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# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

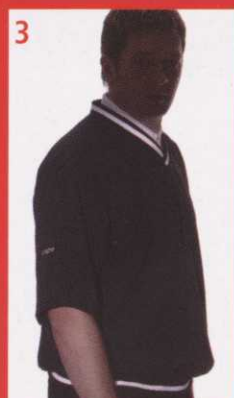


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2. The Tour Suit, which comes in either a Weatherbeater or Full Zipper style (pictured), has a waterproof outer fabric, which is fully lined. The Weatherbeater jacket is a short zipped pullover style with two pockets and has an adjustable draw cord 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

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

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



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







# A guide to who's who at BIGGA

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Bonallack, OBE

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**Board Members**  
Raymond Day  
Jeff Mills  
Gavin Robson  
Iain Macleod  
Bert Cross  
Walter Woods BEM  
Mark Dobell

**Chief Executive:** John Pemberton  
Email: john@bigga.co.uk

**Deputy Chief Executive**  
Education & Training Manager: Ken Richardson  
Email: ken@bigga.co.uk

**Communications Manager/Editor:** Scott MacCallum  
Email: scott@bigga.co.uk

**Sales Manager:** Rosie Hancher  
Email: rosie@bigga.co.uk

**Membership Services Officer:** Rachael Palmer  
Email: rachael\_p@bigga.co.uk

## Contact us

You can contact The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association in any number of ways:

**Post:** BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF

**Email:** reception@bigga.co.uk

**Website:** www.bigga.org.uk

**Tel:** 01347 833800  
**Fax:** 01347 833801



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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

### Editorial

**Communications Manager/Editor:** Scott MacCallum  
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801  
Email: scott@bigga.co.uk

**Assistant Editor:** Melissa Toombs  
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801  
Email: melissa@bigga.co.uk

### Design

**Design and Production Editor:** Marie Whyld  
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802  
Email: marie@bigga.co.uk

### Advertising

**Sales Manager:** Rosie Hancher  
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802  
Email: rosie@bigga.co.uk

**Advertising Sales Executive:** Kirstin Smith  
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802  
Email: kirstin@bigga.co.uk / sales@bigga.co.uk

**Sales Assistant:** Karen Russell  
Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833802  
Email: karen@bigga.co.uk / sales@bigga.co.uk

### Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings,  
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Tel: 01778 391000 Fax: 01778 394269

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## October 2006

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When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.





## Welcome

### FAIRIES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE GOLF COURSE

Congratulations to Gerry Byrne and his team at the K Club who did a superb job in difficult conditions to produce a superbly conditioned course for the Ryder Cup. Having to cope with the tail end of a hurricane and torrential rain at some stage of each of the three competition days, it says much for Gerry that the course held up as well as it did.

Obviously there are many, myself among them, who would have preferred the match to be played on one of Ireland's classic courses - Ballybunion, Portmarnock or the like - but in today's money motivated environment that is no longer going to happen and it is the person with the deepest pockets who attracts the biggest events at the expense of courses which may well produce more interesting golf. Gerry made sure that K Club owner Michael Smurfit's dream became reality.

Indeed a traditional course hasn't hosted the match on this side of the pond since Walton Heath in 1981 - prepared by our own Clive Osgood - when the Ryder Cup was a much more low key affair. Since then it has been at The Belfry four times and Valderamma once and the next two venues are Celtic Manor, whose course is still to be completed, and the PGA Course at Gleneagles - oh how I wish it would be the traditional King's Course. After 2014, and its visit to Scotland, it's quite likely it won't hit these shores again for a number of years with Sweden and possibly Spain in line for matches. That would make it at least 2026 and you can be sure that the venue for that one is currently no more than a not yet formulated dream of some 15 year-old soon-to-be dot-com billionaire. It will quite likely be held on some reclaimed brown field site on the outskirts of Wandsworth.

Talking about the Ryder Cup, I was forced to text Radio 5 Live early on Saturday morning after I heard Nicky Campbell talking to the Director of Golf at the K Club about shaving the green surrounds and asking him whether he was responsible for the horticulture of the course. Nicky is renowned for the research he does before he goes on air but like many people when it comes to golf, different rules seem to apply and they believe they know far more than they actually do. I don't think my text made it to air, at least I didn't hear it, but hopefully Nicky will be made aware of its existence and realise that there is a profession involved in maintaining golf courses and it's not just a few of the less high profile colleagues of Alan Titchmarsh and Monty Don.

It just goes to reinforce to us the enormity of the task we face in raising the profile of greenkeeping and BIGGA. It's as though perfectly sane people believe that there are the golfing equivalent of fairies at the bottom of the garden, who emerge unseen to work miracles on golf courses and then disappear again until the next time.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

### SURREY BOWL

The final of the Surrey Bowl was played at Foxhills GC on the Longcross course on August 31. The finalists were Brian Turner and Paul Robinson from Worplesdon GC, and Darren Woodward and Simon Kirkham from West Surrey GC.

Brian and Paul went on to win the event quite easily by five and four - congratulations to them. The West Surrey guys, obviously disappointed, are proving to be Surrey's most consistent team reaching the final for the last three years, and winning in their first final.

The Longcross course was in good condition in spite of the difficult weather conditions experienced this year, and our thanks go to Dave Wyborn and his team

for their efforts. Thanks must also go to Dave Langheim for his organisation of the Surrey Bowl event.

The sponsors were ETT, and Richard Fortmuller one of the company's Area Sales Managers, spent the whole day with us supporting the final, handing over the sponsors cheque, and giving out the prizes for the finalists, thank you for you and your company's support which is to be continued next year.



### NEW MARKETING APPOINTMENT



Hayter have announced the appointment of Claudia Reyland as Marketing Assistant. In her new position Claudia will be responsible for all marketing activities relating to exhibitions, advertising and promotions for both commercial and consumer products.

Before joining Hayter in June 2005, Claudia was in an Electronics Defence Systems company where she worked in various departments including Human Resources, Quality and Programme Management.

Commenting on the appointment David Sturges, Sales and Marketing Director for Hayter said.

"Claudia's knowledge and experience will strengthen the marketing function. With her solid business background, enthusiasm, and marketing know how she is the ideal candidate for this important role at Hayter."

### ASTHMA CURE FOR TURF!

"It's like when someone has asthma. Difficulty in breathing makes them feel thoroughly run-down. As soon as they get a better supply of oxygen they feel better. Turf reacts in much the same way. Our Aer-Aid breathes life into our turf - sideways."

That's the comment by David Barling, Director of Upchurch River Valley GC in Kent. Constructed on 120 acres of farmland, the views over the River Medway and Thames Estuary add to the quality of the two 9-hole and one 18-hole course's - designed by David Smart.

Brothers David and William Barling purchased the farmland in 1989 as a diversion from their previous business of builders and developers. In 2005 the brothers decided the greens needed a natural boost. The SISIS Aer-Aid was demonstrated and almost immediately a few lethargic greens started to recover. The Aer-Aid was purchased, and over the past

12 months steady progress has been seen. The depth has been varied from 25mm to 125mm to allow fracturing of the soil at different depths. Using the same machine, 7mm pencil tines have been used from time to time to complement the programme.

One of the biggest advantages the club has found is that regular air injection has allowed a reduction in water usage, without the greens suffering. Indeed they have improved both visually and physically. During the very hot summer weather this year the height of cut has been increased from 3mm to 5mm, and as there is little disruption to the putting surface, aeration with the Aer-Aid could continue.





## THANKS RANSOMES JACOBSEN!



The Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship Scheme has helped fund many aspiring greenkeepers through their study, and aided them in

completing their ambitions of becoming fully qualified greenkeepers.

Among those who benefited from the scheme this year was Katherine Walls from Taunton, Somerset. Katherine has recently completed a Foundation Degree in Sports Turf 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 Science course at the College.

Obtaining an MSc in Sports Surface at Cranfield College was Ian Somerville.

Ransomes Jacobsen funds Sports Surface, Sports Turf and Sportsturf courses at Merrist Wood, Askham Bryan, Cranfield, Writtle, Elmwood and Myerscough College. Students received their relevant awards for their hard work and study in late summer, thanks to the BIGGA scheme greatly supported by the manufacturing giant.



Katherine Walls



Ian Somerville

## THE NORRIE WHYTOCK TROPHY

Auchterarder GC was the venue for the annual team event for the Norrie Whytock Trophy.

The North have won this trophy for the last three years and once again provided a strong team led by their Captain Steve Sullivan.

Archie Dunn, Head Greenkeeper decided that foreign shores was an attractive proposition and left the course in the very capable hands of his deputy, Alistair Tough and the remainder of the Auchterarder staff who presented the course in superb condition.

To the scoring, the North Section once again produced a fine total of 100 Stableford points normally sufficient to win, but not on this occasion, as the Central Section ably led by the former Deputy at Auchterarder GC, Brian Heggie, won with a total of 106 stableford points.

The Central team comprised: Team Captain, Brian Heggie, Piperdam GC, 29; Paul Armour, Aberdour GC, 2; Derek Scott,

Scoonie GC, 38; Kenneth Mitchell, St.Andrews Links, 39. Best three scores to count – 106.

The runners up North Section: Team Captain, Steve Sullivan, Craigie Hill GC, 36; Roy Donald, Oldmeldrum GC, 32; Jim McCormack, Kirriemuir GC, 31; David Duggan, Fortrose GC, 32. Best three scores to count – 100.

Our Chairman, Iain Barr, was on hand to thank Auchterarder GC for the facilities at the club. He went on to thank Bayer and David Drummond, their representative in Scotland for their support and took the opportunity to wish David Drummond well for the future.

Next year's event will be held on Monday 20 August 2007 at Auchterarder GC.

Peter Boyd



## 2006 RYDER CUP HOST PICKS PROLINK SOLUTIONS

ProLink Solutions European distributor, Elumina, will install the ProLink system at the K Club, Ireland, commanding the international spotlight as host of the 2006 Ryder Cup.

ProLink's solutions-based GPS system will be installed at the K Club's Palmer and Smurfit courses, two of Ireland's most highly regarded championship golf facilities. Together, these critically-acclaimed courses comprise of what many consider to be the finest 36 holes of inland golf in Ireland, a nation

steeped in golf tradition and rich with courses ranked among the best in the world.

Talking about K Club's decision to use ProLink Solutions, Director of Golf John McHenry said: "Our golfers will benefit from the precise yardages and hole descriptions, while the club will achieve greater efficiency in all golfing operations. The stylish ProLink monitors fit seamlessly with our golf car fleet and provide a look and feel consistent with the club's high-end aesthetic."

## HOLE IN ONE 4CHILDREN

Children's charity 4Children has teamed up with Brocket Hall GC, Hertfordshire for a charity golf day and gala dinner on Monday, October 16 2006, to raise vital funds for 4Children's work with children and young people.

This is a unique opportunity to play a round of golf on the championship 72 par Melbourne course designed by Peter Alliss and Clive Clark. The course follows the natural undulations and contours of the 18th Century parkland around Brocket Hall, home to two former Prime Ministers, the course also crosses the River Lea several times and golfers are carried across the Broadwater by ferry to complete the 18th hole!

The day will start with time in the Faldo Golf Institute a state-of-the-art golf instructional centre based on the six-time Major Champion's improvement and development programme, breakfast lunch before teeing off with a shot gun start. There will be a prize table and presentations for top teams and individual winning scores, followed by a gala dinner and charity auction in the evening.

4Children are looking for teams of four to take part in the competition, playing to full handicaps on stableford scoring, with the best two stableford scores, counting on each hole. The maximum handicap will be 24 for men and 30 for women. A team costs £1,200 and includes a morning at the Faldo Institute, breakfast brunch, golf, prize table, hole-in-one competition, reception, four course gala dinner and celebrity auction.

For further information visit:  
[www.4children.org.uk/golf](http://www.4children.org.uk/golf) or call Carol Williams on: 020 75122112 to reserve a team place in the competition.

## TURF TEAM TOUGHER

Peter Holmstrom has joined Countrywide Farmers (CWF) as Regional Sales Manager, for the Turf and Amenity Business, covering Mid and South Wales, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire and West Gloucestershire.



Having previously worked as First Assistant Greenkeeper at Newport GC, Peter is well qualified in both practical and technical aspects of modern turf management and has obtained high qualifications at Cannington and Pencoed Colleges.



## NEW AMENITY WEBSITE

British Seed Houses has launched a brand new website for the amenity sector at [www.bshamenity.com](http://www.bshamenity.com)

To help you choose the best cultivars for your needs, each has a technical data sheet which can be printed off or downloaded to your desktop for future reference.

Groundsmen, greenkeepers, specifiers, golf and landscape architects, turf growers and ecologists can keep up-to-date with the latest company news, new product information, special offers and updates from BSH's amenity breeding programme at IGER by subscribing to the free e-newsletter.



