about greens and fairways.

I am sure everybody in the North Section will wish George Patterson all the very best in his new post as Course Manager at Moray Golf Club. I think George will have started by the time this article is in the magazine. So good luck George to you and your team for the coming season.

I think I am right in saying that Moray GC will host the boys Home Internationals this year in August, which will give George and his team something to get their teeth into for the season. The week following the Moray event Royal Aberdeen will host the R&A British Boys event so it will be good for the North Section to have these events on our doorstep.

Not much more to add as there is very little happening at the moment in the trade. If anybody has any snippets of information that could be used in the report email me at grassman351@aol.com and we will use it next month.

Here's to a good spring!

Robert Patterson

NORTHERN REGION

North East

Well it was that time again in January, Harrogate Week, doesn't time fly? What a Show it was, with over 130 hours of education and it was good to see more greenkeepers from the north east taking an interest in attending the seminars.

The first one I met was John Rippon, of Birtley GC, on Sunday night doing the A1 Assessors course. Also doing that course was Glen Baxter and his assistant, Wayne Reid, both from South Shields GC. John Hood doing managing water and James Storey on managing staff, both from Alnmouth GC. Finally Alan Darby, of Warkworth GC at the one-day mini conference on Maintaining a Sustainable Golf Course. Well done to you all, I hope you enjoyed them, maybe you will be back again next year.

Again I would like to thank Terry Charlton, of Turf Care, on putting the coach on for Wednesday's annual visit and all the rest of greenkeepers from the Section, who made their own way down.

I bumped into George Wright, of Crook GC, who told me he was retiring in February. I look forward to seeing you at the Section outings and on behalf of the Section enjoy your retirement.

As you know the Spring competition will be played at Prudhoe GC on April 27. A couple of the par 4's will be shorter as winter work has been done on the tees. The Autumn competition is at Stocksfield GC on September 28.

If any of you want to play in the Whitelaw Trophy at Penrith look out for details in the magazine or contact myself and I will try and get info for you.

Any forthcoming news you have for me I can be contacted at home on 0191 4135232 or my email address is JFroud123@aol.com.

Jimmy Richardson

North West

First this month, after a lot of hard work and dedication, congratulations go out from the North West Section Committee to Colin Parish, from Morecambe Golf Club, on achieving Master Greenkeeper status. Colin received his award at Harrogate in January. No wonder he had a smile on his face when I saw him there.

On a personal note I was privileged to have been working here at West Derby Golf Club for 25 years and was presented by the Captain with a watch for my services. Speaking then to another local greenkeeper, who shall remain nameless, I was dismayed to learn that he had been at his golf club for a lot longer and his service had not even been acknowledged. I am not saying that long service should be rewarded but it would be nice for it to be recognised in what is now sometimes a

very thankless job.

As you can see not many people have contacted me with any news, either good bad or indifferent this month. If you have anything you wish to relay to our members please contact either myself, Chris Sheehan, on 0151 2894625 or email jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk or Section Secretary, Bert Cross, on 0151 7245412.

Chris Sheehan

Northern

Well, it's the start of February, at the time of writing, and I hope you have all recovered from Harrogate Week. It has just started raining for the first time in weeks; still, we're not doing bad, we haven't even got into the cutting season and there is already talk of a drought!

I finally have a few dates for your diaries, so here is a list of upcoming fixtures. Spring Tournament - Selby Golf Club, Wednesday April 5, 11.30am; President's Day - Northcliffe Golf Club, Wednesday June 14; Sheffield Match - Bradley Hall Golf Club, Wednesday July 5; AGM and Autumn Tournament - Ganton Golf Club, Wednesday September 27, 2pm; Winter Golf - Clayton Golf Club, Thursday December 7; Invitation Day to be confirmed.

The cost of each event is £17 to include bacon butties on arrival, your golf, followed by a three course meal. Please get your names down as early as possible, but no later than one week before the event.

Please also arrange, if possible, to pay by cheque, preferably by post to the address below. All cheques should be made payable to BIGGA Northern Section.

If you have any news regarding the Section then please do get in touch. My details are Adam Speight, 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford, BD2 4EB; Tel: 01274 638366, Mobile: 07739 319060.

Adam Speight

North Wales

Apologies for no notes in February's magazine, they were missed out by BIGGA HQ.

