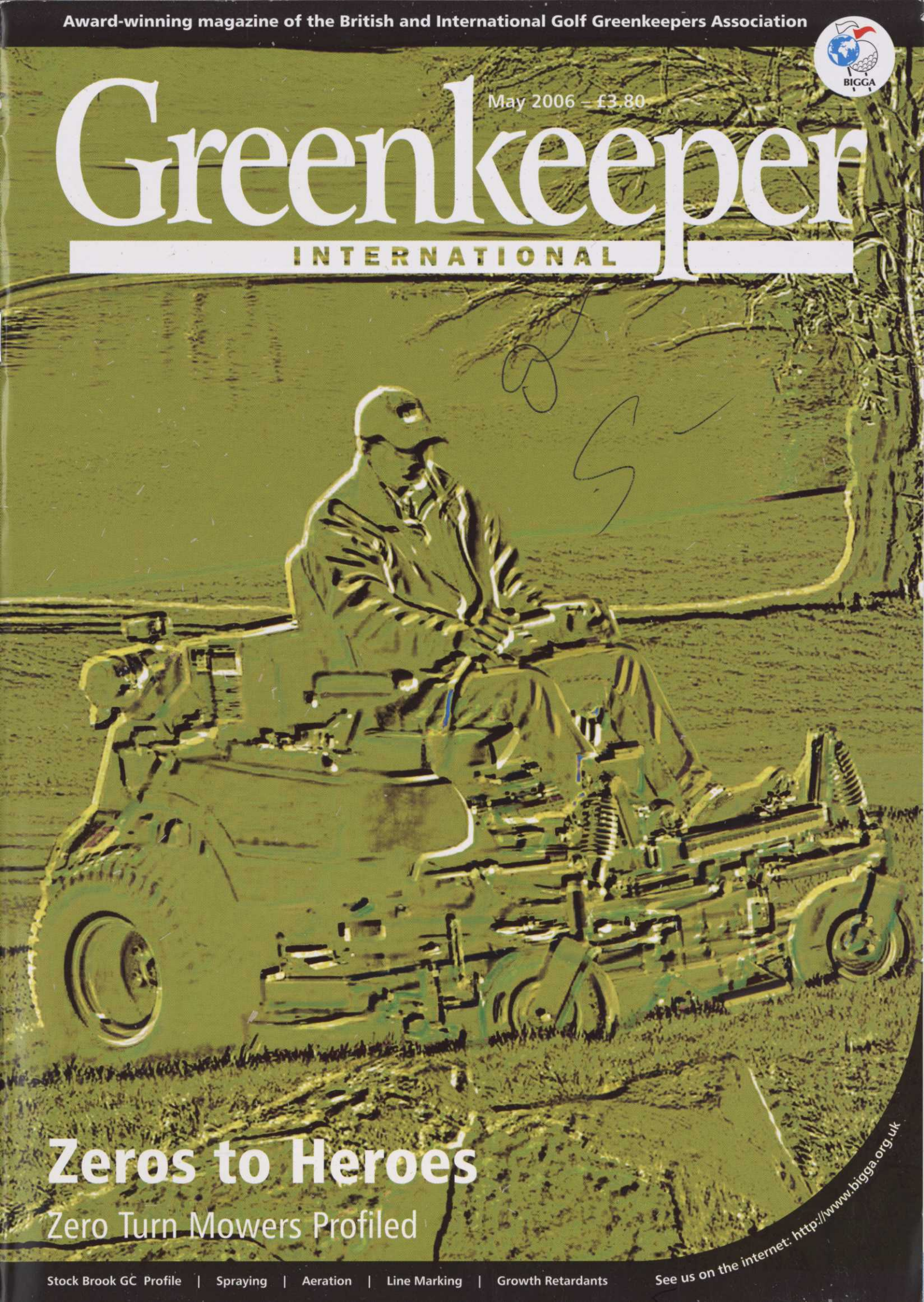




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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.



Welcome

RID THE GAME OF THIS MONKEY ON OUR BACK

When I wrote about the drought issues in last month's column one of the scenarios I certainly didn't envisage was the one which has affected five golf clubs in the Bath area.

An unnamed militant group has vandalised one of them and sent letters to four others demanding they carry out specified action with the threat of more vandalism if ignored.

Among the list of demands are a 25% reduction in water usage; that 10% of each hole be returned to nature and that anti wildlife policies be reversed.

In this country freedom of speech is encouraged and everyone has a right to have their views heard, but when it comes to criminal vandalism a line has been crossed.

What concerns me, however, is that people who obviously feel so passionately about a cause can be so ignorant of the facts before they set out on a course of drastic action.

The cliché is that golf is a serial abuser of resource, and unfortunately some people react on the back of that hackneyed old cliché with nothing more than that to do on

To highlight this point, ironically, one of the clubs targeted by this group is a multiple prize winner in BIGGA's Golf Environment Competition. I'm sure that if the members of this group were to have the courage of their convictions and make themselves known, their minds would be put at rest with a visit to the golf club, not under cover of darkness wielding the tools of vandalism, but during the day carrying nothing more than an open mind. They wouldn't fail to be impressed by the knowledge, skill and dedication of the people who are the custodians of the land in their care.

It is up to all of us to sell the positive message of the game of golf and rid the game of this monkey on our back.

People working on the country's golf courses do some great work to enhance the environment, not drain it of valuable resources and it should be known about. That way we might prevent the faceless few picking up on the prejudices and baggage which is attached to golf and going on to carry out the mindless acts that these clubs are having to cope with.

Our best wishes go to the staff and members of the clubs involved and in particular Park Golf Club where I hope the damage done can be rectified fairly quickly.

This magazine is the last one to which Assistant Editor, Gareth Jones, has contributed. Gareth has been with BIGGA since 2004 and has decided to flex his vocal cords with a career in radio. He has done an excellent job in the time he has been with us and his contribution has certainly enhanced the magazine. My thanks and good wishes go with him and I look forward to hearing his dulcet tones coming at me from across the airwaves.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The 2006 Scottish National Tournament will be held at Leven Links, Leven, Fife on Thursday June 22 2006 by kind permission of the Leven Links Joint Committee. The cost of the event will be £22.00, which includes coffee/tea, filled roll, evening meal and prizes. Apprentice fee will be £12.00.

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

All entries with remittance must be sent to the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA by Tuesday 13 June 2006. Cheques made payable to BIGGA Scottish Region.

ALLISS IN SHEFFIELD

The Sheffield Section welcomed special guest Peter Alliss to Rotherham Golf Club at a recent event.

Sporting a cast on his right ankle having broken it in Scotland the previous month, Peter was accompanied by his daughter Sara, who acted as chauffeuse and general chaperone for the trip. He spoke of his association with greenkeepers during his time as a PGA Professional, attached to various clubs in the UK and his admiration and respect he had for the work that they achieved and for the progress that has been made by the profession.

He then answered questions from the floor, which included his favourite course - Ferndown - and best ever shot - a 4-wood to the 18th in the 1965 Ryder Cup at Royal Birkdale which clinched a victory for he and Christy O'Connor over Arnold Palmer and Dave Marr.

The day was sponsored by Bernhard and Co, who were represented by UK Sales Manager, Steve Nixon, himself a former greenkeeper member of the Sheffield Section, and Marketing and Communications Manager, Gina Putnam.



Peter Alliss with daughter Sara, Sheffield Section President Neil Maltby, far left, with Richard Kerrigan and Gordon Brammah, right, with Gina Putnam and Steve Nixon of Bernhard

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY SERVICE

Continued funding from English Nature, the English Golf Union and the R&A means that the English Golf Environmental Advisory Service, created in 2002, can be extended for a fifth year.

All EGU affiliated golf clubs that have not taken part in the scheme, will be contacted with details of the project, which is being administered by STRI.

So far 180 golf clubs have benefited from the scheme over the last four years and over 100 clubs have received a framed certificate, acknowledging their commitment to ecological good practice.

Successful applicants will receive two ecological advisory visits with follow up reports. Clubs which successfully implement agreed environmental targets will receive a framed certificate to recognize their efforts. In addition all affiliated clubs will continue to have access to the free golf environmental support service run by STRI, including telephone contact and written advice in the form of leaflets providing conservation information on issues ranging from pesticides to management of the rough.

NEIL THOMAS MEMORIAL GOLF DAY

Anyone wishing to enter a team at the annual BIGGA Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day should contact Sarah Norris, at BIGGA HOUSE, Tel 01347 833800 email sarah@bigga.co.uk. Closing date for entries (subject to available slots) will be Monday May 15.

This year the Chairman's Nomination will be split the money raised between testicular and breast cancer charities.

A team can be entered for £200 + VAT with the day comprising a bacon roll on arrival, 18 holes of golf at Aldwark Manor Golf Club, a ploughman's lunch, half way house, a barbecue and the opportunity to win some spectacular prizes.

Holes can also be sponsored for £200 + VAT which gives signage on the chosen tee and recognition within the pages of Greenkeeper International.

The companies currently sponsoring the event are:- Rigby Taylor; Hunter Grinders; Premier Plan; Heath Lambert; Kubota; John Deere; Ransomes Jacobsen; Golf Finance; Toro; Hayter; Greentee Golf and the "A" Group of Hotels.

CWC FRANCHISEES GATHER FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Complete Weed Control's head office staff and franchisees headed to the Algarve recently for the company's annual conference. They gathered at the Penina Golf Resort, a past venue for the Portugese Open, for three days of seminars, networking and, of course, golf.

Bringing the franchisees together outside their working environment enables them to pool their knowledge and experiences, with the aim of raising the standard of the services they provide to their diverse client base. It also provides them with the opportunity to discuss issues which affect their

work, including new and changing legislation, product development and market trends.

"As well as being an enjoyable social occasion, the conference was hugely beneficial to me as a new franchisee. I can learn a great deal from the guys who have been operating successfully for years. It was very motivational, sitting together and talking about business development and different work situations. I went back to Scotland with lots of new ideas and a great support network to help me implement them," stated Keith Gallacher, owner of the Scotland South West.



NINE HOLE EXTENSION

Saddle Creek Resort - the gated, 900-acre Castle Cooke community in the scenic California Foothills - has announced that Carter Morrish, architect of the resort's existing 18-hole course, will design a new nine-hole layout on the property's northern reaches.

Once complete, Saddle Creek will feature 27-holes of challenging, resort-style golf available for play by members, residents and guests. The new nine will blend seamlessly with the existing, award-winning 18 hole circuit that opened in 1996 and

ranks as the No. 8 course in the state according to Golfweek.

"I am excited about the opportunity to team with Castle Cooke and Saddle Creek Resort to create an inviting, challenging resort golf experience. We'll strive to maintain the look and feel of the original 18 holes by creating similar bunker patterns, stunning visual corridors and green complexes," said Carter.

GARSIDE SANDS STRENGTHENS

Following the acquisition of Aggregate Industries by Swiss company Holcim Ltd, Aggregate Industries' silica sand business, Garside Sands, and its Holcim counterpart, are working closely together to offer a wider product portfolio. The partnership also significantly increases the business' ability to supply in volume within the UK, across Europe and for international projects.

Garside Sands, based in Bedfordshire, and Holcim France's silica sand business, located in Nevers and Orléans, central France, have incorporated their product range to offer customers a greater variety of specialist graded silica sands for markets, including water filtration and industrial applications.

NEW SPONSORS FOR ENVIRONMENT COMPETITION

The future of the prestigious BIGGA Golf Environment Competition has been secured for the next three years thanks to the injection of sponsorship from two new industry partners.



Golf Environment
Competition

Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd and Course Care will join the existing sponsoring companies of Scotts UK Professional and Syngenta Professional Products to ensure that the competition, which has helped to raise the profile of the outstanding environmental work done on the nation's golf courses, will continue to be the premier event of its kind in the game.

"We are delighted that Ransomes Jacobsen and Course Care have recognised the importance of the competition to the game of golf and their investment, together with that of our outstanding existing sponsors Scotts and Syngenta, will ensure that we can extend the reach of the judging process, so more clubs can benefit from visits from our expert judges," said BIGGA National Chairman, Richard Whyman.

The competition is in its ninth year and the role of honour includes some of the most environmentally committed courses in the country. The National winner receives £2000 to spend on environmental projects plus a weather station.

KESTREL FLY HIGH



Kestrel Golf & Sport's continual growth has resulted in the restructuring of the company. Kestrel Golf and Sports Limited will now trade under Kestrel (Contractors) Limited. Over the last decade, Kestrel has expanded into one of the UK's most respected natural and synthetic sportsground contractors.

In another move to ensure Kestrel deal with their growth efficiently and continue to offer high levels of attention to detail and customer satisfaction, they are set to move into new, bigger offices in March.

Kestrel has also appointed Joe Boniface as Sales and IT Development Manager to join their existing sales team. Joe, who recently graduated from Reading University with BA Honours in Accounting and Management, joins Kestrel at an exciting time.

"I am very pleased that Joe has joined our team and look forward to working with him on our continued expansion," commented Sales Director, Billy Martin.

GOLF CLUBS TARGETED

One golf club was actively vandalised and four others threatened with similar treatment in the Bath area last month.

An unnamed protest group ripped up five greens at Park Golf Club while four others received type written letters calling on them to revise their management regimes.

"We received a letter threatening vandalism if we carry out their four demands," said Andrew Boyce, Course Manager of Bath GC, a major winner in the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition over the last two years.

"We had to reduce water usage by 25%; 10% of each hole should be returned to nature; we had to reverse any policies which could be perceived to be anti-wildlife and we had to turn off all overnight lighting," explained Andrew, who stressed that the club were extremely pro-active in ensuring they ran in a sound, environmentally aware manner.

The protest group ripped up the 3rd, 4th, 9th, 10th and 11th greens at the Park Golf Club and promised there would be further action if their demands were not met.

Jim Galley, Club Manager at Bath, told The Daily Telegraph that they club used little water because doing so encouraged stronger grasses.

"There is a perception that golf abuses the environment but nothing could be further from the case," said Andrew, who also highlighted the difficulties in securing the average golf club from such attacks.

GENTLEMAN'S DINNER

The Gentleman's Dinner at Walton Heath has been going - according to a man who should know, Clive Osgood, Regional Administrator and long time Walton Heath Head Greenkeeper - for over 40 years and this year attracting a playing entry of 100 with 15 additional guests for dinner.

This year's champion was David Murdoch MG, Course Manager at Liphook GC, who won on countback while Steve Smith and Jim Brack, from Gillingham Golf Club, clinched the greenkeeper/club official prize. It was also pleasing to see Paul Weston, up at the prize table as winner of the 10-17 category, in the year he retires from Drift GC.



David Murdoch MG being presented with the traditional putter trophy by the Club Captain



George Barr being presented with a memento by Raymond Day to recognise his unstinting service as Regional Chairman

The Sisis putting competition also raised £50 for the Tadworth Children's Trust.

As ever Ian McMillan had the course in tip top condition, not just for the dinner but for the US Open Qualifier which it is hosting later in the year. The day would not be possible if it wasn't for the fine stable of sponsors the Region is lucky enough to be able to call upon.

"They all do a lot for the Region and we are very much indebted to them," said Clive.

Avoncrop; The Art of Grass; CMW; Construction Materials; Ernest Doe; Waste2Water; Gem; Grass Roots; Headland; John Shaw Machinery; Pure Turf Products; Rigby Taylor; Scotts; Tower Chemicals; Seoul Nassau; Sisis; Symbio; Tacit and Vitax.

NEW DISTRIBUTORS FOR LINDUM

Lindum Turf has increased the company's presence in Southern England with the appointment of two new distributors.

Green Farm Turf based at Billington, Leighton Buzzard will cover Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and parts of North London, while SCS Turf Specialists based five miles from Reading will supply Berkshire, North East Hampshire and North West Surrey. Both companies have existing customers from their respective landscaping concerns, and both wish to develop the turf supply side of their businesses.

Both S.C.S. Turf Specialists and Green Farm Turf have distribution rights for the whole range of Lindum Turf, and the two companies intend to share loads and transport costs. Lindum's Stephen Fell said he was impressed by the two men's

entrepreneurial skills, which had enabled them to establish themselves relatively quickly within the market place.

"Their energy and drive makes them ideally suited to extend our distribution network," he commented.



Mark Ward, left, and Julian Gosling

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NEW MARKETING AT HAYTER



Hayter has announced the appointment of Tracie Francis as Marketing Assistant. In her new position Tracie will be responsible for the marketing activities relating to exhibitions, advertising and promotions.

Tracie had already held positions in a number of customer dealing areas of the business including spare parts, service and sales. She took maternity leave for the birth of her son Euan. Tracie returned to work in October 2005 since when she has been working in marketing.

"Tracie has an extensive knowledge of the company and during her time in marketing has shown a natural flair for the work. With her enthusiasm, energy and obvious abilities she is the ideal candidate for this important role at Hayter," commented David Sturges, Sales and Marketing Director.

GET SNAPPING

The closing date for the BIGGA Photographic Competition closes on June 30, 2006. Successful entries will be used in the 2007 BIGGA calendar while one picture will be named the overall winner of the competition.

Pictures should be sent to Scott MacCallum, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, YO61 1UF as prints, slides or on a disc or emailed to scott@bigga.co.uk. Digital pics should be at least 300dpi and be at least nine inches by seven inches in size.

SOUTERS STRENGTHEN

Fast-expanding company Souters Sports Limited has appointed Oliver Gluyas as Civil Engineering Manager based in the North East of England to further develop the Company's client base and services.



Oliver, 27, has a strong background in sportsturf construction, maintenance and renovation, having previously worked for several large civil engineering contractors in the North East.

"I'm really looking forward to the new challenge and will be striving towards keeping up the high standard of work set by the Scotland and Cheshire branches. I'm also looking towards developing the business throughout the North East and firmly establishing the name of Souters Sports as the premier sportsturf contractor in the region," stated Oliver.

MY YEAR TO DATE



Geoff Wells, Deputy Head Greenkeeper of Gainsborough GC is the current Captain of the Golf Club. Here he gives us a run down of his year to date.