## A GENERATION OF AERATION

As part of the celebrations commemorating the Verti-Drain's UK Silver Jubilee, Charterhouse Turf Machinery have held a competition to find the oldest machine that is still in regular operation. "We have had a phenomenal response," says Managing Director Philip Threadgold. "It has made users look closely and appreciate their machines, and it emphasises the Verti-Drain's build quality."

One of the many entrants is Douglas Park GC in Bearsden, Glasgow. Course Manager Drew McKechnie enthuses about his Verti-Drain 105145. "This machine just has to be one of the most important tools available to the greenkeeper. It has been well used on all areas of our course, and especially for hollow coring of greens."

Another golf course hoping to carry off the prize of a brand new Verti-Drain is the Bedfordshire GC located near Bedford. Course Manager John Gubb says that his 005120 model is used for aerating greens, tees and approaches. "It is great for deep tine aeration. We can penetrate down to 10-12in (25-30cm) on the greens, and if you use a mower immediately afterwards you don't even realise that the Verti-Drain has been there first."

## SORRY

GI would like to clarify that Head Greenkeeper of Belleisle GC is Kevin Johnston, NOT Thomson as printed on our letters page of our September issue. Sorry Kevin!

## CHALLENGING PERCEPTIONS

The IOG has launched a ten-point strategic 'Challenging Perceptions' development plan that will carry both the IOG and the grounds care profession it represents forward for the next six years.

With 'quality surfaces supported by quality services' as the central thread, the strategic areas highlighted by the IOG for development also include: Leadership; Working partnerships; Professional services, membership and communications; Training and Education; Health and safety; Research and development; Natural environment; Events and exhibitions and 2012 opportunities.

Unveiled at IOG SALTEx by IOG Chief Executive, Geoff Webb, Challenging Perceptions is the result of an intense seven-month review of IOG activities.

"The Challenging Perceptions strategy lays the foundations for a new era of the IOG as the Institute and its members continue to establish wider awareness of their role as the preparations for the Olympic Games gather pace," said Geoff

"At a time when many eyes will be focused on the skills and aptitude of grounds professionals, the

IOG is positively looking to improve and promote the overall professionalism of the industry with Olympic organisations and in the wider public community as well.

"This, indeed, is a core attribute of Challenging Perceptions - it's about gaining recognition for an industry that has held its light under a bushel for too long!" he added.

Among the initiatives is a new Level 2 National Certificate in Sports and Amenity Turf Maintenance, due to be introduced by the end of 2006, will be complemented by a new Advanced National Certificate in 2007.

"In addition to also instigating the industry's first ever accurate survey of the actual size of the UK's grounds care industry, the strategy highlights the areas where the IOG feels that it both should and could make the most impact over the coming years.

"It will not be easy, but we believe that progress can be achieved with unified effort, hard work and a practical approach," concluded Geoff.

## 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 will be sent out in early October. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Peter Larter, Midland Regional Administrator, on: 01476 550115 or email: [petelarter972@aol.com](mailto:petelarter972@aol.com)

## GATOR GETS ROYAL RECOGNITION

John Deere's new HPX Diesel 4x4 Gator utility vehicle was overall winner in this year's Royal Show New Equipment Awards - in addition to winning the estate maintenance category. The award was presented at the show to John Deere's National Account Manager Joedy Ibbotson, by HRH Princess Michael of Kent.

Organised by the Royal Agricultural Society of England in association with Farmers Guardian, the award was open to all those exhibiting agricultural,

horticultural and forestry equipment offered for sale for the first time during 2006. The judges were Brian Finney, RASE Honorary Consulting Engineer, and Mervyn Bailey, Technical Editor of Farmers Guardian.

The new HPX 4x4 Gator is ruggedly designed for a range of transporting and general material handling duties, in any environment, but is especially suitable for farming, rough terrain, heavy duty haulage and commercial applications.



## RETIREMENT

One of most familiar faces in the industry began a well earned break at Saltex when Mike Shephard, of Vitax, retired. The occasion was marked by a drinks and buffet reception during which Clive Williams paid tribute to Mike and the work he had

done over the last 20 plus years with the company. Watched by another slightly older but equally familiar retired member of staff in Alan Stowe, Clive commented that there was no truth in the rumour that Vitax doubled as a home for aged reprobates.



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## CANADA GEESSE FACE EXECUTION

Until now, geese foes have had to obtain permits from the government to kill Canada geese or destroy their nests and eggs. The US Fish and Wildlife Service have issued a new rule making it easier for farmers, airports, landowners and public health officials to kill the geese without permits.

Animal rights activists say there's got to be a better way to deal with the birds.

The new rule includes several provisions, which now allow:

- Airports, public health officials and landowners to destroy nests and eggs without federal permits;
- Private and public airports to round up the birds for destruction without federal permits;
- Local governments to round up the birds if they threaten public health by congregating at reservoirs, athletic fields, parks and public beaches.

The Fish and Wildlife Service said the rule was prompted in response to "growing impacts from overabundant populations of resident Canada geese." The resident Canada goose population has increased an average of two percent per year over the past four years and was estimated at 1.15 million last spring.

## MAKING AMENDS

Our sincerest apologies to Irriplan for wrongly attributing Marcus White's "Controlling your own water supply - building a golf course reservoir" in our "Pooling Resources" September issue article. Marcus is a Director of Derbyshire based consulting engineers, Irriplan Limited, who specialise in irrigation engineering, reservoir engineering and water resource management for golf courses.

## MASSEY FERGUSON SIGNS NEW PARTNERSHIP

AGCO and MTD have entered into an exclusive partnership agreement covering the production, supply and after sales support of an extensive range of Massey Ferguson grass and grounds care machinery, to be sold in Europe through the Massey Ferguson Dealer network.

The new ranges of equipment will complement Massey Ferguson's existing lower horsepower and compact machinery ranges which include the MF 1500 series, recently enhanced by the launch of MF's new advanced change on the move Dyna QPS™ transmission. All new products will be built by MTD to Massey Ferguson's design criteria and specifications. MTD will also provide comprehensive pre and after-sales product support directly to Massey Ferguson Dealers and their customers.

For more information visit: [www.agcocorp.com](http://www.agcocorp.com) and [www.masseyferguson.com](http://www.masseyferguson.com)

## 2006 JUNIOR OPEN



Guy Cannings, Course Manager at Heswall GC with TurfWorks Vibro Rollers attached to his Jacobsen Greens Mower

Heswall GC is an attractive, undulating parkland course situated on the Wirral Peninsula on the bank of the Dee Estuary overlooking the Welsh Hills, which hosted the R&A Junior Open, just four days before the seniors Open, at Royal Liverpool Golf Course, Hoylake. Heswall GC, situated just five miles from Royal Liverpool Golf Course welcomed competitors from over 60 nations with ages ranging from 12 to 16 years, and to both boys and girls

with varying handicap categories as high as +2. Playing at the event was Stefan Langer, son of Bernard Langer, Miguel Angel Jimenez Junior and Angel Cabrera Junior. Guy Cannings, Course Manager at Heswall, was very keen to present the course for the R&A Juniors as he would for a senior's competition, many months of extra hard work and preparation with a lot of consultation with the R&A over layout and expectations. The speed and consistency of the greens was of high importance to Guy and this led to him purchasing a set of TurfWorks Vibro Rollers. "I purchased a set of Turfworks Vibro Rollers to assist with the greens issue, I knew the Turfworks had been used for the British Masters earlier in the year and Hoylake would be using the Turfworks Vibro Rollers with brushes for The Open. It is my belief that the Junior Open deserve to play on surfaces as good as the Seniors, so the Turfworks were a necessity, the greens for the competition were excellent and the members that have played the course have asked if I can use the Turfworks regularly after The Open." The competition for the lowest gross score was won by Patrick Reed of the USA with a final round of 74 for a 54-hole total of 217. Guy stated, "One of these Juniors could be a future Seniors Open Champion, and they are the future of Golf."

## SOUTH EAST SEMINAR

The annual South East Seminar will take place at Thorpeness Country Club on Wednesday, November 1. Speakers include agronomist David Stansfield; Jimmy Kidd, of Gleneagles and Sandy Lane fame; plant pathologist, Kate Entwistle; ecologist, Ray Harding; John Grindrop, of WRAP and John

Pemberton, of BIGGA. Membership Services Officer, Rachael Palmer will also be in attendance.

Cost of the day is £15 and all members will be sent full details of the event. Special rates for accommodation are available if booked in advance.

## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Andrew Black, 41, has recently celebrated his 25th anniversary at Ransomes Jacobsen's grounds care dealer, Rickerby Ltd, at Hexham, Northumberland.

Andrew joined the company in April 1981 as an Apprentice Fitter aged 16 and after completing his apprenticeship, eventually rose through the ranks to become Workshop Foreman. In 1998 a vacancy arose in the Sales department and Andrew was offered the job.

For the last eight years he has really made his mark in the north east and is one of the 'characters' of the grounds care industry in the region. He has an excellent working relationship with the local senior football clubs and is on first name terms with Sir Bobby Robson and Alan Shearer, having sold both of them mowing equipment for their gardens. He was also instrumental in securing the £ multi-million preferred supplier agreement with Newcastle City Council.

Presenting Andrew with a commemorative clock at a short ceremony at the Hexham dealership recently, Paddy Rickerby, a director of the family-owned business said: "Andrew is everything we could wish for; as a person and as an employee. He's jovial, good-natured, very professional, well organised, obliging and a tremendous asset to the business. His relationships with golf courses, football clubs and municipal authorities across the region are excellent and, on behalf of the Rickerby family, we thank him for his loyalty and hard work; it's very much appreciated."





## PLANT NUTRIENT MANUFACTURER AND SEER JOIN FORCES

Forfar based Angus Horticulture Ltd (AHL) made a key announcement at the Scotgrov Trade Show, held recently at Pentland Plants near Edinburgh. AHL has now signed a four year Agreement with Rockdust Ltd, the trading subsidiary of The Seer Centre Trust, to carry out the marketing, promotion and distribution of the Seer Rockdust products.

The first new line, Seer Rocksoil, is the Seer Centre' growing medium that produces the superb crops where local farmers said they "would never even be able to grow tatties". Seer Rockmix is a top dressing. The two new lines, launched this summer, are a blend of Forth Resource Management Ltd's garden compost and Seer Rockdust. All three products are now attracting significant interest from throughout the UK and overseas.



Nick Cooke, RDL Director; Dan Morgan, SEER Chairman; Alistair Ballantyne, AHL Sales Director and Jennifer Cook, AHL Sales Manager

## TWO NEW COLLEGES ADDED TO GTC LIST

The Greenkeepers' Training Committee (GTC) has added two new colleges to its list of centres which work with the sector and within the awarding bodies' criterion to deliver sports turf qualifications.

Duchy College in Cornwall and Kingston Maurward College in Dorset have been added to the list. The GTC's Education Director, David Golding, said: "Both centres are providing specialist turf programmes on a local basis for clubs and greenkeeping candidates and have established industry liaison committees to monitor the deliver. "A major part of our work is to monitor the quality standards of sports turf education and training in association with the awarding bodies."

"Our team of staff are absolutely delighted that they have recently been provisionally approved as a GTC centre," said Duchy College Operations Manager (work based learning) Chris Shepherd. "The status means a great deal to all training providers and is a hard-earned and fiercely guarded prize.

The college looks after about 450 apprentices or work based learners in the land based sector across all of the vocational areas associated with a land based college. "Within this number we cater for around 30 greenkeepers at any one time across Devon and Cornwall," she said.

"Our association with the industry started in autumn 2000 and since then around 150 greenkeepers of all ages have taken part in NVQ training programmes. As relative newcomers, what has been striking is the level of support that we have received from the industry. Many other vocational areas in the land based sector could learn a great deal from the way in which the greenkeeping industry has organised itself and promoted work based learning opportunities. I have experienced first hand the extremely effective case put by the GTC to LANTRA when it comes to designing apprenticeship frameworks and NVQ content. The GTC learning materials (NVQL2 and L3)

are a superb source of information to all learning their profession," said Chris.

"The support from the Devon and Cornwall greenkeepers has been amazing and it feels as if we could access both the physical and human resource across all of the clubs with whom we work. Our regular assessor update sessions are very effective in keeping contact with the industry and communicating with the many qualified assessors out there. We look forward to developing our partnership with the industry and value greatly the constructive advice and guidance given so openly."

Kingston Maurward College is a specialist land-based college located in beautiful countryside in rural Dorset. It, like most other land-based colleges, provides a range of educational provision in various disciplines. The college has an estate of approximately 500 acres of which 35 acres are made up of formal gardens and a lake.

The key curriculum areas are agriculture, animal care, equine, horticulture, IT and outdoor leisure and recreation. The college has approximately 500 full-time students and 4500 part-time students.