While the debate on Poa, Bent & Fescue grass management continues on around the Rhuddlan and St Asaph area we focus on the March notes.

Congratulations this month goes to Huw Roberts, former golf professional and Deputy Head Greenkeeper at The Vale of Llangollen GC, who landed the Head Greenkeeper's post at The Henlle Park GC, just outside of Oswestry. Huw says he is looking forward to his new challenge and hopes he can put many of his skills into practice on this beautifully landscaped development now just a few years old. His predecessor, James Cope, has taken up a new post himself, attaining the job as Course Manager at Runcorn GC, in Warrington. James, formerly of the Carden Park greenkeeping team, was at Henlle during the construction stage and brought the course forward to its present stage.

One other greenkeeper from Carden Park, Martin Thompson, has taken over the reins at Romiley GC, just outside Stockport in Manchester. We would like to wish all three of them the best in their new roles.

The Spring Seminar held at Carden Park Shooting Lodge on February 21 was another great success, our thanks go to the speakers who gave their time on the day - Alistair Beggs, Lee Penrose, Brian Butler, Simon Higginbottom, of the PGA, and to our own Ken Richardson. The North Wales Section once again staged a very informative event and we hope all whom attended went away that little bit wiser on the aspects of a working life on a golf course.

On a sad note to end this month the wife of Reaseheath College lecturer and BIGGA training days, Dennis Mottram, has passed away suddenly. The Section would like to send our condolences to Dennis and his family, also to his son, Adrian, who is an Irrigation Engineer at this time.

On a final note this month I would personally like to wish Andy Campbell MG all the best in his new found post as General Manager looking after the Dukes resort in the home of golf at St Andrews. I have known Andy for the last 15 years, his dedication to greenkeeping and devotion to his work goes before him as he is a great ambassador for this profession and I know this will be a great challenge working for the Kholer Corporation but I do not think they could have chosen a better person to take this role. I speak also for the North Wales Committee, of which Andy played a major part over the years and his presence will be missed but as a new life beckons for the Campbell family maybe with they're origins from Nairn in Scotland. This is perhaps more a home coming than a leaving.

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn

MIDLAND REGION

Midland

On February 2 the Section ran a visit to the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, to which 47 members attended. All attendees found the visit to be of great interest and very educational. Our thanks go to Mr D. Saltman, PitchCare, for proving such an excellent and informative host. As expected, very well presented Dave, cheers Sir. Also our greatest of thanks to the Millennium Stadium, for allowing us hairy arsed greenkeepers the opportunity to tread through such a magnificent complex.

Following the morning's activities, a visit to the lovely Cottrell Park GC was also found to be both very educational and interesting. This was also coupled with an excellent lunch in the clubhouse, as sponsored by our kind friends David Bates, Earth Tec, and Phil Constable, Shropshire Turf. Our greatest of thanks to both the General Manager and the owner, Mr D. Smith and D. Powell respectively, for making us so welcome at Cottrell Park GC.

Just one more thanks left, Walsall GC for allowing us to use its car park as a pick-up point for the coach. Also I would like to take this opportunity to thank Walsall GC for its many years of support of our Section via the use of their splendid Clubhouse to hold our committee meetings. We are certainly in your debt Walsall GC. So let us consider all of the above for the price of a pint, cheese and onion Baggett, and packet of crisps. A fiver, not bad aye?

Our next educational visit is to be held April 5, to the JCB factory in Uttoxeter. Again, numbers pending a coach shall be available at £5 per head. All interested please call Rhys (for those who don't speak Cymraeg; Reece. Ed I'll laugh) on: 07775 581615.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to welcome four new members to our fine Section. Chris Marshall, Richard Garrard, Dan Pugh (watch out for the chip monster), and Adam Jones (slightly baffled, number 6 raffle ticket on member application form?).

Yet again this year, Scotts are sponsoring the doubles event, which the final is to be played at that lovely course, Wentworth. The draw for such shall be carried out at the spring event as usual, which is being held at Bridgenorth GC on April 28. Please get your entries to Gary by March 31. All of our events this year are to follow a stableford format. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Sean McDade

BB&O

Harrogate! It just gets bigger and better each year. And as another Show bites the dust, I reflect on how my cup runneth over! Very easily, it seems to be. Perhaps it was the Blue Label that turned my lips purple and caused my diet to shoot off the rails with a glass of firewater and a game of darts and with friends new and old to pass the time away. Long live the Show!