I am now well into my year as Captain at Gainsborough Golf Club and although it is time consuming the enjoyment I derive from it and the support from my family makes it all worthwhile. Although to my understanding it is not unique to be a greenkeeper and Captain it is indeed very rare so I feel I am among a very privileged few.

I started my year in office on Thursday November 3 last year at the clubs AGM and had my drive-in the following Sunday morning. There was breakfast for the 84 competitors at 7.30am before the nerve wracking tee-off in front them and about another 20 or so well-wishers. The rain that was forecast had so far held off and now was the time to be carried from the clubhouse to the 1st tee (not an easy task for I'm 6ft 5in and nearly 16st) my friends Paul and Jason, two strong lads, had earned their full English as they chaired me to the tee some 50yds or so. Now it was time for that all important drive and as I nervously took a couple of practise swings trying to ignore the banter I was told there was guesses for the length of my tee shot ranging from a fresh air to 280yds. After a couple of deep breathes and some shouts of encouragement I set myself and launched a beauty, straight at the green some 320yds away falling just short at 311yds the official measurement. I milked the applause.

A fantastic start to my year as Captain and it just gets better. We held a very successful Captain's

Charity Christmas raffle with over 90 prizes nearly all of them donated, which raised over £2,700, which was split between The Lady Captain's charities and mine. An excellent night was had by almost 200 members that turned up. My thanks to those in the trade that donated prizes and to those section members who bought tickets.

After quite a quiet start to the year our annual Golf Ball was a grand occasion, long frocks for the ladies, black tie and evening suits for the gents. After a sumptuous meal yours truly started the night's dancing with The Lady Captain as is tradition. A couple of brisk laps around the floor and then back to the table to soak her poor feet! In my size 12 shoes I'm definitely not Darren Gough or even close to it.

March another great month to remember this time nothing to do with my Captaincy but to be in the presence of perhaps the greatest sports commentator all time Peter Alliss it was an honour to be there and to shake the great man's hand. I have been a fan of his style of commentary and his brand of humour for as many years as I can remember. A real scoop for the Sheffield Section and especially Gordon Brammah in securing his services.

On March 31 the Lincs PGA held their inaugural Pro-Am and Dinner at Gainsborough GC. I was invited to enter a team for the golf and be present on the top table for the evening's festivities. Just missing the prizes by a stroke the evening was a very memorable affair. Among the dignitaries hosted by Head Professional of Forest Pines David Edwards the evenings principle speaker was Sandy Jones, Chief Executive of the PGA, with Adger Brown, the comedian, and very funny he was too. Sandy spoke of his many years with the PGA and his journeys around the globe. He brought along with him The Ryder Cup and those who took part in the day had the opportunity to have their picture taken with it. A small charge being made with the proceeds going to the Lincs PGA.

I am only part way through this most honourable years and if any of our members get the same opportunity as I have I would urge them to do it for it is not just a rewarding experience but you meet so many wonderful people along the way.

KUBOTA APPOINTS

Kubota has further strengthened its UK dealer network with the appointment of Pallisers of Hereford as an official agricultural sales and service dealer for Herefordshire, Worcestershire and parts of the neighbouring counties of Gloucestershire, Shropshire and Powys.

Based at Acorn Park, Yarkhill, near Hereford, Pallisers of Hereford was founded in 1993 by husband and wife, David and Anna Palliser. A branch was opened at Mere Green, Hanbury, near Droitwich in 1998. Together, the two operations

have a total of 30 staff with major emphasis placed on the provision of first-class after-sales service and parts support for all customers.

"There is a wealth of experience and technical know-how within our sales and after-sales departments. This experience will be invaluable to past, present and future Kubota users as we strive to build the business among customers in the public and private sectors throughout Herefordshire, Worcestershire and neighbouring areas," said Managing Director, David Palliser.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

In order for the course at Williamwood Golf Club on the outskirts of Glasgow to be in prime condition for the centenary year celebrations later this year, course manager Robert Johnston has taken delivery of a Jacobsen AR250 articulated rotary mower, specially designed for maintaining and enhancing semi-roughs.

Robert heads a team of six and has been at the club for 10 years. He began his career straight from school and spent 11 years at Cochrane Castle Golf

Club in Renfrewshire. He then moved to Ardeer Golf Club in Ayrshire as Head Greenkeeper and after four years moved south to take up a similar position at Newport Golf Club in South Wales.

"This being the Club's centenary we are pulling out all the stops to have the course looking its absolute best this year. We're also busy upgrading the course and are moving and installing bunkers as part of our renovation programme," said Robert.



MAJOR RENOVATIONS

Kaanapali Golf Courses - a Billy Casper Golf-managed property - has announced that the historic Tournament North Course is to undergo a number of layout renovations and will reopen for play in November.

Part of a two-year, \$13 million investment to enhance Kaanapali's courses and golf facilities, Robin Nelson is overseeing the work on the North

course. Last year, Nelson completed a successful re-design of Kaanapali's Resort South Course.

"We are excited to begin upgrading the storied Tournament North Course. Nelson's renovations will be more of a nip/tuck approach than a complete overhaul of the layout," said PGA General Manager Ed Kageyama.

ENGINE APPLICATION CENTRE EUROPE

Briggs & Stratton has opened its new Engine Application Centre Europe (EACE). To celebrate its opening, Briggs & Stratton invited a selection of its customers to view the test facility centre

Based in Germany, the EACE has had significant resources invested in it to develop and deliver the highest standards of engineering expertise available on the market. Encouraged by the success of its Milwaukee EAC, as well as the feedback of customers using EAC services, Briggs & Stratton has launched a second EAC to better serve the needs of its European customers.



Located at Briggs & Stratton's Viernheim, Germany, over 40 Briggs & Stratton customers had the opportunity to view the facilities. The mission of the new EACE is to, in partnership with its customers, develop the next generation of commercial equipment precisely focused on the European market.

CANAWAY RETIRES



Dr Mike Canaway has retired as the Chairman of the GTC technical committee. In September 1999 Mike chaired the first technical committee meeting of the GTC.

The GTC Board felt it was time to establish a committee of technical

experts to assist the two full time staff in the GTC office as the Board were 'not experts in turf maintenance'. The Board representatives had direct access to the funding bodies and thought it far more acceptable to have recommendations brought forward for funding by a technical committee.

His term in office has seen much progress in the sector with fellow committee members he has supported David Golding, the GTC's Education Director, to ensure greenkeepers and the golf club employers have a range of qualifications and training programmes including an apprenticeship which is the envy of many industries.

"I will miss Mike's encouragement, as at times when the work involves working within Government systems and departments it is easy to think we are banging our heads against a brick wall, but Mike has always believed in what we set out to establish back in 1999, said David.

DEMONSTRATION TRIALS

WRAP - the Waste & Resources Action Programme - has chosen five organisations to take part in a series of trials designed to demonstrate the performance and commercial benefits of using recycled wood products (RWPs) in a variety of landscaping applications.

The trials aim to increase awareness of the benefits of recycled woodchip as a mulch or as a surfacing material for pathways and playgrounds and build confidence with potential users. They will also allow WRAP to gather further evidence of the material's key performance properties which are: low maintenance/weed suppression, slope stability, resistance to wind drift and accessibility for wheelchairs/pushchairs.

The chosen trial projects are: Cornwall County Council, Rugby Borough Council, Redditch Borough, Adas/Tal Goed Nurseries and Giffords and Persimmon Homes.

"We received a high level of interest from organisations looking to take part in our formal demonstration trials of recycled woodchip for landscaping. This shows that demand and understanding of recycled woodchip's use as a mulch, pathway covering and playground surface has grown considerably," said Julia Turner, Material Development Manager for wood at WRAP.



David Golding, the GTC's Education Director, looks to raise the awareness of Certificates of Competence within the sector.

The word 'competence' has become increasingly important across all industries, especially as Health & Safety legislation has been taken more seriously by both employers and employees. Many working in the sector initially saw the legislation as needs must rather than best practise. My experience tells me that the Health & Safety legislation has improved greenkeepers working conditions greatly during the last ten years.

The GTC and BIGGA has supported the greenkeeping sector by producing recording documentation ranging from a wall-chart to the more detailed documentation of the Machinery and Work Equipment training and assessment manual.

In addition the training manual used by N/SVQ Level 2 candidates has a section within each task for recording the learner's competence including the date of assessment. It is now nine years since the GTC in association with the Health & Safety Executive produced a Golf Course Management Guidelines booklet that is currently being updated.

All of these documents are available through BIGGA and the GTC offices. The initial establishment of a recording system may take a few hours to implement but the maintenance of staff records, while an on-going task, it is not time consuming.

The formal certificates, which cover many of the maintenance tasks carried out on the golf course, are the National Proficiency Test Council's (NPTC) Certificates of Competence (CoC's). The independently assessed CoC's are offered through many of the GTC Approved Training Providers and many Centres offer them in conjunction with N/SVQ Level 2 Sports Turf.

Employers are encouraged to use the CoC's as the formal recognition of staff competence in such areas as the Safe Use of Pesticides, Manual Handling, Tractor Driving and the Safe Use of Mowers. Any golf club with a qualified work-based assessor has a real advantage over clubs that have as yet not ensured their senior Greenkeeper has yet achieved the qualification authorising the assessment of staff to the national standards.

While the NPTC has a network of Centres offering the CoC's and only their own assessors can assess CoC's any N/SVQ assessor should be well up to speed on recording staff competencies at their own workplace. Hopefully your golf club never has to receive an official visit from Health & Safety representatives following an accident or incident but be prepared for visits by the local inspectorate.

Specialist H&S advisors are also available within the sector should the club require support for a particular issue. As formal on the job training is now the norm good record keeping also should be the norm and the Course Manager in association with the employer can access support to ensure there is a safe working environment supported by current staff records of competence.

Informal training often linked to the formal qualifications such as N/SVQ's, HNC/D, Foundation Degree and the CoC's can be an excellent experience for some learners.

The excellent management tutors, Brin Bendon and Frank Newberry, have through recent years, assisted literally hundreds of greenkeepers to become better supervisors and managers through their understanding of the employer's needs as well as the learners.

Every effort is made through close consultation with the Home Unions, BIGGA and the R & A (all members of the GTC), to ensure that only recognised consultants/tutors are engaged in the delivery of quality education. I believe this objective has been consistently met over the years as the greenkeeping sector is admired by the rest of the land-base sector for its united approach to quality education and training provision.

Not forgetting our "friends" in the GTC Approved Training Providers who also often have the resources at hand to be best placed to offer both formal and informal education and training programmes and the range of qualifications and CoC's.

First Aid courses are readily available in all parts of the country through specialist private training providers as well as the Red Cross and St. John's Ambulance and not forgetting that this type of training is also included within the Greenkeeping Apprenticeship framework.

The Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI), have for many years offered excellent short courses, which are still available. More recently, the Institute, in association with BIGGA and the Scottish Golf Union organised a series of short seminars for Green Convenors/Course Managers. They were held at three venues throughout Scotland and proved to be very successful.

Hopefully you will see from this that whilst the GTC encourages employers and greenkeepers to use the formal qualifications to recruit and develop staff development plans it is also very aware of the importance and benefits of short courses.

Short courses which can be informal "fun" learning sessions or legislative formal certificates can often be stepping stones to vocational or the more academic qualifications.

If you require specific advice on any of the above please do not hesitate to contact the GTC on 01347 838640 and/or BIGGA on 01347 833800.

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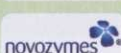
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Education Update

Ken Richardson, Education and Training Manager, looks forward to BIGGA's 2006 Major Competitions.

May is the month when Sami and I concentrate on a number of competitions and this year is no exception. We are also working on the Continue to Learn programme for Harrogate Week 2007. Yes, it really does take 10 months to make all of the arrangements.

The details of the programme are still to be finalised but we are planning to have four more one day workshops, four more half day workshops and four more seminars than we presented in 2006. The programme will include learning opportunities targeted at all levels of greenkeeper and groundsman plus sessions of special interest to Secretaries, Secretary Managers, and Golf Club Officials and to Golf Professionals.

BIGGA Golf Environment Competition



Golf Environment Competition

Thanks to our existing sponsors, Scotts UK Professional and Syngenta Professional Products plus two new sponsors for this year, Ransomes Jacobsen and Course Care Ltd, we can continue to run the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition.

You should find an entry form in this copy of Greenkeeper International. Judging of the competition will take place throughout the year with the prizes being presented during Harrogate Week 2007.

Toro Student of the Year Competition



Last year's Toro Student of the Year, Alan Pierce has not been back in the country long before the entries for the 2006 Toro Student of the Year Competition start to arrive at BIGGA HOUSE.

Entries should be returned to BIGGA HOUSE by May 5 2006. Judging will commence on Monday July 3 and the Final will take place at BIGGA HOUSE on Monday September 18.

If you wish to nominate a student greenkeeper and have not received an entry form, contact BIGGA HOUSE as soon as possible. Entry forms can also be downloaded from our website, www.bigga.org.uk.

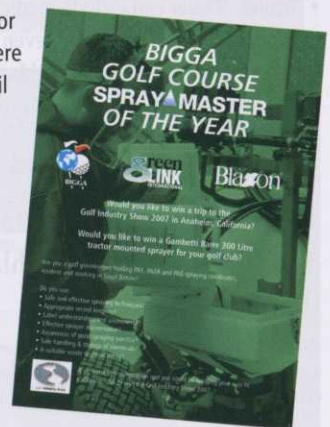
Remember that thanks to continued sponsorship from Toro, the Toro Student of the Year wins an eight weeks trip to the USA that includes six weeks at the University of Massachusetts and a trip to the Golf Industry Show in Anaheim, California. The winning student's lecturer also wins a one week trip to the Golf Club Industry Show.

BIGGA Spraymaster of the Year

Thanks to sponsorship from Greenlink International and Blazon, another greenkeeper could be flying to the USA to spend a week in Anaheim at the Golf Industry Show. Moreover, his/her golf club would receive a Gambetti Barre 300 Litre Tractor Mounted Sprayer.

SPRAYMASTER

Application forms for this competition were included in the April Edition of Greenkeeper International. Application forms can also be obtained from Greenlink Sales staff or by contacting BIGGA HOUSE.



BIGGA Training and Development Manual

My apologies for the delay in the BIGGA Training and Development Manual going live on the Internet. This has been due to technical problems with the BIGGA website. However, the Manual should now be available through www.bigga.org.uk members' area.

Education and Development Fund

Novozymes and Fairways GM have joined the BIGGA Education and Development Fund as Company Member Silver Key Supporters and Reaseheath College has joined the Fund as an individual member. Welcome to all three and thank you for supporting greenkeeper education and training.

Rachael and Gemma would like to welcome 109 new members to the Association and present the improved insurance quotation service available to members.

Membership Update

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MAY'S MEMBERSHIP DRAW WINNER

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

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 Stewart Macmillan, West Scotland
 Paul Millar, North Scotland
 Steven Morris, North Scotland
 Adam Taylor, Central Scotland
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 Mark Bootland, Northern
 Alan Coates, North East
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 Alistair Cotton, South West
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 Adam Hewett, South West
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Life as a greenkeeper on the other side

Leaving home for a far away country is never easy, and even more difficult when the destination is one that for many years you have felt sceptical about. That is how it was when I left to embark on an internship in the US with the Communicating for Agriculture Exchange Program. (Part of an international student exchange and training programme by The Toro Company.)

*Continue
to learn*

Ever since I had entered the turf industry I had seen the 'green monster' that was the US turf industry. How could they justify the use of such huge volumes of chemicals? Why didn't they see the link between the apparent excess of fertiliser application and the necessity for these chemicals? I came to the conclusion that the best way to understand the system used in the US was to work in it myself.



1st Green at Midland Hills C.C.

Therefore in April 2004 I left for the US to begin a placement at Midland Hills Country Club, in St Paul, Minnesota. A Seth Raynor design, formed in 1920, this club has been described as the 'hidden jewel' of the twin cities of St Paul and Minneapolis. Initial impressions were no let down. Set in the perfect rolling terrain that course designers dream of, the course rolls smoothly from one hole to the next. A beautiful golf course, if anything only lacking in the long roughs that define the upland and moorland courses this side of the Atlantic.

The first thing that struck me on arrival at Midland Hills (from a turf management perspective) was the number of employees and likewise the range and quantity of machinery owned by the golf course. It would soon become apparent how necessary this volume of equipment was. I was given a few days to settle in to life in America, but was keen to get started at work. I had arrived the week before aeration was scheduled to take place and this would be the first real taste of the American maintenance machine. All playing surfaces were aerated using four Toro walker aerators for the greens and tees and two Toro tractor-mounted aerators for the greens. This was far beyond anything I had experienced in the UK and was a sign of how things would continue.

Much of the work through the summer was as could be expected - the daily maintenance of the course was much more exaggerated than here in the UK. However, it was clear that this was just a different way of doing things. Much of my animosity towards the 'green monster' to which I referred earlier diminished as I came to understand the system in which I was working. The American maintenance system (as with much of the social and economic system) is fuelled and in many ways controlled by demand. Perfect conditions are expected year-round and the golf course management crew strive to meet the expectations of the golfers. It became clear that many of what we in this country view as excesses in US maintenance are in fact necessities due to the golfers' demands.

Most interesting in the Midwest states of America is the weather, with extreme cold and snow present for months at a time. With the golf courses closed for long periods from November through March, the management approach has to be altered drastically. In England we are lucky in many ways that we do not get the extremes of weather present in some parts of the US. Construction work in Minnesota must be carried out throughout the season - a prospect that would frighten many of the members of golf courses in the UK. The staffing levels present make this more feasible, although the extra work did add to the already hectic management schedule.

The most striking time of the year in Minnesota would be the autumn. Leaf fall from the trees lining the fairways would cover entire areas. For a period of weeks leaf blowing and mulching was carried out on a daily basis including weekends. Scenes such as those in the picture were common. Incidentally, many of the tree specimens that were primarily the cause of the leaf issues were enormous compared to UK specimens.



