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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Welcome

PLAYING KING CANUTE WILL BE EXPENSIVE

Recent reports on the impact of coastal erosion have suggested that some of the country's finest links courses may have to lose holes and amend layouts to survive.

The Scotsman newspaper reported last month that many clubs have already spent considerable sums of money on coastal defences - including Royal Dornoch who last year spent £300,000 to protect their 10th hole - but that they may prove to be nothing more than short term measures.

Three options are given by the Earth Surface Dynamics Research Group - hard defences of rock armour and gabion baskets; replenishing sand that has been removed from dunes, and finally, and sadly the most foolproof, repositioning tees, greens and even entire holes inland to escape the sea. The first two options are seen as short term, with expensive defences potentially swept away entirely on the back of a single devastating storm, but the third has consequences for all golf lovers with a sense of history.

You don't have to think too long to come up with courses and holes which could - many experts will say "will" - be lost to the sea and to the game of golf. Such is their "on the edge" nature they would be among the most dramatic and famous holes in all of golf. Off the top of my head I can think of several on the Open rota including the par-3 11th on the Old Course where the green edges on to the Firth of Tay; the coastal stretch of holes at Turnberry, while some at Hoylake, where the Open was played earlier this year, are perilously close to the beach.

But it is not just the Open courses that would be affected. There are scores of clubs throughout the country where the signature hole is one where you tee off or putt out with the roar of the waves, the smell of the salt and the touch of the spray playing havoc with your senses. It makes you feel so alive, even if your golf is leaving you numb.

But what are the alternatives? Many clubs have gone down the hard defence route and have perhaps bought themselves some time, but it might be prudent to look at the other, less palatable options, and research where alternative holes might be sited when you are forced to face up to the inevitable.

That may mean eating into your practice range; draining land previously considered to be less than suitable or, looking beyond the club boundaries, investigating how much your neighbouring farmer would accept for the field which borders the course.

The implications are huge - re-routing layouts created by the masters of their art in the last century and beyond - but that may still be better than being left with the finest 17 hole course in the land.

Coastal erosion is something man has fought against for centuries and as King Canute found, when water started lapped over his wellies, standing against it can be a futile exercise.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Golf clubs could soon be enjoying lower insurance premiums thanks to a joint initiative by the Association of Golf Club Secretaries (AGCS) and the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA).

The AGCS and BIGGA have both been giving Health and Safety advice and guidance to their members for some time. However, the two organisations felt that there was a need to have a standardised Safety Management System (SMS), that contained example risk assessments, that met the needs of all golf clubs, that was common throughout the industry, that was easy to update and was easily available to their respective members.

Not only that, they felt that introducing a standardised SMS could help with inspections by environmental health officers/HSE inspectors and lead to a management system that would be best

practice throughout golf in the United Kingdom. They also agreed that the SMS should be Internet based and that it should be available free to all members of their respective Associations.

The Chief Executive of BIGGA, John Pemberton and the National Secretary of the AGCS, Keith Lloyd agreed that the two Associations should pool their resources to produce an Internet based SMS that will help all golf clubs ensure that their clubs are safe and healthy places for employees and golfers.

Thanks to sponsorship by Ransomes Jacobsen, valuable help from both Brian Butler and Xact Consulting, advice from a wide range of Health and Safety consultants including Jon Allbut, and close cooperation between the two associations, the AGCS/BIGGA Safety Management System will be available on the Association's web sites from late January 2007.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADER OPENS £15 MILLION FACTORY

Conservative Party Leader the Rt Hon David Cameron MP, has officially opened a new £15 million JCB manufacturing plant in India.

Employing more than 200 people, JCB Manufacturing Ltd is based in Pune and began producing components for JCB machines last year.

Mr Cameron, accompanied by Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne MP, cut a ribbon to mark the official opening of the new plant in the Talegaon Dabhade district of Pune.

Mr Cameron was visiting India in recognition of the country's increasing importance to the global economy and to Britain. He said: "This new JCB plant at Pune demonstrates the changes taking place not just in India but also in the global economy. It also highlights the benefit of a new relationship between India and Britain to meet the challenges of this changing world economy."

John Patterson, JCB Managing Director and CEO, said: "India is now JCB's second largest market and

sales here have quadrupled in the last five years. JCB is market leader in India and it's important we continue to invest heavily to keep pace with the growth we anticipate in the future."



JCB Chairman Sir Anthony Bamford pictured with David Cameron, Leader of the Conservative Party, at the factory's official opening

DLF-TRIFOLIUM LEADS THE WAY

DLF-Trifolium Group, the Danish based and farmer owned grass seeds group with an annual turnover of approximately £270 million, consolidates its position as the world's largest grass seed company, through its acquisition of Advanta Seeds' grass seed activities within research, field production, seed conditioning and wholesale. The seller is Limagrain-Verneuil Holding, part of Group Limagrain, the French based and farmer owned seeds group with an annual turnover of approximately £1.1 billion, which in a simultaneous deal acquires the arable crops business of

DLF-Trifolium Group outside Denmark.

The takeover of Advanta Seeds' grass and clover business comprises of an annual sale of approximately 20,000 tonnes of clover and grass seeds.

"The acquisition of the grass seeds activities of Advanta Seeds complements our product portfolio and allows us to further benefit from economics of scale for the benefit of our owners and customers," says Truels Damsgaard, CEO of the DLF-Trifolium Group.

BIGGA MIDLAND REGION - ACCIDENT REPORTING AND HEALTH & SAFETY WORKSHOP

The Midland Region is holding a Practical Accident Reporting and Health and Safety workshop at Gay Hill GC on Thursday, November 16. The workshop will run from 9am until 4pm and will involve practical exercises in groups, looking at a simulated vehicle accident and H&S Hazards in the Greenkeeping Shed. Attendance is open to

BIGGA members and golf club officials and invitations were sent out in early October. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Peter Larter, Midland Regional Administrator, on: 01476 550115 or email: peterlarter972@aol.com

FORMBY HALL GC PLANS REVEALED

Formby Hall GC, the Maghull Group, has revealed how the club will look once its current £10 million re-development is complete.

Earlier this year, Sefton Council's Planning Committee approved the Maghull Group's plans to develop the UK's first PGA affiliated National Residential Golf Academy within the exclusive Formby Hall Golf and Country Club.

The centre of excellence at Formby Hall GC, situated on Southport Old Road, Formby, Merseyside, will be the only PGA branded National Residential Golf Academy in the UK when it opens in 2007. The new academy is set to launch ahead of the Open Golf Championships

being held at Royal Birkdale GC, just along the coast.

As part of the redevelopment of Formby Hall GC, a new nine-hole par 3 golf course is being constructed in addition to the existing 18-hole championship course. The development will also comprise a 62 bedroom luxury golf residence, spa, swimming pool and fitness centre and also a golf science academy for group and individual tutorials with recognised golf pros.

Joe Fleetwood, Director of Golf at Formby Hall GC, said: "Once the project is complete, Formby Hall Golf Club will become a haven for golf tourists, attracting visitors from all over the UK and even the US."



HORTICULTURE STUDENTS WIN

A team of horticulture students from Writtle College, Chelmsford, won a bronze in the final of the UK Landscape Skills Competition 2006 - a national competition organised by UK Skills and the British Association of Landscape Industries, held at the IOG Saltex Exhibition.

Fred Harris (20 from Knebworth, Hertfordshire) and Michael Freeman (19 from Tiptree) both studying further education Horticulture courses at the college, were competing against five other colleges from across the UK, and given three days to build a garden from a plan given to them at the start of Saltex.

The UK Landscape Skills Competition gives students and trainees the opportunity to benchmark their skills alongside each other, while also gaining skills and experience. The national final is made up of the winning teams from the various regional finals that took place throughout 2006. The Writtle



Left to right: Fred Harris, Martin Robinson, Michael Freeman, Josh Phipps

College team won their qualifying heat in May 2006 and were supported by students Josh Phipps and Martin Robinson, who took part in the Regional Final with Michael and Fred.



Following the decision taken by several of the traditionally larger exhibitors not to attend Harrogate Week 2007, the organisers have decided to consolidate the UK's premier fine turf show into Harrogate International Centre's four largest halls.

"Despite the well publicised decision of some companies to attend Harrogate Week every other year - missing 2007 - stand sales have been extremely encouraging. However, it did mean we had some spare floor capacity and after due consideration we felt that we can give exhibitors and visitors the best possible experience by consolidating into the main Halls," said BIGGA Chief Executive, John Pemberton.

"We have a spectacular Education Programme lined up for 2007, involving more than 27 Seminars and 11 Workshops, which we are sure will excite the thousands of people who are regularly attracted to Harrogate from all over the world. We also know that the 'Exhibition Buzz', for which Harrogate Week is renowned, will be in evidence as always," said John, who reiterated that the Springfield House entrance would be retained thus providing access to Hall C.

Exhibitors who had booked into Hall Q have been relocated into one of Halls A, B, C or M.

Harrogate Week 2007 runs from Sunday January 21 to Thursday January 25, 2007. For information on visiting or exhibiting visit: www.harrogateweek.org.uk

PRACTICAL TURF MANAGEMENT

Peter Wisbey has recently left his role as Courses Manager at the National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa, whose Hotchkin course was this year ranked number one inland course in the UK by Golf World. He will now be concentrating on further developing his course management consultancy, Practical Turf Management Ltd.

With more than 40 years of course management experience, Peter is able to offer clients his practical approach to raising standards, while working within defined budgets. He has extensive knowledge of heathland, parkland, downland and links courses together with a comprehensive understanding of warm and cool season grasses.

If you are interested in talking to Peter, please call: 01526 321471 to discuss your consultancy needs.



WINNER!

Sue Foster, BSc (Hons) Horticulture student from Writtle College, has won the IPPS Richard Martyr Award 2006, a national competition that recognises the achievements of those with practical projects, testing innovative ideas in plant propagation and production. Rosanna Bowyer, also a BSc (Hons) Horticulture student from Writtle College, was awarded second place.



The Awards are organised by the International Plant Propagators Society (IPPS) and are open to nursery staff and college students from across Great Britain and Ireland. They are for those running projects that are essential to the continual drive for improved skills, efficiency and quality in the nursery industry. The winning project is the one that most impresses the judges in terms of its originality, scope, execution and relevance, and which has made the most impact on the personal development of the individuals who have undertaken it.

Sue won the first prize for the work covered by her dissertation which looked at extracting compounds from the tropical plant *Cleome gynandra* and testing them for their effects in repelling red spider mite, a serious pest of roses. A cheap and easily made plant extract which proves to be effective in repelling mites would be of great interest to cut flower rose growers worldwide.

Sue received a prize of £800 cash plus a free year's membership to the IPPS.

GREENKEEPING STAFF RELY ON TOP DRESSING

Tycrop's ProPass 180 Top Dresser has won universal praise from greenkeeping staff at The Celtic Manor Resort, venue of the 2005 Wales Open and the 2010 Ryder Cup.

"I'd been looking for an effective spinner-type top dresser for some time," explained Jim McKenzie, Director of Estates and Ryder Cup Course Development at The Celtic Manor Resort.

"The ProPass 180 was selected primarily on the recommendation of several greenkeeping colleagues who told me about its ability to spread wet or dry dressing very consistently on a little but often basis. To be quite honest, the results to date have been better than we expected."

GTC EXPERIENCE ACKNOWLEDGED

The experience of the GTC in greenkeeper education and training has been acknowledged through an R&A research questionnaire distributed to European golf federations.

Following the circulation of the questionnaire to all European golf associations in 2004, analysis showed that many countries have no greenkeeper education and training systems in place.

"Obviously, in countries where the game is very much in its infancy, employers rely on importing qualified staff to manage the course and often local labour is used to maintain the course," said Education Director at the GTC David Golding, adding this could also apply to British golf club employers.

"While the GTC is assisting golf developing countries to establish standards of greenkeeper education it will still continue to ensure the British golf clubs and greenkeepers have access to the best possible education and training system," said David.

A pan-European advisory group has been established to investigate the possibility of introducing a system of greenkeeper education and training which countries could support and see the benefits to improving the playing standards of golf courses on behalf of the employers and greenkeepers they represent.

This will rely on support from the countries' golf union or federation and the greenkeeping association who, from the outset, will be encouraged to work together as happens here in Britain.

The British Home Unions and BIGGA are all Board members of the GTC and with support from the R&A - also Board members - and the PGA European Tour there is a clear commitment to work together for arguably the most important aspect of the sport - the playing surfaces.

"The current great debate - the sustainable golf course - instigated mainly by the R&A will only be adopted and implemented if golf clubs have a management 'team' which is fully aware of the current issues facing the business," added David.

He said the most pleasing aspect of the first meeting of the advisory group was that many of the issues facing the game are at least pan-European if not world wide and there was a tremendous will to address them collectively.

"Golf unions, federations and greenkeeping associations have all 'subscribed' to this R&A website

and, as registrations are reaching 2,000, the golf community is finally looking to support each other and this is what the pan-European greenkeeping advisory group intends to do," said David.

There is still work to do on the proposal and when the standards are agreed it will be for each country to deliver programmes of education and training to meet the pan-European standards in a manner to suit the country.

The group recommended three levels for the occupational standards - Golf Course Greenkeeper, Golf Course Supervisor and Golf Course Manager.

A list of skills with the related knowledge will now be developed for each level and the group will circulate these as a minimum standard for consultation.

It is also suggested that a certificate be issued when a student has met the European standards through their country's system of qualifications. A rigorous quality assurance system would be established to maintain and monitor the certification scheme.

The advisory group suggested there were many benefits for the greenkeeping sector to have pan-European standards, not least that employers throughout Europe would know exactly what skills and knowledge any job applicant would have when presenting a certificate achieved through the system.

"The benefits to greenkeepers would include the opportunity to move within the European greenkeeping community with certificates which are respected and understood by employers," he added.

"We hope that all the golf unions and federations will back this initiative and, with the Greenkeeping associations, BIGGA and FEGGA, already fully supporting the advisory group's work, there is a great opportunity through education and training to unite even closer the greenkeeping profession."



WEATHER FORCES A DRAW AT PAIRS FINALS

An awesome course and a great deal of weather were the order of the day at Wentworth for this year's final of the Midland Section Greensomes Knockout Pairs competition, an event run by BIGGA and sponsored by Scotts.

Defending finalists of the last three years: Ed Stant, of Penn GC and Paul Woodham, of Gay Hill GC, were pushed hard by the two young challengers Adam Moss and James Moverley, both from Blackwell GC. However, the weather got the better of the group,

with drizzle slowly turning to torrential rain, thunder and lightening. By the 12th tee everyone was soaked, so grudgingly the players declared the contest a draw and retired to the clubhouse to dry off. At that point, of course, the sun came out!

Mark Rayner, of Scotts, said. "Even though the weather wasn't great, we had a good day and the course looked superb as ever. Many thanks to Chris Kennedy at Wentworth for allowing us to play on his fantastic course."



Three of this year's finalists at the Wentworth contest, left to right, Paul Woodham, Adam Moss and Ed Stant

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NEW WIZARD OF OZ



Rob Jenkins has travelled a long way to join Campey Turf Care Systems. He hails from Australia and has just been appointed as the company's Area Representative for the north Midlands and South Yorkshire.

Rob brings a hands-on approach to the job. He has been working in greenkeeping for eight years, most recently at Northcote GC near Melbourne.

With his considerable experience of achieving the best sports turf surfaces, Rob is looking forward to imparting his knowledge to other grounds care professionals.

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM COMPLETE

The final element in achieving a fully integrated management system was realised recently, when Ransomes Jacobsen were accredited with OHSAS 18001 by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance (LRQA), one of the world's leading management systems and certification companies.

OHSAS 18001 is an internationally recognised occupational health and safety (OH&S) specification, designed to enable organisations to control OH&S risks, improve performance and demonstrate good governance. It involves a structured approach to hazard identification and risk management which can contribute to the provision of a healthier and safer working environment.

Using this approach, it is possible to avoid a high proportion of accidents and occupational health problems, which will help reduce lost time through employee illness and injury. The management of health and safety becomes more transparent and effective and helps minimise the risk of accidents.

Commenting on this latest achievement, Dave Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen said, "This is the final piece of the jigsaw which sees us achieving a totally integrated management system having already gained ISO 9001 for quality management and ISO 14001 for environmental management.

"We have again demonstrated that we are committed to improvement right across the business by producing high quality products for our customers, in a safe working environment for our staff and in a way that limits our impact on the environment, which is good for everyone. We are an industry leading organisation and have adopted these initiatives, which envelop a company-wide philosophy permeating everything we do."

DIMARCO TO DEFEND ABU DHABI GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

Chris DiMarco, the man who ranks among the USA's top ten golfers, has confirmed he will return to the UAE capital in January to defend his inaugural Abu Dhabi Golf Championship title.



DiMarco is among a number of the world's leading players who have confirmed they will contend the title. Others include European Ryder Cup team member Sergio Garcia of Spain, who came third in the inaugural Abu Dhabi Golf Championship and is now ranked eighth in the world. They are joined by South Africa's Retief Goosen, now sixth in the Official World Golf

Rankings, who will make his debut on the magnificent National Course of the Abu Dhabi Golf Club.

Speaking of his determination to all-out defend his 2006 title, the 38-year-old DiMarco said: "Earlier this year Abu Dhabi and I made golfing history - and while it's commonly held that history never repeats itself - I shall be looking to turn that particular saying on its head next January.

The Abu Dhabi Golf Championship 2007, sanctioned by The European Tour and the UAE Golf Association with a US \$2 million prize fund, will be contested from January 18-21 with the

Championship committee promising a star-studded international player line-up, an enhanced course layout and improved additional facilities at the golf course.

The tournament is set to build on the success of this year's launch event. For more information visit: www.abudhabigolfchampionship.com

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Writtle College received Highly Commended from judges in the Award for 'Most Outstanding Commitment to Education and Training in Horticulture' at the Horticulture Week Awards 2006, held at the Hurlingham Club in London on Tuesday, October 3.

The Awards are the leading annual event that recognises the very best in achievement, ability and

performance across the entire horticultural industry. They are organised by Horticulture Week, which is one of the industry's leading trade and professional magazines, and are sponsored by the Horticultural Trades Association. Writtle College was one of only three finalists nominated for the Award and the only college at the event.

NEW NORTH OF ENGLAND BASE

Askham Bryan College in Yorkshire is the new location for Rustons Engineering's demonstration fleet of compact tractors and ancillary amenity equipment in Northern England.

Reco has supplied the college with three Kioti compact tractors on a commercial contract hire basis and has lent a further four tractors and a range of equipment including: flail and rotary mowers, hedge cutters, rotavators, stone buriers, back hoes and fertiliser spreaders. The on-loan

machinery is available for use by the college for teaching and grounds maintenance when it is not needed for demonstrations to dealers and end-users.

Horticulture courses attract some 100 full and part-time students a year to Askham Bryan College, which also has extensive grounds with seven sports pitches and provides services to local schools and other organisations. Last year it won the UK Landscape Skills Competition.



Kioti tractor line-up at Askham Bryan College. Left to right: Mark Willerton, K&M Mowers; Phil Mandy, AB College Finance Director; Stewart Ward and Ian Brown, Rustons Engineering

GRASSFELT FOR FOOTBALL - BUT NOT AS WE KNOW IT

Three hundred and fifty square metres of Lindum's Grassfelt are currently on show as part of the Liverpool Biennial International Festival of Contemporary Art.

Situated in the Goree Piazza, in the shadow of the famous Liver Building, the Grassfelt covers a football pitch but not as we know it. Costa Rican artist Priscilla Monge, who pushes familiar objects into the unknown, has given her sports field a lunar landscape, changing the expected flat surface into a surreal series of mounds and gullies.

Landscape architect David Buck who collaborated on the landscape design says that the material was perfect for the subject. "The grass needed to look as if it had grown on site," he explains. "Obviously, there was no time for that."



The 330 sq metre untitled art work, which took 160 cubic metres of recycled material to build, was constructed by Talbot Sports Turf Installation, and will be on show until the Festival closes on November 26.

CLUB CAR KEEPS THE RYDER CUP ON COURSE

Club Car has been the official car and utility vehicle of the Ryder Cup for the last decade keeping the event and players on track on both sides of the Atlantic, whatever the weather. The rain in Spain in 1997 certainly dampened American spirits at Valderamma, but no one could have anticipated the arrival or effects of Hurricane Gordon, which battered a path across southern Ireland just days before the 2006 event.

High winds forced officials at the K Club to close the course to spectators and all non-essential staff at the start of the second practice day. Gusts in excess of over 40mph caused both teams to delay their practice sessions, and heavy rainfall left bunkers flooded - all this before play even started!

Despite Hurricane Gordon's best efforts, Club Car and its support teams led by Liam Ross of the Buggyman, and Don Donaldson of Caddy Car still managed to ensure that the K Club delivered a seamless professional event enjoyed by spectators and players alike. Liam was contracted to manage the fleets before, during and after the event, and Don was contracted by the European Tour to look after their Club Car

units as well as the TV units, which were used by broadcasters from all over the World.

The challenges faced by greenkeeping and grounds staff as a result of the torrential downpours were numerous. As well as the on course problems, once the thousands of spectators arrived, pathways and viewing areas quickly turned to mud and grounds staff had to urgently resolve the problem by using the Club Car fleet of 20 252 rough terrain vehicles, 10 Turf 2 Electric and 10 Turf 2 petrol vehicles to get the site and the course back into tip top condition.



This year's European Team at the K Club



"I'M A LADY!"

All ladies working in the turf industry are invited to attend the Women's Forum at Harrogate Week. There was no meeting at Saltex this year, so come along on to the Education Suite on the first floor of the Harrogate International Centre (above Hall C) on Tuesday, January 23 from 4.30pm until 5.30pm to hear speaker Frank Newberry talk about 'Managing Upwards... managing your boss'. There'll also be a presentation on interviewing staff so please make a note in your diaries and come and join us. It's a great networking opportunity, the ideal time to put names to faces, refreshments will be available and there are plans to go out for a drink in Harrogate town afterwards. Don't worry if you haven't been before - you'll receive a very warm welcome.

For further information, please contact Rosie Hancher at BIGGA on: 01347 833800.

ROYAL WARRANT EXTENDED

John Deere has been granted an extension to its Royal Warrant, which now uniquely covers the supply of agricultural, grounds care and horticultural products to The Queen's household.