John Scoones has been doing his stuff and golfing events in 2006 have now been confirmed and some great venues to look forward to with greenkeeping wizard, Dean Jones, hosting the Spring National Qualifier on April 27 at Flackwell Heath GC.

Burnham Beeches GC will be playing host to the Summer Tournament on July 5, thus providing us with an excellent venue and promise of a great day for all.

Put these dates in your diary before you forget. The Autumn Invitational and Turkey Trot later in the year are yet to be confirmed.

News from around the three counties has been scarce so if you have any news or views a simple email will always do.

As the Chinese New Year began on January 29, bringing in the Year of the Dog and the start of the year 4703 in the Chinese calendar, I wish you all a happy Spring.

Mark Day
mark@day.fm

Mid Anglia

Not a lot this month. Dates and venues for Section events are as follows. Spring - Beds & County, May 4; Summer - Letchworth, August 24; Autumn - Northants County, October 18; Christmas - Mentmore, December 7.

That's all folks.
Bob Butfoy

SOUTH EAST

Surrey

I hope that, by the time you read this, our unseasonably dry Siberian winter has finally come to an end. Not much news for you this month. Just a big thanks to all who supported our seminars held at Hadlow College. I know that everyone really enjoyed them and what a great line up of speakers. Thanks to John Millen for organising everything.

Fixtures for the year are still being finalised but don't forget our spring tournament/national qualifying event at Littlestone Golf Club on April 25.

Our football team has its first definite fixture of the year. This will be against the London Section on March 30 and will be played on Kent County Cricket Club's grounds in Beckenham. Kick off is at 7.30 and I'm reliably informed that a bar and full catering facilities are available for all players and spectators. If you want to play please contact myself on 07843 410755 or our esteemed captain, Kev Morris, on 07801 554548.

Don't forget to check our website for all up to date events and results as well as using our message board. Finally, thanks to the Scotts Company for their continued support for our Section.

Until next month, happy greenkeeping.
Rob Holland

London

Can you believe we are in March already! The season is nearly here. I'm writing about Harrogate Week very late this year as I'd missed the deadline date for February. I have to have things into BIGGA by the start of the month before, so for March it has to be in by February 5. So all of you who think I'm mad for writing about events in January in March can now stop texting!

Anyway, I went to Harrogate Week again this year and I think the Show is improving every year. The educational courses and seminars were fantastic with a wide range on offer. Hello to all those people I met on the courses and watering holes. A special hello to Adam Smith, from Ernest Doe, who was great company and a special thanks to Jason Shepherd, Deputy Course Manager from Hendon Golf Club, for buying me dinner and refreshments and putting up with me for the whole trip. I was lucky enough to be invited to the Majestic Hotel to collect my flight details from Bernhard & Co for a trip to the USA. We had a great night meeting everyone for the first time. Again my last 'hello' to all involved in that trip. I will tell you all about that next month.

There has not been much news from the local area. Don't be scared to ring with anything you want to see in the magazine. When I have a copy of the dates of future events I will let you know.

Matt Pleased

Essex

Harrogate Week has now come and gone and I must say it was an excellent Show. A big thank you and congratulations are in order to all those involved in its organisation. It was good to see some faces from the Essex Section. The continued success of this event does rely on visitor numbers, so next year lets pull out all the stoppers and do our best to make the journey north.

It not all turf, turf, turf! Harrogate is a great place for a night out, good food, good beer and a good opportunity to get amongst it at the local night spots.

As winter draws to a weary end and spring and summer are around the corner, we can all look forward to some good weather and amicable golfing conditions. The first of which could well be the annual gentlemen's dinner at Walton Heath Golf Club on March 10. It promises to be a great event, unfortunately I cannot attend, although any stories for the report will be most welcome - Please note my new phone number - 07737 985735.

Until next month, be good!
Richard Williams

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

Having just returned from Harrogate Week I would like to say how good it was to see many familiar faces and meet some new ones from the Region. Your support of this event is valued, and I look forward to next year's event, and hope that even more of the region's members will be able to attend.

I would also like to say thank you to a few people, firstly to Colin Webber and Steve Evans. Colin for supplying the mini bus and Steve for doing all the organisation involved in running this transport from the Devon and Cornwall Section.