A sea of leaves surrounding two maple trees

By Barry Wright



The dormant surrounds to bunkers provide a stunning contrast. The ingress of the cool season grasses is clear

One of the most amazing things about the US is the huge variation between different climates across the country.

With the winter coming in fast in Minneapolis, I looked towards the south to continue my education and understanding of the US system. For this, I moved to Charleston, South Carolina, where I found placement at the Turtle Point Club at Kiawah Island Golf Resort. This course had been designed in 1981 by Jack Nicholas and was redeveloped in 2000 by Jack Nicholas again. Much of the redesign involved updating the original constructions, implementing USGA greens and renovating bunkers.

As I arrived at Kiawah in January, the Bermuda and Zoysia grasses were in their dormant stage. The most striking thing about this time is the areas that are not overseeded, such as bunker faces and areas of Zoysia grass (which incidentally does not respond well to overseeding as it will struggle with the transition for the summer). This resulted in a large use of chemical throughout the months where the warm season grasses were dormant, with the need to control the ingress of the cool season grasses into these areas. While these grasses would quickly be replaced by the warm season grasses in the summer, it was important to keep the course as perfect as possible at all times.

Much remained the same with the level of staffing and quantity and variety of machinery.

The most notable similarity was the expectations of the resort management. Being a resort, much of the play is of the pay-and-play type, but this did not reduce the expectations of perfection. In fact, in many ways this only increased expectations - especially with the attachment of the name Kiawah Island. One of the more admirable attitudes was the intention to retain a good sward rather than continually striving for high green speeds. If only this could be accepted worldwide.

The fertiliser and water usage at Turtle Point was phenomenal. However, it was necessary. With temperatures around 95°F (35°C) with 95 per cent humidity for long periods through the summer, turf would not survive without the maintenance that is practised. The geology of Kiawah Island also added to that necessity. Kiawah Island is essentially an enlarged sand bank - low nutrition and high infiltration present across the island. Thus high fertiliser usage. The water was backed off a little during

the transition period, although the fertiliser levels were stepped up in order to try to promote the Bermuda grass, which would quickly take over once conditions were favourable.

One of the biggest criticisms of US golf course maintenance is the lack of definition that is given by the long roughs we have here in England. I noted this at the beginning of the article. However, in my time in the US I began to see how US golf courses have other forms of definition, as do the parkland courses in this country. The lower heights of cut of the roughs are necessary with the desire of the clientèle to have a green golf course with a perfect sward throughout.

This desire, of course, results in the increased levels of maintenance and the

greater use of chemicals and larger applications of water. With this increase in maintenance also comes a bigger need for labour, much of which is increasingly being provided by Hispanic labourers (often Mexican).

While we may in this country find the Americans' approach to golf course management alien, I found that the differences are primarily due to one aspect - the golf course maintenance aim is above all to provide what the clientèle demands. Perfection. Green perfection at that!



Barry Wright was a trainee greenkeeper with a BSc from Myerscough when he joined the programme. He spent 18 months from April 2004 until September 2005 on work placements under the Toro scheme.

Greenkeepers interested in finding out more about the opportunities afforded by this programme can contact Bruce Jamieson on 01252 844847 or email him at brucejamieson@compuserve.com to qualify, you will need to have two to three years greenkeeping experience and a desire to make greenkeeping your chosen career.

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"Everyday I drive through the gates to the club and get a real buzz. It's incredible and like nothing I've experienced anywhere else. It's just wonderful to be here." That's the statement of Adrian Cornell, as he speaks about life at Stock Brook The Country Club, where he is employed as Head Greenkeeper.

If you complete the same journey past the wooden gates and down the grand driveway, with golf course tickling both sides, you know exactly what he means.

Stock Brook oozes class from the moment you enter the premises. No matter whether you are here for a round of golf, a quick swim or gym session, a game of tennis, attending a wedding or just sampling the delights of the kitchen, Stock Brook's motto is that every guest should have a truly fine and memorable day. Whether you are a one time visitor, casual attendee or fully signed up member of the club, customer service is designed for that person to have a fantastic experience.

Stock Brook is owned by the Peachey family and their belief in running a top class leisure venue is embedded throughout the staff. The club contains three loops of nine holes, aptly named The Stock, Brook and Manor. The Championship course is made up of the Stock and Brook courses, which combines to form a 6, 950 yard test of golf as the Essex wind whips around the 270 acre complex. The golfing side of Stock Brook certainly encapsulates the views of its owner.

"The emphasis from Terry Peachey, the MD, down to his staff is as soon as a guest drives through the gates they get treated very well and have a first class day, no matter what activity they are doing. He also believes in good value for money, so we work hard to provide that on the golfing side of things. We have to make our visitors feel like kings," said Golf Courses' Manager Arnold Phipps-Jones, as he sits alongside Adrian in the splendid clubhouse.

Achieving such a consistent high level of both golf course and service is certainly demanding, but one that is reached by Arnold, Adrian and the Stock Brook green team, all 11 of them. They accomplish this feat through a successful and complete team effort. From Arnold as Course Manager, down to the youngest member of the staff, all have their part to play and all are allowed their say and their ideas processed.



The Stock Brook team, L-R, Back Row, George Davie, Jon Goodman, Graham Burns, Terry Passfield, Lawrence Eley, Adrian Cornell; Front Row, Stephen Burroughs, Cohn Moule, Stephen Eaton, Trevor Dean, Tony Bryant and, insert, Arnold Phipps-Jones



"I can't over emphasise the wonderful staff we have here. Every one of them is great and they all work so hard to meet the high demands we set. There is a real feel of team unity here, with everyone helping each other out when needed. It just makes life so much easier for me as their direct boss, while I'm supported superbly by my Deputy Jon Goodman. They are all tremendous," stated a proud Adrian, who is also the GTC's South East Representative.



Stock's 5th hole is a long par 5



The 12th green on the Brook Course



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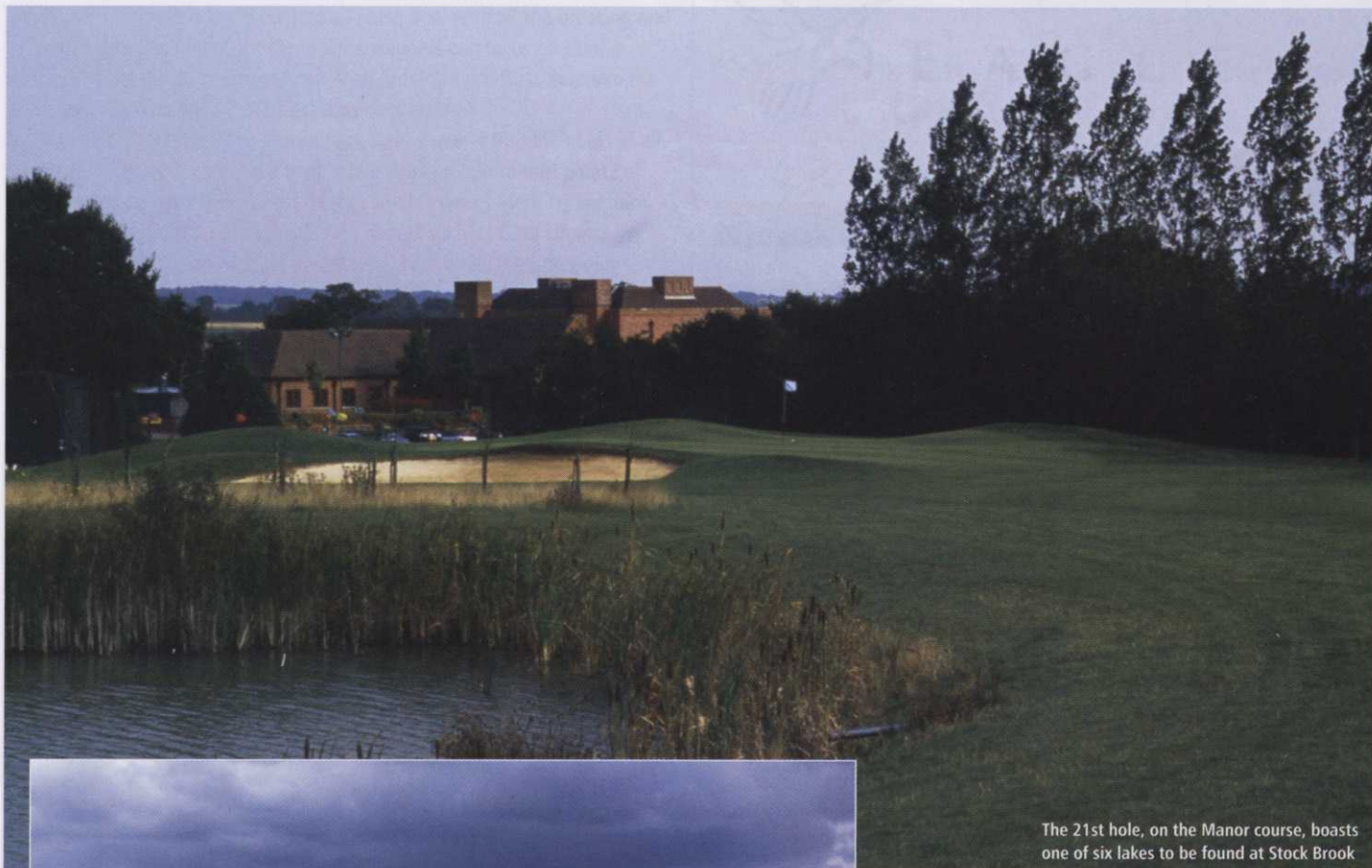
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The 21st hole, on the Manor course, boasts one of six lakes to be found at Stock Brook



The opening hole on the Stock course, a harsh wind makes it a tough start

Added Arnold: "We encourage all the lads to have their say. Without the input from below you can get lost. So having a team that has the skills and knowledge to do the job and the confidence to produce ideas for the course is crucial to us. We all have a share in this club."

Arnold and Adrian, in particular, have developed a strong bond. Arnold, who has been at Stock Brook for over seven years, also oversees operations at Three Rivers Golf & Country Club, which was brought by the Peacheys some three years ago. It means a true partnership and trust has had to be formed to ensure that Stock Brook does not suffer due to its sister course.

"I've been here for just over a year now and we have a good working relationship. I've known Arnold for many years, so that helped when I first started and we, like the team, have gone from strength to strength. It's great having Arnold in his position as it keeps the sales reps off my back and I can concentrate on the course," joked the Head Greenkeeper.

While Adrian is managing the day-to-day running of the Manor, Arnold focuses on the long term maintenance of both Stock Brook and Three



The tee shot on the 15th, out of bounds runs along the right of the fairway



Watch the water on Stock's 9th



An accurate drive is needed on the 14th to avoid the trees

Rivers. The Course Manager outlines all major works, such as fertiliser, aeration and spraying programmes. Logistics is one of Arnold's main responsibilities as the two clubs share much of the main greenkeeping equipment.

The sharing of equipment puts pressure on mechanic Terry Passfield, who has been with the company since its inception, as his role covers both clubs. His mandate from both Arnold and Adrian is to keep all machinery finely tuned and ready at a moment's notice and with over 50 machines under his control Terry is kept busy to say the least. All this means Arnold must work closely with both Terry and the Heads at both clubs to ensure the desired programmes are done at the right time and with the correct equipment.

"All major maintenance work goes through me, it has to really. For example, Three Rivers are aerating the greens at the moment, so they have all the needed equipment there. If Adrian just decided to go out and aerate without discussion he wouldn't have the right equipment to do a proper job and it would be a free for all. Instead we organise everything clearly and keep



everyone informed to avoid confusion. I also deal with all the ordering and buying, again this means the Head Greenkeepers can focus on their courses, while it also means we can share different products between the clubs and not over spend. We are a business after all."

A business it certainly is. Stock Brook claims over 4,000 members in all and hosts over 300 wedding a year, while you can add to that plenty of corporate days and the PGA East Region Final Order of Merit competition. The course itself often entertains famed names such as Gary Lineker, Graham Gooch, Nasser Hussain and Steve Davis, while the late Dennis Thatcher also enjoyed the Stock Brook test.

It's providing that pleasurable examination of golfing skill that is the aim of the superb greenkeeping team. Designed by Martin Gillett, the course has now significantly matured since its inception 15 years ago, and the majority of the team's work is just tweaking little things, such as levelling tees and replanting tress. The goal of both Adrian and Arnold is to keep the course developing naturally rather than forcing it with man made hazards.

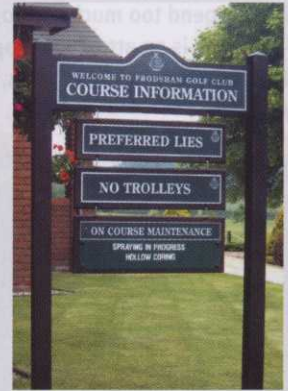
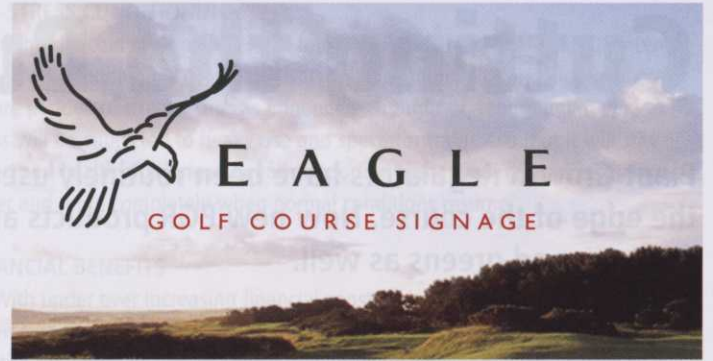
"I always say golf should be enjoyed, not endured. A challenge can add to the enjoyment, otherwise it gets boring. I want golfers to remember this course as an enjoyable test of golf, but they wouldn't do that if we have deliberately set it up to destroy a player," claimed Arnold.

"I agree. This course is a good mental challenge, with six lakes to avoid, but we wouldn't want to put people off from playing it due to it being too hard. It's a very fun course to play and you can shoot a good score, but when the wind gets up it can be a card wrecker, as a recent PGA qualifying tournament will verify.

"So I think we have a really strong balance here. We hit high standards, we have no excuses not to. With everything we have here, the course in the state it is and the team in place I really feel I'm in greenkeeper heaven," finished Adrian, with a broad smile on his face.



The Stock 4th offers a beautiful but challenging tee shot



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Cutting the Burden of Grass

Plant Growth Regulators have been routinely used to manage rough grass areas around the edge of the course. Now new PGR products are being introduced for use on tees, fairways and greens as well.

If you think you spend too much time on the mower and composting clippings, then prospect of reducing the frequency of cutting and the volume of clippings is an attractive proposition. While there have been plant growth regulators (PGRs) available for semi-rough areas and limited use on fairways for some years, there are now products which have been designed for use all round the course, including fine turf tees and greens.



Triple nozzle

Furthermore, the new generation PGRs claim to be able to increase sward density, create a more consistent playing surface and reduce turf susceptibility to drought and stress damage from heavy play. The latest introduction launched at BTME earlier this year, works by blocking the grass plant's production of gibberellic acid, which is responsible for vertical growth.



Cranham untreated



Cranham Primo

The PGR principle is that by imposing the gibberellic acid block late in the growth cycle, it serves to stop cell elongation and keep shoots and stems short. The aim is to divert energy production into more lateral growth - creating a denser, healthier sward - and encouraging more root growth, which makes plants better able to withstand drought, heavy wear and stress.

RECOMMENDED PROGRAMMES

Although the effects of PGR application should be seen within a couple of weeks of initial application, results tend to be cumulative, so a programme of applications will be required through the season. It is therefore possible for Course Managers to tailor rates and frequency of application to different areas of the turf, sward composition, prevailing growing conditions and the effects required.

As a rule, the shorter the turf is cut, such as greens and tees, then the more frequent applications will have to be made, but at a lower rate of PGR; over the course of the season overall chemical use will be broadly the same across fine turf and rough grass areas.

Greenkeepers using Primo Maxx are advised to apply on tees at four to eight week intervals from mid-April to early September, with tees cut at 10mm receiving rates of 0.8 l/ha, but increasing up to 1.6 l/ha for an 18mm cut height (see Table 1). For greens that are cut tighter, down to 7mm, the application rate is just 0.4 l/ha, but should be applied every three to four weeks through the growing season.

If the repeated treatment sounds onerous, most PGRs can be tank-mixed with liquid fertiliser or trace elements. Mixes with herbicide or fungicide applications could be compatible, but checking with a technical source first is advisable.

TAILORING APPLICATIONS

Most PGR programmes start with the onset of the grass growing season in April and run through to September or October. But with weather patterns tending to give earlier springs and prolonged growth into the autumn, the season may need to be extended. The flip-side, is that application timing can be extended in dry periods during the summer if growth slows; although irrigated fairways and greens are likely to need repeated use all season.

PGR application rates can also be adjusted for turf composition, with lower rates on fine turf grasses and higher on perennial ryegrass. The liquid formulation of the new generation PGRs are claimed to be safe for repeated use on even the most delicate grass swards. One useful tip when treating a bent/poa mix sward is to add a small amount of nitrogen to the tank mix to pep up the poa, which are generally slower to green up after treatment than the bent grass.



Rob Holland - Birchwood

Safer PGRs, which are gentle on grasses, can also be used on renovated or over-sown patches and re-laid turf to encourage quicker and stronger rooting.

CUTTING REGIMES

Reduction in grass growth with the PGR programme should enable cutting intervals to be extended over the course of the season on tees, fairways and rough areas. There is also a significant - up to 50% - reduction clippings to remove, so the operation should prove quicker. But for greens it is recommend to continue to cut as normal; the key difference will be the healthier, denser grass quality, with reduced growth during the day - so greens should putt more consistently.

The reduction in clippings could also help reduce issues with composting under new waste management legislation, and slower grass growth could minimise the impact of rain disrupting the cutting schedule, and provide greater flexibility in the cutting intervals.