The Horticulture Department includes arboriculture, floristry, forestry and horticulture. It offers a range of short and long, full and part-time courses from Level 1 to Level 4. The bulk of the turf related provision is delivered through NVQ2 and NVQ3. The College has a dynamic Industrial Liaison Committee which meets regularly. There is a wide range of sports turf employer representation including golf courses, council sports playing fields and private school playing fields.

The College has a good reputation for providing high quality education. This was confirmed in the recent OFSTED/ALI inspection when it was awarded grade 2's across the board with the exception of IT which was awarded a grade 1. Several previous students have gone on to win the RHS Young Horticulturalist of the Year.

## CARNOUSTIE FACELIFT

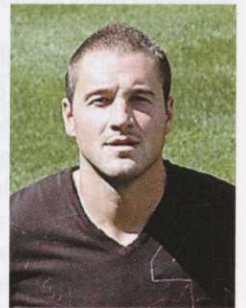
A £1.5 million revamp is on the cards for next year's Open as a number of projects have been approved by Angus Council's Infrastructure Services Committee, to ensure the town is looking tip-top next summer.

The main elements will be the erection of 16 new 8.5m high banners around the town with graphics promoting the many attractions of Angus. These colourful additions to the town will be complemented with a number of landscaping and environmental improvements at locations near or on route to the Championship Golf Course.

Angus Convener of Infrastructure Services David Selfridge said: "The Open is a major sporting event with more than 150,000 people attending and worldwide broadcast coverage so it is vital the council capitalises on this by ensuring the town looks its best."

## A SAFE PAIR OF HANDS FOR INTURF

Paul Robinson, the Tottenham Hotspur and England goalkeeper, has chosen Inturf Lawn for his new garden at his Hertfordshire home. Now, as well as defending his goal on premiership pitches installed throughout England by Inturf, he can enjoy the same quality turf when he's relaxing.



Paul said: "I wanted turf that was hard wearing and easy to maintain but with a superior appearance. Having looked at several suppliers I chose Inturf."

"We have installed our turf on the majority of pitches Paul will play on in the Premier League," says Andy Church, Director of sales at Inturf. "It is very pleasing to know that Paul has also chosen our turf for his garden - and that he sees Inturf as a safe pair of hands!"

## RELOCATION

Turf grower and topsoil supplier Rolawn, have relocated their Edinburgh depot to larger premises. Philip Cuthbert, Commercial Director commented: "the new site is in a higher profile location opposite the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland showground, it will enable us to further expand our business in Edinburgh and compliments our Glasgow Depot. Together these two depots, under the overall management of Senior Depot Manager Alistair Matheson who has worked with Rolawn for 17 years, and our extensive stockist network give Rolawn an excellent platform from which to further improve customer service and expand our market share in Scotland."





## BACK TO SCHOOL

In this month's article David Golding, the GTC's Education Director, looks at the qualifications which offer greenkeeping students a route to a Degree.

While tremendous progress has been made by the greenkeeping sector to implement vocational training and qualifications we must also continue to promote the more college/university-based awards.

The GTC, in recent years, has been invited by Awarding Bodies to be represented on validation panels to discuss qualifications ranging from the Higher National Certificate (HNC) to the Masters Degree in Sports Turf Surfaces.

We have been very aware of not approving a proliferation of qualifications, all of which may have been submitted by different institutions with a slightly different turf or golf related title.

The GTC has continually discussed the need to keep a small range of qualifications for sports turf while accepting that the institutions will offer the courses through different modes of delivery e.g. distance learning, full-time, on-line.

Greenkeepers with the work-based vocational qualifications should also consider the HN qualifications as they are designed to compliment occupational standards.

I can reassure any greenkeeper that has progressed "through the tools" that the HNC and Foundation Degree are not just for full-time students, far from it!

Just before I start to lose some of you with all the various titles of qualifications, I can confirm that England, Scotland and Wales all have a HNC and while the progression north of the border is to the Higher National Diploma (HND) in Golf Course Management, the HND in England and Wales has been re-badged as the Foundation Degree (FD) in Sports Turf.

Still with me? Some of the older readers will remember the criticism especially from employers that students entering the industry straight from full-time college with a HND had very limited greenkeeping skills.

Well Higher qualifications were never designed to be skill based (they are the more vocational qualifications such as N/SVQ's) however, the GTC has to listen to the employers and as this issue has been mirrored by other industries, the relatively new Foundation Degree takes into account both the in depth, turf related, knowledge requirements and skills.

The FD is therefore an ideal option for those greenkeepers with VQ's seeking to embark on a course with a Degree at the end of programme.

How many greenkeepers would have even dreamt of achieving a Degree when they embarked on a career having left school at the earliest opportunity!

All this can be achieved without giving up your job and several GTC Providers will be willing to discuss the various study options to achieve your goal.



This could be You!

The GTC will continue to support the HN qualifications and is fully aware that the majority of students/learners will prefer the work-based route but of equal importance are the HNC/D and B.Sc and M.Sc Degree qualifications.

Why every time there is a national debate on Degrees the media, in particular Radio 2, seem to mention Golf Course maintenance as one of the qualifications having no worth to Nations productivity, I don't know, but again the Government will continue to approve only the qualifications where industry has given its full support and the GTC certainly continue to support the academic qualifications.

The M.Sc offered by Cranfield might only have a few students registering annually on the programme but great credit to the staff and the advisory board who continually monitor the programme to meet both the students and employers needs and also the changes in technology, environmental issues and turf grass research.

This consultative process is a condition of all qualification approvals, which the GTC insists on and fortunately Government inspectors look for when reviewing programmes.

Ask your local provider how your current qualifications and experience can be accredited towards a qualification.

Why not consider the HNC/D - Degree qualifications? Visit the Training Provider page on the GTC website for more details on the various courses on offer: [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk)

If you wish to discuss independently which qualification or training course might be best suited to you, please do not hesitate to contact the GTC.

David can be contacted direct at the GTC on: 01347 838640 or email: [david@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:david@the-gtc.co.uk)

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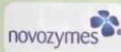
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# Education Update

## Ken Richardson reveals Harrogate Week's one-day workshops.

You should have received a copy of the Harrogate Week brochure with this copy of Greenkeeper International or, in the case of golf club officials, by direct mail. It is packed full of educational opportunities for everyone involved in turf management and golf club management at prices everyone can afford. For example, there are 27 seminars on offer, of which 20 are free of charge and the other seven attract attractive discounts for quantity. Book all seminars and it will cost £122.50. That means that the average cost of each seminar is £4.53. When you consider that it costs at least £23,000 to run the seminars less a generous £5,000 worth of support from the GTC, we need an average of 147 delegates at each seminar in order to break even.



Following on from my last article that looked at two-day workshops, this article looks at the nine one-day workshops.

### Continue to Learn 2007

One-day workshops will be held on both Sunday, January 21 and Monday, January 22 in the Queens Suite of Harrogate International Centre.

#### WORKING WITH PEOPLE WHO CAUSE YOU STRESS

This is a workshop that the vast majority of us could find useful but as it is limited to 12 delegates you had better book early to keep your stress levels down. All jobs can be stressful at times and some stress is important for high performance. However, bad stress can be unhelpful and lead to ill health. This workshop will show you how to reduce stress by managing relationships in a more productive way by looking at communication styles and how to manage conflict.

#### BUDGETING-MAKING NUMBERS COUNT

Following last year's successful two-day workshop, Andy and Brin have redesigned it as 2 one-day workshops. They did this to try and include even more useful financial management information. The workshop will be very intensive and delegates will have to prepare themselves through pre-course reading and research. It will look at how to prepare a budget, expenditure reports, monitoring trends, controlling delegated budgets, costings, cash controls and basic maths.

#### ARE YOUR FINANCES BELOW PAR?

This one-day workshop follows on from the previous workshop and delegates must have completed last year's two-day workshop or the Making Number Count workshop plus some pre-course reading.

This workshop takes a wider look at financial management in golf industry. It is aimed at Course Managers, Golf Professionals and Club Secretaries. It will look at how external influences have an impact on financial decision making, on the flow of finance, on budgets, on cash flow forecasting and on investment decision making.

#### COACHING IN THE WORKPLACE

We all coach our staff, some of it is formal coaching and some of it is more informal mentoring. Why not enrol on this one-day workshop and discover how you can add to your management skills portfolio. Save your club time and money and improve the skills of your staff.

#### DRAIN BEFORE THE RAIN

Following this year's drought, it is a sure bet that we shall have a wet winter. Make sure that your drainage systems can cope by attending this one-day workshop presented by the Land Drainage Contactors Association.

#### EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Don't be like Basil Fawlty - make sure that your communication skills are appropriate and affective by attending this one-day workshop presented by Mike John. Good, effective communication is vital in a competitive market place and it involves everyone.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

As more and more pressures are brought onto golf clubs and sports ground to be 'greener', it is even more important to manage your club with the Environment in mind. Come to this one-day workshop and identify the strengths and weakness of your current approach and assess your course against European Commission Standards.

#### R&A SWARD IMPROVEMENT WORKSHOP

More than 300 delegates attended the Sustainable Golf Course Workshop held during Harrogate Week last January. Some delegates wholeheartedly agreed with the philosophy of sustainability set out by the various speakers while others disagreed. Some delegates were not convinced that they could change from their current grass species to bent fescue and were content to continue their current management regimes.

This one-day workshop will concentrate on showing how swards can be converted without impacting adversely on playing quality. Come and listen to eight greenkeepers explain how they managed to increase the proportion of desirable fescue and brown top bent on their greens and see if you agree that it can be done at your course.

#### A1 ASSESSOR UPDATE

This session is a must for all assessors who have been qualified for some time. Bring your skills up to date by attending this free one day workshop.



Rachael and Gemma are pleased to welcome 55 new members to the Association and talk about the latest edition of the handbook.

# Membership Update

## 2006/2007 Members Handbook

Your 2006/2007 BIGGA Membership Handbook should have arrived in the post by the time this magazine is published. We have made this year's Handbook better than ever before with added features as requested by you, the membership.

NEW for 2006 is a coloured map defining the boundaries of the sections and regions, making it far easier to locate other members. For the first time the Association's Constitution has been published at the back of the Handbook. A diary running from October 2006 to September 2007, with all the important events of the year has also been added making this year's Members Handbook a useful addition to any desk space.



## WIN THE ULTIMATE FERRARI EXPERIENCE

Ever wanted to get behind the wheel of a Ferrari? Well now you can! Drive a Ferrari 328 and F360 or drive a Ferrari F355 with an opportunity to drive a single seater. The prize also offers the chance to put a Land Rover through its paces on an off-road course or drive an MG on the track. The experience also includes a full safety briefing with training laps in a hot hatch and the day finishes with a high-speed passenger ride.\*

To enter the prize draw to win his fantastic prize all you have to do is introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA. Make sure your name goes on their



application form as the person who referred them and we will enter your name in the draw. Remember the more new members you refer the more chances you have to win!

It doesn't stop there either, if you win the Rally Driving experience then the new member you referred also receives a RED LETTER DAY VOUCHER that can be used on an experience of their choice, on a range of at least 20. Typical experiences include Snow Boarding, Zorbing or Capoeira.

The draw will take place on the 16th October 2006 and the winners will be announced in the November edition of Greenkeeper International.

Call either Rachael or Gemma today on 01347 833800 to request a new member application form.

\*Choice of activity is dependant on which location is booked. A full manual driving licence is required. The minimum age for this experience is 18.

## OCTOBER'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 Ronnie Bunting of Ballochmyle Golf Club.



## LOOKING FOR CAR BREAKDOWN COVER?

BIGGA members can purchase breakdown cover from as little as £19.04

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## THE BIGGA LEGAL HELPLINE NUMBER HAS CHANGED TO:

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Brian Dickson, Ayrshire  
Garry Goodwillie, Ayrshire  
Mitchell Green, Ayrshire  
Thomas Kolakovic, Central  
Barrie Lewis, East  
Colin Mcadam, Ayrshire  
William Murray, Ayrshire  
Malcolm Parsons, North  
Paul Sharp, North  
John Whitelaw, Ayrshire

#### NORTHERN REGION

Paul Anderson, Northern  
Lewis Booth, North West  
David Boyd, North West  
David Coulson, Cleveland  
Kevin Griffiths, North Wales  
Alec Hennis, North West  
Christopher Hyde, North West  
John Mcaloney, North West  
Ben Price-Stephens, Northern

David Roberts, North West  
Matthew Shimwell, North West  
Theo Travis, North West

#### MIDLAND REGION

Dale Ashley, East Midland  
Ron Bingham, East of England  
Ronald Briggs, East Midland  
Luke Cordery, BB&O  
Christopher Goodall, East of England  
Richard Hodgson, Mid Anglia  
Marcus Lilley, Mid Anglia  
Paul Mercott, BB&O  
Edward Ramm, BB&O  
Jonathan Strange, BB&O  
Jack Weiss, East Midland

#### SOUTH EAST REGION

Andrew Cooke, Kent  
Geoffrey Dickson, Surrey  
Matthew Gell, Sussex  
Jamie Hazell, London  
Laxton Joyce, Kent

Steve Murton, Kent  
David West, London  
Marc Wise, Kent

#### SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

Andrew Sims, South Coast  
Stuart Webster, South Coast

#### STUDENT MEMBERS

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Joseph Byland, East Scotland  
Darra Hudner, Northern Ireland  
Graham Stott, Central Scotland

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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Kevin Carley, Essex  
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# As Easy as ABC



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

## USE YOUR STIMPMETER!

With the popularity of golf increasing, the pressure on the Greens crew for the perfect 18 holes is growing. A significant part of this is to achieve a uniform green speed.