Secondly, on behalf of the Region, I would like to thank Irritech and Roger Davy for sponsoring the Get Together. Everyone from the Region staying in Harrogate appreciated the opportunity of being able to meet up in one place and see familiar faces from other sections.

Finally, having met Tom Jones from WT & RJ Jones, a company in the South West, I would like to inform members of three major seminars and demonstrations of sports turf drainage machinery they have organised.

They are all in the South West and the dates and venues as follows:

March 28 - Bodmin, Cornwall

March 29 - Bridgewater, Somerset

March 30 - Bristol

For more information about these events please contact Tom Jones on 07785295239 or his office number 01823 665030.

I look forward to meeting up with many of you over the coming year.

Jane Jones

Regional Administrator

South West

Harrogate Week was exceptional this year. Headquarters and the Board have produced a totally professional learning experience - thanks very much to all involved. The Exhibition was as impressive as it ever has been - I certainly did a lot of business there to support the exhibitors. The seminars were quite outstanding and well attended with the theme of the environment running through and through.

Steve Isaac, of the R&A, frightened me to death when he opened "Managing the Sustainable Course" with the statement "Fine fescue is the only grass to manage, anyone managing anything else ought to be ashamed of themselves". Still, he didn't ask too many awkward questions about poa, rye, and moss, so I was OK.

It was also nice to see one of our own, Andy Boyce, collecting an environmental prize on behalf of Bath Golf Club (if it couldn't be me I'm glad it was him). It always amazes me that, with an industry which has such close links to the environment, more clubs don't actually enter the Environment Competition.

I have certainly been asked in the past - 'Haven't you got enough to do without fiddling around with all that?' I can assure you, yes I've got plenty to do - but although this is the best career in the world, it can become a near constant grind of tournaments, reports, budgets, meetings, appraisals, assessments, safety, etc, etc, and it's really easy to wonder where the grass has gone in all this.

Working on environmental projects is completely different - far more personal. It gives a chance to get completely immersed in a certain project, without the constant scrutiny associated with other aspects of the job. It also gives immense personal satisfaction - surprisingly, some of our most beneficial and interesting projects have probably never been seen by the members, but that in no way diminishes them.

They can be out-of-the-way little areas of the course, which quickly transform from untidy little corners and burst into life months or even years later. Nothing beats that satisfaction - trust me on this one. Tell the committee in your next report "we are now in the competition" and you'll be running plenty of ideas past them. It takes about half an hour to fill the entry form in, it takes another hour to cut and paste some digi-pics into a short report on the course, and the targets you have achieved or want to achieve. Job done.

You'll find that the competition breeds innovation, inspiration, and spreads information - once on the ladder, the staff and the club will want to climb to the top with you. Get those entries in - 'nuff said.

Nearer home, the South West Committee wishes to welcome some new



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members. Two clubs have contacted me recently. Nigel Pring, now installed at Farrington, has enrolled all seven members of his team into the Section, so a warm welcome. Nigel played for Somerset in his heyday and was one of the first winners of a trip to the United States via the now defunct Iseki and Hayter Tournament. Nigel Couchman, newly installed as Course Manager at Tewkesbury Park Hotel & Country Club, has also joined from the Midland Section. Nigel manages a team of six at Tewkesbury, a picturesque 6500 yard course with mature trees and stunning views across to the Malverns. He also oversees a six hole par 3 academy course, a driving range, and the hotel grounds.

I can report from the recent Section Committee meeting on some new initiatives for 2006. On the training front, following the huge success of the management and irrigation courses, we will shortly offer 360 digger driving standard to 5 tonnes, so if you, like me, regularly rattle round on one of these, get legal, get safe with all the necessary training and certification. Contact Marc Haring for further details.

On the Section meeting front, we have negotiated a courtesy round of golf at one of the country's top 100 courses for up to 16 members. Places for the trip to this exclusive course, which is not too far out of our area will be free, and awarded via a points system to Section Event winners, Section Team players, and those who most frequently attend section meetings (but like me never win anything!).

John Keenaghan is the brave member managing this new system, and his decision is final. Adrian Bennett, Deputy Course Manager at the Kendleshire, is the team captain. Adrian can be contacted on 07734 552108 and is very keen to hear from anyone wishing to represent the Section in the matches. Full details will be available at both our spring meetings, so yet another good reason to attend.