PRE-STRESS CONDITIONING

In the US, course managers have found PGRs can help with what they term 'pre-stress conditioning'. Their aim is to enhance the health and vigour of grass before periods of stress - such as impending drought or a tournament where grass will be subjected to heavy use and spectator traffic - so that it will stay green and healthy for longer. Equally importantly, they report grass recovers faster and more completely when normal conditions resume.

FINANCIAL BENEFITS

With under ever increasing financial constraints, along with the need to provide better and more consistent playing conditions, the routine use of PGRs can tick the boxes to reduce course management time and costs, as well as producing better quality turf.

Area		Application rate	Application frequency
Tees	10 mm cut height	0.8 l/ha	4 - 8 weeks
	18 mm cut height	1.6 l/ha	4 - 8 weeks
Fairways	Fine turf	1.6 l/ha	4 - 8 weeks
	Perennial ryegrass	2.4 l/ha	4 - 8 weeks
Greens	7 mm cut height	0.4 l/ha	3 - 4 weeks
Rough/semi-rough	Fine turf	2.4 l/ha	5 - 8 weeks
	Perennial ryegrass	3.2 l/ha	5 - 8 weeks

Recommended programmes for Primo MAXX application around the golf course

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In the Shed

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

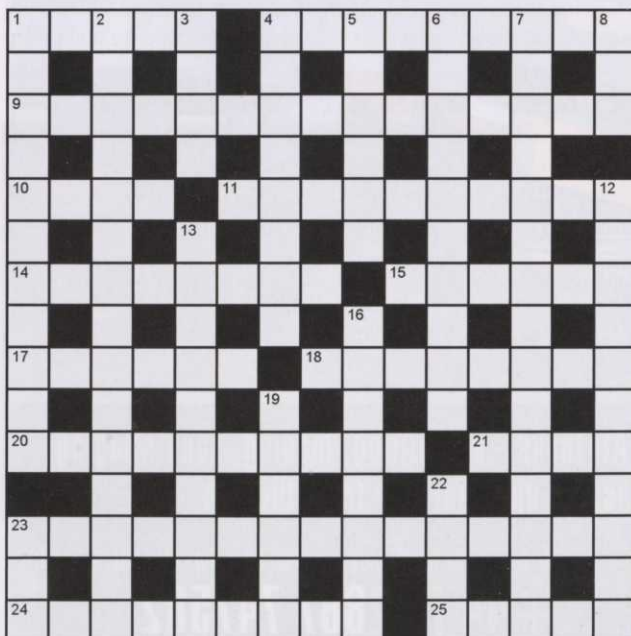
CROSSWORD - Compiled by Anax

ACROSS

- 1 Excellent (5)
- 4 Circuitous journey (5-4)
- 9 1956 John Osborne play (4,4,2,5)
- 10 Light brown colour similar to beige (4)
- 11 Centred on a time many years hence (of films, books etc.) (10)
- 14 Commercial enterprise (8)
- 15 Turn a deaf ear to (6)
- 17 Destroyed (6)
- 18 Canadian province, capital Winnipeg (8)
- 20 Intense sorrow (10)
- 21 Ship's prison (4)
- 23 Port and third largest city in Canada (7,8)
- 24 Type of flavoured biscuit (6,3)
- 25 Printing machine (5)

DOWN

- 1 Betula pendula, tree with drooping branches (6,5)
- 2 Deferral, delaying tactics (15)
- 3 Loose, flowing garment (4)
- 4 Choice, possibility (8)
- 5 One of a kind (6)
- 6 Securing device, typically to attach paper to display board (7-3)
- 7 Title usually applied to cabinet ministers (5,10)
- 8 Standard number of strokes in golf (3)
- 12 Tilttable full length mirror (6,5)
- 13 Twist together (10)
- 16 Person who refuses to work (8)
- 19 Child whose parents are both deceased (6)
- 22 Wisecrack (4)
- 23 Non-technical term for a virus (3)



ANAGRAM

Identify these two television female presenters.

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QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. Which club did Chelsea sign Didier Drogba from?
2. Why is Ricky Hatton giving up his IBF light-welterweight title?
3. "My dad nearly strangled me. I didn't want to cry and look like a jessie but I couldn't help it" - who said this?
4. Which band has been chosen to perform England's official World Cup song?
5. In British Basketball, which side secured their first BBL championship title with a 102-82 win over London Towers in April?
6. With the announcement that Wembley Stadium will now not be completed until 2007 at least, where have the Rugby Football League moved the 2006 Challenge Cup to?
7. Which Country topped the Medal Table at the 2006 Commonwealth Games?
8. "I told them to go home, look at their wives and children and say 'How do you think your daddy played today?' I won't be able to look my family in the eye after that" - which Premiership manager said this and against which team did his side lose to?
9. Which rugby union club will England Centre Stuart Abbott play for next season?

SUDOKU

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

	2	5		1	7	A		
1	8			A				
4	7		B		5			
9	4	C	7	6	1			B
B			1	2	A		7	6
						1	3	
	9	C						
5	A		2	6	7			8
7			C	B	1	4	6	5
			1		B	9	A	
					4		2	3
	9	C	6			B	5	

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 48

Spray on or lay it down

Peter Bridgewater finds out how pitch line marking has come along way since the days of mixing up chalk powder and applying the resultant slurry to mark out pitch lines.

Up to the mid 70s, there was a limited selection of basic equipment and hydrated lime (Calcium hydroxide) was the 'product' of choice. The operation was time-consuming, the product very toxic, messy to mix and apply and the lines often became blurred following the first shower of rain and easily smeared by player contact.

HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED

Today, a wide range of marking compounds, paints and machines are available, pitches can be marked out very quickly, the lines are bright and rainfast and the 'paint' can now be left on the turf not the operator or transferred to players!

There are many different types of marking equipment available; Dry Line, Pressure Pump, Belt Feed but the choice will probably fall between a Transfer Wheel marker or Spray Line marker.

TRANSFER WHEEL MARKERS

Wheel Transfer Markers convey the liquid paint via rotating wheel onto a tray and then transfer the paint via a sponge to a wheel that places it directly onto the turf surface. Some models use a cast iron wheel with dimples that collect and holds the paint before transferring it onto the surface.

The machines themselves are quite basic, need minimal maintenance or cleaning and are very robust.

When used with the right liquids, these machines will put down an excellent line but they have to be used under almost ideal conditions where frequent use of the pitch is low and the surface maintains reasonable grass coverage. The line marking operation itself also can be quite time consuming.

Professional football clubs have tended in the past to favour Transfer Wheel markers as they normally string the pitch out at every mark, walk very slowly when marking and therefore feel more in control. The majority of groundsmen however, will mark the pitch at least twice, once in each direction, simply because that is the way the transfer wheel operates.

Marking one-way coats the leaf on one side, marking the other way coats the other side, either way it only coats the top of the grass and the line is cut out more easily. Clubs will often use the paint at a high, even neat concentration because for them cost is not seen as an issue.

The total opposite is the case when line marking pitches under Local Authority management. Here practices are based on the unit cost, availability of labour and time. Transfer Wheel markers are still used as old habits die hard but their use is becoming less and less as improved equipment and advanced paint technology are made available.



Impact Spray Line Marker showing its ability to coat both a surface with that has good grass coverage and one where all the turf has been worn away.

The paints used by Local Authorities tend to veer towards a lower unit-cost as they are more often a chalk base product or one using a reduced specification concentrate. Unit cost per bag or container may look low but the amount used is quite high and can often end up being false economy.

Major disadvantages exist with the use of Transfer Wheel markers under adverse surface conditions when it is difficult even to push the machine along a muddy, rutted halfway line, never mind attempting accuracy. Similarly, towards the season end when the surface is dry, the transfer wheel is applying the paint onto a surface that has a top layer of dust that adheres to the transfer wheel making it difficult to obtain a maintain a quality line.

In such situations, what could look good value at first sight, may not provide the results required.

SPRAY LINE MARKERS

When comparing the difference between Transfer Wheel and Spray Markers, the benefits of applying a line as a spray is that the paint is being applied to and through the grass without any point of contact on the surface. This means both sides of the grass blades are being covered as well as the turf surface itself so the line does not get cut out so frequently.

There are additional practices required such as machine cleaning after use, ensuring the battery is kept charged and the paint used will almost certainly be a higher specification, higher unit cost product but there are many advantages.

More pitches can be marked as with spray application it only necessary to mark the line in one direction. Marking can be carried out regardless of the surface condition of the pitch. Low operator fatigue, reduced handling and exposure to the product are additional benefits.

Most recently a concept adopted by the wine producing industry has been transferred to the line marking operation. Rigby Taylor's 'bag-in-the box' Impact system eliminates the need to mix product as the highly concentrated paint is simply poured into their specially designed machine and spraying can start immediately.

A cone jet is used as this ensures an improved coating of the leaf blade compared to a flat fan nozzle. The bag-in-the box concept eliminates mixing, reduces the level of operator exposure and is less wasteful as the paint can be left in the machine overnight if required. The containers can also be simply and inexpensively disposed of with standard refuse.

Obviously there are a variety of machines and paints on the market and the final decision will depend on a range of factors but speed, flexibility, actual cost of the operation, reduced operator exposure and disposal will all need to be considered.

Peter Bridgewater works for Rigby Taylor Ltd. Freephone: 0800 429 919.



Bag-in-the-box showing how it can be easily poured without operator exposure



Empty bag that is easily disposed off and waste is minimised as the bag collapses as the material is poured



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Be Prepared!

At the first hint of spring, golfers are ready to play but are you and your sprayer prepared for that first outing? Richard Fry finds out...

Due to the ever-increasing cost of pesticides, the need to ensure Health & Safety guidelines are met while at the same achieving maximum spraying effectiveness, it clearly makes sense to ensure that a sprayer is operating safely and efficiently.



Pre-season checking of filter for cleanliness and damage

The application of sprays within a golf course environment carries a high level of responsibility. There is the safety of players and visitors to consider, the local environment; including valued plants, wildlife, water bodies and, not least, the spray operator.

If a sprayer does not perform at its maximum efficiency throughout the spraying season there could be costly downtime during critical periods such as sudden fungal attack. A few hours of waiting for a problem to be fixed can make the difference between immediate control or a widespread infection.

Poor sprayer pre-season maintenance or inattention to faults can mean unnecessary chemical waste and the potential for either turf damage or poor control that would lead to an unnecessary and costly return visit.

If a club has not had its sprayer tested under The National Sprayer Testing Scheme it is still not too late and there are approved testing stations throughout the country. This scheme, developed by the A.E.A, is part of the Voluntary Initiative. If there is not time to book in to one of these testing stations, a downloadable check sheet is available direct from the following website www.aea.uk.com/sprayer.

Before any spraying is undertaken ensure that a thorough check of the machine and equipment is carried out and make a quick risk assessment: Is the sprayer secure, is the PTO shaft guarded. Other checks should assess nozzle wear and spray output (only check with clean water), the condition of the pipes and hoses, filters and pressure gauges.

It is vital also to check beforehand with your chemical supplier the approval status of the products being used as many are being withdrawn from the list. As always it is essential to consult the product label as changes may have been introduced since the last time it was read and ensure that the minimum recommended protective clothing is worn relevant to the product being applied. This is a vital requirement for managers as it is A Duty of Care responsibility to ensure that employees in their charge are protected at all times.



When spraying close to water ensure that LERAP guidelines have been followed and the correct nozzles have been fitted

Always ensure that the spraying practices adopted are in line with the Club Policy and Risk Assessment. If required by the product label place information signs that are easily visible to advise those on the course that spraying is taking place. By taking such actions, management and members concerns and misunderstandings will be reduced or even eliminated.

Spraying should only commence when climatic conditions are favourable and particular care should be taken when spraying in the vicinity of lakes and drainage ditches. Local Environmental Risk Assessment Practices for Pesticides (LERAP) should be adhered to in such situations and low drift nozzles fitted to machines, at least one sprayer manufacturer Gambetti fit these nozzles as standard to all their amenity sprayers.

Finally, as an added insurance for operators to be able to see at a glance that the sprays being applied are placed with accuracy and uniformity, the simple and inexpensive addition of a spray pattern indicator should be added to the tank solution.

Greenlink International, in association with BIGGA is sponsoring an initiative to identify the Master Sprayer of the year. This initiative supports the use of Blazon spray pattern indicator as a valuable operator spraying aid.

Richard Fry, GreenLink International Ltd. Telephone: 01245 222750.



The Coordinator

Gareth Jones travels to Hollywood to meet a man responsible not for directing films, but greenkeeper education.

When told that I was to visit Hollywood for a story I got rather excited. All that glitz and glamour, a chance to see the famous Hollywood Sign and the possibility of spotting a celebrity or two sounded great. I was then told it was Hollywood, Birmingham - so not quite as glamorous then.



Saying that, the UK's Hollywood does have some similarities to its American namesake. While Hollywood USA looks to set the standard for 21st century cinema, the UK version is equally determined to rise the bar, but in education. Instead of the Walk of Fame on Hollywood Boulevard, where all the famous film stars have their names and handprints immortalised, Hollywood, Birmingham, should have a Walk of Education - or something slightly snappier - to recognise all the highly

trained greenkeepers that are being produced within the region.

If such a Boulevard existed it would run alongside Gay Hill Golf Club and, to date, there would be 86 stars imprinted on it celebrating all those who have successfully attended varying training courses that have been held at the club, through the BIGGA Midland Section. Paul Woodham is the Course Manager at the club, while he also fills the position of Training Coordinator for the Section, and his progressive nature, encouraged by the Section, has seen a renewed focus on local education for the average greenkeeper.

"I attended a A1 Assessor Course, but had to travel all the way down to Heathrow for it. So to get qualified involved a lot of expense in terms of

Assessor Course becoming one of the first courses to run at the club.

Paul's strong relationship with Gay Hill's hierarchy and the club's forward thinking approach has also knocked down one of the major barriers to education - cost. The club give their facilities for free, cutting out a major outlay for any education event, and Paul, through the Section, takes every opportunity to gain subsidised funding from BIGGA. It means that the Section can offer dramatically reduced training to its members. This, combined with the fact that the training is in the local area, means that vital training and career development has become instantly more accessible to the developing greenkeeper.

"The set up we have here at Gay Hill and the great funding we get from BIGGA means that we can offer quality training at a inexpensive cost. In turn, this lower cost and the reduced travelling time means more greenkeepers are willing to attend and clubs are happier about paying for it. The GTC provides quality training for work based assessors and other training programmes, while BIGGA provide training through their Continue to Learn Regional Training programmes. These come with great financial support, but I don't think that they are utilised enough by other Sections. I am always onto the BIGGA Education Department asking what funding we can get. All I can do is ask the question and most the time we get the help we need. I don't think enough people realise what financial help there is for education from BIGGA," stated the progressive Course Manager.

The help from Gay Hill clearly makes a huge difference to Paul's campaign



travelling costs and time away from doing my duties on the golf course. I was lucky that I could attend, but I knew there must be loads of greenkeepers who couldn't attend courses like this due to the travelling distance and the inconvenience of location. I thought that there must be a better way to do this and realised that the key was setting up somewhere local for quality training," explained Paul, who has been at the club for over five years.

The light bulb flicked on in Paul's head. Gay Hill was the perfect place to hold such training. It is in a central location to the Section and just two minutes off the M42, while it boasts a good workshop, an array of equipment, a strong, healthy golf course and a clubhouse with ideal facilities for training. After gaining advice from the GTC and speaking with Gay Hill's Captain and Chairman, the future of Midland Section education was born, with the A1

to increase greenkeeper development. By offering their facilities and use of their equipment for free - they only charge to cover the cost of providing lunch for the course delegates - they may not be benefiting financially, but they certainly are in reputation and staff moral.

"The club are building a reputation for training and by doing this they are showing a clear commitment to our industry, which can only be a good thing. One benefit is that by offering training here it means that our staff are at the front of the queue for it. The club is giving the staff a chance to improve themselves and develop new skills, this in turn improves job satisfaction and motivation levels. A lot of it isn't just giving the boys new skills, but giving them the confidence to achieve. So then the more qualified they are, the more responsibility they can take on, which is great for everyone concerned.



"Of course, if we do lose a member of staff you would hope that our reputation for training would then attract a higher standard of applicant. It all leads itself to a greater standard of golf course, which is the overall aim for any golf club really."

It's not just the staff at Gay Hill that profit from this type of local training, it's the green staff at surrounding clubs too. As word spreads of this initiative more clubs are sending their staff to these programmes. In turn these members can return to their club after their training and pass on what they have learnt to their colleagues. These courses also allow neighbouring greenkeepers a chance to meet each other and discuss native greenkeeping topics.

This is highlighted on the day 1 visit, as Gay Hill is busy hosting the final afternoon of a two day chainsaw course. Led by GTC recommended Trainer Alan Stephens, the course has four members on it - the maximum limit for Health and Safety reasons - all from differing local clubs.

"We had some trees that needed cutting down and wanted to train another member of staff for chainsaw use. So we set up the course here, got in Alan and the funding sorted, and then spread the word to the local clubs. They were keen to send their boys to such a local and cheap course," said Paul, who also pointed out that one of the members of the course didn't have access to a car and wouldn't be able to attend such a course if it was outside the local community, emphasising one of the true appeals of this training.

The four members of this particular course aren't donning Course Manager jackets, they are instead the life blood of the industry - the members of the everyday green staff that crave to develop more practical skills and play their part in the progression of both their own course and greenkeeping as an industry. This local, inexpensive, practical type of training is perfect for such greenkeepers and the rewards are plentiful for the individuals, the clubs and the industry as a whole.

"If we want to be seen as a fully professional and progressive industry we have to take everyone with us. We have to raise the level throughout all elements of greenkeeping, not just the top few percent," concluded Paul.

That just sums it all up.



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Holes in the Ground

Ian McClements studies aeration and its role in cultural disease suppression, fusarium patch and anthracnose basal rot.