So where is your stimpmeter? Is it propping open the canteen door, or gathering dust somewhere in your office? Really, it's just as important as the Switch or that drainage you installed over the winter.

Constructed of aluminium, and with a V shaped groove along its length it has a notch at one end where the ball will rest. If you place the ball in this notch and raise the end of the meter the ball will release at 20°.

Now, head out to your greens and get some readings. You will need the stimpmeter, 2 tee pegs, 1 golf ball, tape measure, pen and paper.

**Step 1:** Select an area of the green that is level (ish). Check this by using ball and stimpmeter as a spirit level.



Step 2

**Step 2:** Mark the release end of the stimpmeter with a tee peg. Lift the other end until the ball rolls.

**Step 3:** Using the same starting point and repeat with 2 more balls. Make a note of the average stopping distance with your 2nd tee peg (in ft). Record the distance.



**Step 4:** Next, repeat this process in reverse using your stopping tee peg as the start point, heading back in the direction you came from. Again, measure and record the average distance (in ft).

Use the following formula to get your stimp reading.

$$\text{1st distance} + \text{2nd distance} \div 2$$

The outcome relates to the following chart. (Feet)

Membership Clubs	Tournament Clubs	Speed
7'6"	Less than 8'6"	Slow
7'6" - 8'6"	8'6" - 9'6"	Medium
More than 8'6"	More than 9'6"	Fast

Using your stimpmeter on a regular basis can influence your maintenance regime, therefore improving playing conditions. It important to note that faster greens are not the ideal, rather uniformity over the 18 holes.

## HOBBIES

GI is beginning a new feature this issue, finding out what greenkeepers get up to in their spare time. Here's something you didn't know about me...



**Name:** David Ray  
**Age:** 40  
**Club:** Slinfold Park Golf and Country Club  
**Position:** Course Manager  
**Hobbies:** Managing an Ice Hockey team and diving

In July of this year, I celebrated my 40th birthday, and it has been 28 years since I first tied a pair of ice skates to my feet and did my 'Bambi' like impression on the ice.

This evolved into skating regularly and ultimately playing for the Brighton Junior Ice Hockey team. This would involve playing matches all over the UK. At the age of 15, I progressed into the senior league, still representing Brighton and now playing in international tournaments in Finland, Holland and training with members of the Swedish National Ice Hockey Team.

By the time I was 17, I had been offered a professional contract, to play for Oxford. However, I declined this, and signed a semi-professional contract with Brighton and continued to play for this team until the team folded, (age 23) I then signed a contract with the Bracknell Bees Ice Hockey Team. At this point, I must add that we were training for 15 hours a week on the ice, plus gym work.

I played in their very first televised match, but due to injury, this was to be my very last competitive game (cracked sternum)

Roll the clock forward a number of years, add a bit of grey hair, and a few more pounds, and out of the blue, I received a telephone call from an old team member, Paul Howes.

Paul was trying to get the old Brighton Team back together to play our arch rivals, a Dutch team called the Tillberg Trappers, at their home ground.

Paul succeeded in getting the team back together, unfortunately, we didn't and



lost our game, but had a great weekend. A lot of our wife's and certainly most of our children had never seen their husbands, dads skate, let alone play Ice Hockey.

We all enjoyed playing so much that we have decided to continue playing, in the British recreational league (for old timers) to have fun and try to highlight to the people of Brighton, that Brighton needs to have an Ice Rink.

That is why we play now, to have fun and to try to build a bit of momentum, to help the people of Brighton have a fantastic leisure facility.

Why am I the manager?... well perhaps I got the short straw.

Why do I love playing?... well I'm competitive, I like team sports and as a child I had fantastic balance (which later lead into ski-ing).

The secret to being an excellent Ice Hockey Player, is the same as anything, if you want to be the best, you have to train, train, train.

Why should people get involved in the sport?... to watch a game that is fast paced, has real action, real men (not footballers who fall over a long piece of grass) lots of goals and high tension.

To play Ice Hockey is another story, and I'm not quite sure what I could say to encourage anyone to play, however, I would say that I have had the opportunity to travel Europe and the UK extensively, I have made some fantastic lifelong friends.

With regards to managing my life, well I like to be busy, and one day I would like to look back and say that I made the most of my time, they say you only get one chance.

Since being runner up in Toro Student of the Year Award in 1995, I have made progressive steps up the ladder to my current position and am a great advocate of training and education for all greenkeepers. Just to add a bit of further excitement to my life, I have recently applied and been accepted to undertake a Foundation Degree in Sportsturf Science, via, distance learning with Myerscough College.

Lastly, all of this can only be achieved with the loyal support (and patience) of my wife, Vera. We have great fun, we always ski together, dive together and both love to travel and make the most of our time together.



## 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](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk).

# Letters ▶▶▶

## Response to July Greenkeeper International Article 'The Appliance of Science'

I am a horticulturist that has been involved in the US golf and composting industries since 1984. I have renovated and built several golf courses, including tees and greens, using compost with great success. I have also been working with the UK composting industry since 1999, most recently through WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme). There was a statement made in the 'The Appliance of Science' article in July's Greenkeeper International regarding the use of composted green waste in topdressings that I would like to address.

**Statement:** A growing practice among some top dressing suppliers is the use of recycled composted green waste as one of the organic constituents. However, there remain some question marks over the effect this might have on consistent product quality, the argument being that no two batches of recycled waste can ever be the same and therefore the pH level of the top dressings are bound to have variations.

**Response:** Obviously, like any industry, there can be good and bad players. I have always suggested to companies that I work with, that if you find a good supplier of green compost (or anything else), stick with them - even if the product costs you a few pence more. It will be worth it in the long run. There will always be composters that are more 'product minded' than others, and they are the ones that greenkeepers should be buying from - as they are likely to work harder on manufacturing a consistent product. However, it should be noted that 'no two batches' of peat, sand, topdressing, topsoil 'can ever be the same' either. This is a myth. These are all 'natural' products that we work to keep as consistent as possible. I do not minimise that goal in the least, but remember, the organic constituent of a topdressing only makes up 1 to 2% of the mix (by weight), therefore has very little overall affect on the overall consistency of the top dressing.

To address the issue of green compost consistency, The British Standards Institutions Publicly Available Specification 100 (BSI PAS 100) was launched in November 2002, in conjunction with WRAP and The Composting Association. The specification covers the entire composting process - from raw materials (inputs), process and quality control, to laboratory testing and traceability. Essentially, the programme is an intensive quality control programme, which monitors incoming materials, the ongoing composting process, as well as tests the final product. As one of the first quality assurance schemes for composted products in the UK, BSI PAS 100 should give professional end users the confidence that they are buying a safe and consistent product. Few other products in the golf industry likely go through as much scrutiny. There is currently more than one million tonnes of BSI PAS 100 composting capacity in the UK, either certified or in the certification process.

Further, WRAP has completed scientific trials, such as 'Assessment of the potential for site and seasonal variations of composted materials across the UK' to address concerns brought up in the July article. However, the 'variations trial' found minimal variation of the product characteristics within a compost specific site (even from season to season). This research should dispel much of the concern about major variations in green compost quality. With that said, however, compost is produced using a biological process, and therefore, must be closely monitored during processing. The lesson - buy from a reputable composter - and one that is in the BSI PAS 100 scheme. By the way, the STRI also completed an in depth study on the use of green compost as a stand alone topdressing (for fairways and sports pitches) and as a component to sand-based products ('Demonstration trials of the utilization of composted materials in the maintenance of sports and amenity turfgrass') and the results were very positive. All of these research papers can be found on WRAP's website at [www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk).

Finally, I would be remiss not to mention that green composts possess a myriad of benefits when added to a top dressing as an organic constituent. It not only will supply fertilisation, but also possesses an excellent cation exchange capacity (ability to hold nutrients), and has also been shown to suppress several soil borne diseases.

Ron Alexander

R. Alexander Associates, Inc.

Apex, NC USA

## Davie Gall Retires

Davie Gall, who spent the last 30 years as Head Greenkeeper at Cardross GC, retired last month. Davie was one of the West Section's most respected members.

Davie started his career at Buchanan Castle GC as an apprentice in the late 50s, making him the first official apprentice in Scotland.

He moved to Dumbarton GC at the age of 23 as Head Greenkeeper, before moving to Estorol GC in Portugal, and becoming one of the first Greenkeepers to move abroad.

After a successful period abroad, he moved back to Britain and took up the position of Head Greenkeeper at Ifield GC in Surrey, before his appointment at Cardross GC where he remained for the duration of his career until his retirement.

The Section would like to take this opportunity to extend to Davie and his wife Liz our very best wishes for their future. May they both have a very long and happy retirement.

*Written by Derek Duthie, Aitkins.*

## Opportunity

I have presented numerous television programmes on terrestrial channels, about gardens and garden design for the last ten years. Combined with journalism in national broadsheets, books published throughout Europe and the US, and my celebrity clients, my profile in the gardening world is reasonably high. (See my website: [www.ann-mariepowell.com](http://www.ann-mariepowell.com) for further information.)

I've been very successful in securing one of only 20 exclusive show garden plots at the Chelsea Flower Show 2007 (May), showcasing the top-end of international garden design. I am therefore very happy to offer a rare sponsorship opportunity in a Central London location. The benefits to an investor are huge.

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I am available for discussion on the numbers below.

Hope you and yours are well,

*Ann-Marie Powell.*

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# REMEDYING THE EFFECTS OF SUMMER STRESS



As this year's drought progressed, particularly in the south of England, so golf courses suffered. Hosepipe bans and drought restrictions were granted for several regions, although at the time of writing none had been fully enforced.



Cracked Fairway

In such conditions, Dry Patch on the greens, and how to manage it, becomes one of the main areas of concern for Course Managers and greenkeepers, while drought-damaged fairways also represent big problems. Irrigation system deficiencies were also exposed as the drought continued and temperatures reached into the high 30s.



Dry Fairway

The Open Championship at Hoylake illustrated clearly how dry the turf can become, with no irrigation implemented for several weeks. True links, or traditional golf, was exemplified by the conditions, and the professionals had to change the way they played the game. What a wonderful event!

However, a friend who is an American Superintendent saw it very differently. He called and asked if the Superintendent still had his job! Explaining that, of course, he most certainly did - because the course had been set up that way, exactly as requested by the R & A - his response was that none of his members would have accepted those conditions and therefore he would most certainly have lost his job. What a shame that, for many clubs, the members are more concerned with course aesthetics than the quality of surfaces produced for them to play on.

The drought has caused considerable damage on many courses. In particular, high-wear areas have lost grass cover and will have required renovation work. Much of this work will have been well underway by the end of August in anticipation of decreased temperatures and increased rainfall.

So what remedies are available to Course Managers and greenkeepers to help put things right?

First, removal of the dead and dying grass, prior to seeding, will ensure that the new seed comes into contact with the soil, resulting in better germination. A combination of operations is the most effective way of removing dead material and creating a seedbed, the most common of these being hollow tining and scarifying.

Hollow tining as a renovation operation is normally implemented with the largest tines available, approximately 19-20mm in diameter and 100-125mm long. This operation should be carried out with the machine set to create the largest number of holes, but without destabilising the surface. It is good practice to remove the resulting cores prior to undertaking the next operation. However, if the underlying soil is of a good quality, it can be beneficial to allow the cores to dry slightly and then implement scarification with 2mm blades, set 10-15mm into the surface of the ground. This will pulverise the cores, releasing the soil and creating a seedbed, however the thatch and dead organic material should be removed prior to seeding.

Scarification or, as it is now known, linear aeration, has been around since the 60s, although certain companies would like us to think that it is something new. There are several machines that can be used for this operation. In an autumn renovation programme, where the intent is to reseed the area, the minimum width of blades should be 2mm and they should be set so that they penetrate through the thatch layer into the soil below. The main reason for this is that seed held within a thatch layer with



**By Bruce Jamieson**

no soil contact will be slow to germinate. The seed should either match the sward or contain grasses, which have a distinct advantage over the ones which have been lost.