The Royal Warrant was first awarded to John Deere Limited in 1970, for the supply of agricultural equipment to Her Majesty The Queen. Royal Warrants are a mark of recognition to people or companies who have regularly supplied goods or services for at least five years to certain members of the Royal Family. They have always been regarded as a mark of excellence and the highest standards of service and quality.

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

Rolawn, Britain's largest turf grower and leading topsoil supplier, have incorporated all their recent initiatives for greenkeepers and groundsman in a special edition of 'The Blade' their trade newsletter.

The publication highlights their new Medallion® turf cultivar mixture and Turfmaster™ system. Copies are available from: info@rolawn.co.uk or by phoning: 0845 604 6085.





UNITED AT LAST!

David Golding, the GTC's Education Director, looks forward to the 2007 Continue to Learn "experience" and having been involved in the early years of BIGGA's education programme, he commends this year's programme to readers...

While much of the GTC's day to day work is to do with the formal range of sports turf qualifications and developing the partnership with our Approved Training Providers, the Board, in representing golf club employers in Britain and greenkeepers, time is taken out to work closely with BIGGA when the programme for Harrogate week is in its developmental stage.

The GTC, as the main sponsor of the Continue to Learn programme during Harrogate Week, has had an input into the programme through its technical committee and I for one cannot remember seeing an education programme quite like 2007's!

Having taken on board all the various suggestions from members, trade associates and other interested parties Ken, Sami and the BIGGA education committee should be rewarded by many people from all sides of the sports turf sector, making their way to Harrogate in January.

With much debate in the sector relating to exhibitions, one thing that the golf sector cannot be accused of is not working together or being fragmented.

The list of contributors to the education programme proves that we can be united and my apologies if I have left any organisation out. Here come the acronyms!

The GTC representative bodies and funding bodies are the R&A, EGU, SGU, WGU, BIGGA and the PGA European Tour also present will be the PGA, STRI, AGCS, EIGCA, LDCA, GEE, and FEGGA or in more simple terms: Governing bodies, employer representative bodies, architects, constructors, advisors, professional golfers, secretaries and greenkeepers!

During my days working for BIGGA we had a separate conference and there still are very important Regional and Section events but the annual gathering of the specialists from the turf sector is THE important date in your calendar.

Not forgetting the added benefit of an abundance of quality trade lecturers who often are wrongfully accused of "just selling their products" and have a wealth of up to date knowledge to share.

The healthy debate, which can be heard both inside and outside the workshops and seminars, is priceless and the camaraderie in the turf sector is second to none.

We have all read the sustainable golf course opinions and the debates will continue prior to, during and following the Harrogate Week 2007 but one thing is

certain golf courses will be the winners as all the various factions involved in the sport come together to share their knowledge and experiences.

This year we have seen arguably the two most high profile events in golf the Open Championship and the Ryder Cup, played on very contrasting surfaces but both providing great publicity for the game.

Both clubs, in association with the organisers, set out an agenda to make the events successful and the Course Managers carried out their duties with great professionalism as did their team of greenkeepers but the point I would like to make is that for any successful event their has to be a team effort!

The Continue to Learn programme is just that and the range of workshops and seminars show there is something there for everyone.

The GTC is holding a seminar for its Approved Training Providers during the Harrogate Week and with many turf lecturers heading for this seminar they may well be arranging a visit for their students - after all, turf lecturers and registered students can attend seminars free of charge!

Given the excellent diversity of the programme my advice is to book early.

Oh and by the way, during the five days of education there is an exhibition!

To view the Continue to Learn programme online, visit: www.the-gtc.co.uk or www.bigga.org.uk

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

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Ken Richardson discusses the department's latest projects.

It's been an even busier month here at BIGGA House for Sami and I as the preparations for Harrogate Week continue, we have had the Final of the TORO Student of the Year Competition and we have had to arrange the Autumn Master Greenkeeper Examination. We have received a host of bookings at BIGGA House since the Continue to Learn programme dropped onto doormats. Workshops are filling up fast.

Harrogate Week 2007



Last month's article concentrated on one-day Harrogate Week Workshops and I intend to look at half-day workshops this month.

Thanks to support from the GTC, we have been able to extend our Workshop Programme and 2007 sees a total of nine half-day Workshops.

Delegate feedback in 2006 requested more Microsoft Office Workshops and we have added to the 2006 list.

Tuesday, January 23 includes two workshops on Microsoft Word when trainers from Keystrokes Ltd present a Basic Microsoft Word Workshop in the morning and an Intermediate MS Word Workshop in the afternoon.

The 'basic' workshop will introduce delegates to simple word processing tasks, applying formats and incorporating images. This workshop is a must for anyone who has to produce documents for management and committees.

The Intermediate Workshop will introduce delegates to some more in-depth features of MS Word, including tables, bulleted lists and automated features. This workshop is ideal for those who have a basic knowledge of MS Word or who have attended the 'basic' Workshop.

Wednesday, January 24 is the day for all those who wish to grasp the concept of spreadsheets, with a 'basic' workshop in the morning and an intermediate workshop in the afternoon. See how you can use Excel to manage budgets by using formulas and produce graphs.

Thursday, January 25 completes the MS Office workshops with a look at MS PowerPoint. Learn how to produce 'professional' presentations that can include graphs, diagrams, company logos and organisation charts.

Tuesday, January 23 sees a new half-day workshop at Harrogate Week. Aimed mainly at Golf Club Officials, but of interest to greenkeepers, the half-day workshop will show you what to do if you want to get sued.

More importantly, it will show what to do to prevent being sued under Health and Safety legislation by giving advice on the 'safe' way to design golf course features.

Wednesday, January 24 sees another new half-day workshop for Harrogate Week. This time, the subject is Basic Agronomy and it is aimed at those who have a limited knowledge of soil science. Presented by Henry Bechelet from STRI, this workshop is an ideal way to gain some essential scientific knowledge.

Henry will be running another half-day agronomy workshop on Thursday, January 25, this time for golf club officials. Designed to help secretaries and chairmen of green understand 'greenkeeper speak', how to produce and use a golf course policy document and how to manage winter play this workshop is sure to be a popular choice.

Make sure you get a place by sending in your application form as soon as possible. Remember that if you book all seminars, you get a 30% discount and if you book all seminars through your Regional Administrator, you get a 40% discount.

TORO Student of the Year



Full details of this year's competition are given on page 23 of GI, however I would like to add my personal congratulations to all eight finalists and commend them on

their professional approach to the final interviews. This competition continues to renew my faith in the industry and this year is no exception. Special congratulations go to Mike Emptage who will be off to the US in January and to the runners-up Abi Crosswood and James Billington who both win a week at Harrogate in January 07.

Rachael and Gemma would like to welcome 56 new members to the Association and talk about the direct debit scheme.

Membership Update

Do it with a Debit

The direct debit scheme to enable members to pay their subscriptions in instalments, is becoming ever more popular. We can now accept payments in one, five or even 10 instalments to help spread the cost of the subscription. If you pay your own subscriptions you should receive a direct debit form in your renewal pack. The form allows you to select the payment frequency you require. Return this to us with your renewal and we will write to you with your payment schedule. The beauty of the scheme is that each year at renewal time we will just write to you with your new payment schedule and you don't have to do anything more unless your details have changed. If you would like more information or a form please call Rachael or Gemma on: 01347 833800.

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

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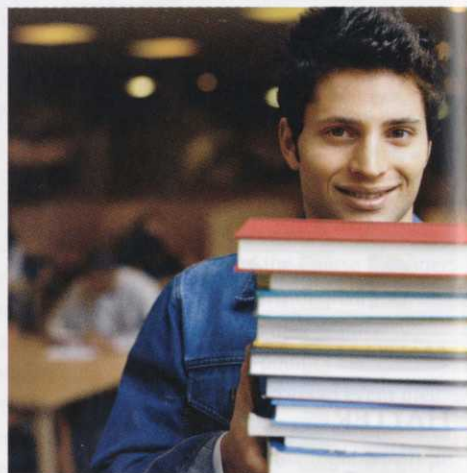
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- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.

Add a BIGGA Library Book to your Reading List this Winter

The BIGGA lending Library is available to all members, stocks over 800 titles and has recently benefited from some recent additions. You can borrow up to two titles from the library at any one time, for a period of six weeks. The books subjects vary from computing, through to career guidance, turf management and health and safety. If you would like an up to date library list call Brad on: 01347 833800.



FERRARI EXPERIENCE WINNER

As you know, we have been running a competition to give away a drive in a Ferrari to a member who recommends a new member to the Association. I am delighted to announce that Gary Branchett of Tenterden GC has won the Ferrari experience and Ross Brown also of Tenterden has won a Red Letter Day voucher. Congratulations to you both.



NOVEMBER'S MEMBERSHIP DRAW WINNER

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a monthly draw to win a £10 Music Voucher. Our congratulations go to Gavin Speedie of The Gleneagles hotel.



BIGGA welcomes...

SCOTTISH REGION

James Bledge, Central
 David Monks, West
 Matthew Salmon, West
 Craig West, Ayrshire
 Sean Wood, North
 Norman Yeats, North

NORTHERN REGION

Philip Brown, North West
 David Ellwood, North West
 Shaun Hutchinson, North West
 Timothy Johnson, North West
 Ben Leeming, Northern
 Ian Taylor, North Wales
 Jonathan Wilson, North West

MIDLAND REGION

Gary Carter, Mid Anglia
 Morgan O'Sullivan, Mid Anglia
 Martyn Parrish, BB&O

SOUTH EAST REGION

Steven Allchorne, Surrey
 Paul Boozer, Kent
 Ross Brown, Kent
 Jon Coady, East Anglia
 Mark Davis, Surrey
 Tomas Gee, Surrey
 William Lowe, Surrey
 Russell Oakey, Essex
 Matthew Powdrell, Surrey
 Peter Spicer, Kent
 Will Straver, Surrey
 Neil Townsend, Surrey

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

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 Steve Clarke, South West
 Stacey Dickinson, South Coast
 Nigel Gridley, South West
 Paul Healy, South West
 Steve Horne, South West
 Graham Reynolds, South West
 John Rheinberg, South West
 Andrew Stevenson, South Coast
 Jack Wills, South Coast

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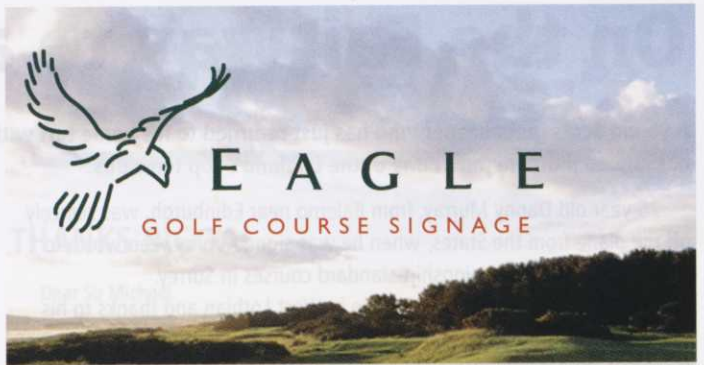


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On the Fairway to a Glittering Career

A young Scots greenkeeper who has just returned to his home turf with glowing references from two of America's greatest golf courses, has landed a dream job at one of the England's top ten clubs.

25 year old Danny Murray, from Balerno near Edinburgh, was scarcely off the plane from the States, when he was signed up by Wentworth to work on its three championship-standard courses in Surrey.

Danny trained at Oatridge College in West Lothian and thanks to his tutors there, crossed the Atlantic to take up a year long internship at Pinehurst, "the cradle of American golf", in North Carolina. He was part of the TOP scheme, run by Ohio State University, to allow young greenkeepers to broaden their experience of what is a global industry. While there, Danny grabbed the chance to work at New York's famous Winged Foot Club before, during and after the 2006 US Open championship, extending his stay by six months.

Eric Greytok, the Director of Golf Courses at Winged Foot, was impressed: "He made a significant impact during the preparation, completion and clean-up of the 2006 Open. He also assisted in the completion of a \$750,000 renovation project on the East Course.

"One of Danny's strongest attributes is that he possesses a strong work ethic and a good character, that is often hard to find in an employee. He has a bright future in management ahead of him and will be very successful in this industry."

The reference from Jeff Hill, the Course Superintendent at the eight-course Pinehurst complex was just as glowing: "He won everyone's respect for his hard work and dedication to doing a great job. I feel confident that Danny will be very successful in the turfgrass industry."

Michael O'Keeffe, the Irish-born head of the TOP scheme at Ohio State, said: "We're very pleased that Danny Murray will be able to use the

experience he has gained in America in his next job. Many head greenkeepers around Europe recognise the advantage of hiring these young people who have made an extra effort to add value to their CVs."

Danny looked in on Oatridge College on his return from the States and took the chance to urge other young Scots to follow in his footsteps, once they have had some experience in greenkeeping in this country. He said: "I'd say wait until you're 21 or 22, then go for it. It's a fantastic experience working on some of the best courses in the World, like Pinehurst and Winged Foot, but you have to be prepared to put in the effort.

When I was at Winged Foot we were expected to do 14 hour-days and it wasn't easy when the temperatures got up to 95 at times."

At that point Danny was hoping for a job in the London area and it was only a few days later that he got the call from Wentworth.

Previously Danny worked at Gogarburn in Edinburgh and Archerfield Links in East Lothian. He attended Oatridge while doing his apprenticeship at the Marriot Dalmahoy Golf and Country Club in Midlothian.

He is one of 10 former greenkeeping students from Oatridge who have taken part in the TOP scheme and who have gone on to top jobs. A scratch golfer, Danny says one of his fondest memories of the States will be playing - and winning - mini "Ryder Cup" contests between British and American greenkeepers.

Eileen Barry, the Liaison Officer at Oatridge College, said: "We're so proud of Danny and how well he did in the United States. The letters of reference he brought back are so good they really should be framed!"

HOBBIES

Name: Eric Barber

Age: 70

Position: Retired member of BIGGA

Golf Club: Teign Valley (of which he was part owner)

Hobby: Athlete



As far as being active as a child goes, Eric started running from a young age, cycling from the age of 13 and began swimming in the army at the age of 18.

Cycling was always Eric's passion until his son joined Torbay Amateur Athletics at the age of nine. Eric got a feel for running and started to go running once or twice a week, entering two local races a year.

"I always said I'd take up cycle racing

when I retired but I decided to take up running instead, at the age of 59," said Eric.

A natural athlete, Eric progressed quickly winning the Westwood League Cross Country in Devon and Cornwall (in the 55-59 age group) and also joining and winning races at the South West Veterans Athletics Club.

Progressing to compete nationally, Eric found himself in top 10 placing on the track and road. He competed in Triathlons, Duathlons and Aquathons. At the ripe old age of 63, Barber competed in the World Championship, Veterans Athletic, in Gateshead obtaining three out of four top 20 places. He competed again at 65, when the World Vets

GI has begun a new feature, finding out what greenkeepers get up to in their spare time.

Here's something you didn't know about me...

Athletic Championships were held in Brisbane, Australia and won the British Marathon Championship in 2003 and the half Marathon in 2005, in his age group.

"Because I chose cycling over running when I was younger, there was less chance of me getting injured, therefore I am a more able runner," commented Eric.

Eric's best ever race was in 2003 in Zofingham, Switzerland. "The competition consisted of a 10k run, followed by a 150k cycle, finishing with a 30k run," It was on a hilly terrain with an undulating circuit. In the lead after the first run, Eric was passed by an Italian competitor during the cycling but was able to pull it back on the last run to finish 28 minutes ahead of the Italian rival, to win his age group.

Now 70 years of age, the Veteran South Devon athlete has become triple world champion after decimating the field (in the 70 to 74 age group) in the World Duathlon Championships hosted by Canada in Newfoundland.

"I get to know the course before I compete and adopt the 'if they can do it, I can do it' attitude," said Eric.

"One of the benefits of competing is meeting up with old rivals again. Around 79 countries take part in the World Championships. We are all good friends and when the race is over we all have a chat and socialise with one another."

Eric aims to still be competing at the age of 80 and still running at 90.

Eric has recently been selected to represent England in the 70-74 age group at the British and Irish Masters Cross Country International, at Falkirk, Scotland on November 18.

YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

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

INTERNATIONAL EQUIPMENT MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

On September 1, 2006 (12) Equipment technicians were involved in a conference call to deliberate on starting an Equipment Technicians association. During that phone call we decided that not only is this type of association long over due, but it is increasingly necessary for the development of this position. The equipment technician's role over the past 20 years has developed into much more than just a person on the staff who keeps the equipment operational. With the increase in golf courses around the world there simply are not enough skilled technicians to meet the needs of every course. That is because there has never been anything to work from. How can you tell the difference between a skilled and unskilled technician? Is it the way they look or dress? Is it how quickly they can get a piece of equipment up and running? Is it the organisation they have or maybe the management skills they possess? Also is not everyone's perception of a skilled technician different? The GCSAA helped develop the Superintendent position into one that's matured over the years as well. They have taken on more responsibility and have in turn gained much more respect.

It is for these reasons that an equipment technicians association is needed. An equipment technician is responsible for all the equipment that maintains the golf course on a daily basis. With that being said the equipment technician has a duty to make sure every member and guest experiences a golf course that is in beautiful condition everyday. The position they hold can determine whether that guest returns to the golf course to play again or if today is the last time they see your golf course.

The golf course technician is an integral part to the success of a golf management team and it's for that reason that professionalism, standards, education, and achievement should be recognised, nurtured, and respected. It is the goal of an association to grow this idea and to expand it all over the world. We feel that by doing this it will encourage others to enter our profession and to do so with the previous statements in mind. We intend to work with Superintendent Associations and manufacturers to further develop this association into one that gains the respect and recognition that is long overdue and much needed in our industry.

We would like to invite everyone to join us in creating an association that is long overdue and that will encourage our growth as industry professionals. The development of our website is currently in the beginning stages and can be located at www.gcema.org. We would like to encourage everyone to be apart of this association today and help grow our industry and the equipment technician profession so everyone can experience what a top-notch golf operation should be.

Regards,
Stephen Tucker

TORO STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Dear Scott,

I am writing to pass on my sincere thanks to Ken, Sami, Pete, Bruce, Iain, John and everyone else at BIGGA House for their kind hospitality that I received while competing in this years Toro student of the year final.

I have to say that the staff at BIGGA House are a credit to the association with their professional and welcoming manor.

I really enjoyed my stay at Aldwark Manor, making the last eight was a massive achievement for myself and getting to meet and compete against such a great bunch of greenkeepers was fantastic, congratulations to everyone who competed and especially to Mike for winning.

Once again please pass on my sincere thanks.

Graham Brumpton
Ipswich Golf Club, (Purdis Heath)

Letters ▶▶▶

THANKS BIGGA!

Dear Sir Michael

Thank you so much for the generous donation of £807.95, made by the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, towards The Prostate Cancer Charity's work. Please pass our thanks to everyone that contributed; your support is invaluable to us and the donation is gratefully received.

The Prostate Cancer Charity was established in March 1996 to improve the care and welfare of people whose lives are affected by prostate cancer. The Charity is the only organisation in the UK both to fund scientific research into the disease and to provide support and information to men with prostate cancer, their families and the public.

The Charity's support and information services include a range of printed information, a telephone helpline service (0845 300 8383) staffed by specialist nurses, and a website at: www.prostate-cancer.org.uk Additionally the Charity also has a nationwide network of men with prostate cancer and their families, who are willing to talk to other individual and the media about their experiences.

Thank you once again for showing your support for our work. If you would like any further information regarding the work of the Charity, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,
Gemma Cornwell
Community Fundraising Officer

POSITIVE THOUGHTS FOR ELECTRIC UTILITY VEHICLES

I am writing in reply to the October article "All charged and Ready to Go."

After reading this article on electric utility vehicles, I feel the need to pass on my own recent experiences to fellow greenkeepers.

In the spring of this year I purchased, for the first time, an electric utility vehicle for the purpose of running our 150 litre 12 volt boom sprayer, which was previously fitted to a petrol driven utility vehicle. The sprayer worked fine on the petrol unit apart from the inconvenience of not being able to hear the electric motor running and the inability of the petrol unit to spray at very low speeds without jerking.

My only concern before purchasing the electric unit was, would it have the guts to run the electric sprayer as well as itself for several hours a day without running out of steam. In view of this I contacted both John Deere and Toro to see if they could shed any light on the subject. To my horror, they both replied saying they did not know of any other club or organisation running a 12 volt boom sprayer on an electric utility vehicle, although John Deere stated that they did not foresee a problem.

At this point I decided to consult the sprayer manufacturer hoping they could shed more light on the subject. They explained it was all to do with amp hours and between us we worked out it should be ok, so I decided to throw caution to the wind and order a John Deere TE Gator. To lessen the risk of failure I had the unit fitted with heavy-duty batteries as an optional extra.

Now we come to the crunch issue. Did it work? The answer is a resounding yes. Not only does the sprayer operate without a hint of giving up the ghost, but also the smoothness and control of operation is vastly superior to that of the previous set up using the petrol driven unit. The sprayer unit has been adapted so it can be easily removed from the transport box to enable the Gator to be used as a conventional utility vehicle. The new electric edition to our fleet has become the number one choice for the greenkeeping staff, as they genuinely prefer to travel around the course without engine noise disturbing the peace and quiet of their surroundings.

Robin Bryson
Head Greenkeeper, Rugby GC

CHOOSING AND USING FINANCE FOR THE GOLF COURSE

"If you would like to know the value of money, go and try to borrow some." Benjamin Franklin

Every day we are bombarded with financial information and offers. It may be an invitation to sign up for a new credit card or our latest statement from the bank or building society. Either way, the more we know about the different sources and costs of money the easier it becomes to make a better decision, particularly in business, and that includes the golf course.

'Choosing and Using Finance' is not a simple subject. Like course maintenance, it demands considerable professional knowledge and experience. However, understanding the basics is important to the Course Manager and Greenkeeper since it plays an important part in planning and budgeting to ensure that the club has the materials and equipment it needs to deliver the quality of course preparation and presentation that members and others demand.