Turfgrass diseases are most common on highly maintained close mown turf, particularly golf greens. As maintenance intensity increases, so diseases become more common. Partly as a result of more intensive maintenance practices, we are now seeing disease pressures increasing on greens, tees and fairways that would have been uncommon five to ten years ago. Changes in climate are also having an impact, for example we have detected an increased incidence in fusarium activity over the past three autumns due to milder, wetter weather conditions.

Disease symptoms are the result of a causal agent (pathogen) attacking a susceptible host which, for the purposes of this discussion, is the turfgrass stand. Disease development thus depends upon three factors:

- (a) **The availability of a virulent pathogen, such as a fungus or virus.**
- (b) **A susceptible host possessing a growth rate that favours the parasitic activities of the pathogen.**
- (c) **A favourable microenvironment, particularly regarding temperature and moisture.**

The most common turfgrass diseases in Ireland, fusarium patch disease and anthracnose, are as a consequence of fungal activity. These fungi are incapable of synthesizing their own food and thus live as saprophytes by feeding on dead plant material or as parasites by infecting and deriving nutrients from living plants. Most of the common fungal pathogens live as saprophytes on dead plant material in the turf profile but also have the ability to become parasites when conditions are favourable. This parasitic activity can only arise when the fungus enters the host plant, through wounds and stomata, and undergoes an incubation period, during which time the fungus colonises and disrupts the normal physiological processes within the host plant.

It is important not to underestimate the importance of environmental conditions and their role in disease development. Excessively wet

conditions are particularly favourable for the development of most turfgrass diseases. Films of moisture allow spores to travel freely from infected to uninfected plants and, combined with humid conditions, tend to accelerate fungal growth rates. Fusarium patch disease is extremely prevalent under cool damp, humid conditions.

The maintenance of a healthy, actively growing turfgrass stand under dry conditions will make it much less prone to disease attack and therefore reduce the need to apply plant protection products, itself a costly exercise. There are many management factors that will determine the health and strength of the sward cover on putting greens but the two most important are water management and nutrition.

In my opinion, too much emphasis is placed on nutrition and not enough on water management, drainage and irrigation. Mechanical aeration helps improve the intrinsic drainage characteristics of the soil profiles but unfortunately aeration doesn't sound glamorous nor does it gain favour amongst golfers, who tend to despise holes in their greens, not to mention the superintendent who wants an easy life. Yet the foundations of a solid maintenance programme should be based around a year-round aeration programme that is suited to the nuances of the site, green profiles and levels of traffic on the course. There is no such thing as a "one size fits all" since all courses differ environmentally, architecturally and in terms of construction.

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TORO Count on it.

OPERATION

Producing firmer, drier surfaces will help promote a healthier turfgrass stand as well as reducing disease incidence. Water must penetrate the surface first before it can move through the profile to depth, highlighting the importance of surface aeration treatments such as solid or hollow tining. Hollow tining has the greatest influence on surface drainage, improving drainage rates for a five to eight week period with 1/2-5/8 inch (13-16 mm) tines on high sand content greens with the holes backfilled with sand (Carrow 2004).

Solid tining with a 1/4 inch (6 mm) tine will also improve surface drainage rates but its effectiveness is reduced within three to four weeks of the operation. The effectiveness of these aeration treatments declines due to hole closure at the surface as well as the plugging of the holes with new root mass.

Since fusarium patch disease tends to be most prevalent through the autumn period, it is crucial that any coring work completed at the end of the season is done so when weather conditions are suitable for sward recovery and, more importantly, to allow for the integration of top dressing. The application of heavy dressings to fill the tine holes is fraught with difficulties if the weather conditions are poor and the surfaces damp. The smearing of sand on a damp turf surface is a sure recipe for fusarium, more so in Ireland given the alkaline sands that are commonly used. Potentially disruptive hollow coring treatments associated with the subsequent risk of disease again suggest that this work is best completed as early as possible in the autumn period.

The predictions of milder wetter autumns due to climate change may extend the growing season but offer little comfort when contemplating the application of top dressings. A few forward-thinking clubs that complete the work in late August or early September enjoy better surfaces through the autumn as well as quicker recovery immediately following the operation. All in all, less disruption to play and better playing surfaces for longer.

Anthraxnose basal rot infection occurs long before symptoms become apparent and control applications of fungicide made once the symptoms are apparent will only protect plants that have yet to be infected. Routine preventative fungicide applications are costly and increase the risk of inducing fungicide resistance. Cultural control strategies represent the first line of defence against this particular disease, a disease that may be increasing due to the greater levels of stress that putting surfaces are being subjected to.

ANTHRACNOSE BASAL

Anthraxnose basal rot is a stress indicator; healthy turfgrasses just don't succumb to this particular disease. Aggressive brushing in of top dressing, aeration and other cultivation techniques create stress but also have the potential to create wounds that allow the fungus to enter the plant. Verticutting and close mowing have been shown to increase disease incidence even if the treatments are completed prior to infection (Uddin & Soika 2003). It also seems possible that hollow core aeration is likely to be more



damaging to the turfgrass stand than less disruptive forms of aeration such as Hydrojecting or solid tining, the latter clearly being preferred during periods of stress or if anthracnose basal rot is already prevalent.

Lack of sufficient summer aeration combined with routine close mowing will enhance the sward's susceptibility to anthracnose basal rot. Sealing off at the surface prevents gaseous exchange resulting in reduced root function and greater stress. This is particularly common during rapid fluctuations in weather conditions and can exacerbate sward recovery from drought stress or drying. It is not uncommon to see midsummer outbreaks of anthracnose misdiagnosed as a consequence of poor nutrition rather than a lack of summer aeration that maintains an open, receptive surface to both air and water.

SUMMARY

There are clearly a number of factors to consider when determining the most appropriate aeration programme to adopt to minimise disease activity but considering the plethora of modern aeration equipment, it should be possible to implement a year-round aeration programme with the minimum of disruption to play. The depth and intensity of aeration treatments should be varied to optimize gaseous exchange and drainage yet, on the basis of the standards demanded today, a monthly treatment through 12 months of the year would not be an unrealistic aeration policy to adopt.

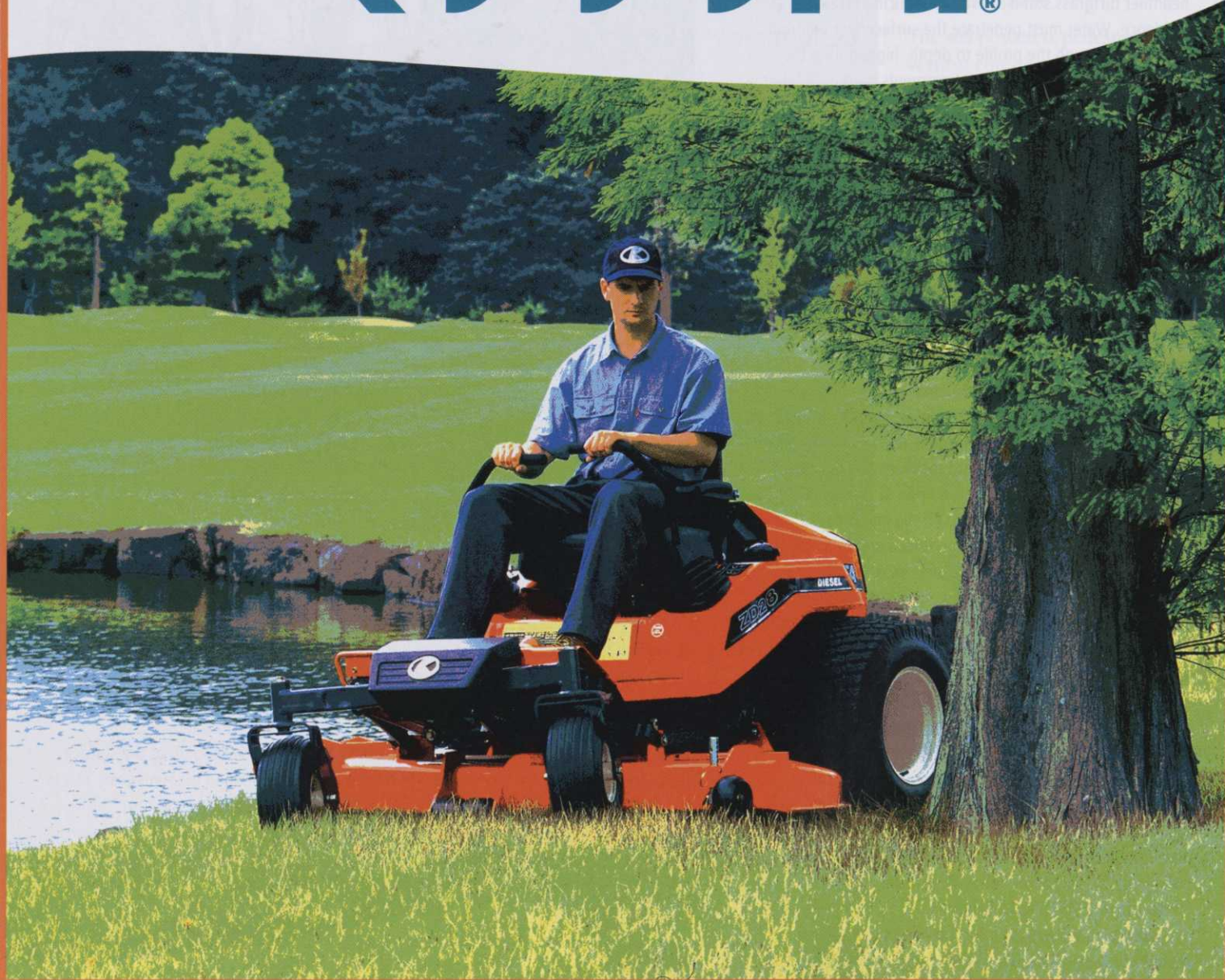
Nonetheless, the nature and intensity of the aeration programme will have a bearing on the strength and health of the sward and should therefore be site specific.

Carrow, R.N. (2004). Surface organic matter in bentgrass greens. USGA Green Section Record 42 (1): 11-15.

Uddin, W. & Soika, M.D. (2003). Effects of turfgrass cultural management practices on severity of anthracnose basal rot in mixed-annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass greens. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting, August 9-13, Charlotte, NC.

Ian McClements is STRI Area Manager for Scotland & Ireland and can be contacted on 01274 565131.

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Zeros to Heroes

James de Havilland looks at what's available with today's zero turn mowers - more choice, more performance and more productivity

When zero turn mowers first entered the UK market, petrol power and mowing decks that could be compromised in heavy going were the norm. Now Zero turns have matured, with choices that can include diesel power, heavy duty wide decks and collectors.

When zero turn mowers first started to be sold in the UK there were those who predicted this type of machine had the potential to take over from mid-deck tractor mowers and out front rotary models. It has not happened that way of course, zero turn models just adding choice to an increasingly diverse mower market. But there is little doubt that a zero turn mower, in the right application, will literally run rings around a 'conventionally' steered alternative.

The key to getting the most from these manoeuvrable mowers is choosing the right machine. Although it is tempting to lump all zero turn models into a single category, the reality is that there is a tremendous difference between the mowers on offer.

As a starting point are entry level petrol powered models with decks of perhaps 36 inch / 0.90m. Ideal for nipping in between trees and awkward to mow areas, these small zero turns are great at getting into areas that at one time would need clearing with a brushcutter. These entry level models are priced from around £5,500 for a 15 to 20hp unit.

Slightly larger petrol powered machines, with power units of about 25hp and decks of around 60 inch / 1.52m form the next 'group'. Physically larger than entry level models, these units offer good performance and productivity and can be well priced at around £8,000.



It does not take long to master the controls of a mower like the Toro Z590-D, a close cut around trees helping to reduce the amount of work that may previously have been carried out with a brushcutter. When trying a machine, try it with a collector. These can be useful when dealing with leaves in autumn



With a choice of 52 inch / 1.32m or 61 inch / 1.55m deck, the Wright Sentar can tackle reasonably large areas without any compromise on its ability to mow close to trees. As with any zero turn mower, clean turns can be achieved after only a little practice



Lastec offer a wide choice of zero turn models, with diesel power units from 22HP to 36HP. The established Articulator deck design allows close following awkward contours as pictured, the mowers being offered with deck choices that include working widths from 39 inch / 1.0m to 195 inch / 5.0m with three or four deck sections according to model. Options include stripping roller kits and collectors

Going for diesel power makes sense on units that will see a lot of use, a 60 inch / 1.52m machine tending to be priced in the £12,000 to £14,000 bracket. This is a significant hike compared to a petrol machine of similar width, but these prices are just a guide. Wider 72 inch / 1.83m diesel models will typically be priced over £15,000.

It is worth repeating the listed prices are ball park figures; it is really difficult to put a price to equipment these days and listing individual equipment prices can be misleading as a result. With this in mind, check to see exactly what the price includes. In some instances options such as a rear catcher and front weights can be disproportionately expensive. So cost them in from the start and not as an afterthought!

It is also important to check on the warranty offered. A one year warranty is the norm, but some manufactures offer second year cover as standard. Check the conditions of the warranty are made clear too. It does vary between suppliers.



The John Deere JD 717E and JD 997 (pictured) zero-turn mowers are powered by 19hp petrol and 30hp diesel engines respectively, the larger model being designed and built in Europe and featuring a choice of side-or rear-discharge decks. Both models are fitted with folding ROPS frame and lap belt as standard



Powered by a 20hp diesel and fitted with a 60inch / 1.50m deck, the Ransomes ZT220D is claimed to have the capacity to mow up to 3.5 acres / 1.4ha in an hour. Although this will be in ideal area mowing it does serve to illustrate the serious capacity offered by zero turn mowers



Fitted with a saddle as opposed to a seat, the 25hp petrol engine Wright Sentar is also offered as Sport version with a diminutive 36 inch / 0.90m deck. This allows it to work amongst closely spaced trees. The operator can stand up to get a better view, making the mower great in a tight space



Husqvarna offers both petrol and diesel powered zero turn mowers, the 27hp BZ27D sharing the same compact dimensions with other models in the range. Fitted with a 61 inch / 1.55m deck, its larger 34hp brother, the BZ34D will suit those looking for greater output with its 72inch / 1.83m mowing width

Powered by a 31.5hp diesel and offered with a choice of 61 inch / 1.55m or 72inch / 1.83m deck, the Ferris IS 5000Z is, in zero mower terms, a large item of kit. Despite this, it will still mow close to trees and around difficult obstacles, but has the mowing capacity to cope with large areas



JCB initially launched its zero turn mowers as concept models at SALTEX 2005. The diesel ZT20D is fitted with a 48inch / 1.22m rear discharge deck, the collector and side discharge decks of the pictured unit suggesting the company is looking to offer several options. Keep on eye on what JCB has to offer. The company has the determination and resources to develop its groundcare range



Offered with a choice of 60inch / 1.52m side- or rear discharge deck or a side-discharge only 72in / 1.83m unit, the 28hp Kubota ZD28 targets those looking for a rugged medium capacity zero turn that is equally at home in tough going as it is on finer turf



Powered by a 27hp three-cylinder diesel, the Toro Z590-D is offered with a choice of 60 inch / 1.52m or 72 inch 1.82m side-discharge deck. Available also with a mulch deck option or collector system, the ROPS frame can be folded to clear overhead branches



Cut and collect zero turns are often called upon to help with autumn leaf clearance, a point to consider when looking at new models. Kubota offer two collector models, the GZD15 and GZD21 with 15 and 21hp diesel power units with 42inch / 1.06m and 48inch / 1.22m decks respectively

NEW PRODUCTS

OUT IN FRONT

Kubota has replaced its established F60 out-front rotary mowers with two new models, the F2880 and F3680. Replacing the F60 range that first emerged back in 1996, they are powered by 28 and 36hp three-cylinder diesel engines respectively and benefit for an enlarged operator area to improve comfort. Up front, two main deck widths of 1.52 and 1.83m are on offer with the choice of side- or rear-discharge.

A dual range hydrostatic transmission is standard to deliver operating speeds from 0 to 20kph. Auto Assist 4WD is also fitted. This engages drive to the rear steering wheels only as needed, with the steering wheels freewheeling during a turn to help reduce the chance of turf damage. To operate, the new mowers are a definite improvement over the outgoing F60 units; there is a great deal more leg room for a start. The front lift system is also faster and has greater lift capacity.

For further information Tel: 01844 214500; Web: www.kubota.co.uk.



QUICK HITCH

To facilitate the easy attachment of Broadwood's state-of-the-art SweepEx modular brush system to Telehandlers and other loaders, Broadwood International has introduced a new hitch that enables the SweepEx Megabroom to be coupled directly to the vehicle's back-plate.

The SweepEx has no moving parts, which means that the maintenance and downtime normally associated with ride-on rotary-style brooms is practically non-existent. The robust construction allows a powerful sweeping action both forwards and backwards enabling rapid, efficient and economical sweeping of large areas.

Available with numerous optional extras, the SweepEx magnetic bar assures the removal of nails and dangerous debris whilst the dust mop is ideal for polished floors. Other options include a debris collector arms and leaf collectors.

For further information Tel: 01794 388881.

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SHOWCASING

The new Avoncrop Amenity Products catalogue has been launched showcasing the products available to the turf and amenity buyer. This edition provides the user with comprehensive information on the products, the application rates and all in a user friendly way.

Included are the very latest additions from the leading manufactures in the industry such as Primo Maxx from Scotts UK and new selective herbicides, Esteem from Vitax and Nocweed from Bayer.

For further information Tel: 01934 620868.



SMART THINKING

Smartedge is a heavy-duty, lightweight 2mm thick polypropylene structure that is so durable that once installed a small tractor can run over it without damaging either the edging or the machine. Despite the strength it is still flexible enough to adapt to any curve required.

To keep a grassed area looking even smarter the A-frame system allows the grass on top of the edge to grow through and secure Smartedge to the ground.