In some instances, the soils contain so much clay that they will have already cracked along old aeration holes (as pictured). Hollow coring in this situation would be unwise, but once scarified, top-dressed with a sandy loam and then seeded, recovery should be fairly rapid. Once renovation has begun, the treated areas should be roped-off to protect them. Irrigation should be implemented, if possible, but once the seed germinates it is important to prevent it drying out and then dying. Ideally, seed germination should be timed for late September, when autumn rainfall is usually more regular.

Light fertiliser applications could also be applied to assist recovery, but this should be based on understanding individual soils and the types of grasses used to recover the areas.

Dry Patch on greens occurs for a number of reasons, but the one that has been most noticeable this year has been the failure of irrigation systems to cover areas around the perimeter of the greens. Clearly, if this is the reason for stressed and dead areas, then an audit of the irrigation system is required to identify issues which are affecting the efficiency of the system.

Perhaps the sprinklers have reached the end of their useful working life and need to be replaced, or the pumps require replacement or a combination of both.

A collapsed gate valve was subsequently identified on one course as being the main reason why the 'irrigated areas' started suffering, as the flow of water to certain points of the course could only come from one side of the ring main. For any irrigation system over 10 year's old, a qualified irrigation specialist should be brought in to ensure that your system is working efficiently.

The majority of British golf courses will have suffered from localised Dry Patch, either resulting from poor irrigation coverage, from a thatch layer that has become hydrophobic, or from the residual effect of mycelium from Fairy Rings. The recovery of these stressed areas will be accelerated if they are hollow tined, the cores removed and top-dressed.

Several fairway scarifiers are now available which can be fitted with 2mm blades and set 15-25mm into the surface, and some will also collect the resulting debris. Thatch builds up gradually and may take several decades before it reaches a depth that will cause problems for the Course Manager and the greenstaff. But once it does start to become an issue, aggressive management over several years will be required to resolve the resulting problems.

This year's drought conditions will certainly have highlighted many of the above problems. However, they will all benefit greatly from the type of remedial attentions described here.

*Bruce Jamieson is an agronomist who runs his own consultancy, and is well known in the greenkeeping industry.*

## IRRIGATION WATER



**Hollow Tining and Irrigation**



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# Course Feature

## On the Up

Scott MacCallum visits Trevoze Golf Club, where the arrival of a big amateur event in 2008 is a tribute to the on-going course work being carried out.

Cornwall is known for many things – pasties, cream teas, surfing, tin mining – the list goes on and on, but one of the things for which it isn't necessarily associated, is its golf.



Neil Taylor (left) and Nick Gammon (right)

Sure there are some fine courses in the county. St Mellion for example, has hosted European Tour events in the past, but the royal and ancient game isn't something that you particularly link with Britain's southern most mainland point.

However, that may all change if the great work at Trevoze Golf Club continues. The club has already attracted one of the amateur games top events in 2008 in the shape of the Brabazon Trophy, while Course Manager, Neil Taylor, has his sights set on bringing even more prestigious events to the picturesque club on the North Cornish coast, near Padstow.

Neil took over as head man at Trevoze four years ago, thus fulfilling a lifelong ambition, while at the same time Nick Gammon succeeded his father, Peter, as Managing Director of the club. Together they shared a vision of improving the Harry Colt-designed course so they could attract such major amateur events and they set to work.

"We had a six year plan to get Trevoze back to where we felt it should be," explained Neil, after he had driven me around the course and revealed the stunning views of the Cornish coastline and layout.

"However, since we got the Brabazon we are trying to cram three years worth of construction into one winter," he said, smiling at the very thought, rather than being weighed down by the prospect.

"We will be building more tees, levelling and extending others, continuing bunker renovation, extensive fairway programs while the roughs natural marran grasses are being transplanted and promoted throughout the course."



The Trevoze greenkeeping team

Neil and his 2-handicap playing Managing Director, are fortunate to have Harry Colt's original blueprints to work from, plus the original charts and course planners which ensures that whatever they do is in keeping with the original intentions of the great architect.

"From the yardage charts you could see that, for arguments sake, the tee shot off the 1st was expected to go an average of 140 yards, bearing in mind they were using the equipment of the day."

They discovered that the bunkers that were built to trap the original second shots are there for the tee shots, now thus meaning that they haven't had to make as many major alterations as might have been the case.



Trevoze golf course and Constantine Bay

Neil, one of only three Head Greenkeepers in the history of the club and a genuine lover of the game, has to pinch himself that he is involved in making changes to such a fine layout on a course and since reading about Harry Colt, whose CV carries the names of some of the most revered courses in the world – Sunningdale, Wentworth, Royal Lytham and St Annes, Muirfield, Ganton and Pine Valley in the States to name but a few – he has come to appreciate some of the intricacies of the great man's work.

"Colt never placed an even number of bunkers on each side of a fairway or green. It is, for example, either two one side and one the other or three one and two the other. He felt that was the best way to introduce a risk and reward element to the game. He would always have several small bunkers rather than one large one."

Neil and his deputy Ashley Noyce, manage a team of seven greenkeepers who are responsible for the Championship 18, a nine-hole Headland Course, opened by Peter Alliss in '95 and a Short course aimed at beginners (along with the accommodation grounds) – have worked particularly hard to ensure that the bunkers are one of the main features of the course.





"We have revetted the faces of them but have been careful to ensure the faces are of an angle which players of all abilities can enjoy the difficulty of them. From your tee or fairway shot these can look particularly imposing not being able to see the sand, this adds a psychological factor to your game."

The club also welcomes many professionals who enjoy staying at Trevoze so they can use the practice facilities while also fine tuning their Links golf games, among regular guests are Australian golfer, Rodger Davies, and European tour pro's Richard Boxall and Jeremy Robinson.

Neil, originally from Clevedon, first visited Trevoze as a youngster in his



being kept in a traditional manner and we are being rewarded for it." summer holidays and joined as a country member. He started his career under former premier greenkeeper of the year Ian Harrison. Neil kept in touch with Peter Gammon who in turn followed his career with interest.

The arrival of the Europe's top amateurs for the Brabazon is a fine opportunity to tighten up the course.

With the improvements to the layout of the course well under way Neil, who describes himself as a greenkeeper who enjoys taking risks, is continuing his agronomic policies aimed at ensuring Trevoze retains a traditional links look.

"I firmly believe that people are prone to overfeeding and we haven't fed the greens here for about three and a half years. Instead we work hard to improve the root system. We keep greens tight and lean with our winter height being four mil going down to two and a half in the summer.

"I'm not saying this would work for everyone, as Cornwall has milder weather than the rest of the country. Having said that we did have frost and snow last winter which we haven't had in 20 years and we kept the same cutting regime without any problems. I think the grass just got used to growing at that height."

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## Course Feature



17th hole

Neil talks enthusiastically about looking at the grass and working out what its needs are. "It gets its food from down through the roots so all we are doing is making sure the root systems are healthy. The pH level on our greens is 8.9 and we have some of the highest lime contents anywhere in England because we are built on a dune. In all honesty grass shouldn't be growing, but it is, without me putting anything on. If I did alter things I might change the indigenous grasses and that is one reason why I don't feed."

"My aim is to keep the natural links greens, true, consistent and fast year round. When our greens have a pale and slight shine to them, that's when I am happy." Neil paid tribute to Hoylake and this year's Open as being a great boost to British greenkeeping as they achieved this superbly.

"A lot more people are now accepting a dry fairway and a crusty green which is great."

While the Old Course the previous year also boasted magnificent links conditions, Neil believes it is the incredible heat that really brought the issue to the forefront at this year's Open.

"We stuck a thermometer in the ground when we got back from The Open and it read 42 degrees celsius and was killing off the grass. Hoylake was burnt up even more than we were, so when members were asking us why we weren't using our irrigation they were then seeing the best players in the world playing on burnt up fairways."







Having installed a state of the art Rainbird irrigation system not long after he started, which he designed with Roger Davey of Irritech, this has enabled Neil to monitor the local weather and balance the irrigation to suit the course needs. This has enabled Neil to read the ET rates and keep the course alive throughout the summer months, without losing any of the Links qualities.

Neil is pleased that, in conjunction with Nick Gammon, he has licence to look after the golf course as he sees fit and feels that Course Managers at many members' clubs suffered for a lack of flexibility imposed by the members.

"Season wise our winters are changing and we are now getting germination up to December. However, a lot of people are still working to their original yearly programmes and can't change because jobs have been booked into specific times of year and can't be moved because of club fixture lists. We have got to be able to look at how the seasons and changing and adapt to the times."

Neil and the team are hoping that when the Brabazon Trophy arrives at the Club – it is being played in May which Neil believes is when the course is looking and playing its best – it will act as a springboard to other major events and his dream is to one day host a Walker Cup at Trevoise along Open Qualifiers.

"I'm so proud to have got the Brabazon and to have achieved what we have here and getting a top amateur event is a credit to the course as they are given to club's on merit. I want us to be known as a great golf course being kept in a traditional manner and we are being rewarded for it."



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Although pictured installed in a golf cart, the battery packs on Yamaha U-MAX utility vehicles can also incorporate a self-leveling battery top up system. This makes adding distilled water to the battery pack both easier and more accurate. Features like this are well worth specifying. This installation also incorporates an on-board charger. This allows charging from any mains outlet, a useful feature that allows 'opportunistic' charging

# All Charged and Ready to Go

Electric utility vehicles are gaining popularity, but they are still regarded as inferior to petrol or diesel power on many courses. Are the latest models now able to offer the capacity and stamina to cope with every need? James de Havilland discusses...

Put a five or even 10 year old electric powered utility vehicle next to one fresh from the factory and play spot the difference. Styling apart, it would be fair to say there will only be only subtle visible differences in the battery pack and drive motor. Although it could be argued that would apply to most other items of kit, great things have been expected of electric vehicles. Yet the 'big breakthrough' still seems a long way off.

This is actually quite a handy argument for those who have a dislike of electric utility vehicles. Having to go out and rescue a stranded unit that has decided to die on its way back from the 18th or having a machine that struggles to scale modest slopes once the batteries are past their first flush of youth are a couple of reasons given to outline electric power is not acceptable. But why is it that when golf carts suffer in the same way, they tend to be cursed but forgiven? Utilities that repeat the 'failure in service' trick are not so lucky.

Those less than impressed following experiences of older electric models, however, do need to give more recent models another chance. Improved batteries are one important development, but there have also been subtle changes to battery chargers, motors, regenerative braking systems and even tyres. All have helped improve stamina and duty cycles between charges. Well cared for modern batteries have longer lives as well. But what remains is the need to understand how these machines operate.

Many problems relate not so much with the vehicles themselves but the way in which they are firstly marketed and secondly operated. On the promotion front, a given manufacturer or, more accurately the dealer selling the unit, can only sell from the range of machines they offer. Although 'misleading selling' it is less likely to arise with a reputable supplier, it is not unknown for a machine to be recommended that frankly is not up to the job.

This comes back to the opening paragraph. Compare any current electric utility vehicles side by side and they seem pretty much the same. The reality is that they differ in terms of not just load capacity but battery capacity too. Unless you choose a machine with the battery power and load capacity to cope with what is going to be demanded of it, it will not do the job.

At this point it can be all too easy to scan the spec sheets and look for some help. Well be prepared for a let down. A typical specification example will merely list the units operating power. This may well be 48 volts provided by six 8 volt batteries and 20 amps output. That is about it on what you will get. How long it takes to fully charge and discharge those batteries will be harder to find, but as a guide most manufacturers will suggest a 12 hour overnight charge will be enough for a days work.

Frankly, this broad outline is not a great deal of help. For a start it gives no

clear idea of actually how long a given vehicle can be expected to run between charging and, of equal importance, how 'powerful' the machine is. It is only when trying two different vehicles side-by-side that differences can be picked up despite pretty much the same specification on paper.

The only way to find out if a given unit is up to the job is to try it. By try, however, it is not a case of just using the machine for a couple of days but more working it over at least a week. New batteries take a while to reach their peak condition. Then there is the matter of charging disciplines. As soon as an electric vehicle is unplugged from its charger, the batteries start to discharge. Although the rate of discharge is slow, expecting a machine to perform as well as it could following a couple of days off-charge will see its performance suffer. A good dealer should allow time for the vehicle to prove itself and help ensure it is worked properly.

So if one type of utility vehicle proves not up to the job, will another make and model also fail? This is where it gets difficult to give a clear answer. Some manufactures claim the systems they employ are better than others. Features



No, the Cushman Turf-Truckster is not electrically powered, but it helps define why diesel and petrol powered utility vehicles remain so popular. A well-proven golf course workhorse, it can be fitted with a range of attachments, such as a Turfco WideSpin top dresser. This sort of application is currently not as easily done with an electric vehicle, but the future may well see electric models with more power and capacity to take on this role



## All Charged and Ready to Go

like regenerative braking, which helps to recharge the batteries as the vehicle slows or goes downhill, help increase battery life, but not by a significant amount.