CASH AND CASHFLOW:

It is impossible to run a business without cash. Income and expenditure are 'cash' and it's essential for a healthy business that cashflow is positive, ie, more income than expenditure. Of course, there are often short-term blips in the cycle. In the golf industry, seasonality has a significant impact on cashflow as green fee income falls during the winter months. Similarly, income probably peaks after members pay their subscriptions when the cycle returns to balance.

To manage the cycle, most people and businesses use a bank account which gives them the use of cash. To provide for short-term deficits in cashflow, the bank may also agree to provide an overdraft so cash payments can still be made even when cashflow is negative.

Cash is essential for day-to-day transactions like paying wages and utility bills, or the costs of raw materials for manufacturing or services, eg, sand in the bunkers and beer in the bar!

CAPITAL INVESTMENT:

However, some items of expenditure - notably items like purchase of machinery, buildings and building refurbishment, carry a larger price tag with a cost that is normally paid back over a longer term than items like wages and utility bills. These are classed as capital expenditure while the wages and other short-term expenses are classified as revenue expenditure.

Attempting to finance the cost of capital expenditure out of cashflow can cause problems. If cash were the only option open to an individual or a business, all but a few of us would live in rented accommodation and drive cheap used cars.

Naturally we could save the money for a car but this would take time and we would still forego the use of that money while we were saving. What's more, given the price of new cars, we might have to make do with something less expensive to match savings and investment over a reasonable time period.

Clearly the more expensive the asset, say, a new house, the less likely it is to be funded from cashflow or savings.

Unfortunately, a business does not have the time to save the money for major capital purchases - largely because it relies on new machinery and other assets to generate income. One could argue that this is not true for a

golf club since it doesn't manufacture anything. Nevertheless, it has to provide playing and other facilities of a quality that maintains membership levels and attracts income from visiting parties. This requires considerable investment not just in the course but in the house too.

The acid test for any new capital investment is, first, is it realistic for the business or organisation and, second, can it be cost-justified? If the answer is 'Yes' to both, then the third question is what is the best way to finance it?

SHORT OR LONG TERM:

Cash (unless we have masses of spare cash all the time!) is best kept for short-term expenditure and meeting day-to-day operating expenses. The same is true for 'cash substitutes' like the overdraft and credit cards which provide a short term bridge between income and expenditure. It's also important to retain the flexibility of the overdraft and not to block it up with long-term borrowing.

Capital investment demands financing facilities that can be matched to a realistic working period for a machine or other assets. For example, if the club needs a new greens triple mower and its replacement policy is to change high-use machines like this every three to five years, then it makes sense to match the funding to the period of use, say, between three and five years.

This offers the club a number of benefits. First, cashflow should not be stretched because the cost of the machine is spread over time, meaning it earns its keep as it works for the club. Second, if the repayments are fixed in advance, as is normally the case with loans, HP and leasing, it makes it easier for the club to budget for new machinery. What's more, spreading the cost can increase the budget and the options open to the Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager to specify more machinery - perhaps a combination of machines instead of just one, or to buy a better specification.

FIXED OR VARIABLE:

The cost of finance varies according to the type of facility. The cost of borrowing money is the interest rate at which the lender/market is prepared to lend. Normally, the interest rate reflects the level of risk in the transaction. For example, a long-established business or organisation with

By Eddie Henderson

a strong balance sheet (plenty of assets owned by the business) and a good trading track record offers more security than a start-up business. Hence the rates at which each can borrow from the bank, and the amounts, will be different.

As comedian Bob Hope quipped: "A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it!"

The overdraft carries a variable rate of interest, which moves up and down in relation to changes in bank base rates. The same is true of credit cards, although the rate of interest charged on overdue amounts is considerably higher.

Fixed cost facilities include bank loans, hire purchase and leasing agreements, where the cost and repayments are fixed at the outset and will not change during the life of the agreement, which makes accurate budgeting far easier. While the strength of the business is still important to security, the finance company also considers the security in the asset (good equipment with a ready resale market value is easier to underwrite than a one-off machine with a doubtful provenance!) and the ability of the business to repay.

Mortgages for property and other building work are normally variable rate, linked to bank base rates but with a lower margin than other forms of variable rate lending. The lender normally retains the deeds to property until the debt is repaid.

Generally, loans, HP and other fixed-cost financing are over medium-term periods between two and five years, although they can be longer depending on the asset. This makes them suitable for machinery and other assets with a limited economic life to the business or organisation.

COST OF BORROWING - TIME AND MONEY:

Many factors impact on the cost of borrowing. A key factor is the interest rate and, as a rule, the higher the rate the greater the total amount you repay. However, the period over which payments are spread also affects the total cost of borrowing. A bit like a snowball travelling down a hill, the longer it rolls the more snow it gathers.

Unfortunately, interest rates can be calculated and expressed in different ways, which makes it difficult to compare one type of deal with another simply by looking at the nominal rate of interest. Most common are flat rates, which relate to simple interest calculation and true rates which relate to compound interest calculation. The table here shows the difference.

INTEREST RATES & THE COST OF FINANCE

Imagine you want to buy a new greensmower at a cost of £12,000, financed over 36 months. You receive three finance quotes, each with a different interest rate. Which would you choose?

1. 4.83 per cent flat pa
2. 9.00 per cent true pa
3. 9.30 per cent APR

On the face of it, 4.83 per cent flat pa wins hands down – but in reality the payments are the same for each at £381.60 per month.

Make sure you compare 'apples with apples' about what you pay and when you pay.

Because of the difficulty in comparing flat and true rates of interest, the Consumer Credit Act requires that all credit agreements (hire purchase and loans) show an APR, which enables one lender's deal to be compared accurately with another's - provided the payment structures are the same.

However, two other factors affect the total cost of borrowing. One is specific fees and other charges that are included under the agreement, for example arrangement fees. The other is the availability of tax allowances, which vary according to whether the business or organisation buys or hires the assets.

BUY OR HIRE:

There are only two ways that a business, an individual or an organisation can acquire anything - either it can buy it or hire/rent it. The difference is who owns it after the transaction. Legal ownership is called 'title' and where title passes the prospective owner can offset part of the cost of capital purchases against taxable profits. This is called a capital allowance. Further, the interest paid each year is also normally allowable as a business expense.

Where the business or organisation simply hires an asset using leasing or contract hire, which is a special type of operating lease, then it never owns the capital asset. Under these circumstances it is able to offset the rentals paid each year as a business expense against profits for the corresponding period.

Both routes have their merits, but to claim allowances the business or organisation must pay tax, which rules out many members clubs. Obviously professional advice is essential to make the most cost effective choice, although many golf clubs now use leasing not because they are tax-paying businesses but because it enables them to spread the VAT and to fix their costs in advance. What's more, they can often benefit from low-cost finance offers made by the manufacturer with a new machine, which cut the cost of borrowing.

Eddie Henderson has more than 25 years experience in providing asset finance solutions for organisations in turfcare and agriculture. This includes retail banking and senior positions in a number of leading finance companies. More recently, his company has acted as a financial consultant to some household names in machinery manufacture and distribution. Eddie can be contacted at: eddie@echenderson.co.uk or on: 07776 197499.



Spreading costs over time, makes it easier for clubs to budget for new machinery and can even increase the budget for greenkeepers to specify more equipment

Course Feature

A Dozen Reasons to Visit Arran

Scott MacCallum jumps on the car ferry to Arran to visit a unique golf course.



Stewart Fotheringham

In my time with Greenkeeper International I have visited over 150 golf clubs spread over the length and breadth of the United Kingdom. I've been to some of the most famous courses in the world, some of the most exclusive clubs in the world and some of the most beautiful courses in the world. I've also visited clubs where the staff have achieved the greenkeeping equivalent of the miracle of the loaves and fishes in making the most, and beyond, of the resources available.

Indeed I believed that I'd encountered every conceivable style and type of golf course, and greenkeeping, experience that there was to be had. That was until I visited Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club on the island of Arran, off the west coast of Scotland. I've seen nine holers, 18 holers, 36 and even 54 holers but never before had I visited a 12 hole golf course!

But don't go away with the idea that Shiskine offers some sort of "Golf Lite" experience offering two thirds of the regular golfing fare. Shiskine is a proper, fun, golf course requiring every club in the bag. It has a range of seven par-3s from 120 yards up to 212 off the yellow tees, four challenging par-4s and a par-5, which comes in at 477 yards, and 506 off the medal tee.



The elevated 5th Medal tee

Indeed it regularly features in the Golf World Top 100 and has been described as "the cult 12-holer at Blackwaterfoot" in reference to the village that is home to the club.

And it is all beautifully maintained by Head Greenkeeper, Stewart Fotheringham, and his team of Assistant, Kenny Gilroy, a recent finalist in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Competition, and summer worker, Lois Hodgart. That's it, and between them they achieve standards and an attention to detail that would do many more heavily staffed clubs proud.

"The plusses of a 12 hole course from a golfer's point of view is that you can be round in an hour and a half. For a lot of people 18 holes are just too many and it's too much time out of a day," explained Stewart, as we walked around the course on a mid-October day with the sun splitting the sky.

"The minuses from our perspective is that the course fills up very quickly and it is difficult after 8am to get anything done out on the main playing areas."

It means early starts for Stewart and Kenny, 5.30am and earlier on occasions, with the main priority cutting. Even then, though, no compromise is sought with hand cutting of the greens the order of the day.



Stewart with Kenny Gilroy and Lois Hodgart

"It looks so much nicer but it takes two of us two hours to cut them rather than one of us an hour and a half on the Toro greens machine, which we sometimes do on Sundays."

Other greenkeeping complications result from the fact that the big event of the year, the Arran Challenge, a 36 hole event, is played for women in October and men in November delays the start of the winter programme. Also being a holiday island there are a lot of country members who tend to use the course in July and August, a time when it would traditionally be busy with visitors so the revenue boost that some clubs get in the summer months is more limited.

A local lad brought up not far from the golf course, Stewart started out as part of a youth opportunity programme and immediately found his vocation.

"I loved being outdoors and even more than that I loved cutting grass. I knew straight away that it was the job for me," he said, with an enthusiasm just as strong as it was 24 years ago when he started.

"I always loved cutting grass, even when I was at home. I also love the smell of grass and I just love keeping things tidy," he said, well aware of the fact that the popular stereotype is of a profession where all people do is cut grass.

"I wouldn't want people thinking that's all we do. It's a small part of what we do but it's what got me hooked initially."

Stewart became full time assistant and then took over as head man in 1989 when he started to put his mark on the course.

"I wanted to introduce more definition to the fairways and create some semi rough so golfers could identify the hole they were playing more easily."

Backed by investment in new kit, including a deep spiker, Stewart also made inroads into the longstanding thatch problem and an intensive aeration programme began to reap its rewards.

"A lot of it was down to having the machinery to do the job but when we started our aeration programme, the surface of the green was lifting because the rooting was so shallow now the rooting is below the hole cutter," he said.

He is also delighted to have been able to build some excellent revetted bunkers for the course.

"We have 10 bunkers in all and I really enjoy working on the bunkers and making them look the part. I've put a few more in and taken some out during the years but there is nothing better than revetting a bunker, standing back and admiring a job well done," said Stewart, who taught himself the art with the aid of books.

With a stream cutting through the course, Stewart has built some fine bridges, complete with non-slip treads to ensure traffic is spread with another of the downsides of a 12 holer being wear area and he is very careful to ensure that he reseeds areas which are suffering from the footfall whenever he can.



The course was originally designed by former Open Champion, Willie Fernie, in 1896 as a nine hole and extended to 18 holes by another Open Champion, Willie Park, in 1912, which included six holes on a hill inland from the rest of the course. When the 1st World War came these six holes fell into disuse and Willie Park was brought back in the '20s to create a stand along 12 holer from what was already there which involved turning Willie Fernie's nine holes inside out retaining only two of the holes in their original form.

In 1936 James Braid was actually commissioned to create a six hole extension to bring the course up to the more conventional number. The

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Course Feature



Course	Yards	Par	Score	Handicap
1 Road Hole	368	4	5	377
2 Tee Bunkers	337	4	1	388
3 Cross Hole	123	3	9	118
4 The Wall	137	3	11	128
5 The Point	212	3	7	212
6 Shore Hole	296	4	3	280
OUT	1463	21		1472
7 Hallowden	162	3	10	164
8 Hadden	220	4	6	221
9 Drumalton	477	5	2	480
10 Peader	150	3	12	154
11 The Millon	186	3	4	201
12 Eilenny	120	3	8	124
IN	1325	21		1344
OUT	1463	21		1472
TOTAL	2788	42		2816

great man produced drawings but the plan was abandoned when the club couldn't secure the ground needed to implement the plan.

That said the 12 holes give the course a unique feel and it's stunning with coastline on two sides complete with rocky cliffs and a view of what is reputed to be the very cave where Robert the Bruce took inspiration from a persistent spider. In the traditional style there are several holes with blind shots and some magnificently placed

high tees, which encourage you to open your shoulders and give it a belt.

Another interesting feature of the club is that the current Captain is Pat Adamson, who is not the Lady Captain but the overall Captain of the Club for this year.

Tennis is another feature of the club with two artificial surface courts, which Stewart is charged with maintaining.

The day before our visit there had been torrential rain that hadn't cleared from the courts and Stewart revealed his plans to drain alongside the courts to ensure dry surfaces more quickly in future.

Arran is Scotland's southerly most island and is 19 miles by 10 miles in size. Despite this it still has room for seven golf courses - Brodick, Corrie, Lamlash, Lochranza, Machrie Bay and Whiting Bay as well as Shiskine - and the greenkeepers form a close-knit community. Each course offers



One of the recently built bridges



One of the club's stunning views

something different and some possess some of the most spectacular scenery to be found anywhere.

"We play an annual Greenkeepers' match, playing the courses on rotation, while we all meet here for a Christmas lunch," said Stewart.

All cope with the difficulties and complication island life brings.

"The biggest thing is haulage and the cost of bringing over fertiliser, seed and the like. We're very lucky as we have our own sand quarry nearby and analysis from Rigby Taylor's Scottish-based lab has shown that it is very good quality with just the right particle size for top dressing," said Stewart, who added that the clubs had long considered the benefits of grouping together to purchase bulk orders but that such a plan hadn't yet got off the ground.

"I'm sure if it were left to the greenkeepers we would be able to make it work," he explained, adding that similar plans for purchasing equipment like a vertidrain, which clubs would only use perhaps a couple of times a year, also had the potential to work.

Machinery servicing and grinding used to be carried out by Shiskine's former assistant but since he retired Nairn Brown had taken the machinery away in the winter and returned it fully serviced and ready.

"If we ever have a break down we'd only have to wait a couple of days for Nairn Brown to come and fix it so it's not an issue at all. If we ever have a problem we do borrow or lend machinery to each other," said Stewart, who was demonstrating the spirit of friendly co-operation at the time by cutting the greens at nearby Machrie Bay Golf Club to allow Head man, David Jeffrey, a holiday.

Not that David would need to return the favour as Stewart can't recall the last time he had more than the odd day off in holiday.

"Holidays? A day off here and there but I've not been away for a full week for years. I don't need holidays," he said, spoken with the conviction of a man who knew that his wife and two children were not within earshot.

MACHINERY INVENTORY

Kubota 5030 with loader
 Ford 1520
 Wiedenmann Terra Spike
 Groundsman Tractor Aerator
 Charterhouse Greens Slitter
 Pro Pass 180 Top Dresser
 Charterhouse Pro Seed Top Dresser
 2 John Deere 220 Greens Machines
 John Deere 260B Tees Machine
 2 Allan Hover Mowers
 2 Echo Strimmers
 Two Tonne Trailer
 Royer Soil Shredder
 Powered Riddle
 2 Toro 3200D Greens and Tees Mowers
 John Deere 3235 Fairway Mower
 Thatchaway Verticut Units
 Wessex Rotary Mower
 2 Farmura F25 Sprayers
 Ryan Turfcutter
 Ransomes Gang Mowers
 Huxley Tv36 Scarifier
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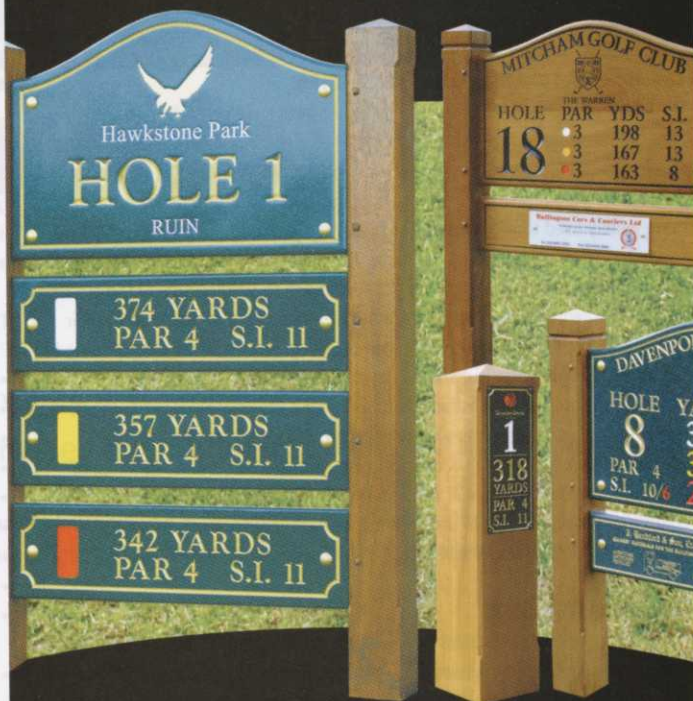


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Fine Tuning for Fine Turf: Greens Brushing

John Lockyer discusses the need for greens brushing.



There are many cultural manicuring practices geared toward the improvement of fine turf playability characteristics. Typically, a combination of mowing, grooming, verticutting, top dressing and rolling are employed. They all are supposed to work in conjunction with each other so that the sward is well regulated, uniform, consistent and exhibits good playing qualities. However, in certain situations there may be another treatment that will add extra performance: brushing.

BRUSHING - A TURF MANAGERS PERSPECTIVE

When we think of brushing as a cultural practice we normally associate it with the incorporation of topdressing material, dew removal or perhaps lifting seedheads of annual-meadow grass for removal by subsequent mowing. In the southern regions of the USA, brushing (as part of a programme) is much more widely used to help control the heavy turf nap or grain that is formed by stoloniferous grasses such as Bermuda. The effects of this grain are reductions in both pace and trueness, markedly reducing ball to surface quality factors.

Grain potential of cool-season grasses is very much less than that of their warm-season cousins, indeed most cool season grasses that are well groomed and regularly lightly verticut should never display grain characteristics. However, in some situations (and particularly in parts of continental Europe) creeping species such as creeping bentgrass, may sometimes be prone to grain development. As the UK climate alters and becomes more "continental" (particularly in the south), will we perhaps eventually see some turf composition changes where the potential to form grain actually happens? Indeed, there are already some signs of this taking place in some instances.

THE ASSOCIATED COSTS

Costs associated with brushing are very low in relation to improved speed and quality, which often results. Rotary bar brushes are available from most ride on mower manufacturers to use in conjunction with the grooming bar. Alternatively, systems such as the Greentek cartridge product are very effective. Or, perhaps like many others, access to a "Grainskeeper" hydraulic sweeper and/or static drawn units is possible, normally used in the top dressing process.

PERFORMING REGULAR BRUSHING

The frequency of brushing will depend on the condition of the sward. Brushing could begin in spring on a regular basis with a continuance into the summer and autumn months. If brushing is to be performed separately, consider a bi-weekly approach, alternating the direction of travel, immediately followed by mowing.

BRUSH SELECTION

The key for brush selection and design is to get both brush stiffness and brush-turf angle correct. Too stiff and the turf may well suffer from bruising, too soft and the benefits are reduced. The angle is important so that the brush filament makes contact with oncoming grass leaves; and does not simply slide over. When looking at brush heads, you should try to judge by feel the right stiffness. Ideally, the brush should feel between yard broom and house broom stiffness.

ASSESSING THE NEED

The author has sometimes observed light grain in well-managed green swards, even where regular manicuring operations are being applied. Most commonly such grain is associated with continually mowing in one or limited directions. To assess any such light grain, use your hand to brush against the grain. When brushing against any grain it is likely that you will see more of the thatch/soil surface when looking through the canopy and perhaps feel the sward is not as dense as you thought.

THE BENEFITS OF BRUSHING

In brief, the benefits of brushing are as follows:

- Reduces turf grain where it occurs
- May help produce more uniform leaf texture
- Can increase sward density
- May reduce the tendency towards thatch accumulation
- Enhances the quality of mower cut and reduces the surface area of damaged leaf tissue
- Promotes upward growth and lifts procumbent growth
- Improves ball roll pace, trueness and green consistency
- Lifts more Poa annua seed heads ahead of mowing
- Is less damaging to plant tissue than verticutting or grooming during periods of plant stress, i.e. drought
- Produces very low levels of disturbance maybe reducing the risk of annual-meadow grass germination.
- Can be combined with mowing cheaply and easily, reducing costs but maximising playability benefits
- May help reduce some undesirable grasses (Yorkshire fog, perennial ryegrass, wide leaf textured native bents)

Green speed-readings often increase up to one foot in some cases with much improved trueness and consistency. Most clubs are trying to improve these key performance attributes but can mistakenly look to lower heights of cut alone in order to do so. However, as with any management technique, it is recommended that benchmarking is undertaken, before and after brushing. Consider recording green speed, trueness (degree of separation between balls used in Stimpmeter readings) along with cultural conditions (soil temperature, moisture levels, height of cut, sward composition, etc).

CONCLUSIONS

Brushing offers another range of benefits to supplement those from the more traditional manicuring treatments, so essential to maximising playing quality of putting surfaces. Brushing can also enhance presentation.

John Lockyer is STRI's Turfgrass Agronomist for the Central Southern Region and Home Counties.



Regional Finalists: back row, left to right: Graham Brumpton, Stephen Eager, Kenneth Gilroy, Steven Stroomer and Barrie Lewis. Front row, left to right: James Billington, Mike Emptage and Abigail Crosswood



They Think It's All Over... It Is Now!

The competition for this year's Toro Student of the Year has been fierce, as the level of entrants continually improves. Melissa Toombs witnessed a tense final at BIGGA HOUSE.

Being a student is fun. No, not because you're expected to drink copious amounts of alcohol and stay up till the early hours of the morning - although that is a lot of fun! - but because you're continually learning and having to push yourself to achieve the qualification you've longed for that, in time, will form the basis of your career.