The edging stays smart all year round, as the product is very weather and stain resistant. It is also very friendly to the environment due to its ability to be recycled and is non-toxic. Smartedge is available in 5, 10 or 50 metre lengths.

For further information Tel: 01923-255699; Web: www.smartedge.co.uk.



RAT TRAP

To help combat this year's unprecedented rise in rodent populations, STV, the poison-free pest control specialist, has introduced a Multi-Rat Cage Trap that traps 10 or more rats at a single setting.

The double-decker trap boosts catch rates using a proven multi-catch entry-port system, making it most effective in areas of high infestation. The trap is manufactured from heavy-duty steel mesh with rust-resistant powder coating.

It is easily set up, with self-setting entry ports at either end. A pre-baiting system also enables catch-rates to be boosted by overcoming rats natural neophobia - a problem that ordinarily makes it difficult to tempt rats into cage-type rats.

For further information Tel: 01953 881580.



BUILDING A PLATFORM

Haygate Engineering, the pioneers of the Henchman range of safe hedge cutting platforms, has launched its tallest cutting platform yet - The Major.

Forming part of the company's Hi-Step range, the Major's platform height varies from 6' to 8', or up to 11' with a Height Extender fitted. This enables the user to cut across the top of hedges up to 16' (when cutting at 5' shoulder height). Like all Henchman, it provides the safe alternative to ladders and stepladders.

The main difference with the Hi-Step Major is that it has an aluminum frame with plated steel legs. After 18 months of research, and with advice from senior materials experts in the industry, the aluminum most suitable for this application was chosen. This has resulted in a really strong and very stable platform, but one that is remarkably light in weight for such a big platform.

For further information Tel: 01635 299847; Web: www.henchman.co.uk.

VERTICUTTER COLLECTOR

Campey Turf Care Systems have further extended the versatility of their Koro Field TopMaker turf renovation machine, in the shape of the Verticutter Collector, which attaches to the 1.2m wide FTM 120 model.

At the heart of the machine is a verti cutting rotor, available with spacings of 20mm, 34mm or 40mm between the cutting blades, which are offered in 1.5mm and 3mm widths. The heavy duty steel hopper collects thatch and other removed material, negating the need for a tractor or trailer running alongside.

When required, the Verticutter assembly lifts and tips hydraulically, so that its contents can be discharged easily into trailers or utility vehicles like Pro Gator, Workman and Truckster units.

Extra cleaning brushes are also fitted to the front of the Verticutter Collector, to ensure the efficient collection of debris in wet conditions.

The Verticutter Collector can be retrofitted to the 1.2m Koro Field TopMaker machines already in use.

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





News from the Chief Executive

April rolls by and many of the golfing population in the UK are spurred into action by The Masters on the television and the prospect of longer, warmer days. In my part of the world, Yorkshire, I hope that Spring also means some drier days, there has been no apparent shortage of rainfall in this area over the last few months! Augusta looked immaculate, as you would expect, with the Azaleas adding that splash of colour and a lengthened course testing the competitors to the fullest. Congratulations to Brad Owen, the Superintendent, Jim Evans, his Deputy, and the rest of the greenkeeping staff not to mention a worthy winner in Phil Mickelson, who in my opinion is a good ambassador for the game.

Having been privileged enough to visit Augusta National Golf Club earlier in the year while attending the GCSAA Conference and Exhibition I was able to appreciate how such spectacular results can be achieved, unlike the myriads of golfers who will now expect their own course to be suddenly transformed into Augusta like condition. Although this will inevitably put pressure on many Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers in this country, and around the world, it is never the less important that we should all strive for higher standards. The main issue for greenkeepers comes in trying to satisfy the expectations of the golfer who is often unaware of the conditions and resources available and who sometimes overlooks the increasingly unusual weather patterns. Communication helps, both at club level and nationally and it was good to hear Peter Alliss make reference to the budget and exclusiveness of play at Augusta which sets it apart from your typical club! What is BIGGA doing to help you may ask. The answer is that we continue to provide courses on effective communication, available to members and non-members, and we are working with the other national bodies in golf together with making information available to the media all in an attempt to raise the understanding of the challenges facing today's greenkeeping staff.

The Association together with the AGCS are making steady progress towards their goal of producing a Standard Health and Safety Management System and the joint working group met again in April. The greenkeeping representatives are Andy Campbell, Les Howkins, Gavin Robson and Tony Smith and their commitment and contribution is appreciated. The next step will be to invite current Health and Safety consultants to a meeting in May in order to seek their support for the project and give them an outline of progress to date. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Ransomes Jacobsen Limited who have agreed to support financially the final product that will be available to members over the internet in due course.

Ransomes have also agreed to support the 2006 Environment Competition in conjunction with existing sponsors Syngenta and Scotts and I am also pleased that Course Care are joining the list of sponsors for this event for the first time. The responsible management of the environment is an important part of all our lives and I hope that members and their golf clubs will give maximum support to the competition.

I have received confirmation that John Deere Limited will this year resume the running of their national golf competition, the John Deere Team Championship, which will follow the format of previous years in so far as there will be local dealer sponsored knockouts culminating in a national final at the East Sussex National Golf Club in September. The lucky winners of the final will be invited to play in the John Deere World Championship in Georgia, USA (not at Augusta I hasten to add!) in November, an event not to be missed I am reliably told. John Deere have again pledged £25 to BIGGA for every dealer-sponsored team entered in the UK that will be used to support education for BIGGA members.

I, and my colleagues at HQ, are planning our Section and Region visits for this year and I will publish a list of events that we intend attending on the members' bulletin board and in the June edition of Greenkeeper International. We look forward to meeting faces old and new and I hope that members will take the opportunity to meet us.

John Pemberton

40 Greenkeeper International

SCOTTISH REGION

The 2006 Scottish National Tournament will be held at Leven Links, Leven, Fife on Thursday June 22 2006 by kind permission of the Leven Links Joint Committee. The cost of the event will be £22, which includes coffee/tea, filled roll, evening meal and prizes. Apprentice fee will be £12.

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

All entries with remittance must be sent to the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA by Tuesday 13 June 2006. Cheques made payable to BIGGA Scottish Region.

Peter J. Boyd

Ayrshire

New members to the Section this month are Robbie MacDonald, Brodick GC, and Mark Hodgson, Turnberry. This brings us up to about 125 in total which is a good increase from just a few year's ago.

The Spring Outing at Southernness will have been played and results will appear in next month's notes.

Western Gailes plays host in the Autumn on Wednesday 27th September with tee times from 2pm. The outing will also decide this year's winner of the prestigious Harry Diamond Jug as sponsored by Daval Products.

June 22 is the date for the annual Scottish Greenkeepers' Championship and will be contested over Leven Links GC, in Fife, so good luck to the Ayrshire contingent heading over.

The National Conference in Dunfermline was a resounding success once again, not surprising though with the quality of speakers. Our thanks to Peter Boyd for his work in organising the day. Then to cap it off Mr Brown took us for beers. Ya dancer!

Anyone interested in playing football against the West can contact myself or team manager, Marshall Sloss. We are hoping to get the game played in May so be quick or else Iain might have to play again?

In early October we are planning a little golf match against some of the lads from Northern Ireland. Probably a Friday afternoon game in the Irvine area, with possibly a few light refreshments taken afterwards in the quaint town of Ayr. I'll let you all know more of the details as things progress but anyone interested just get in touch with me on 07939104701 or by e mail at denis.t@hotmail.co.uk.

Dennis Tweddell

East

I am writing this report in early April, with my wife whispering in my ear to remain quiet, as we have our usual visitors in the form of two lesser spotted woodpeckers to our bird feeder. A beautiful bird close up, it is extremely shy.

A man operating a revolving door system this month is Steven Halliday, head man at Melville Golf Centre, with the departure on a free transfer of Shai' Cunningham to Mortonhall Golf Club, Making his debut at Melville is John Shaw who has spent the last two years with the SRU at Murrayfield.

The new Deputy Course Manager at Cardrona is Bruce Watson who has been working at the Archerfield Estate for the past 18 months. A former head man at Selkirk Golf Club, Bruce commenced his greenkeeping career at Moffat Golf Club under the expert tutorship of Robin Macmillan.

The National Conference in early March was held in Dunfermline but the attendance from the East Region was disappointing. Only 10 members attended.

I must apologise (or causing Kevin to have kittens when in the last edition I gave the wrong date for the Spring Outing. sincerely hope it did not cause too much upset.

I promised two editions ago some input from Ian Kinky on his trip to Atlanta. The following with the odd adjustment is a report sent to me via email by Ian:

'I am in the middle of stripping the putting green ready for constructing a new one once the scaffolding comes down from around the new clubhouse, perfect timing eh, so this will be quick, short and sweet! We need to crack on if we are not careful it will stop raining and we'll be working whilst not soaked to the skin, and that will never do.

Atlanta 10 BIGGA delegates from around the UK, only person representing Scotland was me, an Englishman living here, although there was a Scottish fellow working in

England. Trip was Sunday to Sunday.

Day 1: Pouring rain. Visits to East Lake Atlanta Athletic Club, Dormant Bermuda and Zoysia was stunning to see. Maintenance facilities were something else fertiliser and chemical stoics were bigger than our entire maintenance facility.

Day 2: Full day of GCSAA seminar on communication. An American politician as speaker, whole thing was interesting and definitely worthwhile. Interesting that the exact issues American Superintendents have replicate what we deal with.

Day 3: GCSAA field trip seminar. Full day out and about visiting Georgia Olympia Centennial Park \$17 million on a park, not a huge park at that! East Lake again only this time it was dry! Ainsley CC 9 hole average members club (still it had loads of machinery) Georgia Tech. University, impressive Stadium, training facilities, golf practice, baseball practice 'thing' cracking day.

Day 4: full day in Golf Industry Show, immense. Every possible supplier you can think of and then some! Amazing how many familiar faces you bump into when you are the other side of the world! Met Georgia chapter of GCSAA for a question and answer session, informal chat about differences/similarities between British And American greenkeeping. Interesting One guy's June fertiliser budget was the equivalent of my annual budget in its entirety.

Day 5: another full day in Golf Industry bow, and needed, wouldn't be possible to take it all in one day.

Day 6: shopping, Georgia Aquarium (biggest in the world apparently) We attended several 'official' functions throughout the week. Bernhard's prestige dinner, GCSAA functions etc.

Thoroughly enjoyable week and an experience of a lifetime, made better by good company from a wide range of backgrounds. Huge thank you must go to all involved with the trip at BIGGA and Bernhard, particularly Stephen and Sam for their time during what must be a very busy week and Kim for all her hard work that ensured the week was well organised and enjoyable.'

Finally, a big thank you to Ian for his contribution this month, and a reminder to everybody in the East, that this is your report, not mine, and your input is vitally important. So keep the news and views coming.

Mike Dooner

North

At the time of writing this report April 10 the temperature is 2 degrees. Who said we had an easy job! We are certainly suffering at the moment for the mild spell during December and January when it was 13 degrees and warm.

I hope the weather is not causing too many problems on your Courses and that you are seeing some signs of life on your greens etc.

The Scottish Conference in Dunfermline was a great success with quality speakers throughout the day. (Well done to Peter Boyd in attracting the speakers on the day).

The people I have spoken to really enjoyed the day out away from their snow bound courses. Euan Grant, from St Andrews, gave a very informative talk on life at St Andrews and management of a links in modern day greenkeeping. The conference was well supported by the Sections with a particularly good turnout from the North Section. (Well done lads).

The spring meeting is at Montrose GC links this year so lets' have a good turnout for this one.

On a sad note I learnt that a former member of the North Section Stuart Hogg lost his father to long illness a few weeks ago, so our thoughts are with him at this time.

One of my own staff at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, Stewart Mckenzie is moving on to do a course run through Ohio State University in America. The course runs for 18 months in which time he will gain an insight into the American way of greenkeeping and course presentation. He has gained a place at Merion GC, which has held the American Amateur Championship and US Open in the past and is one of the top ranked courses in the States. This will be a valuable experience for him and all at Royal Aberdeen GC wish him all the best.

Stuart McColm has left Kingsbarns GC to manage the new project at Castle Stuart near Inverness. This is a magnificent site and one that I am sure Stuart will develop into a world-class facility.

One new member this month is Mark Spence who is First Assistant at Aspire Golf Centre in Aberdeen.

That's about it folks, hope the weather improves shortly and we get some decent growing conditions. Any news or gossip let me know on grassman 351@aol.com

Cheers,

Robert Patterson

West

Welcome to this month's report, our football match with the Ayrshire section was cancelled due to the heavy snow in the region of 12 inches it would have been better to go skiing. Hopefully in the near future a game will take place.

Once again our annual conference took place in Lauder College Dunfermline, 160 attended on the day with a first class range of speakers.

Many thanks to those in attendance and to all the helpers for there assistance also to Peter Boyd for his hard work arranging the venue and speakers. Next years conference will be in the same venue date 6th of March.

The Fairways group will be holding an open day on Wednesday May 24, they will be showing a wide range of Ransomes Jacobsen Equipment also the Iseki tractor range and a run down on their sports ground company, please come along and meet up with the team at Inchinnan and you will see a first class set up.

As part of the day there will be some light hearted competition on the go also a buffet lunch. There will be ample time to test drive equipment on show.

Fairways will be sending out letters to members in the near future on the run down of the days programme.

During March BIGGA, the STRI and the Scottish Golf Union held a seminar at East Kilbride Golf club on communication between Greenkeepers and Greens convenors Richard Windows, STRI, Kevin Weir, SGU, and Ian Barr, BIGGA, all spoke on the matter which lead to an interesting question and answer session.

Around 20 clubs attended on the night.

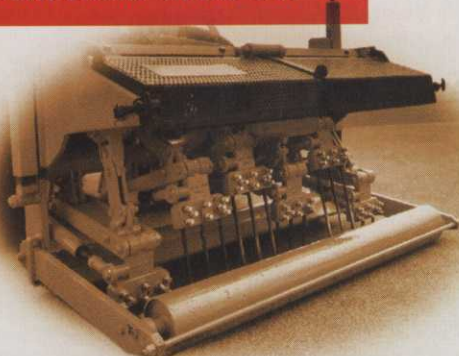
Fixture list anyone that has not received their fixture list please get in contact.

Well some news just of the press my good friend Ian MacKay formally of SISIS is back on the Golf scene, he has started at Gledoch Golf Club in Langbank as part time Gardener so hopefully we will see him back at our Golf outings. Gledoch is now part of the Swallow group.

Also a short note to Kenny Hunter after many years service in the Section recently



Celebrating 25 years of the
Verti-Drain® in the UK



Do you have the
oldest working
Verti-Drain® in the UK?
If so, you could...

with Scottish Grass Machinery. Kenny is on his way to a warmer climate as he has been appointed the Toro rep for Dubai and the surrounding area.

All the best Kenny with your new challenge. Well that's all for now 'til next month.

Fraser Ross

NORTHERN REGION

GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY

The Golf Management Trophy event is an invitation team event sponsored by Scotts UK Professional. It is open to golf clubs which have green staff who are members of BIGGA. The event has been running successfully by the Northern Region since 2004.

The format is a Fourball Stableford (best 2 to count) and is aimed at bringing together the various management elements of golf clubs with the opportunity to win Scotts Products for the golf club plus individual prizes. Teams comprise a greenkeeper, who must be a member of BIGGA; Golf Club Secretary or Manager; Club Captain or Vice Captain and Chairman of Green or a Member of the Club Committee, or suitable substitutes.

This year's Northern Region events will be at Sandiway Golf Club on Tuesday July 11 and Hornsea Golf Club on Wednesday August 2.

Invitations will be sent to golf clubs in each Section. If your golf club wishes to enter a team and does not receive an invitation please contact Peter Larter on 01476 550115, Regional Administrator for the Midland and Northern Region.

Golf Clubs outside of these Regions are welcome to play, so please apply as appropriate for an invitation.

Northern

He went, he sold and now he returns! Former Section Chairman Tito Arana has returned to the industry. After a short spell as a car sales man Tito is working for Boxer Chemicals as a rep covering both West and North Yorkshire. We all wish him well in his new job and hope to see him back playing in the Section events.

April 5 was the date for the first event of the year and was held at a very impressive Selby Golf Club. After weeks of heavy rain, snow, sleet and anything else that falls from the sky, Gordon and his team had the course looking superb so thank you lads for great course. It was also good to see a few new faces at Selby, I do hope to see you all again. I know one or two had some tough journeys to make via buses and trains so we hope you all enjoyed your day.

The results on the day were: Scratch Cup - Rob Gee.

Div 1. 1. T. Gerrard; 2. P. Rowbottom; 3. A. Baxter

Div 2. 1. J. Watts; 2. F. Stewart; 3. R. Armitage

Div 3. 1. S. Rothwell; 2. A. Scaman; 3. P. Colley.

Trade 1. R. Lathem; 2. J. Dobson.

A thank you must go to Ed Carter, and the Scotts Company, for sponsoring the day and supplying the excellent prizes.

If anybody has any news they want to share with the section then please do get in touch. Please don't forget that President's Day will be held on June 14 at Northcliffe Golf Club so get your names and cheques in early.

Mobile: 07739 319360, 16a Hodgson Fold, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD2 4EB
Adam Speight

North West

Well after all the snow things are starting to wake up including our Section members. I have had a few phone calls this month. Here are some moves that have taken place. Peter Pattenden, from Gleneagles, is the new Golf Courses Manager at Carden Park. Two new posts have been filled at Fiddlers Ferry GC, namely James Cope, who was formerly at Henley Park, and Gary Curran has also moved there from Childwall GC. Last but not least one of our popular members has been welcomed back into the fold, namely Alec Davies who has been appointed Course Manager at Denton Golf Club. We wish them all the best of luck in their new posts.

I have heard a rumour, I don't know how true it is so I won't name any names but it seems that one of our members went to Harrogate in his car and could not

remember where he had left it, so off he went home without it. He then phoned the police in Harrogate to report it stolen. The police found it and put a sticker on it so the traffic wardens would not fine him.