In truth, the basics between most models are pretty similar. It is in the details that there are subtle tweaks that can make one model a better bet as a long term buy. On a short demonstration, however, these details are unlikely to come to the fore. So if a utility from one of the key players proves to be inadequate there is every chance an alternative make and model will also have the same limitations.

Another point to consider is temperature. All the battery designs rely on pretty simple chemistry to store electric power. As temperatures drop, all batteries tend to become less efficient. This can mean a utility vehicle that would do a days work on a single charge in summer will struggle to do half a day in really cold weather. It is in these conditions where remembering to plug the machine in for a charge at every opportunity comes into play.

### COST OF OPERATION

Electric utility vehicles can be less expensive to operate, although this point is often over exaggerated. A key cost, often missed out of the equation, is that of renewing the batteries. Although a well cared for set may well last five years, it is best to assume they will need replacing perhaps at three. Getting into the dangerous waters of mentioning replacement battery costs, eight 6 volt Trojan T105 batteries will not leave much change from £800 at current retail prices.



Fair enough, the style police may have something to say about the looks of a Yamaha U-MAX when fitted with a weather break style of cab. Keeping weight down, however, is critical not just for ground bearing pressures but also for battery range. When looking at electric utility vehicles, check the options on offer. It does vary between makes and models

So on top of the cost of charging the vehicle, which will be from a conservative 25p per night, the annual cost of the batteries needs also to be considered. Add in the need for a day time top up charge, and the daily electricity bill may be around 30p. For the sake of argument, say the vehicle takes a charge for a conservative 300 days. That is a low £90 annual charge cost. Factor in the batteries, however, and the annual costs are nearer £356 per annum.

A diesel utility consuming three litres of rebated fuel a day at 45p/litre will, over 300 days, get through £405 worth of fuel. On top of that, the cost of an engine service should be added, say around £45 to bring the total up to £450. A simple set of figures, but ones that are all too easy to dispute. For a start, how many clubs know how much fuel they put into a utility vehicle a year? How can you determine exactly how much it costs to charge up a set of eight 6 volt batteries?

The truth of the matter is that electric vehicles either work for a given set of end users or they fail if they are not embraced with enthusiasm. Most clubs could justify using at least one electric utility, even if this means having other diesel or petrol powered alternatives available. But one point is clear. Those that have stuck with electric power would miss it if it were suddenly to become unavailable.



With a top speed of 15.5mph, the John Deere TE Gator should be nippy enough for most applications. It can tow up to 272kg and has a total payload capacity of 408kg. A control is fitted to slow the vehicle to a stop before changing direction. This is claimed to put less stress on the drivetrain and produce smoother operation

### COMPARING MAKES AND MODELS

It is fair to say that all the electric utility vehicles on offer from the key players are soundly engineered and well proven. But that is not to say they are all the same. Each design will have its own plus and minus points. It is really important to give a range of models a decent try, preferably in colder weather. Some will come with battery packs that are better able to hold a charge when the weather turns chilly. There are other points to bear in mind too.

What about towing performance? Can the model be specified with a safety frame, partial or even full cab? How are the batteries kept topped up with distilled water? What tyres are fitted? Can the load platform be fitted so it tips? How high is the load platform from the ground? Can the machine scale a steep slope fully laden? These are all points that need to be assessed during a demonstration.



Aixam Mega Ltd imports MultiTrucks from France. Primarily aimed at the urban utility and delivery market, these fully road legal electric models can top nearly 30mph and will do 12,000 miles on a claimed £180 worth of electricity. Add the fact that they do not need road tax, and they look attractive buys at under £8,000. The company is looking to fit tyres suitable for off-road use by the end of the year, hence their inclusion



## KEEP THEM CHARGED

Leave a lead-acid battery discharged for an extended period, and it will be less able to hold a full charge when next topped up. Allowing the batteries to go completely flat repeatedly can see them 'destroyed' within 18 months.

It is important to charge batteries correctly to optimise both performance and longevity. When new, batteries will need an uninterrupted charge of at least 12 hours, and as a guide allow perhaps four hours more charging time than when the batteries have started to reach their peak condition.

Check that the machine is supplied with the right type of charger for a deep cycle battery. Although the supplying dealer should ensure this is the case, it is not unusual to find an existing vehicle charger is pressed into service to charge a new machine. This can be a mistake. More recent chargers have intelligent features that prevent over charging and work pretty much automatically. This allows then to condition charge batteries on vehicles that may be inactive for extended periods.



An external charger, such as supplied with the JD TE Gator, will plug into a standard single phase mains 240V ac, 60Hz wall socket. The charger senses when the charge cycle is complete and shuts down automatically. Vehicle regeneration is a common feature on modern electric vehicles, Deere suggesting the system on the TG Gator puts between three to five per cent of the full electrical charge back into the battery during a typical day's work. A single charge should last the average user a day

To optimise battery life, a recharge is necessary when they are only 20% discharged; this is when the specific gravity of the electrolyte drops to 1.233 and the power of a 48 volt pack falls to 37.38 volts. Hands up those who will go to that level of detail? Perhaps it is more important to avoid over discharging the batteries.

Although most vehicles will alert the user when charging is needed, the key issue to avoid is draining below 80% discharged of to a specific gravity of 1.148 and a 48 volt pack reading down to 35.94 volts. Deep discharge significantly reduces battery life. When not in use, vehicle batteries should not be allowed to drop much below a specific gravity of 1.240. The rate of self-discharge varies directly with temperature.

Specific gravity is determined by using a hydrometer; this is arguably the most reliable way of establishing the health of a battery but needs carrying out with care. If in doubt, seek advice.



Toro, as with the other major players in the electric vehicle market, has seen steady sales of its e2050 Workman. The rear platform has a capacity of 385kg, this load being well within the machines ability over less forgiving terrain. A key to getting the best from this type of machine is to keep them charged and to not let the batteries fully discharge



The Ransomes Jacobsen E-Z-GO MPT 1000 Electric models feature a single point battery filling system as standard. This identifies individual cells low on electrolyte and tops them up automatically. This helps reduce maintenance and equally importantly keep the batteries in tip-top condition. Also fitted with an onboard charger, the MPT 1000E can be recharged using any 13amp mains socket



The optional Mega MultiTruck tipping body lifts to reveal a useful load area over the sealed battery compartment. Gel batteries, as opposed to conventional lead acid, are used to save space and add range. But they will be more expensive when it comes to replacing them. Payload will depend upon specification, but it is around 435kg with a tipping body



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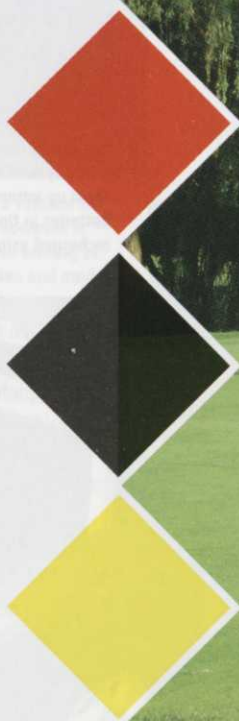


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# The Open Aftermath

By Melissa Toombs

Thursday, July 20 2006. It's hot. Oh dear god it's hot. The 135th Open Championship has just got underway and thousands of sweaty golf fans are traipsing around Royal Liverpool Golf Course donning straw hats and caps, wishing they had remembered the sun cream, hoping to catch a glimpse of Tiger in action.

With the soaring heat in mind, conversations at the Championship quickly turned from the game itself to the links on which it was being played. The sandy, parched, desert like appearance of the course shocked many and became a hot topic at this year's sizzling Open.

Despite spectators expecting lush green pastures, Links Manager Craig Gilholm, received a warm tribute at the Open prize giving as well as the press showering him with compliments, for providing a magnificently presented course.

It's been nearly three months since the star-studded event and the long days of drought, has the course recovered from hosting several thousand spectators? Assistant Editor, Melissa Toombs, talks to man of the moment, Craig Gilholm, and asks "Just how do you go about restoring Hoylake to its magnificent pre-Open standards?"



Name: Craig Gilholm  
Position: Links Manager  
Age: 34

A keen golfer at Harburn GC, Craig started his career as a YTS trainee. He moved down to East Lothian after seven months and was lucky enough to get a summer job at Muirfield golf course. Consequently, Craig was kept on as an apprentice and completed three years training at Oatridge College.

After eight years working at Muirfield, Craig was promoted to Assistant Course Manager and remained there until he left in June 2005 to become Links Manager at Royal Liverpool GC.

The links had been called "obsolete" and "a thing of the past" before this year's competition but judging by this year's Open the course is set to remain an important part of the future of the Championship. Just how much preparation went into ensuring the course was in tip top condition for the Championship and was it worth the effort?





## The Open Aftermath



"Lots of preparation had been done, large and small scale, for the past five years and overtime for my staff increased from 12 hour days to 20 hour days for the final preparations for the Open, I would do it again next year without a doubt."

So, how do you go about restoring a golf course after the Open?

"After all the infrastructure has been removed, all holes and ruts are filled with soil and seed, also lots of aeration will be required and lots of help from the weather."

How long do you anticipate it will take for the course to return to its pre-Open standard then?

"After such a hot dry Open the course playing surfaces will be back to normal by the end of this summer and with a mild wet winter and spring everything else should recover for next season."

How much over seeding is necessary and whereabouts on the course?

"The only overseeding that will be done is on my spectator cross-overs and on my main practice area."

What variety of seed will be used and how much?

"The seed which will be used is Johnson's j fescue and the quantity will be in the region of 1000 kgs of seed."



Will any fertiliser be applied to aid recovery?

"A light fertiliser will be applied to the practice area for recovery and seed germination, the quantity at the moment is not known."

What aeration work will take place?

"All practice areas and cross-overs will be verti-drained along with spectator paths."

There has been much controversy over your greens not being green. The golfing public has a tendency to think green is best, however, the course looked burnt and bleached but received wonderful praise from the professionals. What are your thoughts on this and what is your secret to such a successful links course?

"I do not understand the controversy as The Open is the only links tournament played at the height of summer and when you have practice days with temperatures reaching 100 degrees and when you need to produce a hard firm bouncing course, the last thing I could do is over water."

The condition of the course has been a hot topic on our bulletin boards; many greenkeepers feel that the hot weather helped contribute to the course playing like a true links should. What are your thoughts on this?



"The hot weather had a lot to do with the course playing like a true links but also through choice not a lot of irrigation was used pre Open, in case of heavy rain the week of the tournament."

Our Open Support Team said they have never been worked so hard at an Open. Is this because you are a perfectionist?

"I think most Head Greenkeepers are perfectionists. The Open Support Team had a tough job this year with the bunker raking being changed from normal tooth raking to flat raking and with damp weather this caused problems, but a little hard work has not harmed anyone and a big thank you goes out to Scott and the troops for a job well done."

A few unexpected incidents happened on the 18th green on the final day of the Open. What are your thoughts on the duck eggs filled with purple paint that were hurled onto the green and also the male stalker that managed to get onto the green?

"These things happen in life and the damage was small on the scale of what could have happened, the stalker was a bit of fun and will have put a smile on some golfing widows' faces."

After the Open, the greens are mowed back to normal. The purpose of this is to ensure the amount of grass is maintained and to prevent the



What was the reaction of Hoylake members to the course after it was all over?

"The members were all delighted that it was such a success."

Have they grumbled about the mess that was left from the Championship and when were they able to start playing again - uninterrupted by trucks and cranes etc?

"Nobody really complained too much and they were able to get playing on the following Monday without too much disruption."

When were you and the team finally able to have a break, or at least a return to normality?

"Things are getting back to normal and myself and the lads are getting through our days off."

And finally, are you keen for the championship to return to Hoylake?

"I can only use one word to answer this question, yes!"

Craig has no idea, as yet, how much the restoration of the course will cost.



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# Soil Physical Properties Monitoring Oxygen for Success

By Dean Piller

During my 20 years as a superintendent, I have faithfully taken soil tests to monitor the chemical and nutritional values of soil on greens, tees and fairways. While this information is critical in making sound management decisions on fertility programs, I recently learned I was overlooking the most important factor in developing management programs for promoting strong, healthy turf.

A couple of years ago, I attended a seminar by Dave Doherty from the International Sports Turf Research Center (ISTRC) on soil physical properties. He discussed several concepts that will forever change the way I manage greens. Doherty emphasized how important gas exchange and oxygen are in the profile, and by monitoring the physical properties of soil profiles with regular testing, I would be able to make informed decisions when developing management programs. In a nutshell, through Doherty's observations at hundreds of golf courses across North America, he was able to identify the soil physical properties common in the greens that are easy to maintain, as well as those that fail or are very difficult to manage.