No-one, ideally, wants to still be working on their computer at 3am, realising the essay they're writing isn't turning out quite as they'd expected, and having to resign themselves to the fact that this isn't their best assignment. 'I just didn't have time,' springs to mind as the most widely used excuse when a student is confronted with their 'less than best' work. Everyone needs a kick up the bum now and again, to be given encouragement and pointed in the right direction but, each student is responsible for their own work and time management. If you really want the qualification, you find the time and put the effort in. This year's Toro Student of the Year Regional Finalists, are a prime example of what dedication and hard work can achieve.

Eight anxious finalists visited BIGGA HOUSE on September 17 and 18, were quizzed and probed by our four judges, BIGGA Chief Executive, John Pemberton, Iain McLeod, Chairman of BIGGA's Education Committee; and Peter Mansfield and Bruce Jamieson, representing Toro, and were given the task of completing a survey of Aldwark Manor GC (evaluating nine of the holes).

After a gruelling wait, finalists: Mike Emptage, Barrie Lewis, Abigail Crosswood, Graham Brumpton, James Billington, Steven Stroomer, Stephen Eager and Kenneth Gilroy, were put out of their misery as Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, announced the winners.

Runners-up were Abigail Crosswood (18), from Newquay, Cornwall, and James Billington (23), from Northwich, Cheshire.

Abigail works as an Assistant Greenkeeper at Newquay GC, has completed her NVQ Level 2 at Duchy College Training Agency and has been accepted to study a foundation degree in Sports Turf Science, online. Abi was also part of the BIGGA Open Support Team at Hoylake this year.

James is Assistant Greenkeeper at Portal Premier Golf and Country Club, Tarporley, Cheshire, and has just finished his NVQ Level 3 at Reaseheath College. James and Abigail both win a trip to Harrogate Week 2007, where they will be invited to attend the Continue to Learn seminars and workshops as well as the evening banquet.

Overall winner and Toro Student of the Year for 2006 was Mike Emptage (25), from Ramsgate, Kent.

Mike, who entered the competition while working at St Augustine's GC, Ramsgate, Kent, has just finished his NVQ Level 2 at Hadlow College. Mike's amazing prize involves an eight-week trip to the USA, where, for six weeks, the University of Massachusetts will be home, as he completes a residential turf management study course. The trip also includes visits to the Toro Headquarters in Minneapolis, the Toro Irrigation Division and to the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in Anaheim, in February 2007.



National Chairman, Richard Whyman, congratulates Toro Student of the Year 2006, Mike Emptage

Still Sinking In

2006 Toro Student of the Year winner, Mike Emptage, is still stunned by his achievement, as Melissa Toombs found out.

Toro Student of the Year has seen standards rise once more in its 17th year. Judges were left with some tough decisions to make at this year's final and all competitors were commended for their hard work.

Mike, who took golf up in his late teens and plays off 22, was working as a Chef when he realised that this was a sport and an industry that he wanted to become more involved in.

"I'd completed NVQ Level 2 in Catering and worked within the industry for four years," said this year's winner.

"You had to work loads of hours to be able to get a decent wage out of it and I'd had enough of being stuck in a hot kitchen on nice sunny days," added a still overwhelmed Mike.

So Mike made some changes. His friend was working for what is now their local council, doing grass maintenance on the verges of the road and Mike took the opportunity to get out of the kitchen and into the open air.

Mike, who is also a Coast Rescue Officer in Margate - on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year - mowed lawns, football pitches, golf courses and cricket pitches, for three years. During this time Mike's passion for golf grew, "I really enjoyed it, the natural progression was for me to go and work at a golf club," explained Mike.

At the age of 23 Mike began to look for greenkeeping jobs. "I realised that the change of career would mean a money drop but I looked at the pros, like being able to do a NVQ and career progression in golf course management."

A major issue for Mike was being able to watch people enjoy the work he had done by playing on the course, rather than littering the area he had previously mowed.

He applied for an Assistant Greenkeeper post at St Augustine's, Ramsgate - "I'd already completed my spraying certificates through the council. I got the job and completed my NVQ," gleamed Mike.

"John Millen, from Hadlow College, was my assessor, my work is currently being verified. I was keen to do a few courses so I also completed my First Aid.

"I found out about BIGGA when I came across the magazine (GI) at the club, I phoned up and John explained that each club can arrange for their staff to become members, so I spoke to Course Manager, Robert Tranckle and he signed me up.

"I definitely want to go for my Level 3, however I'm in the process of moving clubs," explained Mike, who's just got a job as an Assistant Greenkeeper at North Foreland GC.

It was his tutor, John Millen who nominated Mike for Toro Student of the Year.

"When John explained what was involved, that's when I really started to knuckle down and do the best for myself, I had support from the rest of



Runner up, James Billington



Runner up, Abigail Crosswood

the greenstaff. When I got through to the final, I thought, this can't be right," said a modest Mike.

A father of two - Freya (13) and Georgia (4) - Mike has his hands full. At first when he told his family he'd won, they didn't believe him and he couldn't quite believe it himself having only been in the industry for a year and a half.

"They kept saying you're joking, are you serious? And then I got lots of text messages congratulating me. They were shocked at first but are over the moon now," smiled Mike. Mike will miss his family when he goes to America for two months but they are concentrating on the positive effect

the University course will have on his career - his wife Patricia is 100% behind him.

"You can't prepare yourself for winning. You just think I'm going to have a go and do my best. I was speechless when they announced the winner - it's a realisation that I can do this. It's fantastic, a wicked feather in my cap."

Looking to the future, Mike eventually wants to become a Course Manager - it won't be long now Mike, look what you've achieved in just a year and a half!



Back row, left to right: Stephen Eager, Kenneth Gilroy, Steven Stroomer, Ken Richardson, David Wood, Bruce Jamieson, John Pemberton, Ian McLeod and Peter Mansfield
Front row, left to right: Graham Brumpton, James Billington, Mike Emptage, Abigail Crosswood and Barrie Lewis

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Tony McLure, Challenge Trophy winner for Best Gross score

BIGGA National Championship 2006

FOR THE BIGGA CHALLENGE TROPHY



Spectator at this year's National Championship, Assistant Editor, Melissa Toombs, gives her take on the two-day event and chats to the 2006 winner.

As we approached Burton-on-Trent GC, panicked by our late arrival - a three-hour drive to travel 85 miles! - It seemed we weren't the only ones who had been caught in the jam. Board of Management member, Bert Cross, was furiously scribbling over the pre-planned tee off times, adjusting them accordingly to cater for the players late and early arrivals.

Frustrated by their delay but enthusiastic about starting the tournament, the weather improved throughout day one for our competitors. A pleasant afternoon followed a brisk and drizzly morning, as the clouds dissolved to make way for a spell of sunshine.

This year's BIGGA National Champion, Tony McLure, Head Greenkeeper at Whickham GC, felt that the weather during the Championship helped everyone, "it softened the course up and stopped the ball bouncing as much," he said.

This was much the case on day two, the temperature stayed moderate, the course remained softened and sunshine and showers created a rainbow.

Tony, who won the 36 Hole Aggregate, Gross and was part of the Regional winning team (Northern), at the 1999 National Championship held at Carden Park GC, has entered the competition only three times.

So what did this year's winner think of Burton-on-Trent's course managed by BIGGA Board of Management member, Gavin Robson?

"The course was quite tight and you were able to plot your route. I thought the greens were in excellent condition," said Tony. "It was quick with some demanding pin positions, a well prepared course."

Tony, who has been working at Whickham GC since 1990, when he took up the position of Assistant Greenkeeper, felt that the greenstaff at Burton-on-Trent would have liked to have done more but, although the weather helped the competitors, it prohibited the greenstaff from getting more involved throughout the Championship.

Winner of the prestigious National Lytham Trophy in 1993, Tony was pleased with his overall performance at this year's competition. "I played within myself, kept the ball in play and out of the trees, and I remained patient. I think I'll definitely come back next year."

BIGGA National Championship 2006



Nick Gates, Challenge Cup winner for Best Nett score

The annual event, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen and held, this year, at Burton-on-Trent GC on October 2 and 3, attracted over 60 greenkeepers from all over Britain.

A LITTLE BIRDIE TOLD ME...

Grafter greenkeepers Frank Kempster and Graham Bloom spent the Monday night cuddled up with Course Manager, Gavin Robson's coat in the Burton-on-Trent work sheds, ready for an early rise on the Tuesday!

THE WINNERS:

BIGGA National Champion
Challenge Trophy Winner Best Gross Score
Tony McLure Total 147

Challenge Cup Winner Best Nett Score
Nick Gates 141

Gross over 36 holes
2nd Mike Hughes 148
3rd Adam Jones 152

Nett over 36 holes
2nd Simon Dye 142
3rd Nigel Broadwith 148

Monday, October 2
1st class Scr to 6 Handicap category
Brian Turner 73

2nd class 7 to 12 handicap
David Goodchild 74

3rd class 13 to 24
Ross McCarthy 73

Tuesday, October 3
1st class Scr to 6 Handicap category
Craig Wroughton 72

2nd class 7 to 12 handicap
Carl Small 73



3rd class 13 to 24
John Harrison 71

Nearest the Pin Day 1
Adam Jones

Longest Drive Day 1
John Harrison

Nearest the Pin Day 2
Mike Hughes

Longest Drive Day 2
Wayne Sewell



Regional Trophy Day One only 8 best nett scores

Winners - Midland Region total 592:

- Nigel Broadwith
- David Goodchild
- Paul Frith
- Barry Holt
- Mike Hughes
- Adam Jones
- Ross McCarthy
- Simon Woolley

Runners up - South East Region 625:

- David Badham
- Tony Barker
- Nick Gates
- Paul Larsen
- Dylan Rennick
- Paul Robinson
- Wayne Sewell
- Brian Turner



A busy Burton-on-Trent GC



Tony McLure (left) ends the tournament on a high



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EDUCATION 21 - 25 January 2007

EXHIBITION 23 - 25 January 2007

MORE THAN JUST A GREENKEEPING SHOW!

Organised by BIGGA telephone 01347 833800



Golf Park Noulen, Switzerland

What a Picture, What a Photograph

The first BIGGA Photographic Exhibition produced some exceptional entries and the 2007 BIGGA calendar will feature some of the best.



Fulwell GC

The BIGGA Photographic Competition, launched earlier this year, saw a refreshingly high quality of entries from as far a field as Hanoi in Vietnam, while the ultimate winning entry was also from outside of the UK!

Judged by Alan Birch, whose idea the competition was, and Eric Hepworth, a professional golf course photographer, whose portfolio of work is second to none. Editor, Scott MacCallum chaired the panel but left the decisions to those with more photographic skill.

The winning entry came from Steven Tierney, of Golf Park Noulen, in Switzerland, with his excellent picture of Swiss hills mirrored in a lake on his course.

"I would have loved to have taken this picture myself although I wouldn't have thought to have taken it from where he did," said Eric.

"The reflection brings you into the picture and the mountains are mirrored perfectly. Steven obviously has an eye for a picture and I couldn't have taken this picture any better," said Eric.

Runner-up was a view across the fabulous Royal County Down course, taken from the new 16th tee, by Assistant Greenkeeper, Gary Crawford.

"I love the way the picture shows the quality of the work done at County Down. I also like the way Gary has captured the magnificent cloud on the left hand side of the mountains," said Alan.

Third place went to Iain Barr, of a view across his course in Largs on the west coast of Scotland, which was highly rated by both Eric and Alan.

"This is a lovely shot out over the golf course with the Firth of Clyde and mountains in the



St Mellion G&CC



Abergele GC



Cradoc

background but the picture is actually made by the golfers on the green, who catch the eye," said Eric.

Eric and Alan were extremely impressed by the overall standard but had some advice for those whose pictures didn't make it to the winners' rostrum.

"Light is very important and the best time to take a picture is either very early in the morning as the sun rises or as the sun is beginning to set. That way you get more depth to the picture and can capture some lovely shadows," explained Eric.



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Royal County Down

FULL RESULTS

- 1st Golf Park Noulén, Switzerland
by Steven Tierney
- 2nd Royal County Down
by Gary Crawford
- 3rd Largs GC by Iain Barr

CALENDAR SHOTS

- Keswick GC by Michael Branson
- St Mellion G&CC by Laurence Pithie
- Sunningdale GC by Will Bowden
- Cradoc by Stuart Ross
- Loch Lomond by Jordan Fairweather
- Abergele GC by Darren Anderson
- Wallasey GC by Lee Connell
- Fulwell GC by Mark Walden
- Fairhaven GC by Peter Simpson

"Also don't place the main focus point of the photo in the middle of the frame. Use the rule of thirds and keep the main element of the picture a third in from one of the corners. If you look at some of the famous pictures painted by the great masters you will see them using the same technique."

Several pictures which might have made it to the final 12, and thus form the 2007 BIGGA calendar, were ruled out because they had been submitted digitally and were either too small, were not of a high enough resolution, or both.

Stephen will receive a choice of any framed picture from Eric Hepworth's Collection and Golf Park Noulén will be profiled in the magazine in the forthcoming months, while Gary and Iain can choose from slightly smaller prints from Eric's extensive collection.



Largs GC



Sunningdale GC



Keswick GC



Fairhaven GC



Loch Lomond



Wallasey GC



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Modern cabs offer much improved all-round visibility. Think too about noise levels and the need for air conditioning. Are sealed cabs the way to go when carrying out spraying?

Tractors: Don't let choice get in the way of the right decision

Match the correct combination of tyres, power, manoeuvrability and lift capacity correctly, and it is possible to buy a tractor today that could well still be in use some ten or more years into the future. Try doing that with any other item of equipment. James de Havilland discusses...

It is tempting to open any item on current 'small' tractors with something along the lines of 'modern tractor designs pack more power and manoeuvrability into increasingly compact packages'. On the face of it, this certainly seems the case. The reality is somewhat different. Small tractors are harder to pigeon hole these days, the sub-compact, compact, small or even turf tags we used to hang on tractors having morphed into groups that are far less structured.

Without really trying, it is possible to come up with a list of well know tractor brands that, between them, should contain a model to suit most needs. In fact it is tempting to suggest the dealer who sold the Deere, Jacobsen or Toro kit used on the course could probably come up with a choice of Deere, Iseki, Mitsubishi or Kubota tractor for 90% of users without having to look any further.

But it is worth digging a bit deeper. Tractors from the agricultural sector 'big boys' also make a range of interesting smaller models. Massey Ferguson brand owners AGCO includes small Fendt models, for example. CNH, which has Case IH, New Holland and Steyr in its stables, also has some interesting kit on offer. Then there is McCormick, a company that, like Landini, can draw upon Italian flair to come up with some genuinely interesting tractors.

Then there are the smaller, specialist importers with some tempting kit. Goldoni, Carraro, BCS Volcan, Riko, TYM et al are a few examples. There

really is a long list of available models, but not all are suited to work on a golf course.

To help establish what machines are worth having out on demonstration, set out the basic ground rules. A call to a couple of tyre specialists early on can also help. It is surprising how the tyre options they have specified for end users can help. A specialist who can specify a different wheel and tyre package can really start to open up the choices. Want to run a 75hp monster on your greens? With the right tyres and wheels, why not?

As an initial guide, remember the basics. Modern tractors should have fewer compromises, greater choice - making it less stressful to select a design that will do all the jobs asked of it. Put the intended tasks at the head of the selection process, and the right make and model will probably choose itself.

Tractors: Don't let choice get in the way of the right decision



Mechanical transmissions with some form of powershift make swapping ratios a doddle. This can be a useful feature to consider. A power shuttle is useful too, with an increasing number of 'small' tractors benefiting from 'big' tractor features

A FEW BUYING CONSIDERATIONS:

- **Rear linkage capacity.** How much can be raised on the rear linkage is important, but lift capacity on its own is only part of the story. A critical factor is how much can be raised without having to add front ballast to exploit what it can potentially lift. A physically larger tractor with a longer wheelbase may end up as a 'lighter' package, on the right tyres, than a smaller tractor with ballast.
- **Engine power.** Manufactures will offer a range of essentially the same tractor with a choice of power outputs. It is always tempting and easy to suggest going for as much power from a given package as possible. This buys enough 'surplus' power to cope should larger equipment be purchased in the future. But think before going down this route, particularly when going up a class size to benefit from increased lift capacity.

- **Transmission.** This is where matters can get complex if you let them! In outline it has been established that hydrostatic drive is the way to go for variable speed applications such as mowing, but mechanical drive 'mid-range, gear 2 at 1,800rpm' is still the route most prefer for certain often repeated precision jobs such as spraying or top dressing. Where it gets complex is when semi-powershift, shuttle and creep speeds are added into the mechanical transmission mix. The key is having the right gear speed choices within the critical 0.5 to 10kph working range.
- **2WD or 4WD.** Few courses will 'need' the extra traction afforded by 4WD. The key issue, however, is not the drive to the axle itself but the influence a driven front axle will have on standard tyre equipment offered, the ballast effect of a heavier front axle and its influence upon turn radius. A 4WD tractor in 2WD can have a perfectly acceptable lock, but does the inertia within the axle influence how the front tyres scuff during a turn?
- **PTO.** Most tractors will come with a single 540rpm PTO, but a more powerful model may benefit from a 750rpm 'economy' 750 rpm PTO speed choice. This allows 540 rpm to be delivered at the PTO at greatly reduced engine speeds. Tractors of 55hp plus may offer this. Ground speed PTO is another option. How the PTO is engaged is also a consideration. A simple lever and live PTO system is a good starting point, electronic selection not being the gimmick it was once seen to be; modern designs should modulate power uptake to the PTO, avoiding the harsh engagement associated with some early designs.



A 92hp 'ag' tractor on turf tyres does not suddenly become ideally suited to the demands of golf, but it shows what can be achieved. All this good work will be undone by those rock hard trailer tyres!



A simple tractor and loader combination is fantastically useful, but there is no reason why this same tractor, fitted with the right tyres and without its loader, cannot be used to top dress or spray the greens

- **Cab, ROPS, Straddle or platform.** The choice between a cab and ROPS tractor is pretty obvious, an air conditioned and heated cab having obvious attractions. Risk assessment needs taking into account in this decision, particularly on tractors that may be used for spraying. Some tractors may even have sealed cabs that, when fitted with active carbon filters, influencing the safety equipment that needs to be worn when applying certain materials. Traditional straddle tractors, with the transmission tunnel running between the operator's legs, and typically the gear levers too, are rivalled by platform designs with a flat floor and side mounted levers.
- **Front linkage.** A growing number of small tractors can be specified from new with an integral front linkage or retrofitted with one at a later date. The actual number of uses on a course for front linkages

are limited, but they do have advantages. The most obvious is enabling ballast to be easily fitted and removed. Also consider applications such as sweeping, a front mounted mower, extra spray tank or even a transport box.

- **Front loader.** Even if a loader is not at the top of the wish list, it can pay to buy a tractor with a loader ready specification. A tractor that can be specified with mid-mount remote valves with a joystick control have a head start if a loader is purchased at a later date. A specification that can include a shuttle transmission for fast changes between forward and reverse, with or without the clutch, is also worth considering. There are also models that are offered with a choice of loader designs from the factory. These may come at a favourable 'package' price.
- **Tyres.** It is really important to think laterally on the tyre issue. Turf pattern tyres are not necessarily low ground bearing pressure tyres. The standard tractor wheel rims are also not the only ones that can be fitted, offset rims allow far fatter and softer rubber to be fitted. Of equal importance there is no reason why a tractor should be shod with just one set of wheels and tyres. Around 20 minutes with a jack and air wrench should be enough to swap between standard tyres for trailer, loader and hard surface duties and soft turf friendly rubber for top dressing, spraying or coring.



A modern tractor should be far less likely to leak oil, but accidents can happen. It is well worth using biodegradable oil in the hydraulics. This will not prevent hot spilt oil scorching the turf, but it will allow the damaged area to recover much faster



Modern tractors can look pretty stylish but it is the bits you cannot see that really matter. Good ergonomics, the right range of gears and enough lift without too much ballast up front are more important

- **Operator comfort.** There is more to comfort than just choosing between a cab and ROPS model. The way the controls are laid out, levels of noise and vibration plus the type of seat fitted are all critical. On paper specifications are one thing, but actually jumping on a range of different tractors really can highlight just how they vary. In an ideal world, the trick is to draw up a shortlist of models and then try them side by side. A modern looking tractor may be hiding ancient 'oily bits'. The obvious first choice is not always the best choice.



A good place to start when thinking about a new tractor is with a tyre specialist. Fitted with the right wheel rim and tyre combination, larger and heavier tractors need not be restricted to just the fairways



A tractor with 4WD can be extremely manoeuvrable. A flat tread at full lock is a point to look at as it will help reduce turf damage during a really tight turn. A simple test is to do a few 'doughnuts' with a demo tractor

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Horne Park Wins Through to the USA



Horne Park GC from Surrey, has won the Great Britain National Final of the 2006 John Deere Team Championship, held for the first time at East Sussex National GC, Uckfield, in September. Steve Mitchell reports...

The winning team from Horne Park - made up of Club Owner Neil Burke, Secretary Elaine Purton, Head Greenkeeper Danny O'Rourke and John Deere Dealer Salesman Andy Page of Palmer's Turfcare at Hailsham, East Sussex - will be travelling to America in November to play in the 20th John Deere World Team Championship Final. This is being held at Reynolds Plantation Resort in Georgia, with the winners from Great Britain and Ireland playing against teams from Asia, Australia, Canada, Germany, Norway, Sweden and the USA.

Horne Park's net score of 57 (15 under par) in the modified scramble event, was 1.7 shots ahead of Welwyn Garden City from Hertfordshire, and 2.1 ahead of the third place team from Tydd St Giles Golf and Leisure Centre in Cambridgeshire - whose greenkeeper Kevin Goude, won the prize for Longest Drive at the East Course's 446 yard 9th hole. Nearest the Pin on the 137 yard 8th hole was won by Jim Fergusson, Secretary at Douglas Park GC in Glasgow.

"Going to the USA will be the experience of a lifetime for all of us," said Horne Park GC Club Secretary, Elaine Purton. "The way we played in both the regional and national finals, we thought we had a pretty good chance of winning. Over 36 holes we really couldn't have done any more; the final was enormous fun, everyone played their part and it really was a team effort, right the way through.