All fine up to there you might think, then this happens. The police ask him, if it is stolen how come there is no damage done to it and no locks broken. They then ask him if he had just forgotten where he had left it, so he comes clean and admits he had. They tell him where it is and he travels back to Harrogate to pick it up. The very kind police had removed the sticker because it was not stolen and low and behold there was five parking tickets on it at £30 each. So be warned.

We are looking for 12 members to compete in the annual match against the North Wales Section. This will take place on Thursday May 18 at Sutton Hall Golf Club and is free of charge as the day is sponsored. If you feel up to the challenge please phone me on the number below as Bert is on holiday and has asked me to organise it. I guarantee you will enjoy the day.

As always if anyone has any news or just needs a little bit of advice, please contact the secretary Bert Cross on 0151 724 5412 or myself on 0151 289 4625. If you are on the world wide web, my email address is jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk.

Chris Sheehan

North East

Well the only news this month I can write about is that Close House GC has started making improvements to their existing course by building new greens on about five holes at the moment and also constructing extra bunkers on various holes. Planning permission for the new championship course is expected to be granted sometime in the near future.

Garry Batson, formally at Longhirst GC, has moved to Alnmouth GC, replacing John Hood, who by the time you read this has left the greenkeeping profession to start up on his own. Two former members of the Section have also done the same, namely Guy Martin, from City of Newcastle, and Ian Patterson, from Gosforth GC.

New members welcomed to the Section are Geoff Morgan, from Crook GC, Martin McCirrick, from South Shields GC and Scott Robson, from Whitley Bay GC.

The AGM for 2005 will be held on either the last week in October or the beginning of November. A golf club has been approached and we are awaiting a reply at the moment. Before the AGM we will be playing a 18 hole competition starting in the afternoon. As soon as I hear the date I will let you know via the Section News.

Jimmy Richardson

North Wales

Another US Masters in the bag for North Wales Greenkeeper Wendy O'Brien, Wendy first went out to Augusta on a 12 month sabbatical then each year has been back to help out the staff in their preparation for the first Major tournament of the year, hand mowing double cutting and holding a length of wood along the fringe of the green to stop the balls dropping off the edge from the stimpmeter readings! Well done once again Wendy and please remember next time to snaffle a few free tickets for us back home.

Along the coast at Rhuddlan GC one of Paul Lowe's assistant's has been picked to play for North Wales Football team under 19's, Miles Johnson will play his first match will be against a Scottish International team. The results will be in our next issue.

Paul Taylor, from the Princess Course Henllys Hall on Anglesey, has told me about what he believes is the best greenkeeping job in Wales or anywhere to be exact, he had an assistant start working and after completing one full week went off on the sick, nine month's later!, he returned to work completed another week then went off on the sick again. Anyone interested in a job like this please give Paul a ring (he will be out when you call!).

Carden Park have appointed a new Course Manager to take over where Andy Campbell left off, he is Peter Pattenden, from The Gleneagles golf resort in Scotland was chosen over many applicants for this prestigious post he will formally start this month.

On a sad note I would like to send our thoughts on behalf of all the committee and friends of Pete Wooldridge, Head Greenkeeper, Hawarden GC, by Chester, who lost his wife to a relatively short illness in March, I have known Pete for many years since the late 80s and his times in charge at Burton-On-Trent GC, Pete & his wife moved back to his homeland of Chester some years back and has enjoyed life with their Great Dane dogs. Our sympathies are with him at this time.

Just two golf day reminders to close this month's notes, Peter Sproston, Jeff Jago and the team at Sutton Hall GC are looking forward to hosting the N.West Vs N.Wales

team match on May 18 and spaces are still available as I write, Peter has said you can forget about Augusta's green speeds as Sutton Hall will have them cutt down to 2mm and running about 14 on the stimp to retain the shield from the N.West team.

The second golf date is our first spring competition being held at Oswestry GC on May 31, it has been a while since we have been back to this venue and a new Head greenkeeper in the form of Gareth Woosenham at the helm, hopefully see many of you there?

Mesen Cymru
Andrew Acorn

MIDLAND REGION

GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY

The Golf Management Trophy event is an invitation team event sponsored by Scotts UK Professional. It is open to golf clubs which have green staff who are members of BIGGA. The event has been running successfully in the Midland Region since 1997.

The format is a Fourball Stableford (best 2 to count) and is aimed at bringing together the various management elements of golf clubs with the opportunity to win Scotts Products for the golf club plus individual prizes. Teams comprise a greenkeeper, who must be a member of BIGGA; Golf Club Secretary or Manager; Club Captain or Vice Captain and Chairman of Green or a Member of the Club Committee, or suitable substitutes.

This year the Midland Region events will be held at Verulam Golf Club on Thursday July 27, and Boston Golf Club on Wednesday August 9.

Invitations will be sent to golf clubs in each Section. If your golf club wishes to enter a team and does not receive an invitation please Peter Larter on 01476 550115, Regional Administrator for the Midland and Northern Region.

Golf Clubs outside of these Regions are welcome to play, so please apply as appropriate for an invitation.

East Midland

Whatever happened to the East Midlands Section gone fishing, organising a 5-a-side football match you should be so lucky. Well some confusion as the Midland Section ended up under our heading and nobody knows what happened to our report.

Anyway, on with the business, hopefully you will all have received our Spring Tournament form with the deliberate mistake on the reply slip! AGM Tournament. Don't worry if you attend you will not be up for nomination but Stanton on the Wolds GC have restricted us to 40 places so first come first served.

Congratulations are in order for Greg Skinner, of Lingdale GC, on his move to The Belfry and to Craig Wroughton on his move just down the road from Branston G&CC to Burton upon Trent GC. We wish you both much happiness in your new jobs and

to one of our committee members Craig Watt on his nomination for Toro Student of the Year.

Finally, we are looking for venues for our four tournaments in 2007 (spring summer agm Xmas). Have any of you got a celebration like 25 years or a retirement that you would like to recognise or would you just like to host an event? Let me know sooner than later and I will drop your club a line. That's all folks keep the news coming in!

Richard Barker

Midland

As you will have read in last month's Education Update section, LANTRA are offering European Computer Driving Licence training. ESF funding will mean that eligible candidates will receive £150 subsidy against the £200 cost. In addition to this, BIGGA Midland Section will reimburse the additional £50 costs for six candidate places.

As the training will need to be completed by the end of September, applications for the additional section subsidy will need to be in by May 22. If you are interested in this training, please contact Paul on 07880 734197 or Email paul@ghgc.org.uk. Further details of the course and application forms can be obtained by contacting Lantra Coursefinder on 0845 707 8007.

Sean McDade and Paul Woodham

East of England

There are two parts to this month's news entry. First, a plea, and then secondly the remaining important items.

Imagine this. A glossy invite comes through the post: 'Wanted. Greenkeeper to accept £200'. There's no catch, the qualifier only has to answer some general knowledge questions. He'll be fed and get to meet and socialise with new and old Section members. A nice evening out.

How many takers to this invitation? Yes, you guessed, exactly none.

I make no apologies for the sarcasm, as this lack of response was a real disappointment. When I took on the Chairmanship, part of my remit was to try and get more bodies to join in events. I was very proud and pleased to be taking a part in BIGGA that could help to involve other members and encourage them to take an active part in their own organisation. After all - why pay the fees if you feel there is nothing there for you? All the events and seminars we organise involve a lot of the individual committee member's time and effort. We aim to organise events that have a real interest to our members and to enable networking to become a real factor within BIGGA allowing every member to learn from each other in both formal and informal environments.

The response to this evening, however, was a real kick in the teeth. We are aware that everyone has commitments. Not everyone can attend all the events, or even be interested in all of them, but there must be something that interests you? If we haven't thought of it, then why not help us? What do you want to see for a seminar? What do you want to learn? Who do you want to listen to? What do you want for a golf day? What social events appeal to you? Please phone me or email your opinions - good or bad. Without input from individual members we won't



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know what you want to get involved in or what you want to learn. The East of England Section has a fantastic bunch of lads all committed to increasing our knowledge and having a good time. They are all there to help, not just each other but every member of BIGGA who wants to develop their professional activities (with a pint or two thrown in if wanted).

Now, on to the news. By the time you read this the diary will be with you, so I look forward to seeing you all at Sandilands in May. Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Howkins on the birth of their daughter, Chloe. Watch out Steve, there must be something in the water up there! I would also like to wish Tom Shinkins all the best on his new career at Blec and would like to add that: "It'll cost you more now mate, and can I have a three day demo of the Groundbreaker during Autumn renovation time?" Finally I would like to warn you all about a certain shady character who sneaks up behind you wearing moccasins. Seriously though - good luck with the operation Gary and lets hope they can straighten out your driving as well as your toes.

Any ideas for events or anything you would like to see appear in the section news please feel free to contact me by email at allan@jaxybaby.plus.com or phone me on 07974 816927.

Allan Walker

SOUTH EAST

Surrey

Tuesday April 4. With some rain over the weekend and the possibility of further April showers most of you must have been praying that the drought order will not be enforced and that your own little bit of green will remain that way. When you read this you will know more about what lies in store weather wise, if that emergency bowser purchase was really necessary and if the spraying of partly treated sewerage will help to increase beneficial microbes. One can bet though that this more natural substance will help keep the greens in better order if only by reducing the number of golfers down to those with a more limited sense of smell!

Enough of this crap, if you get my meaning and lets get on with reporting the events of the past weeks. The football bonanza that occurred on March 23 was sponsored by Ernest Doe & Sons Ltd, Esher and we thank Phil Bush the branch Sales Manager for helping to make the game truly memorable. Surrey and Sussex Sections teams plus reserves both arrived at the floodlit pitch in keen anticipation, changed into white and yellow strip respectively and waited with baited breath for the referee's arrival. John Ross, in black, spoke sternly to the captains, Dave Langheim for Surrey and Carl Whyborne for Sussex and putting his whistle to his lips emitted a short sharp peep and the game kicked off at 7.25pm. The pitch was in first class condition with hardly a blade of grass to cover the gravel. Surrey, determined to dominate from the start, attacked with force and it was therefore not with much surprise that the first magnificent corner for Surrey was headed with superb expertise into the Sussex goal by Andy Foulds after only three minutes play. Matt King was soon to follow up with a second goal and after 30 minutes Surrey scored the third also by Matt King. Sussex were in trouble and there must have been some strong words at half time for Sussex looked a better team in the second half and a strong attack only just failed with a great shot hitting the bar. Surrey would not give up and with some effective tackles mainly directed at Gary Ogilvie, who at one point appeared to get tired and rested his head on the ground, would soon find the box again with a fine effort from the scorer of the first, Andy Foulds. Four nil and the match was drawing to a close. Ian A. Sellers player/manager of Surrey with five minutes to go decided that despite his age and physical condition he still had something to offer and subbed with a weary but elated Tony Bremer.

It wasn't long before a waist high pass hurtled Ian's way and with a volley that George Best would have been proud of Ian's shot stormed into the Sussex goal. Five goals and with a final peep the match was over. Well done Surrey. Hard luck Sussex but revenge is sweet as we look forward to a replay on your home ground.

Some Surrey members are on the move and these include, Graham Ball, Walton Heath GC, the new Deputy Course Manager at Bearsted Lakes GC. Kevin Bulman also Walton Heath is going walkabout or around the world in 365 days. Jaey Godchild, Chobham GC joins Richmond GC as deputy and Joachim Holgersson,

Richmond GC, takes on the deputyship at Wyke Green GC. Paul Hobden, Wisley GC, is now the course manager at Gaton Manor GC and finally but not least Ian Morrison is congratulated on accepting the course manager's position at West Hill GC. Sorry, Ian is not the finally but not least after all, as later news of Phil Bennett, Petersfield GC and his transfer to North Hants GC has just come to hand.

The first Surrey section golf competition of this year returned by popular demand to Tony Bremers Dorking GC. A warm welcome was extended to all as we prepared to start this team Texas scramble and after some of us had sampled the breakfast menu it was to the first tee to enjoy the delights of this well presented course. Any course manager who is brave enough to have 40 plus greenkeepers play at this time of the year is to be congratulated but to agree to it for a second year, Tony you must be mad!. The format was play nine holes then into the clubhouse for excellent rolls with a variety of fillings, then back out again and from different tees play another nine.

The running buffet on our return to the clubhouse was really enjoyable and we thank Dorking GC for a great day's golf. Tacit sponsored the day and we thank them for quality prizes which were given to the following winners.

1. Darren Peach, Darren Lee, Andrew Reason and Dean Churchill. 2. Dave Langheim, John Jennings, Dave Wyborn and Ian (volley) Sellers.

Longest drive Paul Bacon. Nearest the Pin Mark Harvey, Gary Ogilvie and Jason Hunt. John Bishop retired on April 13 after 50 years at Tandridge GC and as a good customer and friend of mine I hope his retirement is really the enjoyable time he deserves.

Brian Willmott

Kent

Hope you're all enjoying the spring weather now and that your members didn't have too much to whinge about while they watched the U S Masters at Augusta!. If your course did stand up to such a stringent test, perhaps you would like to nominate yourselves as a host venue for the 2007 golfing calendar we are already preparing. We are keen to travel to all corners of the county in order to encourage more regular members to our events. Our Section still only charges assistant greenkeepers £15 per event and this often includes bacon rolls, at least a two course dinner and the chance to play golf at some of the best courses in the country.

Our golf team, which is also open to new participants, shall soon be playing a return match against Essex Section after our win at Orsett last year. Anybody who has played in a regular Kent golf day is eligible to play. Please contact us at our website; kentgreenkeepers.co.uk for details on all upcoming events.

Our next golf day shall be on the hallowed turf of Mid-Kent Golf Club on July 11. We shall be teeing off at about midday after the bacon baps with a dinner afterwards. Entry forms will be posted on the website in due course for you to download and send back to David.

After the success of last winter's seminars at Hadlow College, we shall be running a similar programme this coming winter with one seminar a month. If you have any suggestions on topics you would like to be discussed please contact us via the website.

On the subject of successes, our football team were anything but that when we played against London Section in Beckenham. We started well enough, passing the ball around quite majestically between our seasoned players. Shots rained in on the hapless keeper as the team honed their skills. Then the London team turned up. We knew we were in trouble when we noticed that the opposition had an average age of at least ten years younger than us and they were probably three stone per man lighter as well! We did okay in the first half, going in to the break 1-0 down. Changing ends proved a major downfall, however as we fought against hurricane force winds in the second half and the London team were able to capitalise on the fact that all but one of my defenders (thanks Craig) went AWOL. Final score was Kent 0 London 6.

Thanks to Avoncrop for providing the kit (as worn by Brighton and Hove Albion much to some of our players disapproval!) and for organising post match refreshments.

Finally best wishes to my mate Kev Morris, from Southern Valley Golf Club, who has accepted the Course Manager's post at Redlibbets Golf Club. Good luck mate.

Don't forget to check our website (kentgreenkeepers.co.uk) for all up to date info on what's happening in your county for your benefit.

Happy greenkeeping

Rob Holland



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



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
 Tel: 01476 550115

Essex

Sorry, very thin on the ground for material this month. On the course, the growth has kicked in and the work schedule has upped itself a notch or two. Nothing we can't handle though!

The spring meeting at Ilford GC is just around the corner - May 10 and I hope you have all filled in those entry forms on time. I'm looking forward to seeing a good turn out. Can Sam 'Golfer of the Year' Cook get off to a flying start in the defence of his trophy? Or will fresh blood be snapping at his heels throughout the season? One thing is assured, a cracking day out!

If for any reason you mislay your fixture cards this season, the dates and venues of the golf days can be found on the BIGGA website under the Events section.

Please don't be shy in dropping me a line with any news you would like to share with the Section.

Until next month, be good!

Richard Williams

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY

The Golf Management Trophy event is an invitation team event sponsored by Scotts UK Professional. It is open to golf clubs which have green staff who are members of BIGGA. The event has been running successfully in the South West & South Wales Region for over 10 years.

The format is a Fourball Stableford (best 2 to count) and is aimed at bringing together the various management elements of golf clubs with the opportunity to

win Scotts Products for the golf club plus individual prizes. Teams comprise a greenkeeper, who must be a member of BIGGA; Golf Club Secretary or Manager; Club Captain or Vice Captain and Chairman of Green or a Member of the Club Committee, or suitable substitutes.

This year's South West & South Wales events will be held for the South West Section at Minchinhampton Golf Club on Friday July 14, for the South Wales Section at Neath Golf Club on Thursday July 27 and for the South Coast Section at Moors Valley Golf Club on Wednesday July 26.

Invitations will be sent to golf clubs in each Section. If your golf club wishes to enter a team and does not receive an invitation please contact Jane Jones on 01454 270850, Regional Administrator for the South West and South Wales Region.

Golf Clubs outside of these Regions are welcome to play, so please apply as appropriate for an invitation.

South West

Not much feedback this month about your spring renovation, so here's a run-down on mine. At the New Courses we deep aerated our 16 red-sand greens with the vertidrain, or Drill & Fill, before Gradening the lot of them. We took about 20 tonnes of material out of each 18 greens with the Graden GS04 set at 45mm, and managed between four and seven greens a day over a two-week period (freezing cold north east wind - after doing 35 greens I felt like having a cab fitted!). Followed up with an overseed of fescue and bent, an application of a granular seaweed, and then top-dressed. It was quite worrying to hit the greens that hard, that early, but as the weather abruptly changed from cold dry and windy, to mild and wet, it looked like a stroke of genius (at least that's what I told the members). In fact, the greens recovered within a couple of weeks and have got off to a really good start.

Over on the Old Course, we solid tined with the verti drain, before overseeding and top-dressing. Steve Isaac, Deputy Director of the R&A walked round the Old Course greens with me a couple of weeks ago and enjoyed the experience. The Old

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Course may be a bit rough and ready at times, but the greens certainly fall into the category of fescue greens, which have been so highlighted recently by the R&A.