Back at Minchinhampton, the winter is in full swing. The shout of "TIMBER" has been heard around the course - (still chipping away at those Leylandii). A member strode across to demand to know why all the trees were being wantonly hewn down. Dave Rosselli, in an inspired moment of genius replied, "to make room to

plant the proper ones of course", and that took the wind completely out of his sails.

By the time this magazine hits the shelves, we'll be in mid-March, the greens will have been verti-drained and gradened, so that'll distract attention well away from anything as simple as chopping down a few trees. We're just conducting interviews for a greenkeeper/ecologist, so I'll let you know how that goes. We've had a string of applications from students with degrees who sound really keen to get on the land and do some good. In the meantime, I'll look forward to a mild spring with good growth and good golf courses - how about some feedback?

Finally, on a very sad note, sincere condolences from all the Section to Nigel Kinson, long time greenkeeper at Cirencester GC, on the sudden loss of his wife, Nicky. Our thoughts are with Nigel and his family at this sad time.

Tel: 01453 837355; Email: paul.worster@tesco.net
 Paul Worster

Devon & Cornwall

It is imperative that one starts this month's report on behalf of the Section with three big thank yous regarding Harrogate Week in January. Firstly, to the members of Portmore Golf Club in North Devon, near Barnstaple, for the loan of their Mini-Bus, and the owner Of Portmore Golf Club, Cohn Webber, for driving to Harrogate and back. Because of their generosity it enabled 14 of our members to visit the Exhibition at a very reasonable cost.

Secondly, to two sponsors for the trip, Martin Ward, of Synbio, and Sue Malone, who I am sure you all know (Biscuit Sue). Their support enabled the lads to have a very competitive trip. Very many thanks to all.

I think it is also worth mention that I have never seen so many members from a Section attend Harrogate Week, as they did this year. In fact the whole of the South West Regions. That's dedication for you.

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I would also like to take this opportunity to thank John Pemberton, our Chief Executive, and all his staff for organising such a successful Exhibition,

On January 11 we held our Section Meeting at Buck and North Cornwall Golf Club, kindly Sponsored by Avoncrop. In spite of Harrogate at the end of the month we had a very good attendance with over 50 members attending. This also included our well known Editor, Scott MacCallum, who incidentally I watched drive off the first Tee, and as Bing Crosby sung "it went straight down the middle".

The course was presented in superb condition by Mark Campbell and his staff, who also arranged excellent weather for the day. I would also like to thank the catering staff for an excellent meal, and the Secretary, Pauline Ralph, for her help to endeavour our day to go with a swing.

The Winners of the Avoncrop Trophy were as follows: 1. Simon Coombes. Dainton Park Golf Club. 41pts. 2. Richard Shapland, China Fleet Golf Club, 40pts; 3. Abi Crosswood, Newquay Golf Club, 39ps. Well done Abi.

After the prize giving, the afternoon educational talk was presented by Mark, the Head Greenkeeper at Bude. His topic was Greenkeeping from Scotland to Cornwall. Well done Mark, it was very informative and interesting.

That's all for now, Happy Greenkeeping.
Donovan O Hunt

South Wales

As I write this column a month behind, I am a little jaded, as I am just back from Harrogate Week. Many thanks to all at HQ for organising a superb Show.

Highlight of the week for me was to see the level of attendance to the seminar on, Maintaining the Sustainable Golf Course seminar, presented jointly by the R&A and BIGGA. The second part of the seminar was on the following day called the Big Debate. This allowed questions from the floor to the panel, it was great to see so much enthusiasm from greenkeepers discussing their management techniques, what other industry can derive so much passion. Excellent!

If you have never been before, I can highly recommend it, great to catch up with old faces and a superb place to network.

Our series of winter evening lectures has taken place. First off was Alex Edwards, joint MD Inturf. Many thanks to him for taking the time to come down to Wales and giving us an insight into his growing methods and new techniques. Good turnout mixed with IOG members.

This month's education night is Chris Briggs, from Avoncrop. His presentation is on the updated legislation in relation to amenity pesticide. This is on March 9 at 7pm. If you have not received your fixture cards, please get in touch with either myself or the Section Secretary, Peter Lacey.

Best wishes to Colin Frost, one of our longest serving sales reps. Colin retired last month from Sisis. Best wishes to him from all at the South Wales Section, for a long and healthy retirement. Sisis has presented Colin and his wife with life membership to the National Trust.