"In a scramble format things have to happen for you, and they did - we chipped in three times, holed a wedge from 80 yards... about the only thing we didn't manage was a hole in one, so we knew we'd take some beating on the day. We were all very impressed with East Sussex National, the course and the facilities were excellent all round, and now we're really looking forward to representing Great Britain in the World Final in November."

Altogether 21 John Deere dealerships organised Regional Qualifiers for this year's tournament, the fourth held in Great Britain and Ireland, with a total of 362 teams competing across both countries. Adare Manor Hotel and Golf Resort from Co Limerick won the Irish National Final, also held in September for the first time at the PGA National Ireland and Palmerstown House golf resort near Dublin.



The winning team from Horne Park GC



BIGGA Chief Executive, John Pemberton

Donations are traditionally made to greenkeeping associations in all the countries which take part in the Team Championship, and this year John Deere Limited has contributed a total of £9050 to support the educational activities of BIGGA and GCSAI (Golf Course Superintendents' Association of Ireland). Donations to BIGGA now total £34,475 since the Team Championship started in Great Britain and Ireland in 2002.

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.

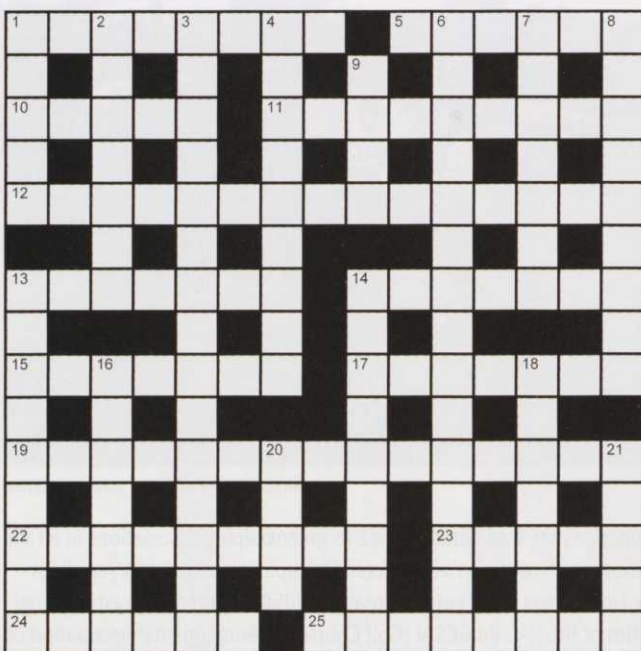
CROSSWORD - Compiled by Anax

ACROSS

- 1 Lover, innamorato (8)
- 5 Thingy, whatsit (6)
- 10 Irrigate (5)
- 11 Idyllic location (name taken from 1947 musical) (9)
- 12 Dangerously deceitful person (5,2,3,5)
- 13 Strength (7)
- 14 Shaggy-haired US bison (7)
- 15 Military music for bagpipes (7)
- 17 Small pickled cucumber (7)
- 19 UK soccer team whose name appears in the Bible (Luke) (5,2,3,5)
- 22 State of being (9)
- 23 Lopsided (5)
- 24 Of a female cat, to produce young (6)
- 25 Burial ground (8)

DOWN

- 1 Largest county of Wales (5)
- 2 Take back (something said) (7)
- 3 Queen of France who reputedly said "Let them eat cake" (5,10)
- 4 Amusing social anecdote, often partly true (5,4)
- 6 Former South African republic, capital Bloemfontein (6,4,5)
- 7 Series of continuous pictures (7)
- 8 Easily (5,4)
- 9 Hankering (4)
- 13 Small, insignificant person (9)
- 14 Head honcho (3,6)
- 16 French aviator, first to fly across the English Channel (7)
- 18 Finger joint (7)
- 20 Provide money (4)
- 21 Greetings from Texas! (5)



ANAGRAM

This Turkish football team gave Liverpool FC a run for their money in this year's Champions League.

A SAGA LAY ART

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. Who scored Scotland's only goal during Euro 96?
2. Who did Manchester Utd beat during the 2001/02 season 5-3 after being 0-3 down at half time?
3. What is Dom Perignon famous for producing?
4. Name the German born player who won three Wimbledon and four US Open titles and captained his county in the Davis Cup.
5. Newcastle failed to qualify for next season's Champions League after a 3-3 draw with Southampton. Who scored Newcastle's last minute equaliser?
6. Which sport is hoping to become an Olympic event in 2008?
7. Who in 1999 became the first teenager to take part in the Ryder Cup?
8. Which member of England's Rugby World Cup winning team became the latest player to retire?
9. Which boxer said Audrey Harrison had a 'powder-puff punch'?

SUDOKU

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

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

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 58



For those Hard to Reach Places - Safety is the Key

Melissa Toombs looks at a range of tools available for trimming hedges and cutting branches from ground level.

Safety is key when using electric or battery charged equipment. Being able to trim back trees and hedges is a necessity but the job can become dangerous when areas are hard to reach, inappropriate equipment is used and/or the operator lacks training. Telescopic handles, cordless models, variable tilt angles and cutter heads, and light weight models, can make all the difference when buying hand tools.

BRUSHCUTTERS

There are many varieties of brushcutter currently available, here are some points to consider before you buy:

- **Golf course size.** With more to trim, a bigger unit is required and petrol power is preferable to electric - electric models are designed for small greens with minimal work to do. Petrol trimmers around 24.5cc are enough for the average sized garden.
- **Physical fitness.** Brushcutting requires physical effort. If you use a model without a harness, extra strain can be put on your arm, wrist and hand. Buy a product that's as light as possible.
- **Handles.** Lighter models tend to have a single loop handle, while heavier machines have a double or handlebars handle that gives greater control against kickback.

Brushcutters are the ideal complement to power mowers and can be used wherever additional work is required. Handy for adding the finishing touches to your golf course, brushcutters can also be used to mow small patches of grass, quickly. There are two main types of petrol brushcutter:

Petrol 2 stroke trimmers - This variety of brushcutter has been around for some time now and is considered reliable and easy to use.

Petrol 4 stroke trimmers - 4 stroke power generally comes with lower

revs and is produced in a broader range. 4 strokes are quieter and produce less smoke emissions than the 2 stroke, also, the oil and fuel have separate containers and are mixed within the engine.

Brushcutters with engine sizes over 24.5cc range in price from £130 to £500.

Power tool dealer Echo, recently launched the low-noise brushcutter, SRM-350ESU. Fitted with a 34cm³ engine, the SRM-350ESU offers reduced pulling power on the starter rope and has no kickback effect in cranking.



With a weight of just 7.6kg, and a vibration figure of just 21.2m/sec², the SRM-350ESU can be operated safely for considerably longer than other brushcutters of this size, and with a fuel tank capacity of 0.84 litres, the unit will run much longer on one filling. Price £389 plus VAT

For those Hard to Reach Places - Safety is the Key

Garfitts, a UK supplier of golf and turf machinery accessories, feature the CG350HW Honda 4 stroke brushcutter in their 2006 catalogue.



The 35cc CG350HW Honda features a heavy duty gearbox and drive shaft as well as a low vibration engine mount system. Price £265 plus VAT

Many one and two day courses are available at colleges all over Britain, covering the safe operation of the brushcutter in a variety of conditions, from checking the machine, fuelling and starting, examining components, machinery and safety markings and testing the brushcutter; to practical operation.



The 42cc, X-Series 8-42 has a super clean air filter system providing longer air filter life, reduced fuel consumption and increased power

CHAINSAWS

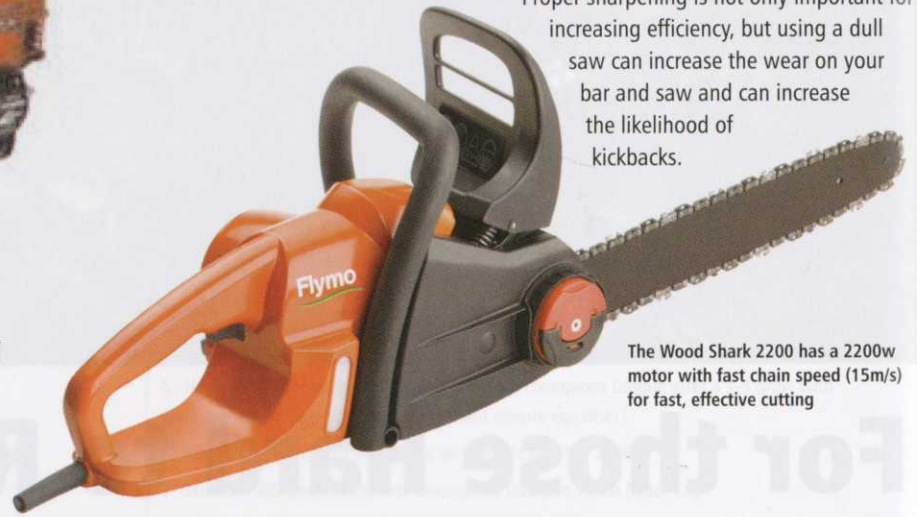
Anyone using a chainsaw at work should have received adequate training in safe use.

Poor operator training and lack of attention can lead to accidents. The right protective clothing must be worn in order to minimise risks.

The key to an effective, efficient chainsaw is a sharp chain. The chain may need sharpening when any of the following start to occur:

- You have to apply pressure on the bar to cut, rather than having the weight of the saw and bar be sufficient.
- The cut is uneven.
- The saw is producing more sawdust than wood chips.

Proper sharpening is not only important for increasing efficiency, but using a dull saw can increase the wear on your bar and saw and can increase the likelihood of kickbacks.



The Wood Shark 2200 has a 2200w motor with fast chain speed (15m/s) for fast, effective cutting

It's important to note that different types and sizes of saw chain need different sizes of files to sharpen.

Prices range from £250 for a 24.5cc chainsaw, to £778 for a 65cc model. New chains vary in price from £15 to £75.

McCulloch are due to launch the X-Series 8-42 chainsaw in January 2007.

Described as a super clean petrol chainsaw with advanced power, an easy start system and ergonomic design, the 2.1hp, X-Series 8-42, also has a tool-less chain tensioner allowing the operator to tighten their chain as easily as possible.

Flymo are set to launch the Wood Shark 2200 next spring, a powerful, easy to use electric chainsaw with advanced design for easy handling. This model also offers tool-less chain tensioning and is fitted with a clutch to prevent the motor overloading.

College and online courses in chainsaw training and maintenance are also available.

A pole saw or power pruner are useful if there doesn't happen to be a trained chainsaw operator on site as they offer less risk to the operator and the tree.

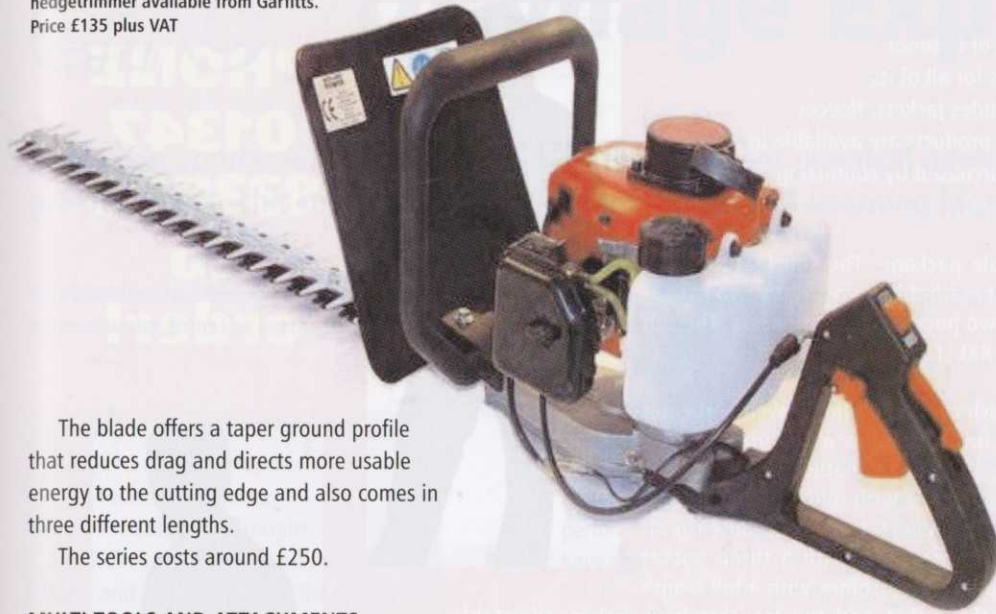
HEDGE TRIMMERS AND POLE SAWS

The two key elements to a good hedge trimmer are the power unit and the blade. The ability to adjust the cutting head to a different angle enables the unit to be used to cut the sides' tops and possibly the upper reaches of the offside of a hedge with one unit, worked from the same positions.

Pole saws and hedge trimmer blades on the end of extension poles can make lopping small branches and cutting tall hedges much easier.

The Hayate Telescoping Pole Saw series is the latest technological development in professional pole saw design from Silky. The efficient, state-of-art, aluminium-telescoping pole saw boasts a light weight aluminium pole and a comfort-grip handle with cushion tip and comes three lengths of 12', 16', 20' fully extended.

The 22cc SL 600 Double Blade
hedgetrimmer available from Garfitts.
Price £135 plus VAT



The blade offers a taper ground profile that reduces drag and directs more usable energy to the cutting edge and also comes in three different lengths.

The series costs around £250.

MULTI TOOLS AND ATTACHMENTS

Sometimes it's much easier to have one piece of equipment that can do various jobs, or a model that can easily be tweaked and changed to suit another working situation.

The XLT3000 Multi Tool from Flymo is a powerful, versatile petrol trimmer and brushcutter that can easily convert to other useful tools.

Multi tools cost around £140 with attachments varying in price from £40 to £80.

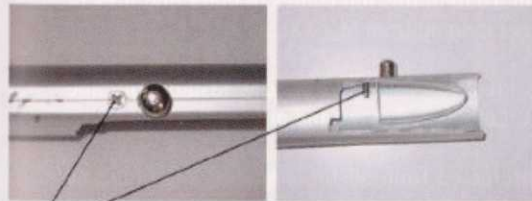
It is important that safety goggles and ear protectors are worn when working with power tools.



The XLT3000 Multi Tool has easy clip-on optional accessories, such as: a hedgetrimmer, edger, pole pruner, cultivator and blower



abbeygardensales.co.uk



The spring is securely fixed with a screw

The Hayate Telescoping Pole Saw series offers an ultra sharp non-set tooth design that cuts quickly leaving a silky smooth surface and provides outstanding performance for cross, rip and slant cuts

BIGGA's Fantastic Outdoor Range

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

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



**PHONE
01347
833800
to
order!**



2. The Tour Suit, which comes in either a Weatherbeater or Full Zipper style (pictured), has a waterproof outer fabric, which is fully lined. The Weatherbeater jacket is a short zipped pullover style with two pockets and has an adjustable draw cord waist. It also contains zip off half sleeves. The trousers come with a three pocket styling. The Full Zipper version comes with a full length covered zipper on the jacket and the trousers have velcro adjustable bottoms. Jacket size ranges from S - XXL and the trousers come in 27", 29", 31" & 33". The suits come in a choice of colours. £130

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



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



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

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

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

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

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



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833800 to
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kit today!**



Drainage Explained

The GTC's approved learning materials offer excellent practical advice for young greenkeepers. This piece is generated from the Level 3 Learning Materials on drainage.

Improvement to drainage should be considered under two conditions; the need to remove surplus water out of the soil and to remove water from the surface.

- Greatly reduced aeration of the soil
- Reduced root development
- Less resistance to wear
- Less resistance to drought
- Inefficient use of plant nutrients
- Late and slow growth in the spring
- Increased susceptibility to disease

Table 1

Once a decision has been made that supplementary drainage needs to be used, the type of drainage required is the next consideration depending upon the problem identified. Several solutions are available:

- Pipe drainage
- Mole drains (rarely used)
- Open ditches
- Catchment drainage

Before any consideration is given to the location, spacing and installation pattern of any drainage, the outfall should be considered. The effectiveness of any system is determined by the outfall. Ideal drainage outfalls are considered to be positive outfalls, examples of positive outfalls would include:

- Ditches
- Streams
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Existing land or pipe drains
- Sump and pump

Soak away pits should not be used unless the underlying geological conditions are correct and it is possible for water to move into an underlying permeable layer.

Storm drainage may provide an outfall, however this type of drainage is usually owned and managed by the local authority and permission must be sought before connection of other drainage into this system. Do not assume permission will be given.

Sump and pump systems are used to move water from a storage area, the sump, to an outfall via a pump. This type of system should only be considered when all other options have been exhausted. They can prove to be expensive and will require maintenance, further information can be found in MAFF leaflet, No 14 Pumped Field Drainage.

PIPE DRAINAGE

Flexible perforated plastic pipe is the commonly used drainage pipe now installed in the UK. Water enters the pipe through small perforations, although many people feel that the perforations will allow material in to the pipe and increase its susceptibility to blocking, tests have shown that this rarely happens. Three factors dictate the flow of water through a pipe; the fall, the pipe diameter and the pipe geometry.

The pipe geometry is the inside smoothness of the pipe. The flow rates for given pipe sizes can be found in the manufacturer's specifications.

Drainage pipe installation patterns usually fall into three categories depending upon:

- The surface grade of the land being drained.
- The size of the area being drained.
- The shape of the area.

These patterns are Herringbone, Grid and Random, (Figure 1)

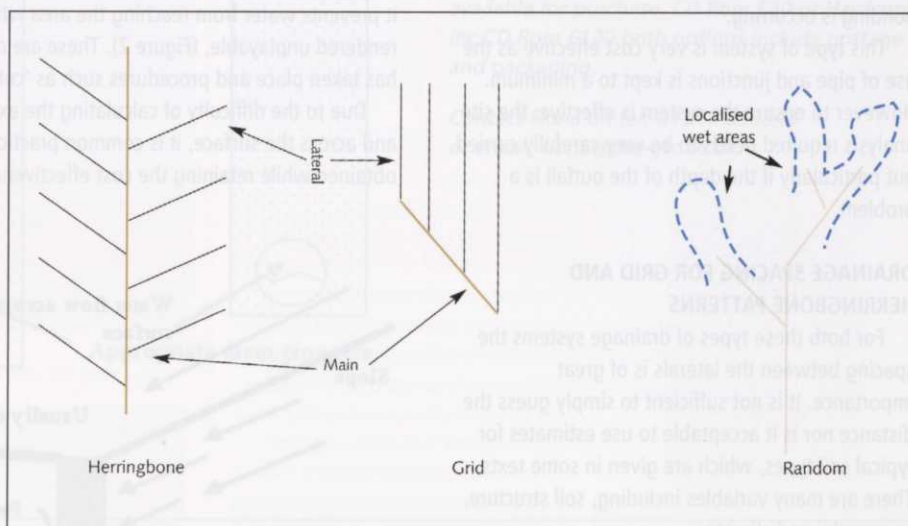


Figure 1

HERRINGBONE

Principal areas of use for this type of design pattern are large and/or irregular shaped areas. If the soil type does not have sufficient hydraulic conductivity and slit drains are also to be incorporated into the drainage scheme, then the herringbone pattern is not a practical solution.

If the ground slopes the main should be installed so that it runs down with that gradient and the laterals placed across the slope. The relatively short lateral length means that the depth of the main is not usually an issue. The longer the lateral at a given fall then the deeper the main needs to be at the point of the junction. This pattern is often found in golf greens. Herringbone schemes can be complicated to install and unless accurate plans are kept, may be difficult to locate later.

Drainage Explained

GRID

A grid or grid iron pattern of drainage is often applied to areas which are relatively regular in shape. Winter games pitches and bowling greens are often designed with this type of drainage scheme. There are some advantages in this layout, fewer junctions are usually needed and the system is fairly easy to install.

If slit drainage is also being considered then the grid system allows for the slits to be installed at 90° to the laterals which can be, as previously mentioned, difficult to achieve with a herringbone system. Disadvantages of grid systems are that it can be prone to silting up at the junctions. For this reason laterals that enter the mains at 90° should be avoided. The use of long lateral lengths may also necessitate the use of very deep main drain runs.

RANDOM

A random pattern can be either designed or is derived over a number of years as an existing system is added to. A random system is used to enable only those areas that require drainage to be drained. Common examples of this are often found on golf course fairways, especially those that have undulations present. In this case water frequently collects in the low lying areas and a decision is made to drain those areas where surface water ponding is occurring.

This type of system is very cost effective as the use of pipe and junctions is kept to a minimum. However to ensure the system is effective, the site analysis required needs to be very carefully carried out particularly if the depth of the outfall is a problem.

DRAINAGE SPACING FOR GRID AND HERRINGBONE PATTERNS

For both these types of drainage systems the spacing between the laterals is of great importance. It is not sufficient to simply guess the distance nor is it acceptable to use estimates for typical soil types, which are given in some texts. There are many variables including, soil structure, geography and climate.

Before drain spacing can be calculated certain parameters need to be known.

- Rainfall: averages can be obtained from local weather data.
- The design rate: how fast is the rainfall to be removed? A system designed to remove 10mm over a 10 hour period would be less intensive than one designed to cope with 10mm per hour.
- The hydraulic conductivity of the soil: a measurement of the rate of moisture movement through a saturated soil.
- Depth of the pipe: the potential for water flow through the soil increases with depth.

The rainfall rate will be dependent upon the prevailing climatic conditions and geography of the area. The amount of rainfall that needs to be removed will depend on the sportsturf in question. Baker (1982), cited in Adams and Gibbs (1994), suggested that the maximum design rate, should reflect the greatest winter rainfall that is likely to occur in a 24 hour period once in every two years, however for top quality sports turf where revenue and playability are of major concern a 10 year period should be considered.

Rainfall data for the UK can be found at: www.met-office.gov.uk/climate/uk/averages/sites/ which gives the 30 year averages for all parts of the UK.

To calculate the spacing between the laterals the modified or simplified Hooghoudt equation is used, Gibbs and Adams, (1994), some assumptions are made with this namely that the depth of permeable top soil has a constant hydraulic conductivity and that the soil layer beneath the drains is impermeable. Therefore only the flow above the drains is considered. This produces the following equation:

$$S = \sqrt{\frac{h^2 4k}{v}}$$

Where: s = drain spacing (mm)
 k = hydraulic conductivity (mm/hr)
 h = average depth of soil (average depth of the drains) (mm)
 v = design rate (mm/hr)

OTHER DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

CUT OFF DRAINS:

This type of drainage is often called interceptor drainage. Pipework is installed in such a way it prevents water from reaching the area which may otherwise be damaged or as a consequence rendered unplayable, (Figure 2). These are often found at the base of slopes where construction has taken place and procedures such as 'cut and fill' have occurred.