My talk in Minchinhampton Market Hall went really well to about 50 local people, mainly from outside of golf. Having done a couple of talks in early March to the Glos Golf Union Secretaries, and the South Coast BIGGA, I had naively imagined that a similar talk would suffice for all three audiences. However, I realised while rehearsing for the Minch. talk, that something was missing, but couldn't really put a finger on it. Then a couple of days before, the penny finally dropped. The Golf Club is a local facility for local people, and I needed to somehow make that link, early in the talk. There actually used to be another golf course, on the nearby Rodborough Common, in the 1900's. I came across an old black & white photo of part of it with people playing, and returning to that same spot, could clearly see the old greens and tees just as in the photo. In taking some digi-photos and then slotting them into the presentation, I then realised that in the intervening 100 years, literally dozens of properties had been built on what was probably once common land.

This showed up really well, and enabled me to pretty well prove that the golf course was actually a very positive asset for the community. Couple that with the fact that the formation of the club had provided thousands, if not tens of thousands of local people with the chance to enjoy the sport of golf, I was on a winner. The moral is that while people may have negative attitudes towards golf because of environmental concerns, in fact, most golf clubs are major local assets for local communities and I don't think we make that point often enough or loudly enough.

The Section fixture list for the coming season has been published in conjunction with our Patronage Partners Scheme, but could I draw your attention to an amendment. The South Coast Match at Knighton Heath is on Wednesday September 7.

The R&A have confirmed their "roadshow" for the Cannington seminar in November, and this, coupled with a speaker from the PGA European Tour to give a pro's perspective on the greens, should be another very worthwhile day.

The whole Section would like to wish Nobby Knight all the very best in his new venture as a self-employed landscape contractor. Nobby, who had been at Marlborough for some seven years, felt that with the new man coming in, this was as good a time as any to break away and fulfil his ambition. Nobby hopes to continue as Section Secretary, at least in the short term, and the Committee would like to recognise his huge commitment to the Section.

Finally, back at home with the Spring DIY season upon us, after a massive stroke of luck I've been banned from our local B&Q. We were mooching around the paint department the other night - up and down endless aisles of similar looking paints, fast losing the will to live when my wife stumbled over a pack of brushes that some muppet had left lying on the floor. She recovered her balance, but not before her handbag had slipped from her shoulder, and being jammed full of the type of heavyweight junk that only women see fit to lug around with them the whole time, had swung through the air like a wreckers ball and completely demolished a pyramid of wood preserver tins.

There was the sort of splintering crash normally only associated with Megabowl, and then a stunned silence. At this point you could sense all the security cameras being hastily retrained in our direction. We dispatched Rob, our youngest, to the tills to summon assistance, and off he went leaving a trail of little creosoty footprints behind him. A few moments later, I was enraged to see a scruffy looking guy in sandals and jeans picking his way through the middle of it all. "For Christs' sake go round the other way" I screamed, "can't you see there's a problem here?" The scruffy one turned, "This is my store" he boomed, "I happen to be the manager here". Whoops.

How about some feedback for next month - just let me know you're alive out there. paulw@mgcnew.co.uk; 01453 837355.

Paul Worster



Jane Jones
SOUTH WEST AND WALES
Tel: 01454 270850

South Wales

Our last presentation in the Winter Evening Lecture Series was made by Chris Briggs, Technical Manager of Avoncrop, on the selection and registration processes of amenity pesticides and an update in relation to pesticide legislation. The timescales and costs involved in bringing new products to the amenity market place, an enlightening presentation made to the 20 or so in attendance. Our sincere thanks to Avoncrop for their continued support of the Section, to Rod, Chris and to Ceri Richards for supplying the much needed refreshments. I hope that you've completed and returned your Spring entry forms for the "Amtec Shield" which is to be held at the Garnant Parc Golf Club on Thursday, May 18. This will be the Section's first visit to this demanding, picturesque course, with some distinctive tricky greens. Remember if you haven't it is going to cost you an extra £1.50 I'm sure that Course Manager (or is it General Manager) the infamous Kerry (Joco) Jones will have the course in tip-top condition for us! The Section would like to pass on its sincere best wishes to Russell Anderson and his family, who are off to Copenhagen (in search of Fescue). Russell who is Course Manager of the Cardiff Golf Club, Cyncoed, has been i'm sure the shortest serving Chairman of the Section for many years. After accepting the position at the AGM in October, after having been Vice-Chairman to Angus MacLeod, Russell has had to resign from the post in order to take up the challenge of developing a 36 hole golf course in Denmark. We wish him well and thank him for the contributions that he has made to both the section and industry. I hope that he'll keep in touch and keep us up to the minute in relation to the sustainable debate, from the horses mouth, so to speak (and that his pad is large enough for a fourball, every now and again). Cheers and good luck. Last month was a busy one, with seminars and presentations popping-up all over the place. It was a good job the grass wasn't moving, down to the chilly easterly winds, that never seemed to relent. Hopefully by now, we will all have experienced some sward movement, dressings will have been busily worked in, the last of the moss will have been burnt off and the fescue will be off and running and trying to catch up with the rye's and bents (Gary). Scotts and Syngenta held a promotional day at the Celtic Manor recently, to launch the "Primo Maxx" product. Dr Carl Danneberger talked us through the chemistry of this all new plant growth and its effects. ie; 50% increase in plant tillering and 30% increase in rooting. Extensive field tests have been carried out throughout the country and the results appear to be quite fascinating. Around 60 delegates attended the day, which was formerly introduced by Simon Elsworth, Business Manager for Syngenta, and Nick Martin, European Sales Manager for Scotts. An excellent presentation, which should really of attracted a lot more! The "Tower Chemicals" sponsored "Smart Talk" seminar at the Wiltshire Golf Club attracted around 30 delegates and again witnessed an excellent presentation by one of America's top speakers in his field. Dr Jim Turner presented the latest technology in relation to soil penetrants and wetting agents and their diverse range of products. Our sincere thanks to Tower Chemicals and Sue Malone for making us so welcome, also to Gareth Knight for his generous hospitality and for acting as taxi driver. No feedback on the fixture cards yet - they must be good! PS; I'm penning this one as Angus threw me the one about his computer's packed-up, i think he's out working all hours with the burners, blowing the ice off and trying to get a head start on us all.

Peter Lacey

Devon & Cornwall

On Wednesday February 15. Our Section held a meeting at the Warren Golf Club near Dawlish, kindly sponsored by Barenbrug. In spite of nearly 25mm of heavy rain overnight the course was in excellent condition, thanks to John Weisford, Head Greenkeeper, and his staff.

33 members played for the Barenbrug Trophy over 17 holes, the seventh hole was closed owing to the wet conditions. This hole is the only one on the course which is below sea level.

28 non golfers were guided on a course walk led by John, the Head Greenkeeper. Thankfully they all returned to the Clubhouse before the heavens opened. The non golfers draw prize was won by Victor Dyer, who has recently become the new Head Greenkeeper at Thurlstone Golf Club.

The Winners of the Competition were as follows: 1. P. Brooks, Warren Golf Club, who has recently joined the profession, 38pts; 2. S. Green, Exeter Golf and Country Club, 36pts; 3. G. Childs retired and who needs know introduction, 35pts. A big thank you to Dave Singleton and John Palfrey, for seeing the golfers off on the first Tee.

After lunch, and the prize presentation, the Educational Talk was given by Stuart Ashworth, well known to us all, on Wetting Agents. It was an excellent talk, and not one member fell asleep, that's a record. Well done Stuart and many thanks.

I was very sorry to learn recently learn that we are losing one of our members, Marcus Gilbert. The first assistant at Launceston Golf Club is moving to pastures new. Marcus has been on the staff for 16 years, before joining the profession he worked in the Pros Shop. Marcus procured his NVQ 2, a couple of years ago. He is very well known in Cornwall for being a top class wicket keeper, and opening bat, and has played in top class cricket for many a year.

I know he will be sadly missed by G. Gallimore, the Head Greenkeeper, and staff at Launceston. Marcus is relocating to the Cheshire Area. Our loss their gain. We all wish you every success Marcus, and hope you will visit us some time in the near future.

Another greenkeeper on the move is the Pete Rabson, First Assistant at Bowood Park Golf Club, near Carnelford in Cornwall. Pete is leaving the profession to train to become a Paramedic - a very worthwhile career. Pete, we are all sorry to lose you from greenkeeping, but wish you every success.

Congratulations. What do most daughters give to their Mother on Mothering Sunday? Flowers, Chocolates, or may be take their Mother out for dinner? Well surprise, surprise, not in Devon, Tracey Newlands, daughter of Steve and Lyn Evans, presented to Lyn their first Granddaughter, Caitlin, weighing in at 6lb 4oz on Mothering Sunday. Steve told me at a recent meeting Lyn has been walking around with a grin from ear to ear ever since. Caitlin's father, Tony, is the second in command at Tavistock Golf Club, and, of course, we all know that Granddad is number one at Yelverton Golf Club or so he tells me.

On Tuesday March 28 we ended our winter Golf meetings at Staddon Heights Golf Club, with fantastic views over looking Plymouth Sound. If your golf was not on form one could watch the Naval Ships coming and going from the Dock Yard, not to mention the new Brittany Ferry. Having had heavy rain, wind, and fog for the previous days, we were blessed with a fine dry, sunny day, although still very windy.

Their were two competitions on the day, Vitax sponsored the match for the Head Greenkeepers and Bayer sponsored the match for the Assistant Greenkeepers. 29 members played in the matches and the remaining 25 members were led on a course walk with the Head Greenkeeper, Jonathan Bullen, in company with Jane Jones, our Regional Administrator.

The result of the two competitions were as follows:

Head Greenkeepers sponsored by Vitax. 1. Anthony James, Killiow Golf Club Truro, 37pts; 2. Justin Austin, Windwhistle Golf Club, 34pts; 3. Gerald Ayliffe, Wrangaton Golf Club, 31pts. Assistant Greenkeepers sponsored by Bayer. 1. C. Ralph, Hele Park Golf Club, 39pts; 2. A. George, Dartmouth Golf Club, 34pts; 3. P. Brooks, The Warren Golf Club, 31pts.

The Vitax prizes were presented by John Mullins, the south West Representative. Unfortunately Paul Clifton was unable to attend from Bayer owing to a rather busy work load.

After an excellent lunch and prize giving our educational talk was presented by Terry Farkins, the Course Manager at the Dartmouth Golf and Country Club. The paper he presented was called: Fulfilling Your Job Description On Course Management. It was an excellent presentation by Terry with some very interesting questions and answers to end with.

A first for our Section was to entertain students from the Duchy College, and have their NVQ level two and NVQ three certificates presented. Unfortunately not all the students could participate owing to work commitments, however we were delighted to see the following lads receive their certificates.

NVQ 3: Vincent Vosper, from St Austell Golf Club, accompanied by his Chairman of Greens Mitchell Harris. NVQ 2: Keith Kellow, from Falmouth Golf Club; Ben Hosking, from Tehidy Golf Club; Jack Kirby, from Dartmouth Golf Club; Victor Dyer, from Thurlestone Golf Club; Henry Yeoman, Thurlestone Golf Club; David Moulding, from Bigbury Golf Club. Congratulations and good luck to them all.

To present the students with their certificates the Duchy College staff were on hand. Bill Pile, Ron Skinner, Brian Summers and, last but not least, Terry Farkins, who was very helpful in helping them achieve their objectives as all the liaison officers were.

Finally by the next issue I will have all the dates and fixtures for the 2006/2007 year, including this year's mid-summer meeting. Have just heard this forecast up until June 21. Above average rainfall, below average sun, and very mild, did you really want to know that, I doubt it. Good luck to all.

Donovan O Hunt.
Administrator & Events Coordinator

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

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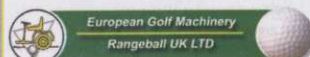
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Please apply in writing with full CV to:

Course Manager, Kingsbarns Golf Links, Kingsbarns, Fife KY16 8QD
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**Applications in writing with full C.V. to:-
Contact Paul Napier - General Manager: 01483 224888.**

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

Deputy Course Manager

The successful applicant will be responsible to the Course Manager and should possess the following attributes:

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- Effective communication and management skills
- Comprehensive understanding of turf management
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Apply in writing with full CV to: Warren Grant, The Course Manager, Iford Golf Centre, Riverside Avenue, Bournemouth, Dorset BH7 7ES • Email: course@ifordgolfcentre.co.uk
Closing date for applications: 26 May 2006 • www.ifordgolfcentre.co.uk



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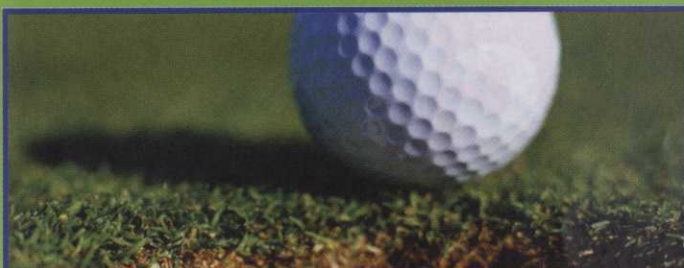
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- Ability to work within and understand budgets

Salary by negotiation.

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



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Mr M Pyrah, Amenity Director.
Sherriff Amenity, The Pines, Fordham Road, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7LG.
Telephone: 01638 721888 Fax: 01638 721815
Email: mark.pyrah@agrovista.co.uk

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Abridge Road, Chigwell Essex IG7 6BX
Or email: golf@woolstonmanor.co.uk



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- Spraying certificates PA1, 2 & 6
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Julie Chase, P.A. to Secretary, Sunningdale Golf Club,
Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berks SL5 9RR
juliec@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk
Closing date for Applicants: 31st May 2006

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Feature listing from May 2004

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

March 2006; Seed; Ride-on Mowers; Pesticides; Irrigation; Bio Stimulants

April 2006; R&A Conference Report; Scennie GC Profile; GCSAA Delegation Report; Wastewater

Is there any water in the spring

As we move into May many parts of the Country have had water restrictions enforced on them by water companies very concerned with ground water levels. We all know if the present conditions persist the hosepipe ban will turn into a ban on golf clubs using mains water to irrigate their courses. This is all we need if the cool dry period continues preventing recovery from the winter months' wear and tear our golf courses have been subjected to.



If that's not bad enough in the West Country, the press have reported that a group of eco terrorists are threatening to carry out attacks on golf courses in a popular West Country City. The unnamed group is demanding all clubs cut the amount of water they use by a quarter and return 10% of their course back to nature with policies to control wildlife reversed.

Again the golf industry still isn't getting the message across to the general public that golf actually is environmentally friendly within Europe, we know that there will always be a small section of our community with radical and extreme views which we hope the police and courts will deal with hard no nonsense sentences.

We, as an Association, continue to communicate with the press and television companies highlighting the benefits of our educational programmes and environmental competition to the golfing and general public. The Board realise that we have a lot of work to do in partnership with other golfing bodies to make the big breakthrough with the media. We have tried to get our environmental winners on television and radio with limited success in the past, Scott, our Communications Manager and the Communications/Magazine Sub Committee will continue to drive the positives of sound course management and the benefits to environment to the media.

Returning to the likelihood of water restrictions your Association will have a key role to play, when I mean your Association I mean you the members who can help each other with the stresses involved with water restrictions or any greenkeeping problem.

The more experienced Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper (usually the older member who has seen it before) will already be putting his/her contingency maintenance plans in place if the unthinkable does happen and conveying them to their members This is where being an active member of BIGGA can really help by networking with fellow professionals at events both local and national or through the members bulletin boards to gain the advice needed. Hopefully by the time you read this the warm and steady rain has arrived and the course has never looked better but if anyone has a problem don't let it build up inside you share it with a fellow professional.

Over the last year Kerran kept you informed with regard to the review of the Association's business plan

which the board has now approved. I like to take this opportunity to thank the associations Past Chairmen Andy and Kerran and our trustee Mark Dobell steering the review through to a successful conclusion. The business plan will be a working document with planned reviews during the year, the plan covers Membership, Harrogate Week, Communications and Publications, Education and Training, Sponsorship and National Structure. If you would like to know more about the plan please contact Head Office or your Regional Administrator and Section Secretary who have been issued with a copy.

During my 30 years greenkeeping I have worked at four clubs all within the South West and South Wales region I feel rightly or wrongly that I have a good understanding of the memberships needs within the region, its not until I sat on the national board that I realised that each region has slightly different needs. As I also chair the membership sub committee I would like to know more about the needs of our International members. I'd like to hear from any international member on how your association can enhance your benefits so we can continue to move forward together. Any of your ideas that the board feel are practical will be included within the business plan with target dates to achieve within set budgets

Champions of BIGGA

Ian Tomlinson, Course Manager at Rungsted GC, in Denmark, has been clocking up the air miles recently attending Regional Seminars and explaining just how he has reduced the thatch levels on his course using natural, sustainable means. As well as working in the UK Ian has spent time as Course Manager in Switzerland and it is wonderful that even being so far away ex pat greenkeepers like Ian can make such a positive contribution to the Association.

Thank you Ian for the work that you do and I hope you continue to thrive in Denmark

Richard Whyman
Chairman



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BIGGA have enrolled in National's Affinity Leisure Programme that offers members exclusive rates on car and van hire in the UK and on international car hire in over 80 countries. Ring 0870 191 6950 and quote A099084 for UK Car hire, A099085 for UK Van Hire and 8573290 for International Car Hire.

INSURANCE QUOTATION SERVICE

A quotation service is available to members on a wide range of insurance products. Call 01603 828255 and quote UniBG0306.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

When you join you are automatically given membership of one of the 27 sections around the country. As an active member you can attend golf days and other social events on a regular basis enabling you to network amongst others in the industry. Look at the 'Around the Green' section for contact details.

BIGGA WEBSITE - www.bigga.org.uk

Exclusive access to the Members area of the website. Interact with other greenkeepers on the bulletin board or check out the latest recruitment vacancies in the industry. For Greenkeepers and Student Members only.



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

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



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