Come on guys and girls, there must be loads of gossip you can send me - people moving, new staff, new blood into the industry, what work you are doing at your clubs, new kit etc, and colleagues doing stupid things. I have the power to name and shame.

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

SECTION NOTES INFORMATION

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

Word limited for Section notes: 500-600.

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

In the Shed ANSWERS

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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



A QUICK NINE HOLES

1. Mike Ruddock
2. Sri Lanka
3. Turin, Italy
4. 3-0
5. Thaworn Wiratchant
6. Manchester City
7. 30 - 10
8. 56th out of 57 competitors - the 57th was disqualified
9. Scott Murray

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Leaves are generally long and
narrow, often finely toothed. White
willow and osier bear silver hairs on
lighter undersurface. Osier lacks the
fine-teeth and edges of the leaf may
be rolled inwards. On Crack willow
the leaves are glossy and twisted.
Leaves are slightly broader in bay
and Goat willow.

Flowers with yellow catkins (April).
Fruits are slender, white and fluffy.
Native willows are ecologically
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young stems, older trunks become
fissured, heavily so in crack and
white willow.

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The club has hosted many prestigious National and County events. In 2008 High Post will host the English Boys under 16 Championships.

It is essential the successful applicant has proven experience of managing/maintaining a golf course property to exceptionally high standards. The applicant must possess drive, enthusiasm and be ambitious to develop the course and surroundings to full potential.

The following experience/skills is/are required:

Significant golf course management experience (minimum 5 years)

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Health and safety management, including COSHH and risk assessments

Full range of spraying and chainsaw certificates

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Communication skills at various levels

Basic planning and project management skills

Environmental management experience is desirable, but not essential.

In return, High Post Golf Club offers the successful candidate (subject to experience and qualifications): A highly competitive package including excellent accommodation.

Applicants are invited to apply in writing together with a full CV to: Peter Hickling, Manager, High Post Golf Club, Great Durnford, Salisbury, Wilts, SP4 6AT

Closing date: Monday 27 March 2006.

STRATHAVEN GOLF CLUB

Requires

QUALIFIED ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited for the above position at this prestigious parkland course. The successful candidate will be educated to NVQ Level 2 or equivalent, have a minimum of 5 years experience and hold current spraying certificates.

A competitive salary and a pension is available based on qualifications and experience and further greenkeeping training will also be offered where appropriate.

Contact the General Manager, Strathaven Golf Club, Glasgow Road, Strathaven ML10 6NL or telephone 01357 520421 for an application form.

Chipping Norton Golf Club

Applications are invited for the position of

Assistant Greenkeeper

Applicants will be qualified to NVQ level 2 as a minimum, possess spraying certificates and at least 3 years experience.

Ideally the applicant will be enthusiastic, motivated and have a sound knowledge of golf.

A competitive salary is offered dependant on qualifications and experience.

Applicants to be forwarded with a current C.V. to:
The Manager, Chipping Norton Golf Club, Southcombe,
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire OX7 5QH
Email: chippingnortongc@hotmail.co.uk



MIKLAGARD GOLF

HEAD MECHANIC

We are seeking a mature qualified person to take on this prominent role in developing the Course Maintenance Team.

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Applications in writing enclosing a current CV and marking your application "Confidential" to ianross@c2i.net or to the address below:

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Postboks 87, 2041 Klofta, Norge



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Applicants should apply in writing (preferably by email), with a full CV and details of existing remuneration and benefits to: Simon Squires, Irrigation Manager – Turf Division, Lely (UK) Limited, 1 Station Road, St. Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 1QH. Tel: 01480 226800 email ssquires@lely.co.uk



Recruitment



Leven Links

Open Championship Final Qualifying Course

Assistant Head Greenkeeper

An opportunity has arisen for an Assistant Head Greenkeeper to work on the historic Leven Links.

The successful applicant will help to enhance the management and presentation of the Links and assist with the daily administration duties required to run the course.

He or she will need to demonstrate a positive and progressive attitude lead by example and deputise for the head greenkeeper in his absence.

We would expect the successful candidate to have some but not necessarily all of the following:

- SVQ level 3 or similar; Spraying Certificates
- A min of 5 years experience in golf course maintenance
- Good communication skills
- A working knowledge of irrigation systems and machinery
- A knowledge of Health & Safety regulations
- Computer and Administration skills
- Supervisory staff training and development skills

Remuneration commensurate with experience.