Due to the difficulty of calculating the exact amount of water that is moving through the soil and across the surface, it is common practice to install the largest pipe diameter that can be obtained while retaining the cost effectiveness of the solution.

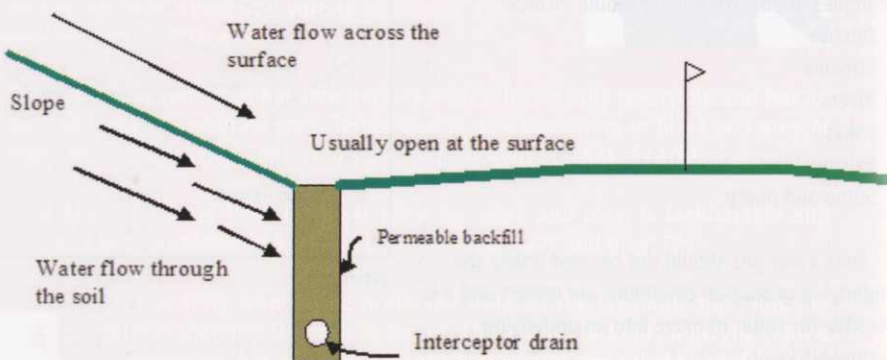


Figure 2

SAND SLITS AND SAND INJECTION

Sand slits, bands and grooves, are used to connect into existing pipe drainage laterals, usually at right angles and across any slopes that may be present. Slit material (sand/gravel), depth, width and length, can all be calculated. Further information on sand slits can be found in, Natural Turf for Sport and Amenity: Science and Practice, Adams and Gibbs, (1994), and Sports Turf: Science, Construction and Maintenance, Stewart, (1994).

OPEN DITCHES

Open ditches are frequently found on the perimeter of sports turf areas or, in the case of golf courses, through the area. Ditches are a useful way to move large quantities of water from the area. Ditches will have an effect on the water table of the soil, producing a draw down effect similar to piped drainage. The depth of water in the ditch and the fall of the ditch need to be considered both during the maintenance of the ditch, especially during work such as clearing out, and if large machinery is used to carry out this work, or if new ditches are being constructed.

Water, 0.75 - 1m deep in a ditch with a fall of 0.15 - 0.3m over 1km will have a velocity of approximately 1m/second. Higher velocities than this will cause undercutting and erosion of the bank.

DRAINAGE BACKFILL MATERIAL

Trenches for drainage as a rule of thumb need to be cut approximately 50 - 100mm larger than the pipe diameter. It is important that conditions for cutting the trenches are suitable; too much damage to the soil on the sides of the trench through smearing or damage to the structure will hinder the water flow into the trench.

A permeable backfill will need to be used over the pipe (Figure 3). This material should also be used under the pipe so that the pipe lies upon a layer of approximately 25mm of material.

This type of backfill will allow for the movement of water from the surface down to the pipe to be as rapid as possible; vertical movement. Lateral or sideways movement of water will also occur however; water will not flow from a small pore size - soil, to a large pore size - gravel, as the tension of the water in the small pores is too great.

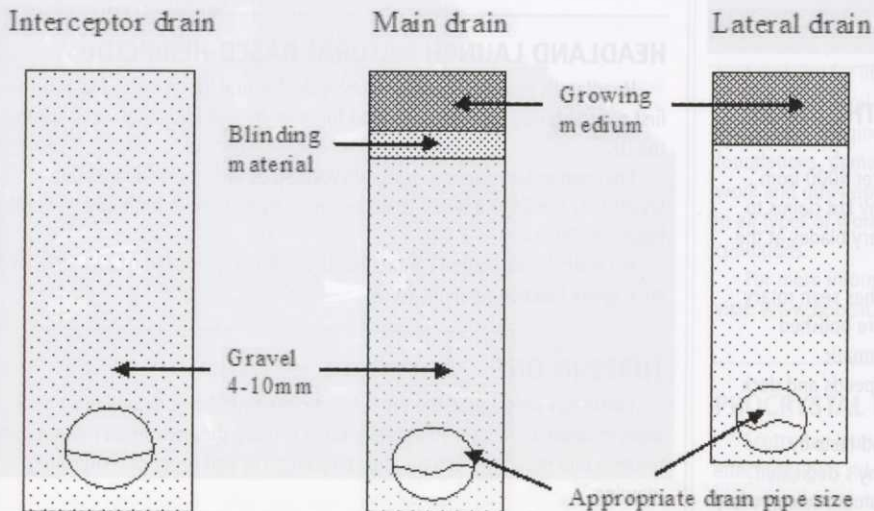


Figure 3

Gravel, material with a particle size of between 2 - 10mm, is commonly used as a drainage backfill material. A blinding layer of sand prevents particle migration from the final layer, either sand or soil into the gravel. Care must be taken in choosing/specifying the correct materials so that migration of one material into another does not occur.

RECORDS

It is important that accurate records are kept of all the drainage works carried out. "As built" plans, should be provided by drainage contractors as a matter of course. Work carried out by the greenkeeper or groundstaff will also need to be recorded onto a site plan.

The plan should show the location of all the drainage pipework along with notes on the installation date, pipe type and size. The location of any silt traps, inspection chambers or flushing points, along with outfall locations will also need to be recorded. Open ditches should be recorded together with their peak flow depths and grade. Any drains that outfall into the ditch will also need to be marked on the plan.

These learning materials are used by the GTC Approved Training Providers in Britain and are available for purchase. CD Rom £30 or Hardcopy inc CD Rom £120 both options include postage and packaging.

Contact Fiona on tel: 01347 838640 or email: fiona@the-gtc.co.uk.

AFT

HAD THAT **SINKING** FEELING LAST WINTER?



AFT 45

- ◆ Suitable for 20-45hp compact tractors
- ◆ Available with boom and chain and/or slitting wheel
- ◆ Removes soil with clean up conveyor or auger system



AFT SANDBANDER

- ◆ For 25mm wide and up to 250mm deep sand slits
- ◆ Will install slits to remove standing surface water
- ◆ Works on golf greens thanks to unique blade design

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NEW PRODUCTS

SAND PRO MACHINES CREATE WORLD-CLASS BUNKERS

Toro has launched a new generation of Sand Pro bunker rakes - the Sand Pro 5040 and 3040 - accompanied by a new range of attachments. The machines can now tackle a whole raft of landscaping maintenance jobs round the golf course.

For more information visit: www.toro.co.uk



TURF TO SEEDBED IN FOUR PASSES

Terrain Aeration launched Gartenwerker at this year's Saltex, a new-to-the-UK rotovator which, due to two sets of contra rotating blades, does not bump over hard ground.

This lightweight hand-operated machine has a simple forward and reverse action, a 1.5 hp engine, a 30cm operating width and many safety features including a "Dead Man's Handle."

For further information contact Terrain Aeration on Tel: 01449 673783.



HEADLAND LAUNCH NATURAL BASED HERBICIDE

Headland's new non-selective herbicide, Natural Weed Spray No 1, is the first natural based product of its kind for amenity and industrial weed control in the UK.

Environmentally friendly, Natural Weed Spray No 1 is biodegradable (eventually breaking down into water) and can be used in both amenity and industrial situations.

For further information contact Headland Amenity on Tel: 01223 597834 or visit: www.headlandamenity.co.uk

THREE-IN-ONE

Etesia has redesigned the Pro 53 to incorporate their unique Biocut deck. Now, in addition to its revolutionary drive system, the pedestrian rotary offers three-in-one mowing - cutting and collecting, cut and drop, plus mulching mowing.

For more information visit: www.etesia.com



ROTARIES JOIN THE SHARP SET

The new Rotamaster 4000 from Bernhard and Company Ltd claims to smoothly sharpen rotary blades at the fastest speeds ever.

The last 10 years has seen rotary mowers provide a more polished performance, with dramatic improvements in tip speeds and deck design.

Following trials and tests by Bernhard and Company's dedicated Research and Development team, rotary blades can now be speedily set-up and mounted through a special spring loaded vice and fast aligning jig bars.

For more information visit: www.bernard.co.uk

LINDUM'S INSTANT MEADOW

Lindum launched Lindum Wildflower at this year's Saltex, a ready made, living meadow, utilising the company's Grassfelt technology.

Wild flowers such as cats ear, oxeye daisy, yarrow and ladies bedstraw combined with grasses in Lindum's moisture retentive biodegradable felt base, give all the practical benefits of Grassfelt to a wild flower meadow.

For further information contact Lindum Turf on Tel: 01904 448675 or visit: www.turf.co.uk



NEW 700 DIESEL

Quad and ATV manufacturer, Arctic Cat, introduced their 700 Diesel at this year's Saltex.

The new 700 Diesel uses a twin-cylinder naturally aspirated engine, driving through CVT transmission.

For more information visit: www.ace.ag

ROCHFORDS KNOW THE DRILL

Rochford GM has introduced Earthquake Augers to their recently launched Ardisam range of outdoor power equipment.

The One Man Auger is powered by a 43cc 2-stroke high performance engine and is ideal for the homeowner and farmer. Ardisam Two-Man Earthquake Augers are available powered by 6.5hp Intek.

For further details call: 01963 828000 or visit: www.rochfordgm.co.uk



NEW ORGANIC BASED FERTILISER

Organic based, stimulating soil microbial activity and reducing leaching, Endure fertilisers provide a steady release of nutrients over 10 to 12 weeks. Suitable for both fine and recreational sports turf, Endure is available in three formulations. Endure Autumn, (6-3-18) strengthens the sward against winter stress, Endure Spring (16-4-8) feeds without inducing flushes of soft growth, while Endure NK, is a nitrogen and potash only formulation (12-0-12), recommended for turf that does not require phosphates.

For further information on the new Endure range of organic-mineral fertilisers contact Vitax on Tel: 01530 510060 or visit: www.vitax.co.uk



THE TURF TROOPER MARCHES ON

Autoguide Equipment has announced the introduction of the Turf Trooper, a 60in (150cm) cut triple mower designed and manufactured by the Wiltshire based company and aimed at the domestic and semi-professional market.

For further details contact Autoguide Equipment on Tel: 01380 850885.



NEW MINI-EXCAVATOR

In the 4 to 5 tonne class, Bobcat has made a major addition to the company's mini-excavator range with the launch of the new 4.2 tonne 335 model. The new 335 mini-excavator offers optimum weight distribution, providing the best stability for lifting work as well as general excavation, digging for foundations, demolition work and other applications in all types of working conditions.

For more information visit: www.bobcat.com



RE-USING CONTAMINATED WATER

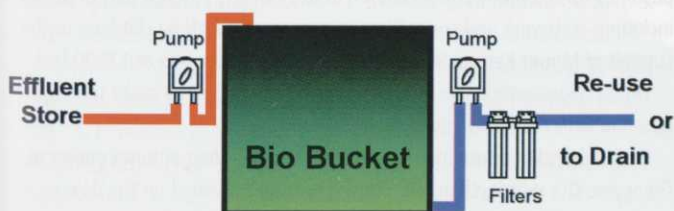
Water contaminated by pesticides or herbicides can now be returned to the land, or be re-used in washing applications.

This is made possible with a new decontamination system called the BioBucket, which is designed for the treatment of up to 5,000 litres of dilute pesticide. It also absorbs oils, fuels and grease from implement washing.

The BioBucket comes from Chichester-based, WMEC Limited, a world leader in effluent treatment, and uses an adsorption and biological breakdown system.

It automatically takes waste from the users own storage tank or sump, then passes it through the treatment process, before releasing it for reuse or disposal.

For more information visit: www.wmec.co.uk



PROCRYSTAL IS CLEAR SOLUTION

Scotts has launched ProCrystal, a new biological control that quickly and effectively gets rid of algae in ponds and lakes, returning the water to a clear and odourless state, without disturbing the natural balance of the eco-system.

Available in water-soluble, single-dose sachets, the product can be applied easily from the waterside or boat.

For more information Tel: 0871 220 5353 or visit: www.scottspromotional.co.uk



A body of water before and after treatment, and algae filament before and after treatment



News from the Chief Executive

Upon my return from two weeks holiday I realised how the days suddenly seem to be growing shorter and any prospect of 'a few holes' after work is no longer an option. It seems only yesterday that I was writing about looking forward to playing more golf in the forthcoming season, getting better value for my subscription investment by playing more often and perhaps clipping a shot or two off my handicap, all ambitions that were never fulfilled! Like so many golfers today I am finding it more and more difficult to justify regularly spending at least half a day on either Saturday or Sunday away from home. This, coupled with the rising cost of golf membership, is perhaps symptomatic of some of the problems in golf generally. We discuss sustainability of grass species and playing conditions however, I do sometimes wonder at the sustainability of the number of golfing facilities that exist today.

This year has been as difficult, if not more difficult in some areas, as can be recalled in recent times. Lack of rain and restrictions on water usage have created undue pressure on greenkeepers as the quest for improved performance by many golf clubs continues. Somewhere in all of this I personally cannot help but feel that there is a wake-up call for many average clubs, members clubs in particular. Just what the answer is I am not sure however, over the coming years I can see severe financial pressure being a real threat to the existence of some facilities, or perhaps my interpretation of trends is wildly wrong!

On a more positive note I hope that you have all taken time to study the 'Continue to Learn' brochure for Harrogate 2007 that contains an unprecedented choice of Workshops and Seminars. Some workshops are already 50% booked, so if you have a specific preference then I urge you not to delay your booking form any longer than necessary. The exhibition for 2007 will occupy Halls A, B, C, and M and at the time of writing there is only a very small amount of space left to sell. There will be a number of new exhibitors and a detailed preview will appear in next month's Greenkeeper International. In the meantime further details of the event can be found on the Harrogate Week website: www.harrogateweek.org.uk.

The National Tournament, early in October, produced a worthy champion in Tony McLure and my congratulations go to him. My thanks go to the other competitors for supporting the event, to the members and Committee at Burton on Trent GC - who were excellent hosts and to Gavin Robson and his staff for the presentation of the course. In addition I would like to acknowledge the generous financial support of Ransomes Jacobsen, without which the event would not have been viable.

Development work has already commenced on the redesign of the Association's website following the appointment of a new design team. The new site will incorporate many of the suggestions that have been made by members and is due to be launched in January at Harrogate Week. The new format will give Headquarter's staff full control of content management meaning that it will be far easier and much more cost effective to keep the data up to date.

During the coming weeks I will be attending the Regional conferences and I look forward to meeting as many members as possible.

John Pemberton

SCOTTISH REGION

Harrogate Week 2007

The Scottish Region once again offers their members a subsidised package deal for Harrogate Week 2007.

The Package includes: Entry to Continue to Learn Seminars (seven in total); three nights Bed and Breakfast in en-suite twin rooms on 23rd, 24th and 25th January, 2007 in the Holiday Inn, Harrogate, (formerly Moat House Hotel). Package cost: £261.00. Accommodation package only: £156.00.

To obtain booking forms contact the Regional Administrator, Peter J. Boyd on: 0141 616 3440 or 07776 2422120 or email: pj.boyd@btinternet.com

Ayrshire

The autumn meeting and final leg of the Harry Diamond Trophy was contested over Western Gailes GC. Although not present on the day myself, I have it on good authority that Jim Devlin and his staff had the links in first class order. On behalf of the Ayrshire Section I would also like to thank the Captain and committee at Western Gailes for allowing us courtesy of such a prestigious course. Likewise to all bar and catering staff for their friendly service on the day. We had another excellent turn out with 35 players taking part. The results were as follows: Harry Diamond Trophy - Duncan Gray, 62pts (better 2nd round); 1.1 J McLachlan, St. Nicholas; 1.2 G Morrison, Largs Kelburn; 1.3 S Higgins, Ardeer; 1.4 J Mair, Hamilton; 2.1 M Green, Ballochmyle; 2.2 D Gray, Pines; 2.3 J Wilson, Ballochmyle; 2.4 J Wilson Bogsides and Trade Prize - D Duthie, Richard Aitken.

The AGM will have taken place by the time you get this, so I will pass on any slightly interesting information next month. Honest!

Lastly, our match versus the N. Ireland Greenkeepers will have been decided on Friday, October 20. I will let you know most of the gory details of this 24-man thriller next time! Ta ra for now!

Denis Tweddell

Email: denis.t@hotmail.co.uk or: 07939104701

East

I start this month's report with a question - which would you prefer, a feast or a famine? Well, judging by the news and views, which have been pouring in from all quarters during the past week, the former is the resounding winner!

The Greenwood family from North Berwick are very much in the news this month with Stuart being appointed Scottish Chairman of BIGGA. He takes over the chair from Ian Barr of Largs GC, who has carried out his duties in exemplary fashion during the past two years. I also understand from a reliable source that Stuart is due to be appointed captain at Kilspindie GC, which all in all should make for an extremely busy 2007.

Not to be outdone on the news front, Stuart's daughter Fiona has just returned from Kenya where she spent six weeks doing voluntary work. During her time there she and her fellow volunteers helped complete the children's refuge centre in the town of Embu. The centre runs various pastimes for the many street children in this poverty stricken part of Kenya, including craftwork and sport. The trip was rounded off by climbing to the summit of Mount Kenya, Africa's second highest mountain at 17500 feet.

Finally, Fiona would like to thank everyone who helped make this trip possible with their kind support.

On Wednesday, September 27, the Section held their autumn outing at Glencorse GC, where, thankfully, good weather prevailed on the day.

The results are as follows: Scratch, C. Yeaman, 69; 1. I. Bell; 2. N. Jacob; 3. K. Hodges; Best Nett, C. Yeaman; Trade, J. Darling; Veterans, G. Wood; Nearest the Pin, T. Murray; Straightest Drive, Stuart Crawford.

The highlight of the day was an amazing round of 69 by Chris Yeaman, of West Linton GC, although there is a suspicion that Kenny Mail might just have collected his P45 if he had bettered his boss's score!

A big thank you is due to Glencorse GC for granting us courtesy of the course, to the bar staff and catering staff for keeping everyone fed and watered, and last but certainly not least to Ian Bell and his team for presenting the course in excellent condition. On a negative note, once again the attendance was disappointing, with only 33 appearing on the day.

Some weeks ago I visited Winterfield GC at Dunbar and although I failed to find Head Man, Craig Pennycook, and I almost had a run in with a car. On making my way across the car park to the van, a car entered the car park and headed in my direction. I was almost at the point of taking evasive action when it screeched to a halt a few feet away, and a voice from the driving side announced, "You didn't recognise me, did you?" With that, the well-known features of Jimmy Neilson appeared and I breathed a sigh of relief, safe in the knowledge that if he hit my right leg I had a spare one in the van! Many of you will know Jimmy had a successful hip operation in 2005 and, in fact, has just had the other one done. Although it is early days, Jimmy tells me his golfing days will be back with vengeance in 2007.

The Christopher Yeaman Junior Charity Trophy was held at West Linton GC on Saturday, August 26. This year 66 teams of four took part, including various trade companies such as: Thomas Sherriffs, Hendersons Grass Machinery, Lawnmower Services, Golf Car Company (Scotland) and Polaris UK. In addition the greenkeeping fraternity were represented with players from West Linton, Murraysfield, Ravelston, Craigmillar Park and Bonny Island GC, River State Nigeria.

In all, the event raised a grand total of £4,850, which has been donated to various good causes.

Finally, the Yeaman family is grateful to all who contributed to the fundraising efforts, with a special thank you to Lawnmower Services for their generosity and support.

As a footnote, Christopher junior has just commenced a four-year university course in Golf Facility Management at Dornoch. How the years fly. It seems not time at all since he was attending primary school - I must be getting old!

And finally, Kenny Mail, of West Linton GC, was married to Gail on August 12 at Fettes College. The reception was held at the Belford Hotel in Edinburgh, where everybody, including the greens team, had a fantastic time. I wonder how straight the cutting lines were the next day!

Until next month - Don't work too hard.

Mike Dooner

North

The autumn outing on September 14 was held at Fraserburgh GC. The weather early on that day was terrible to say the least, but it dried up enough to allow the golf to be played and a good day was enjoyed by all. Our thanks go to John Littlejohn and his staff for their hard work and good condition of the course on the day.

The results are as follows: Sweep - 1. R. Warrender, 2. B. Brooks, 3. R. Donald, 4. M. Maclean; Longest Drive - 1. M. Ross, 2. S. Brown. Class, 3. S. Simpson; Nearest the Pin - K. Fowler; Special Prize Putter - B. Middleton; Guest Winner - P. Stewart; Trade Winner - R. Warrender; Committee Winner - H. McLatchie; Veterans' Trophy - 1. R. Donald, 2. H. McLatchie; Apprentice Winner - 1. E. Rankin, 2. M. Main; Class 3 Nett - 1. G. Asher, 2. H. McLatchie, 3. A. Grant; Class Nett 2 - 1. B. Brookes, 2. B. Craig, 3. R. Pirie; Class 1 Nett - 1. M. Maclean, 2. P. Don, 3. N. Kidd; Scratch Hampton Trophy - 1. C. Nicol, 2. K. Thomson.

I would like to officially welcome Stuart McColm and Chris Haspell, from Castle Stuart, near Inverness, to the North Section. The new development at Castle Stuart is well underway with a lot of material moved and several holes sand capped and shaped ready for the next stage in the spring. Chris Haspell was heavily involved in the Fescue trials in Denmark over the past few years and worked with the Danish Golf Union in conjunction with the STRI, doing Fescue trials on various sites across Denmark. I'm sure Chris' knowledge of fescues will be invaluable, as this site will be seeded out with Fescue only over the entire golf course. I have no doubt, knowing Stuart, that this project will be a great success and a tremendous addition to the fine golf courses already in the North of Scotland. I recently played Kingsbarns, and the legacy that he left there is testament to his knowledge and understanding of Fescue and how they can be managed in the modern greenkeeping world.

I hope all your autumn renovation work has gone to plan and there has been recovery after the dry summer. Even in Mid October we were getting 19 degrees in Aberdeen.