## START WITH BENCHMARK TESTING: THE FIRST REPORT CARD

The ISTRC lab, based in Olathe, Kan, provides two sets of data. The first set consists of physical evaluation, the evaluation of the root systems and the measurement of the organic matter in each 25.4-mm (1-in.) increment to a depth of 101.6 mm (4 in.). The second set of data contains the textural and particle-size analysis. The combination of this data provides information on the greens' infiltration rate in millimetres per hour (inches per hour), subsurface air capacity (non-capillary porosity), water porosity (capillary), bulk density and percentage of organic matter. The data this testing provides will help monitor the aging process of the putting surface rootzones, while also evaluating the effectiveness of current cultural practices. A well-built green is designed to provide a profile with 60 per cent solids, 20 per cent air-pore space and 20 per cent water-pore space. These values can provide the correct environment for a strong rootzone and healthy turf. As greens age, these values tend to shift dramatically if cultural programs are not designed to maintain original conditions through

the removal of organic matter and the addition of sand topdressing to dilute the organic matter produced by the plant's life cycle.

I have found the information provided by the physical property soil tests to be invaluable when making informed management decisions regarding the necessary cultural programs for upcoming seasons. As superintendents, the data provided can also help illustrate to our employers that we have developed our cultural programs based on sound facts. And, such scheduled procedures are necessary for the long-term benefits of the course's putting surfaces.

## SELECTING TINE SIZE AND SPACING

Once the physical properties of your existing greens have been tested and determined, the necessary aeration schedule can be easily outlined. To help identify ideal physical properties, the International Sports Turf Research Center (ISTRC) established the following values for superintendents to work toward:

For example, the results of our first set of tests for green #1 back in January 2005 were:

Infiltration rate:	173 mm (6.81 in.)
Subsurface air capacity:	9.83 per cent
Water porosity:	41.63 per cent
Organic content:	
0 to 25.4 mm (0 to 1 in.)	3.94 per cent
25.4 to 50.8 mm (1 to 2 in.)	3.18 per cent
50.8 to 76.2 mm (2 to 3 in.)	2.26 per cent
76.2 to 101.6 mm (3 to 4 in.)	1.82 per cent



Based on these results, ISTRC agronomists recommended we develop a program for this season to displace 25 per cent of the putting surface using the aeration tines' outer diameter (OD) in the calculation. By using the ISTRC's surface area calculator, different spacing and tine sizing can be inputted to come up with the best tine to achieve certain goals.

Many golf courses are switching to carbide-tipped aeration tines for longevity, which is probably a good idea. During our most recent aeration, we used a standard side-eject quad tine, and since they were not carbide-tipped, the tines were changed after every 1,858 m<sup>2</sup> (20,000 sf) of aeration, or roughly every three greens. Halfway through the aeration of our 12th green, the tines were changed and we noticed the removed core was significantly different.

The difference in the core that was pulled out of an aeration tine that has been worn down by 8.3 mm (0.33 in.) in length is significant. When the tine is new, 3.75 per cent of the green is removed using the inner diameter (ID) and 10.04 per cent is removed calculating with the OD dimension of the tine. After 1,858 m<sup>2</sup> (20,000 sf), the same tine has worn down by 6.35 mm (0.25 in.), but the ID and OD dimensions of the tine have changed, resulting in 6.24 per cent removal using the ID in the calculation and 9.01 per cent using the OD dimension.

This data suggests when using a standard aeration tine that will wear, it is important they are either changed more frequently or rotated in the order in which the greens are aerated each season. The purpose of this technique is so the amount of material moved from each green during the season is similar. Using soil tests to monitor the changing physical properties of the greens is a useful tool in management programs.

#### ROOTZONE OXYGEN AND HARMFUL GASES

There are several factors affecting the oxygen levels in your soils, and core aeration is only the first step. Aeration is the venting of soil, which enables gases to move in and out of the soil profile. High water contents in soils cause oxygen deficiency for roots because water-filled pores block the diffusion of oxygen into the soil to replace those used by respiration. In fact, according to Nyle Brady and Ray Weil, authors of *The Nature and Properties of Soils*, the oxygen diffuses 10,000 times faster through a pore filled with air than a similar pore filled with water. Once soil temperatures warm up and we approach the growing season, oxygen can be rapidly depleted through consumption by actively growing turf roots or by soil microbes that are decomposing readily available supplies of organic matter. If organic matter decomposes under low-oxygen soil conditions, then gases such as methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) and ethylene (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>) are produced. Therefore, during the growing season when microbes are very active, it is essential your management programs focus on the constant addition of oxygen in a variety of methods to encourage the decomposition of organic matter and allow for adequate displacement of any harmful gases that may form during these processes. I believe the following tools and procedures are of primary importance for a solid Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program:

- **Hydroject.** During the growing season, when more disruptive methods are unacceptable, this tool may become a superintendent's best friend in terms of managing gas exchange in the soil profile.
- **Planet Aire.** This tool is gaining popularity due to the ease and speed at which aeration can occur. With this machine, a non-disruptive aeration can be performed on greens in as little as four hours.
- **Spiking with a 6.35-mm (0.25-in.) solid tine.** This procedure creates excellent chimneys for gas exchange to take place, and when combined with a light topdressing, minimal surface disruption occurs.



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### PROPER GREENS DRAINAGE AND VENTING: AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF THE PUZZLE

Once a programme is implemented to monitor and manage the air-pore space in the greens, it is critical to ensure the drainage systems installed in your greens during construction are functioning and properly venting. This will allow oxygen flow into the rootzone as well as the flushing of the harmful gases created by microbial activity and by the plant during respiration that is consuming oxygen and producing carbon dioxide. In order for this to occur, cleanouts or blowouts need to be installed at the upper end of each drain tile loop, and air vents need to be installed where each drain line exits the green. Today, most golf courses are initially being designed with blowouts and vents installed during construction, however, most courses built several years ago did not include this important specification in the construction plans. If certain greens have proven to be a challenge in the past, locating the drains exiting the greens and flushing them to ensure the tiles are open and functioning well may help.

The concept of venting is best described by comparing greens to a basement. Envision a basement with several people living in it with no windows or doors to properly vent the room. It would not take long for uninhabitable conditions to develop and inadequate oxygen levels to exist due to the oxygen consumption by the inhabitants and harmful gases that would build up. If you took this same basement and installed a window at each end to allow proper aeration and venting, the room would become much more habitable and those living in the space would be much healthier as a result. The same holds true with your greens-by installing vents at either end, fresh oxygen can be drawn down into the greens table and the water will flow more freely through the tiles.

### TROUBLED GREENS: YOU WILL BE AMAZED BY WHAT YOU WILL FIND

This winter, we just completed the process of venting our greens and exposed several causes to the problems we have been experiencing over the years. Our 8th green has been difficult to manage, even though it is one of the largest on the golf course and is fully exposed to the sun. When we located the drain exiting at the back of the green, we found the tile had been cut during the installation of the irrigation system 16 years ago. On three other greens, we found drains that were plugged with roots from surrounding trees and some of the greens located beside ponds had the drainage tile entering the pond underwater, causing backup of the harmful gases unable to vent out of the end of the tile. Since we encountered various problems during the installation of the vents, we now refer to them as the 'observation ports.' During heavy winter rains, it is reassuring to visually inspect your drains and see the water pouring out of them.

### VENTING YOUR GREENS: THE PROCESS

On most of our greens, the venting process took approximately two days per green, three to four cleanouts were installed and two to three exit vents were set up.



### WATCHING THE GREENS CHANGE

Since the golf course was built, we have experienced varying degrees of black layer in some of our greens and had attributed this to the sand used during construction. However, after learning our greens' drainage was not functioning to the best of its ability due to the lack of venting, we expected to see improvement in the conditions after the implementation of our venting system.

### IRRIGATING WITH OXYGENATED WATER: THE NEXT STEP FOR CORDOVA BAY GOLF COURSE

Water in many soils contain small, but significant quantities of dissolved oxygen. When all the soil pores are filled with water, soil micro-organisms can extract most of the oxygen dissolved in the water for metabolic purposes, but this small amount is used up quickly. I am sure there are many processes that take place in the soil during a nice steady rainfall, and I have always wondered why plants and turf seem to respond so well to rainfall in comparison to the irrigation cycles we implement throughout the season. I believe one of the processes that occurs is an oxygenation of the soil because of a fairly high count of dissolved oxygen in the rainwater. In an effort to promote oxygen in our rootzones at Cordova Bay, we have taken additional measures by installing a Sea Air system. This system has been installed in our pumphouse and it treats the water by injecting dissolved oxygen into the wet well prior to being pumped onto the golf course. During the peak irrigation system from June to September, we have found the dissolved oxygen level in our wet well to be around 6 ppm. With the installation of the Sea Air system, we are now irrigating the golf course with water treated to 15-20 ppm. While it's too early to monitor the results, we do feel this system will bring us one step closer to promoting a healthy aerobic soil profile when managing quality turf.

The intent of this article is to emphasise the important role oxygen plays in managing healthy turf by evaluating all programs that can directly affect the level of oxygen in soil profiles. Hopefully, as a result, greens will become easier to manage and more money will be saved in the process.

*Dean Piller is the superintendent at Cordova Bay Golf Course in Victoria, B.C. He can be contacted via e-mail at [dpiller@telus.net](mailto:dpiller@telus.net)*

### References

Brady, Nyle C. and Weil, Ray R., Twelfth Edition 1999, The Nature and Properties of Soils.





**Cutlines:**

The International Sports Turf Research Center (ISTRC) provides cores that offer useful data for superintendents to work toward.

Hydrojects are very valuable tools in managing gas exchange.

During the installation of a cross piece for a greens' vent, a hole is cut in the bottom of a 22.7-l (5-gal) pail for a 101.6-mm (4-in.) standpipe, forming the base for a 254-mm (10-in.) steel base and grate.

Connecting into existing greens' drainage during installation of drain vents on Cordova Bay's 17th green.

Poor soil conditions and the presence of black layer before ventilation of greens' drainage.

Rootzone soil conditions improved dramatically with greens' drainage ventilation.

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Surface area calculator	
<b>Enter your values for Table A</b>	
<b>Table A</b>	
Tine ID (inches)	0.289
Tine OD (inches)	0.473
Tine Spacing Width (inches)	1.250
Tine Spacing Length (inches)	1.400
Depth of tines (inches)	3.000
<b>Values for Table B are calculated automatically</b>	
<b>Table B</b>	
Number of holes per inch	0.571
Number of holes per foot	82.3
Area removed by one tine (inches)	0.066
Area of hole created by one tine (inches)	0.176
Surface Area Impacted using tine ID	3.75 per cent
Surface Area Impacted using tine OD	10.04 per cent

Infiltration rate:	152.4 to 254 mm/hour (6 to 10 inches/hour)
Subsurface air capacity:	20 per cent
Water porosity:	15 to 20 per cent
Bulk density:	1.35 to 1.45g/cc
Water holding:	10 to 15 per cent
Organic content: 0 to 25.4 mm (0 to 1 in.)	1.5 to 2.5 per cent
Organic content: 25.4 to 50.8 mm (1 to 2 in.)	1 to 2 per cent
Organic content: 50.8 to 76.2 mm (2 to 3 in.)	0.5 to 2 per cent
Organic content: 76.2 to 101.6 mm (3 to 4 in.)	0.5 to 1.5 per cent



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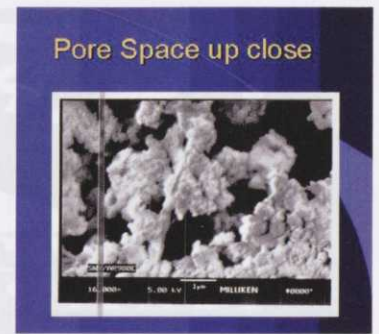
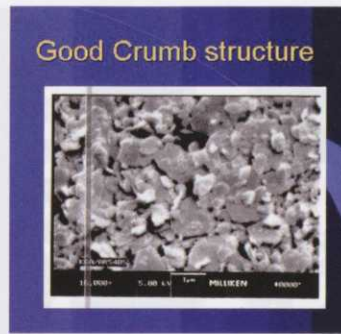
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# Aeration: Don't let compaction get you down!

“The goal of every turf manager is to produce a healthy, dense sward sustained and supported by a vigorous root system”, says Richard Fry...

A good soil should provide the ideal environment for achieving this objective but the forces of compaction, unfavourable climatic conditions and the limits as regards to mechanical 'cultivation' all conspire to impact negatively upon this aim.

The key measure of a good soil structure is its ability to maintain adequate quantities of air, water and nutrients, however, it is the crumb structure and its pore space ratio that holds the key to successful soil management. Soil must have the correct balance of macropores for gravitational water movement and air exchange and enough micropores to hold moisture. At the same time, it is vital that there is an unrestricted capillary action for water to be carried to the plant roots. These pores must be maintained against outside impacts, such as compaction and climate extremes to continue to perform effectively.