Closing date for applications: 14 April 2006.

Written applications with a copy of your CV to: Ray Bissett, Secretary,
Leven Links Joint Committee, The Promenade, Leven, Fife, KY8 4HS
E-mail: secretary@leven-links.com



Walton Heath Golf Club

Invite applications for the position of
Assistant Greenkeeper

We are looking for an enthusiastic hard working greenkeeper to join our team in maintaining our two championship heathland golf courses to the highest standard. All candidates must have NVQ level II or equivalent as a minimum. Other craft certificates would be of benefit but not essential.

Accommodation is available with this position.

Please apply in writing including your full CV to:
Ian McMillan Course Manager, Walton Heath Golf Club,
Deans Lane, Walton on the Hill, Tadworth Surrey KT20 7TP



Bolton Golf Club

Require

Deputy Head Greenkeeper

Established in 1891 this prestigious Club is situated on the north side of the town, with views over the Cheshire Plains and has 560 members.

Bolton Golf Club is looking to recruit an individual who is self motivated, hardworking, and able to show attention to detail in maintaining the course to the highest standard.

The successful individual should have the following qualifications,

- Minimum 3-5 years experience
- Proven supervisory and communication skills
- Qualified to NVQ2 or equivalent
- Spraying Certificates PA1, 2, and 6
- Knowledge of IT and keyboard skills

Salary will be negotiable according to experience

Please apply in writing with CV to:
Secretary/Manager, Bolton Golf Club, Lostock Park, Bolton, BL6 4AJ
Email: secretary@boltongolfclub.co.uk

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Email: mick.regan@mjabott.co.uk
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Arnold Phipps-Jones, Golf Course's Manager, Three Rivers Golf & Country Club,
Stow Road, Purleigh, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 6RR
E-mail: arnold.phipps-jones@threeriversclub.com

ST GEORGE'S HILL GOLF CLUB

Weybridge, Surrey

Require a

GREENKEEPER

With minimum 2 years experience. Spraying and NVQ qualifications would be an advantage. Must be hard working, reliable and have clean driving licence. Excellent working conditions.

Send CV to: Mr Chris Gosden, St George's Hill Golf Club,
Golf Club Road, St George's Hill, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0NL
Email: admin@stgeorghillgolfclub.co.uk



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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

February 2006; Cold Ashby GC; Netting; Chemical Fertilisers; Turf Construction

Looking to Youth



One of my first duties as Chairman was to represent our Association at the recent world summit in Atlanta with our Chief Executive, John Pemberton, and Deputy Chief Executive and Training Manager, Ken Richardson. The world summit has representatives from the following Associations; Asian Golf Course Owner, Canadian Superintendents, Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers, Superintendents Association of America, Superintendents of Ireland, Swedish Greenkeepers Association, Australian Superintendents, and German Golf Greenkeepers.

This annual event was held in Harrogate in 2005 and will be held in Sweden next year. The purpose of the summit is to share information and ideas between Associations globally. This has led to a collective agreement on global environmental guidelines and efforts. The working draft has identified that all golf courses worldwide must protect and enhance their environmental resources to protect the wonderful game of golf.

Course Managers globally have a major role to play as Course Managers are at the centre of all the necessary efforts to protect the environment: Water management, turf and pest management, energy and waste management, design and construction and wildlife and habitat management.

Also the summit agreed a worldwide draft job description for course managers that can be adapted to each country. If you would like more information please contact Ken Richardson at BIGGA HOUSE.

During my first two months of chairmanship many people have asked me what are my goals for the Association in 2006. First and foremost I intend to Chair our Association with dignity and pride, like all the Chairmen have done before me. Also I intend to support our staff who, like many greenkeepers from time to time, come under unfair criticism. Where actions do need to be taken I can ensure you that the Chief Executive will take the necessary action. So come on lads and lassies lets get behind our team.

As many of you will be aware I have been involved in our Association from the start serving on Section Committee as Chairman and Secretary and on the regional board as Chairman, before having two years out after moving to Burnham & Berrow GC. Looking back I wondered how I got involved as a then young man and came to the following conclusion that I was always proud to be a member of an Association promoting greenkeepers as professionals. With this I was prepared to offer my free time to help propel the Association forward like many of you reading this article.