Ross Macrae who is an Assistant at Newmacher GC, has become a father again for the sixth time - another boy, which gives him three of each. Well done Ross, you'd better tie a knot in it soon or your going to have a first eleven before long.

The section AGM results will follow in the next issue.

Keep up the good work, and let me know any interesting stories if you hear them.

Robert Patterson

Royal Aberdeen GC

NORTHERN REGION

North East

On September 28 we had our autumn competition at Stocksfield GC, again this year we were graced with not just good weather but a course worthy of playing considering the way the weather has been this year. Thanks to Head Greenkeeper, Roy White, and his staff also to the catering staff, everyone seemed happy enough.

As usual the local trade provided some excellent prizes and our thanks go to the following: Greenlay, Shorts of Whitburn, Turf Services Ltd, Lloyds of Throckley, Border Turf Services, Phil Newton of Aitkens and Paul Foston of Alpha Amenity well done lads once again.

The leading scores are as follows: Best Gross, A. McLure, 73, Whickham GC; Best Nett, A. Ingles, 75-4-71, Newcastle Utd GC (on a countback); G. Morgan, 76-5-71, Crook GC; A. Miller, 84-13-71, Crook GC; M. McCrirlick, 77-4-73, South Shields GC; R. Reid, 80-6-74, Prudhoe GC; K. Dinsdale, 94-20-74, Northumberland GC; J. Gibson, 77-3-74, Northumberland GC; B. Wilson, 84-9-75, Stocksfield GC and S. Pope, 90-14-76, Tyneside GC.

Don't forget the AGM is at Tyneside GC on October 25, all members will be notified, so don't say you knew nothing about it as it's already been in the magazine.

Jimmy Richardson

North West

After all the nice weather, here comes the rain. Good job we got the hollowtining out of the way, otherwise it would not have got done at all.

The North West Section autumn tournament has taken place at St Annes Old. I could not attend but Bert informs me that the 40 members, who turned up, had a great day - it was nice to see a few new faces and I hope you all

enjoyed the day. The winners were: Best Gross - Mike Hunt; Best Nett - Brian Storey; Aggregate Cup - Peter Hogan; Vets' Cup - Peter Hogan; Guest Prize - Gary Potter; Nearest the Pin - Mike Hunt; Longest Drive - Eddie Ainsworth.

Many thanks go to the greenstaff and committee of St Annes Old GC for the wonderful condition of the course, the fantastic meal and also their hospitality. The next event for your diary is the North West Section AGM and President's Cup, which will take place at Wilmslow GC on December 7, meeting at the club for 9am (bacon butties) and then we have the tee from 10am. This is followed by a traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. This is a very popular event and I would urge you to book places early. To play in it you must send a cheque for £20 payable to BIGGA North West Section. The address to send your cheque to is: Bill Merritt, The Lodge, Beacon Park GC, Beacon lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU.

As always, if anyone has any news or just needs a little bit of advice, please contact the secretary Bert Cross on: 0151 7245412 or myself on: 0151 2894625. If you are on the world wide web, my email: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk.

One last request, I have received a letter from one of our members who is looking for a change of job, he is very experienced and is looking for a job as an assistant or deputy head greenkeeper. If anyone is looking to fill a vacancy please contact me and I will pass it on to the person concerned. Thank you.

Chris Sheehan

Northern

I will start this month's report with a quick reminder for you all, I'm sure most of you don't need it, but for those of you that have forgotten, this year's Christmas Golf and AGM is being held at Clayton GC on December 7. The tee off time for the day is going to be around lunchtime, so it gives you all a chance to work up a thirst before you arrive!

Unlike other events in the past, we are forced to ask for a deposit of £10 to secure your place for the event. This deposit will be non-refundable if your place is cancelled within a week of the day, and anyone who hasn't paid a deposit or the full amount by cheque to myself, or another committee member up to a week beforehand, will not be entered to play. We are sorry to do this but with the recent autumn tournament at Ganton GC, ten people cancelled in the last couple of days. Luckily we were able to fill those places but normally we would be struggling and then left with a food bill and no entrance fee with which to pay it.

Speaking of Ganton, I must thank Phil and his team for producing a fantastic course and putting up with hand raking those bunkers, I personally felt they weren't quite large or deep enough!

The results of the day, which was kindly sponsored by Alpha Amenity and Scotts are as follows: 1.1 - Rob Gee, 1.2 - A. Court, 1.3 - A. Baxter; 2.1 - F. Stewart, 2.2 - D. Heaton, 2.3 - K. Grey; 3.1 - S. Wells; 3.2 - M. Patrick and 3.3 - S. Heaton and Trade - E. Carter.

Can I also say thank you to Ed Carter, from Scotts, and Clive Higginbottom and Paul Foston, from Alpha, for the help and continued support for the Northern Section. The same must also be said for Ian Collett, Simon Heppenstall and Mike Brear, of Rigby Taylor, for the help in setting up this year's Invitation Day at Scarcroft GC. The Golf Events we put on would not be possible without the help of all our sponsors, so thank you to all for your support.

The winners of this year's Invitation Day were Dave Collins and Tito Arana with a fantastic 44 points. Second place went to Tony Gerrard and D. Hughes, again with 44 points, but they lost out on a back 9 countback to Dave and Tito. Third place went to I. Huddleston and J. Harrison who between them played the back 9 in 6 under par to score 27 points on the back 9 alone - 43 points in total for all 18.

I'm pleased to announce that all the profits from our day at Scarcroft have been donated to the Roman Jarvis Trust Fund, which has been set up by the club for the son of the late Telford Jarvis. Telford was Head Greenkeeper at Scarcroft, until his sudden death a couple of years ago, which shocked and saddened us all. The course on the day was in fabulous condition and was a credit to both Telford's hard work and that of current Head Greenkeeper, Ronnie Myles, and his team. I'm sure everyone will agree it was a pleasure to play. The idea of making the donation came from John Waite, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank John for the suggestion.

Please don't forget that if your payment has not been received a week before future events then I am afraid you won't be playing, so please do get your names and cheques in as early as possible.

Adam Speight

16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford BD2 4EB

Tel: 01274 638366 Mobile 07739 319060

Cleveland

Well the autumn we've had so far has been great for getting seed to grow. However, existing grass has been growing like the clappers and disease has also been common. I have also had several people comment on the number of crane fly spotted recently. This could well lead to lots of leatherjackets causing problems later.

By now the trip to the dog racing at Sunderland will have taken place. I hope it was well supported again because we had a great time last year.

The turn out at the Groundsman's bowls match held in Durham in August was a little better but only from the Dinsdale Spa staff, family and friends. It's a good night in a wonderful part of the area with a superb buffet to follow kindly funded by the Groundsmans Institute. Our thanks go to Durham City Bowling Club for their hospitality.

I recently attended the Tony Mears 'Talk In' at Dinsdale Spa GC. Section members who supported it, as follows: Barry Walker, City of Newcastle GC; Phil Hargrave, Crook GC; Ian Holoran, Middlesbrough Municipal GC; Tony Burge and Anthony McGeough, Richmond GC; Richie Hood, Houghton-le-Spring GC; Mattie and Lee, Oakleaf Golf Complex. Tony presented a marvellous insight into the major construction and drainage work carried out by him and his staff over the last two years. Tony and the lads - Ian Dunnabie, Ian Davies, Colin Tinkler, James Taylor and Rob Hancock - are justifiably proud of their achievements, which have transformed the course into one of the best courses in the North. Well done! I would also like to say that the club deserves great credit too for making the cash available to Tony. Too many times we hear of the course playing second fiddle to the clubhouse extension or a new car park. Surely the course makes the club.

The results of the Stableford competition autumn tournament held at Dinsdale Spa Golf Club in October were as follows; 1-9 handicap, 1. Phil Hargrave, Crook GC, 35 pts (back 6); 2. Mark Brown, Brancepeth Castle GC, 35 pts; 3. Phil Graham, Bishop Auckland GC, 32 pts; 10-18 handicap, 1. Robert Hancock, Dinsdale Spa GC, 36 pts; 2. Ian Holoran, Middlesbrough Mun GC, 33 pts; 3. Chris Fidell, Headlam Hall GC, 31 pts; 19-28 handicap, 1. Ian Dunnabie, Dinsdale Spa GC, 30 pts; 2. Ian Pemberton, Bedale GC, 28 pts.

The Nearest the Pin competition was won by Richie Hood, of Houghton-le-Spring GC. Phil Hargrave won the Longest Drive with what was described by Pembo as an Exocet of a shot. Dennis Armstrong, the Dinsdale Spa Greens Chairman, won the Best Par 3 score competition. The trade prize was won by Eddie Simms, of Par 4 Irrigation.

However Pembo also asked me to mention the funniest thing he has ever seen on a golf course when Barry Walker (now known as Rick O'Shea) sliced a drive, which hit his bag, then someone else's bag and finally finished up in a bunker. As a reward for this fantastic entertainment Baz received the Tacit

dartboard so he can practise getting missiles to go somewhere near the target. Tacit were the main sponsor of the day and our many thanks go to the company and their Area Sales Manager, Peter Marshall. Other trade members who attended and or supplied prizes were Aitkens, Lloyds, Par 4 Irrigation, pbi, Rigby Taylor, Tower Chemicals and Turfcare Specialists. The turn out was good with 21 players enjoying a fantastic course. The greens were fast and true, the presentation of the course was outstanding so, yet again, many thanks to Tony and the lads. Finally thanks to the club for their generous hospitality and lovely food.

Finally, a reminder about the TSL Annual Quiz Challenge against the Groundsmen which takes place on Wednesday, December 6 at Mount Oswald GC commencing at 7.30pm. Get there and defend your title boys!

Any news to T.C. on 07831214879

Terry Charlton

Sheffield

On September 25, the Sheffield Union held their annual greenkeepers competition at Bawtry GC. The day was spoiled by very heavy rain which caused the competition to be reduced to 12 holes and after this the eventual winners were Ian Whitehead and Hillsborough GC - well done again Ian again, I believe that is the third year running! The results were - 1. Ian Whitehead, Hillsborough GC, 31pts; 2. C. Neville, Phoenix GC, 28pts; 3. R. Needham, Hickleton GC, 28pts; 4. P. Hobson, Bondhay GC, 27pts and 5. J. Finney, Bawtry GC, 27pts.

On December 11 we will be holding our Christmas competition at Worksop GC, you should soon be receiving your entry forms. While on the subject of Worksop, may I congratulate Tim Gittins on being appointed Head Greenkeeper at Worksop following Barry Lax's retirement at the end of October. Tim moves to Worksop from Notts GC - all the best Tim and I look forward to working with you.

Earlier this year Roy Ward from Matlock GC retired after 47 years service to Matlock! Roy became Head Greenkeeper 35 years ago after his father Harold retired after 50 years service to Matlock! Obviously a very loyal family Roy! Roy was made an Honorary Life Member of Matlock GC. May I, on behalf of the Sheffield Section, wish Roy a very long and happy retirement and also, may I congratulate Tim Bloodworth on becoming Head Greenkeeper at Matlock.

Once again, if anyone has any news, feel free to contact me on: 07793111845 or at: jv.lax@tesco.net.

John Lax

North Wales

Congratulations this month go to our Section Administrator, Jeremy Hughes and his wife Jayne on the birth of their new baby girl 'Maddison Ruby' who joins her sister 'Millie Taylor'. Contractions started at home and before an ambulance got there, Maddison arrived with the help of Jez in the form of hot water and towels - well if one baby girl has not been able to curtail his golf, I am sure two will, or is that three women in the Hughes that will be directing the way? It's all shopping and horse riding now for Jez, so get them irons on Ebay, but seriously... well done guy's.

A couple of week's back I went over to our cotton flag manufacturers in Chester and asked if Jed was in. I was told he had gone for cotton, so I said I would call back on Wednesday, I did and was told Jed was not in again and he had gone for cotton, so I called in again the following week and asked if Jed was in, they told me Jed had died and that they had buried him on Monday across at Mostyn cemetery so on my way back I called in the graveyard to pay my respects, upon the gravestone it had an inscription 'Jed, gone, but not for cotton'.

On to the Section and what a great day for the autumn tournament down on the costal link's of Nefyn and district. It has been a while since we were last at Nefyn and the sun shone for most of the October day.

A fine testing golf course awaited and with playing the headland part of the 27 hole complex up to the 'lighthouse' we had a treat in store for many of the 54 players who had never played the course before.

Prepared by Patrick McAteer and the team, the greens were quite deceptive as they looked to be slow to the eye but once the ball left the putter head this was not the case, as shown by the winning score in the greenkeeper being 2 over par. So to the scores: 1. Tim Combes, 34pts; 2. Ian Farrell, also 34pts; 3. Paul Gater, 33pts; 4. Alun Lewis, 32pts and 5. Andy Peel with 32pts - The guest prizes went to 1. Steve Davies (unsure whether this was interesting or not) and 2. John Currie - The two nearest the pin prizes on 14th went to Alan Kelsall @ 600mm and on 16th by John Humphries @ 1,800mm (see we have gone all European in Wales, it's not 2 foot anymore!) Finally the trade prize went to Jim Openshaw from Mid Lube.

We would just like to express our thanks from the Section to Nefyn, for the courtesy of the course and to the caterers for a fine carvery meal that left everyone full as an egg on the way home.

Our next tournament will be the Christmas competition on the Link's of Conwy (Caernafonshire GC) on December 5, so get your entries to Jez asap as we may have to restrict the number of entries as we get well over 100 players for this one and with tee times and light closing in etc?

Just on the note of courses for the Section tournaments, we have 2 - 3 confirmed for 2007 but if you would like to put your course forward for consideration we would be more than pleased to discuss it with you. The fact that North Wales covers a vast area, it is good to be seen to be geographically correct in decisions of top middle bottom left right and central of the region and not just bias to one particular part - this only comes from courses who put their selves forward as hosts.

And finally just prior to the Dunhill, I had the greatest pleasure of walking the fairways up at St Andrews and talking with Sir Michael Bonallack, one of the great ambassadors in the game of golf, 'just where were those photographers when you need them!'

See you next month.

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn

MIDLAND REGION

Midland

Well, thanks for the rest from last month's notes (nothing reported to me), yet there is a multitude for this month. To ease you having to speak to me with any news, you can now email me: sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk

On September 11 our autumn event was held at Handsworth GC. The course was in lovely condition as presented by Course Manager, J. Hughes and his fine team, our thanks to you all. Also a huge thank you to Handsworth GC for their courtesy and very fine welcome. Handsworth GC has been an active supporter of our Section for well over 50 years, and long may such continue. Our respects HGC. The results were: Best Gross: A. Jones. Nett: 1. B. Boucher; 2. H. Middlebrook; 3. S. Mucklow; 4. D. Ganning; 5. R. Rossen. Our thanks to Campeys for the main prize table, Turners for drinks, and our very fine starter J. Hammond. Our AGM was also held and thoughts on such shall be left to a future publication.



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



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
 Tel: 01476 550115

Imagine working at a golf course with the Mountains of Mourne and the English sea as a backdrop, and then the beauty of a course which is, without doubt, one of the best in the world, coupled with the wonderful charm and welcome of the Irish. If my grandparents had not moved then I might be. I am of course talking about Royal County Down GC. The Section's committee were invited by Course Manager, Alan Strachan, to play the annual committee cup at RCD GC. What a course and what a welcome, I'm afraid my words fail me, I am no James Joyce. Winner on the day: All, best golfer E. Stant. Once again our thanks to RCD GC, Alan and his Deputy Eamonn Crawford. Please, please, please, next year?

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Dave Devon on becoming the newly-appointed Course Manager at Overstone Park GC. Also a very warm welcome to Wayne Oseman of Robin Hood GC, as a new member.

You will hopefully be aware by now that the Midland region seminar will be held at Gay Hill GC on Thursday, November 16. The theme of the day will be health and safety orientated. The workshop will include some unique activities that will assist everyone. Don't forget that all attendees will be eligible for cpd points.

There is still one place available for Chainsaw maintenance and crosscutting on November 6 and 7, and places available on 'Communicating with Committees' with Frank Newberry on December 5 and 6. For those who haven't experienced Frank, you don't know what you are missing! Your batteries will certainly be recharged. Contact Paul for further details on: 07880 734197.

Don't forget to get your entries in for the Christmas event at Broadway 8/12 Sean McDade

East of England

As I sit here writing this report at the beginning of October, pondering on another season gone by, my mind is wandering back to the Ryder Cup and The Open, could we have had two more opposite courses and conditions? Credit has to be given to the respective course managers for turning out such fantastic playing surfaces under such conditions - such is the diversity of our jobs. Well done boys.

Not much news again this month, well, apart from another glorious victory for the Greenkeepers against the Secretaries, I can't remember the last time we lost! Is there anyone out there who can give us a game? Our thanks go to Norwood Park for granting us courtesy and for looking after us so well.

Allan Walker

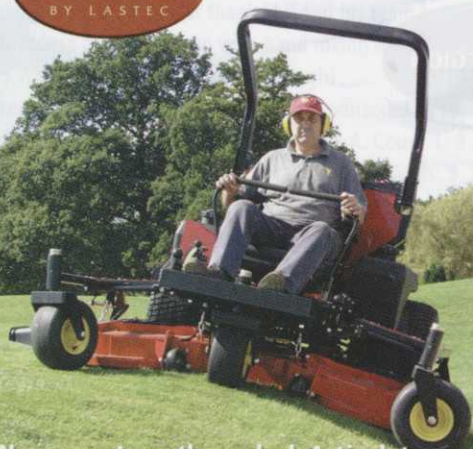
BB&O

Easy Ryder! As the rain came down over Kildare in Ireland there were no treats for the American team this year as Woosie's team and some wild cards swept their illustrious opponents aside, to romp to victory by a convincing margin at the K Club. The USA is always renowned for its strength in the final day's singles matches but this time they just wilted in the face of a European onslaught, even Tiger Woods' 9-iron disappeared into the murky depths of the lake fronting the 7th green, probably never to be seen again, unless you're the member of the local diving club. I think the real winner at the K Club was the game of golf after Paul McGinley's gracious gesture on the last, conceding J.J Henry's

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putt to halve the match proving that the spirit of the game will never be in question.

November! I am sure you don't need reminding about your extra hour in bed as the clocks have now fallen back, but just a quick and important reminder about BTME Harrogate week. Not long now, it's just around the corner and the questions you may ask: have I booked? Should I go? Why? If? But? And how? With more than a dozen speakers offering a wealth of learning opportunities for you to take back to your golf course, this is a chance to be able to hear papers presented by a wide range of professionals that are of relevance to everyone that works either at a golf club, or in turf management. With subjects from Golf Course Design to Financial Management, all delegates will be able to find a workshop to suit them in the much extended Workshop Programme, not forgetting the camaraderie that comes alive in Yorkshire with the chance of meeting new and old friends.

Guy Jenkins, from Denham GC, had his work cut out unexpectedly, as a twin six seater aircraft crash-landed in the woodland area adjacent to the 13th hole. Luckily all the passengers survived their ordeal and it was business as usual for Guy and his team - except for the eight fire engines that attended the 13th green leaving an uneven putting surface and a headache for the greenstaff.

Freddie Surgey has arrived, proud father Rob has officially joined the first time dad brigade and is rapidly becoming an expert in the art of feeding, burping and pooh. Just think this time next year the little Everton Supporter will be kicking a ball and making sandcastles in the bunkers of Wycombe Heights GC. Congratulations from all over the Section.

The Turkey Trot and AGM is on the horizon, so we look forward to seeing a few old and new faces at this event. Entry forms and agenda are in the capable hands of John Scoones, for further details he can be contacted on: 07880 550 380.

Mark Day
mark@day.fm

Mid Anglia

I hope everyone had a good summer, and that you all got through the drought ok. I am personally looking forward to this autumn because we are having a new irrigation system installed. We have had to make the most of the old system, like repairing bursts weekly, replacing the old impact sprinklers and constantly keeping an eye on the pressure. A big breath of fresh air and hopefully a new season of burst free irrigating.

The Christmas competition this year is going to be held at Mentmore Golf and

Country Club on Thursday, December 7. As usual it will be a Texas Scramble format and must include at least two greenkeeper members. Please can you make sure entries are in nice and early to Richard Saunders, as he has a lot of work to do organising this event.

I will put the results of the autumn competition in the December issue and also anything of interest that comes from the AGM.

If anyone would like to add anything in this article, (maybe any course improvement, people moving to pastures new, etc) we would like to hear from you.

Goodbye for now and hope to see you at Mentmore.
Steve Mason

SOUTH EAST

Surrey

Sunday, September 24. The Ryder cup has just been retained by Europe. The American team, although unhappy at the result, took some consolation in the fact that President Bush's threat to send them to Guantanamo Bay, if they lost, turned out to be a hoax. President Bush later denied any knowledge of the threat, Guantanamo Bay or the Ryder cup.

Laleham GC have reported an unusual something in the air. The Deputy, Bobbie Rogers and Assistant, Andrew Dennis, were both affected although the Course Manager John Ross appeared to be immune. On further investigation and nine months later that unusual, something in the air has resulted in the birth of Bobbie and Patti's son Owen David 11lb 12ozs (takes after his dad?) and Andrew and Helen's daughter Harley-Mai, both born within days of each other. John Ross explained his apparent immunity was possibly due to an operation he had had on the balls of his feet but as I was not near enough to hear clearly it may have been the other way around.

Another member's wife not immune to a little something is Tracy Bremer. Tony and Tracy have just been blessed with the birth of their second son Oliver Lewis 7lb 13ozs.

Congratulations to Matthew Lawrence, Course Manager at Guildford GC and his bride Telina who were married in Cortona in Tuscany on September 6. They will honeymoon in Thailand in November.

Steve Holmes, Course Manager at Hindhead GC, had an albatross hole-in-one on the 303yd par-4 at Farnham GC in Surrey Section's Autumn Tournament on

Thursday, September 21. Steve was delighted and celebrated by allowing all who played an opportunity to take a snifter from a large miniature bottle of brandy he bought especially for the occasion. Sorry a slip of the keyboard for snifter read sniff and any remarks about Scottish generosity will not be reported by me. Thanks though from us all Steve who did buy as all a proper drink at the bar.