I then realised that my involvement didn't just happen as I received encouragement and support from many of my peers within the Devon and Cornwall Section their support and drive was infectious. With all the pressures placed on our profession today we seem not to have time today to encourage young greenkeepers to get involved at Section level. We must find a way to encourage our industry's future to be involved creating a balanced blend, where senior members can encourage and support our young guys and girls to develop their careers both at work and within our Association. Many of these young guys and girls will then overtime filter though to serve on region and national boards.

Talking about blends, I was lucky to meet up with the BIGGA Delegation, sponsored by Bernhard, to Atlanta. Yet again credit to the selection process (never easy), as this was a true blend of greenkeepers from all over the country. All the delegation had a common aim to gather information on greenkeeping methods on the other side of the pond.

I would like to personally thank Steven Bernhard for his sponsorship over the last six years, which has allowed 60 greenkeepers to further their greenkeeping education. Also to the Bernhard team who have organised and looked after all the delegations so well.

Champions of BIGGA

Robert Hogarth, East Scotland, is my choice for this month. Robert has recently moved to Remedy Oak Golf Club from Cardrona Hotel & Country Club. He has been in greenkeeping for 19 years.

Richard Whyman
Chairman

Recruitment

Brailes Golf Club COURSE MANAGER

Brailes Golf Club is a proprietary club, owned and managed by the company which built the course some 16 years ago. The Board of Directors are forward thinking and committed to improving the course to one envied by many in the area.

This is an excellent opportunity to join a team of enthusiastic greens staff and lead the maintenance and development of the course. The successful applicant should have all the necessary experience and ability to maintain Brailes Golf Club to the highest standard.

An excellent salary package and benefits are on offer for this position.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate the following;

- Recognised Greenkeeping and Agronomy Qualifications.
- NVQ Level 3 or HNC / HND Qualifications.
- PA1, PA2 and PA6 Spraying Qualifications including knap sack and mounted sprayers.
- Chainsaw certificates.

An in depth knowledge of:

- Sports Turf Management, Irrigation Systems, Water Management, Drainage, and strong mechanical knowledge with the ability to maintain equipment to high standards.
- Health, Safety and COSHH regulations.
- A proven ability to prepare and work within an approved annual budget.
- A proven ability to prepare work programmes and meet deadlines.
- Excellent man management, leadership and communication skills are critical to the fulfilment of this role.

Closing date for applications 31st March 2006

Apply in writing along with a full CV to: Phillip Gibbs, General Manager, Brailes Golf Club, Sutton Lane, Lower Brailes, Nr. Banbury, Oxfordshire OX15 5BB
For further information: Email: office@brailesgolfclub.co.uk Tel: 07793 050017



FLEMING P A R K GOLF COURSE

Require a Head Greenkeeper

Applicants are invited for the above position at this busy pay and play golf course.

The candidate ideally would have NVQ Level 3 and hold current spraying certificates.

A good knowledge of golf would be an advantage.

Applicants should apply enclosing a current CV to:
Ian Warwick, Golf Manager, Fleming Park Golf Course,
Passfield Avenue, Eastleigh, Hants SO50 9NL

Closing Date: 13th March 2006.

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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 lsgreenkeepers@aol.com

TRETHORNE GOLF CLUB



Trethorne Golf Club, Cornwall

Trethorne Golf Club is a well established 18-hole proprietary club, situated on the Cornwall / Devon border near to the town of Launceston.

Following a recent change in ownership,
the club now has the following vacancies:

Head Greenkeeper

The applicant will be a suitably qualified and experienced greenkeeper, with the ambition, imagination and enthusiasm needed to improve and develop this challenging parkland lay-out.

Strong man-management, financial and organisational skills are required, together with a sound knowledge of Health & Safety Regulations.

Assistant Greenkeeper

Applicants should possess, or be working towards, the appropriate qualifications, and have a minimum of two years experience in golf course maintenance.

Both of the above positions offer a competitive remuneration package, depending upon the level of experience.

Please apply, in writing, with full CV to:

Mr Jon Grainger, Proprietor, Trethorne Golf Club,
Kennards House, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 8QE
e-mail: jon@trethornegolfclub.com www.trethornegolfclub.com

Closing date: 31st March 2006.



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