The autumn tournament at Farnham GC was a great success and we must thank Peter McMorrin and his staff for a course that was a pleasure to play. We must also congratulate Peter for he has just graduated from Myerscough College with a foundation degree in turf science after an enormous amount of study, on line over three years. John Shaw sponsored the day and the prizes were presented by Barry West to Rupert Lawrence, Farnham GC, Nearest the Pin; Gareth Roberts, Hankley Common GC, Longest Drive. 1. Gary Rowe, Banstead GC; 2. Steve Holmes; 3. Darren Woodward, West Surrey GC.

Darren Woodward now receives another mention for he has been successful in obtaining the post of Head Greenkeeper at Tylney Park GC in Hampshire. Will he join the South Coast Section or remain with us?

Will all footballers wishing to play for Surrey Section please contact David (Beckham) Langhiem on: 07921 267501. Only players with a grudge against Gary Ogilvie will be considered.

The Surrey AGM will take place on Thursday, November 16 after our winter tournament at Addington Court GC. All information has been mailed to all members but if you have not received them please let a committee member know.

If you have any news for the magazine, please contact me on my mobile: 07879 474038 or my new email brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk
Brian Willmott.

Kent

Firstly, sorry there was no report last month but if you don't give me any news then I can't write about it!

Secondly, very many congratulations to Mike Emptage, of St. Augustine's GC, who won Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2006. Well done Mike, from everyone in the Kent Section for doing us all proud. Enjoy your trip to the States!

Kent Section had a great day out for our autumn extravaganza recently. A multitude of us descended on the magnificent countryside in the heart of the county to enjoy the hospitality heaped on us in abundance by the Weald of Kent GC. Despite heavy recent rainfall the course played really well presenting all of Men of Kent with a stout challenge. Many thanks to Chris Self and his small team of dedicated staff on the condition of the course and to the Director of Golf at the club, Keith Brown, for giving us the opportunity to play there. We all had a fantastic day.

Results as follows: 1. Sam Burton, 37 points; 2. Michael Wigstone, 36 points; 3. Ian Rawlings, 33 points. Longest Drive was won by Michael Wigstone and Nearest the Pin by Andrew Wood.

A big thank you to Avoncrop Amenity, Gem Professional and Vitax for providing prizes on the day.

Our educational programme will be starting on the 14th of this month at the excellent facilities offered by Hadlow College. Our first seminar will be presented by Frank Newberry who I defy anyone to get bored listening to. Our seminars shall run each month at Hadlow and for a full breakdown on the topics and dates please visit our website.

Lastly, please don't forget about our fast approaching Turkey Trot to be held at Birchwood Park on November 23. Entry forms can be found at our website: kentgreenkeepers.co.uk Our AGM will follow immediately after your first Christmas dinner of the year, where you will have an opportunity to tell us how to run the Section properly! Seriously, a great day is planned so get your forms in quick to David.

I'll be back!

Rob Holland

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

South West

Where has the year gone? By the time this hits the shelves it'll be mid November, we'll be thinking about the Regional Seminar at Cannington, the run-up to Christmas, and even BTME will be not that far away. I may not even be Press Secretary by then, so if I've been voted off, thanks for reading, sorry to all those who have had their legs pulled, and sorry about all the ramblings. It's been fun. On the other hand, there might be more of the same for another year. Watch this space.

I had to give my apologies to the Section AGM - another speaking engagement, this time for one of the EGU Roadshows - the proper greenkeeper couldn't make it, so they asked me instead.

I have, at times, thanked our Patronage Partners for their sponsorship over the course of this year. You know who they are, but I'll just remind everyone - Messers M.J. Abbott, Amenity Technology, B.S. Mowers, Bredy Irrigation, Tower Chemicals, Irritech, Rigby Taylor, Symbio, Rufford, Avoncrop Amenity, and Countrywide Farmers. People sometimes ask what we do with the sponsorship. It partly helps run the golf days, it sponsors 10 places to the Cannington Seminar, two places on the Harrogate excursion to BTME, and a place at the National Tournament, every year. In short, it is a very valuable

and much appreciated contribution to the local industry. Do remember these companies when making purchase decisions.

To be considered for one of the ten free places at Cannington, just drop Nobby Knight a line: nobbyknight384@hotmail.com or 17 St Marys Gardens, Hilperton Marsh, Towbridge, Wilts BA14 7PG. Should you wish to be considered for one of the places to BTME you'll also need to write to Nobby and make a case for attending by explaining the benefits and the importance of attending what is the Associations' flagship event.

Fixtures, my other hat, are virtually in place for next year. Many thanks to all the greenkeepers who have helped with the arrangements, and thanks to all the clubs who have agreed to host our golf events. I keep trying to stress the importance of the Section events.

We greenkeepers are far too isolated and don't get together often enough. We can pick up so much from talking things through. The golf events are an ideal opportunity to do just that. I always try and find out a little about the course we have played. Height of cut, fertiliser used, staff, machines, how the club runs. If someone's looking stressed or hassled, and believe you me it happens, I try to talk to them about that. If I'm still doing press next year, I'll try and expand on course notes event by event. We are also looking at running talks and presentations alongside some of the events next year, and as well as the established race-night, there will be a quiz evening so watch out for those as well.

Back at Minchinhampton, M.J. Abbott are just commencing replacing our ageing irrigation system. Roger Davey, of Irritech, is acting as consultant and designer, so by the next time you see me I'll either have hot and cold running water everywhere, or I'll have shot myself. I'll let you know how it goes (and how to deal with stress!).

Let me know how your autumns going - projects, extensions, new greens, tees, bunkers etc. This is your column after all - let's use it.

Paul Worster

01453 837355. paulw@mgcnew.co.uk

South Coast

Congratulations to all the Sections greenkeepers this year on getting through, what I think most of you will agree, has been a very tough season. I write this as September is fading and looking back thank goodness August was not as hot as July and the Met Office was wrong in its predictions!

The annual golf match between the South Coast and South West Sections was held at Knighton Heath GC on Thursday, September 7. The result was a win for the South West. But, guys, take heart, it's like the University Boat Race with the current trend of Oxford winning every year and at the moment the pendulum swings towards the South West. The score was South West 4.5 points and South Coast 1.5 points. Many thanks to our team pairs who were as follows: Tony Gadd and Fred Deamen, Ed McCabe and Kevin Glass, Phil Wentworth and Joe Cooper, Alan McGee and Stephen Christopher, Shaun White and Chris Bland and particular praise for Chris Bitten and Ade Archer who had no opposition and kindly played a round against each other. The course was in excellent condition. Well done and thank you to Course Manager, Roger Myatt and his team. I also had very good reports about the hospitality and food at the Club. Thank you to all at Knighton Heath GC. The highlight of the day was reported to be the lady cleaning her car behind the 16th green. I am informed that this car cleaning took a very long time and due to revealing clothing so did the shots on the 16th green! We obviously can't go into too much detail but those who have viewed the film "Cool Hand Luke" with Paul Newman will know the type of entertainment provided!

The next Golf Day is the Turkey Trot, which will be held at Weybrook Park GC on Wednesday, December 6. We look forward to seeing you there for what we are sure will be a great day's golf and feasting. As a Basingstoke

"Lad" I'm really pleased the meeting is at Weybrook as Richard and his Team do a great job on the course plus living locally if I can get my wife to give me a lift, I'll be able to have a drink for a change. Please contact Chris Sturgess on: 07773 138409 to book your place.

And finally I say it every month but please if you have any information e.g. achievement, good or bad news, or anything interesting please let me know on: 07721 389200 - it's your Section, use it.

Joe Crawley

Devon & Cornwall

It is with deep regret that I have to commence the report on a very sad note. Many of you will remember Roy Battishill who passed away suddenly in the first week of October. Roy was the Head Greenkeeper at the St Mellion Golf Course.

Roy joined St Mellion in 1976 just before the now called 'Old Course' was opened, and within a couple years Jim Rowland, then the Head Greenkeeper, retired and Roy took over.

It was in the early 1980's that the Bond Brothers, who then owned the club, decided to construct a Championship Course, and had no hesitation in contacting the great Jack Nicklaus to design the new lay out.

The construction commenced in 1984 and was completed in 1986. During this period Jack Nicklaus sent Roy to the States to learn the American way of greenkeeping, as all the greens were being constructed to the USGA Specification, Roy spent time at the Murrifield Village Course, and then later worked the Bare creek course in California.

The new, now famous Jack Nicklaus course, opened in 1987 and has since held many major competitions, including The Benson and Hedges from 1990 to 1995. In 1987 the Ladies Weetabix Championship was held there. Also, the St Mellion Cup, which was a competition between Nick Faldo and Sandy Lyle against Jack Nicolas and Tom Watson. All these major tournaments Roy took in his stride, and always with a smile on his face, even more important, with a sense of humour.

I, myself, was very fortunate and privileged to know such a lovely person.

At Roy's funeral there was a large contingent of greenkeepers, both old and young, which shows that all held him in high regard. Incidentally Roy retired in 1995.

On a happier note we would all like to congratulate one of our members i.e. Katherine Walls, who has recently completed a Foundation Degree in Sports Science at Myerscough College and won the Ernest Jones Award (First Prize). Katherine is now continuing her studies to Honours Degree level on the BSc Sportsturf course at the College - we all wish her well.

Not to be out done, congratulations must also go to Abi Crosswood, from Newquay GC, who recently became runner up at Toro Student of the year, and is about to follow in Katherine's footsteps by studying for the Foundation Degree in Sportsturf. Well done Abi, we all wish you well and success.

Don Hunt

South Wales

The South Wales AGM was held at the Alice Springs GC on Friday, October 13 with 29 people in attendance. Our Vice Chairman, Kerry Jones, was elected to position of Chairman. The Section would like to wish him all the best for his two years in office - don't worry Kerry the time flies by. It is a great Section run by passionate people who are only too willing to offer you help and support. We would like to thank Alice Springs for allowing us the use of one of their suites.

Nice to see our Regional administrator at our AGM, Jane Jones, since taken up the post she has attended many of our Section events; she updated the members present to Regional and HQ news.

Committee members for 2006-2007: Chairman: Kerry Jones, Garnett Parc; President: Henry Stead, The Grove; Vice-Chairman: No position; Secretary: Peter Lacey, Pennard; Regional board representative: Angus Macleod, Newport; Regional Board representative: Julian Bartlett Jones, Dinas Powys; Officers: David Ward, Royal Porthcawl; Steve Chappell, Neath; Match Captain: Andy Roach, Haverford West; Trade representative: No Position.

We have broken through the 200 barrier for members to the Section, currently at 207 members. Shame only 10% on average turn up to our golf days.

Our President, Henry Stead, has informed us that his wife is battling health problems and our sincere best wishes go out to them. Even though she is poorly she is doing a sponsored walk in aid of Cancer Research and any donations from Section members would be greatly appreciated. I believe there was a lot of money raised on the day of our autumn competition.

The autumn competition was held at the Alice Springs GC, playing for the Jacobson cup, very good turn-out, the feed back, was that the course was in fine condition and the hospitality and catering excellent, the Section would like to pass on our thanks to everyone involved at the club, for an enjoyable day out. Our thanks also to the sponsors of the day, John and Ben Morgan from Morgan mowers, I hear they were kept very busy, all afternoon keeping our members well lubricated.

Results: Winner: Colin Thomas, The Grove, 39 points, Jacobsen Cup Grove; Runner-up: Paul Handy, Newport, 37 points Keith Morgan Shield; 3rd: Stuart, Cradoc, 33 points; Trade Prize: Peter Holmstrom, Countrywide.

Dates for your diary, the Bigga South West And South Wales Regional Seminar at Cannington College on November 21 - continuing the theme from Harrogate, a Sustainable Future for Golf, great line-up, not to be missed - hopefully, people wishing to attend have booked in early to avoid disappointment. This annual education seminar keeps getting better and better. Contact Jane Jones (Regional Administrator).

Angus Macleod

BIGGA South West and South Wales Regional Seminar

The date for this year's South West and South Wales Regional Seminar is Tuesday, November 21. It will be held, once again, at the Cannington Centre for Land Based Studies. The theme for this year is "A Sustainable Future For Golf?"

BIGGA South West and South Wales Region will present the day in association with the R&A. The speakers will give presentations on the different aspects of sustainability in relation to the golf course and how to promote the message to the golf club and its members.

Presentations will be made by: Steve Isaac, Assistant Director - Golf Course Management, The R&A; Dr Keith Weatherhead, Senior Lecturer in Soil and Water Engineering, Institute of Water and Environment, Cranfield University;

Howard Swan, Golf Course Architect and member of EIGCA; Keith Adderley, Secretary Temple Golf Club and member of the Association of Golf Club Secretaries; Richard Whyman, BIGGA Chairman and Course Manager at Burnham and Berrow Golf Club; Phil Weaver, PGA Chairman and Club Professional/Course Manager at Coventry Golf Club; Billy McMillan, BIGGA Vice Chairman and Course Manager at Tyrells Wood Golf Club.

This excellent line up of speakers makes this a day not to be missed so make sure you book early, as places will be limited. Booking details and information will be sent to all Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers in the region. Any further information can be obtained by contacting Jane Jones, Regional Administrator on Tel: 01454 270850 or mobile: 07841 948110.

Harrogate Week 2007

The South West and South Wales region are once again offering members a three-night bed and breakfast package to Harrogate, staying at The Cairn Hotel, arriving on Monday, January 22, departing Thursday, January 25. The cost for this package to BIGGA members is: Single room, £216 per person; Twin room for single occupancy, £240 per person; Numbers are limited and places should be reserved before sending your booking form and payment.

The Region is also offering a package for the Educational Seminars taking place. Members can book all seven seminars at a cost of £105 - this being a total saving of 40%. This saving can only be obtained by booking through me. Should you wish to book individual seminars, this must be done through Sami Collins at Headquarters and the cost will be discounted on a scale according to the number booked.

All bookings both for accommodation and seminars, must be made and confirmed with payment by Friday, December 15.

Booking forms and details will be sent to Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers in October. Should anyone not receiving this information and wishing to book, please contact me on Tel: 01454 270850 or mobile: 07841 948110.

Jane Jones
Regional Administrator

Finally, thanks again to Malone GC and their bar and catering staff that provided us with meals of the highest quality.

Well that's about all my news for this month, I would just like to welcome two new members: Tim Butler and Darra Hudner, to the NI Section.

Ken Henderson

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

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

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

SECTION NOTES INFORMATION

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

Word limit for Section notes: 500-600.

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

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

NORTHERN IRELAND

The Section's final golf competition for this season, took place at Malone GC on September 21. The course, which is located on the outskirts of Belfast, was in superb condition even after weeks of unsettled weather.

Course Manager, Mike Norman, and his greenkeeping team deserve worthy praise indeed for all their hard work.

The competition was our National Championship Qualifier, with two members going forward to compete in the finals in England. We also played a Stableford competition alongside the stroke qualifier. Gary Crawford, Royal CoDown GC and Warren Burnside, Malone GC, came through on the day with 69 netts to claim the two places over to the National Championship. Special mention must go to Warren's great round, which included numerous long putts. His driving and approach play was exceptional.

The Stableford competition was as follows: 1. Eamonn Crawford, RCD, 37pts; 2. Michael McCarron, Malone GC, 36pts; 3. Garth Abernethy, Bangor GC, 34pts. Visitors Prize, non-member greenkeeper, went to M. Kennedy, Royal Co Down GC. Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive went to Garth Abernethy, from Bangor GC.

Many thanks to our generous sponsor, Coburns of Bambridge, who provided great prizes and have also sponsored the two qualifiers airfares to the National Championship. I would like to thank company reps, David Eager and William Cartmill for their support once again.

In the Shed ANSWERS

CROSSWORD

P	A	R	A	M	O	U	R	D	O	O	D	A	H	
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SUDOKU

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

ANAGRAM

A SAGA LAY ART
Answer: Galatasaray

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



A QUICK NINE HOLES

1. Ally McCoist
2. Tottenham Hotspur
3. Champagne
4. John McEnroe
5. Darren Ambrose
6. Golf
7. Sergio Garcia
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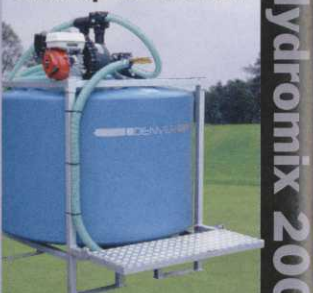
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by e-mail to: chairman@royalmaltagolfclub.com
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Greenkeeper/Mechanic

Thetford Golf Club currently has a vacancy for a suitably qualified mechanic, who has also attained skills in greenkeeping, to join our committed course management team.

The successful applicant will report to the Course Manager and be responsible for all aspects of machinery maintenance, as well as carrying out general greenkeeping duties on the golf course.

Ideally the candidate will have a proven career record and experience of working in a golf club environment.

NVQ2, chain saw and spraying qualifications would be an advantage.

Salary negotiable dependant on qualification and experience.

Please apply in writing with full CV to: Paul Gould, Course Manager, Thetford Golf Club, Brandon Road, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 3NE

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Course Manager

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The Club has good greens machinery leased on a maintenance included contract.

We are seeking a Course Manager who is currently a Head Green keeper, First Assistant or Assistant Course Manager with a high level of competence in all of the following areas: -

- Experience of health and safety regulations and COSHH
- NVQ/HNC qualifications necessary for the role of Course Manager
- The enthusiasm and ability to develop the course and its presentation to a high level
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This is a demanding position and an excellent opportunity for a modern progressive manager.

Application in writing with full CV to be sent to: -

Mr J Wilkinson, Greens Chairman, Leyland Golf Club, Wigan Road, Leyland, Lancashire, PR25 5UD

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Head Greenkeeper

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Applications with full CV to be sent by 15 December 2006 to: The Secretary/General Manager, Hartley Wintney Golf Club, London Road, Hartley Wintney, Hook, Hants RG27 8PT.

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Please send C.V. and photograph to: John Jackson, Head Greenkeeper, Stache Gasse 21/3/4 A-1120, Vienna Austria

Feature listing from November 2004

November 2004; Toro Student Greekeeper 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 Useage; Top Dressing; Jim Arthur Tribute

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

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

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

May 2006; Stock Brook GC Profile; Spraying; Aeration; Line Marking; Growth Retardants

June 2006; Disturbance Theory; Hand Tools; Surveying; Thatch/Scarification; Drought

July 2006; Hoylake Profile; Difficult Areas; Japanese Course Management; Top Dressing; Askernish Project

August 2006; Open Championship Review; Drainage; Burton GC Profile; Sustainability; Japan; ATVs; Trailers

September 2006; Building an Irrigation Lake; Toro Student of the Year Preview; Artificial Surfaces; Algae

October 2006; Trevoze GC Profile; Aeration; Utility Vehicles; Open Aftermath; Grinding Equipment

Chairman's Column



Change Is In The Air

As I write my column this month my thoughts are focused on the men and women managing golf courses across Europe, who have had to deal with one of the most extreme weather patterns that we have encountered over recent years. Here in the southwest of England the weather continues to be dry and warm with records being broken each month, October looks as if it's becoming one of the warmest on record. The weather has also, at times, been very localised with many of you during the summer in the southeast crying out for a decent days rain, at the same time only a few miles away a club is blessed with enough to keep the course going another week. It's been hard enough for us to deal with the weather patterns, but then we have to explain to the golfer why the course has suffered. Communication will be the key to our success, it's important to gather the data which will back up your reports both written and verbally, not forgetting to present the facts in a professional manner. Our Harrogate week educational programme has workshops and seminars to help you get your message across.

The National Tournament was held at the beginning of October at Burton on Trent GC, with the course being set up to tournament standards by Gavin Robson and his team who put so much hard work in presenting the course for our enjoyment. Well my enjoyment was watching the lads three putt the last!

Meeting the membership is one of the parts I have enjoyed the most during my year in office, meeting and talking to so many new faces was very pleasing and I thank everyone for making me feel so welcome. During my year in office I would have liked to visit each Section, but I hope you will understand that this isn't possible with all the commitments that I have. I hope to meet many more new faces during Harrogate week 2007.

On this subject I have to inform you that we have made the decision to close hall Q, each company exhibiting in hall Q deserved the same throughput of people as the other four halls, the board was concerned that this may not happen if hall Q was only half full as it is slightly disjointed from the other halls. All the present exhibitors who have already booked their space in hall Q will be found favourable space in the main halls. The show will not be devalued in any way with four main halls full to the limit, creating an even busier feel about the show.

The companies exhibiting at Harrogate week deserve your support both in enquiries of their products and your attendance at Harrogate week and don't forget Harrogate week is more than a show - it's an opportunity for you, the members, to enhance your skills through further education. You can click online to www.harrogateweek.org.uk and view the website's of companies who have already signed up to Harrogate Week 2007.

This year your association has seen a steady increase in membership numbers, I feel this is due to the improved system to renew membership, which has kept retention at an all time high. It's always been hard to break into clubs where the Course manager/Head greenkeeper are not members of

our association and this is where you can help by networking with your fellow professionals highlighting the benefits on offer.

At the present time a working group with representatives from BIGGA, the Secretaries Association and health and safety consultants are busy finalising a new Health and safety management system which will hopefully be launched at Harrogate week, this highlights how far we have come as an association within our industry - we are now part of a working party driving this forward for the benefit of golf.

It is planned to launch, during Harrogate week, the new look website. The new site will have many new items for members to access, the new site will allow our staff to update and change items without having to go to a costly web designer, which occurs at present, if you have any ideas you would like to be considered please contact Scott MacCallum as soon as possible.

Champion of BIGGA

This month my champion of BIGGA is Graeme Taylor, Course Manager of the Eden Course at St Andrews Links Trust. Although Graeme isn't, at present, on the Sections committee, he is a keen supporter of the Association and Section and has given up a lot of his own time in helping the Section set up and develop its own website. This provides a valuable service to the Section in keeping its members informed of what is happening in the Section and Region.

Richard Whyman
Chairman

Recruitment



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Graham Atkinson, Manager, Thames View Golf Centre,
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- Good communication skills, health & safety awareness and an IT ability
- Strategic planning and work scheduling
- Team leadership and excellent man management skills
- Budgetary control

Please apply in writing with your CV attached direct to:

Mr M A Sheehan, Mere Golf & Country Club, Chester Road, Mere,
Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6LJ, or email masheehan@meregolf.co.uk

Please include details of your desired remuneration.

Application deadline: 30th November 2006.



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