## IDEAL CRUMB STRUCTURE:

- Open macropores down to the subsurface level - Essential for the rapid removal of gravitational water
- Open macropores to assist root penetration - Roots will 'give-up' when faced with compacted layers
- Closed micropores to hold available moisture 'reservoirs' for plant use - Capillary action delivers water to plant roots and soil surface
- Open pores reduce compaction, perched water table and layering - Aereobic conditions increase microbial activity

Unfortunately, due to the lack of macropores that absorb physical impact, the ideal is rarely achieved as foot and equipment traffic constantly compact the soil. At the same time, due to the build up of fines and lack of effective drainage, saturated soil drives out oxygen and restricts air availability to the roots.

Current techniques for providing a remedy for poor drainage and compaction are well established.

Mechanical aeration is a tried and trusted operation that is very effective over a period of time in that it 'opens' the soil to encourage air and water movement. Nevertheless, this practice does not restore the macropore/micropore ratio in the soil and treats just 5-6% of the surface at any one time.

Wetting agents are effective in providing a 'short term fix' as they alter water tension to allow soil particle 'wetting' and assist the movement of water into and through the soil by allowing moisture to 'squeeze' through cracks in the soil. However, they do nothing to cure the compaction problem itself.

## COMPLEMENTARY METHODS

Additional methods of providing relief from compaction and poor drainage are the incorporation of soil amendments and the application of polymeric polyelectrolytes.

In the case of soil amendments, the choice is between mined, silica diatoms marketed under a range of brand names or an engineered Profile ceramic granule. Both are highly porous and can be incorporated into the soil surface following hollow, coring or physically 'drilled' into the soil through a technique called 'drill & fill'. The Profile granule is commonly considered as the more stable in the soil and is specially tailored to match USGA particle size distribution.

When incorporated, these amendments physically improve the soil structure by creating artificial macropores that increase water retention, nutrient holding capacity and high CEC ratios.

The use of water soluble, polymeric polyelectrolytes such as Integrate, pioneered in the UK by Rigby Taylor and Greenlink have been very successful in repairing collapsed pore space and restoring aeration and water percolation.

Applied as a conventional high volume spray, the anionically charged polymer ions in Integrate move down through the soil, penetrating compacted layers and solid soil structures.

This action, solubilises clay and organic 'fines' and, together with the cationically charged, insoluble magnesium and calcium ions, are drawn together into larger particles (agglomerates), repairing and restoring collapsed pore spaces.

This restoration of closed pores and the 'opening up' and creation of new pore spaces will improve crumb structure and the water/air balance in the soil. The available water is now free to move upwards, downwards and across in the repaired pore spaces, pulling in air and transporting nutrients. New root channels are encouraged and a deeper root system developed leading to a more healthy, vigorous turf.

Neither soil amendments or polymeric polyelectrolytes are seen as replacements for mechanical aeration but should be considered as complimentary treatments that can be 'integrated' into the annual maintenance programme.





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# Ensuring your Contractor Does Not Become a Handicap

There's far more to selecting a golf course irrigation system than meets the eye. Is it any wonder that many clubs opt to engage a consultant from the design stage through to fruition? Jon Jinks explains why it is possible to have the best of both worlds - the right system, at the right price and save potentially many thousands of pounds on consultants fees.



Let me say at the outset that many golf course officers opt to engage a consultant for peace of mind and I for one can fully understand their rationale, having the highest regard for their expertise and professionalism.

At the end of the day, when the job is done and dusted the manager/committee members will - if the project goes "pear-shaped" - be able to say that he or she consulted an expert. "What more could I have done to ensure that the system

would be installed smoothly and efficiently," I can almost hear them say.

Well, it is worth putting the pros and cons into perspective. A significant project costed by a contractor of around £150k, would represent a hefty investment by any club's standards. However, with a consultant on board, the costs don't end there - in addition there is his or her fee - adding a further 10% or so to the total bill.

Peace of mind clearly comes at a price, but I would be the first to acknowledge that it is better to employ a good consultant and incur extra costs, than be left flying 'solo' with a contractor who is not up to scratch.

To avoid this pitfall, select a contractor with a real pedigree. Find out some of the projects they have worked on and check out with the respective golf course managers just how they performed. This will give an insight into the commitment and professionalism of the company and whether disruption to the course was kept to an acceptable level. If any snags arose during the project, ascertain how well these were dealt with at the time and, very importantly, whether the costs escalated, or the contractor kept within, or close to budget.

There are a number of key questions that golf course managers should ask of potential contractors looking to quote on the design, supply and installation of an irrigation management system.

First and foremost while seeking design services or professional advice always look to deal with a company that is covered by PI insurance. This is very important and a good guide to the suitability of the company. In order to qualify for PI insurance, a contractor will need to satisfy some very stringent standards and conditions laid down by the insurance company - as a result very few companies are able to get cover.

Secondly, all work should be guaranteed to at least meet the minimum standards as laid down by the British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association (BTLIA). Website: [www.btlia.org.uk](http://www.btlia.org.uk)

Thirdly, ensure that when a contractor installs a system he is fully aware of all contractual obligations, including health and safety aspects. Also clarify - at the outset - that they will provide full ongoing maintenance support for the system. (Clearly, it is safer to go with a company that has been successfully trading for a number of years).

Unless a customer selects a knowledgeable company - with inherent integrity - he or she will need to ask the right questions in order to obtain a system capable of meeting their requirements. It is vital to make a contractor aware of the club's medium to long-term needs so that the system can be adapted, or expanded accordingly.

The majority of the full system installations undertaken in Northern Europe, will be to irrigate greens, tees and possibly approaches, while it's only the bigger clubs that can stretch to a full fairway system which can cost as much as £750k.

Fourthly, don't opt for a quote just because it is the cheapest - compare like for like specifications. Conversely, a company may over 'spec' a job in order to cover itself. The system will do the job (and do it well), but a contractor that really understands their clubs needs and is technically adept, may recommend a less expensive system, knowing that it is more than equipped to cope with the needs of the course both now and in the future.

What we do as irrigation specialists is a science. On the face of it, applying water to a crop should be child's play. However, if not applied correctly, grass will not grow properly. Water needs to be distributed evenly and at the correct pressure to ensure that it permeates the ground optimally and reaches the root in the desired quantities.

There are some excellent companies in our industry. Unfortunately there are a substantial number that don't fully appreciate the required science. Yes, they can install pipes, correctly and at the desired depths, but this is an engineering job and everyone in our sector should be able to do that. If they can't, a good analogy would be rather like a house builder unable to lay bricks.

Therefore, my advice to any golf course manager or club official is to do your homework before selecting a contractor, including checking out the satisfaction levels of a number of their customers. By doing this, you will be helping to safeguard your investment and be in a position to select a company that will be capable of meeting your needs.

*For further information please contact Jon Jinks, Managing Director of Osprey Irrigation Tel: 01939 236677.*



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# BETTER BLADES

How can greenkeepers achieve a high quality course appearance, which is consistent from the first hole to the last, gives an improved green speed and is more profitable? The answer lies in surgically sharp mower blades. Maureen Keepin reports...

Dramatic changes have taken place within the turf industry in the last decade. With golfers watching tournaments played around the world on lush, striped fairways and smooth, consistent greens, they have come to expect these conditions for every round of golf they play. Is it possible to achieve these playing conditions without having a massive budget and a staff of 50? Yes, it certainly is. Greenkeepers can deliver better course conditions by cutting the grass with surgically sharp, properly adjusted mowing equipment.

It is no surprise that mowers cut best when they are properly set and sharp. However, there are many cultural practices, which take place on the golf course today that are beneficial to turf, but can be harmful to mower blades, such as top dressing and aeration. These impact on the quality of cut.

Grinders operating with speed, simplicity and accuracy have a significant role to play in achieving consistent playing conditions, improving turf health and course appearance.

"The difference sharp blades make to the course is astronomical," says Steven Byrne Course Manager at The Wisley.

"Our grasses on closely mown areas are predominantly creeping bent and annual meadow grass, growing on a very silty soil, with a very low infiltration rate," he says.

"We have very heavy thatch areas, because of the flood plains, so need to apply lots of top dressing and that produces plenty of blunt blades.

"One week we use greens mowers with top dressing units attached and the second week just the greens units.

"We use Express Dual 5000 to sharpen blades and find units can be ground really quickly and soon be back in operation.

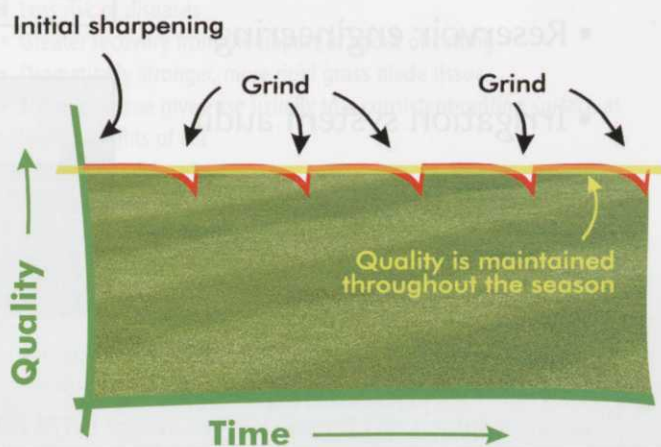
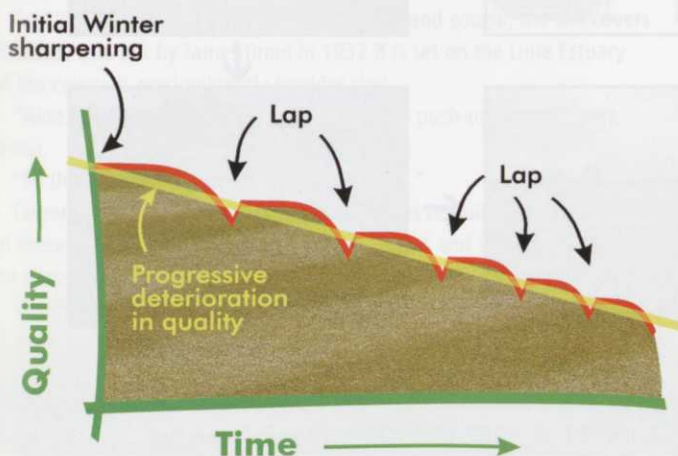
"At this time of year, with heavy dew levels, there is much more possibility of disease so sharp blades become even more vital.

"Members always expect to see lush green Axminster-type turf."

## SHARP CUT FOR GREEN SPEED

Greenkeepers adopting a regular grinding programme can achieve consistency from one hole to the next and improve green speed. This is backed-up by extensive research carried out in America.

Mike Morris, Superintendent at Crystal Downs Country Club - one of the US Top 100 golf courses - is quickly becoming known for his green speed research. Mike and Thom Nikolai, PhD at Michigan State University, have been sharing their knowledge with greenkeepers around the world on this complicated subject.







Revolutionising the practice of green speed, they help superintendents to communicate these issues to golfers.

Mike says: "Grinding programmes impact on consistency and playability at several levels.

"First there is the daily cylinder to bottom blade inspection and adjustment, to ensure they are perfectly matched. Then there is the height of cut inspection and adjustment.

"All of these checks are crucial for a consistent, predictable performance from your mowers.

"If the mowers are not set correctly how can you expect the putting surface to exhibit any sort of consistency?"

"When we started using the spin grinding technique with no-contact adjustment we saw more consistent green speed measurements from green to green and from day to day," he says.

"Mower sharpening and adjustment was the single factor that we could directly attribute to improved playing conditions when our study began.

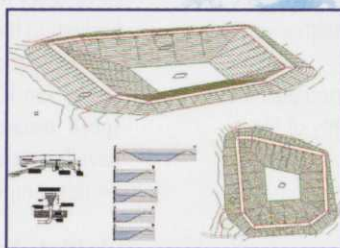
"When implementing this regular programme we also discovered an even more rewarding surprise.

"The quality of cut we achieved on our course every day.

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"As superintendents attempt to establish an ideal green speed for their course they will try lower heights of cut, rolling, low fertility and low irrigation, but I am sure many would be amazed at the instant impact of a well adjusted, sharp mower," he says.

### MOWER SET-UP

The significance of set-up of the mower is often overlooked, as people are confused by different claims and opinions that are rife in the industry.

Extensive research has shown that when mowers are operated with no-contact setting between the cylinder and bottom blade the machine will operate in the best way - as a scything unit. This is in accordance with the original lawn mower design of Edwin Budding back in the 1800s.

Grass suffers if greenkeepers adopt lapping procedures, where the cylinder and bottom blade act as a scissoring action, as this demands that the blade of grass is torn or pulled apart.

Under the microscope it is very evident that this causes significantly more tissue damage than a scything-type of cut.

Grass cleanly cut is greener and there is better definition, which is vital for championship courses under the critical gaze of the TV camera.

And it does not stop there - mechanical implications are associated with this whole process as well.

Clearly a very sophisticated tractor with five cutting units is going to operate at much lower levels of stress and strain if the five units do not have brakes applied to them, holding back the tractor.

With this there would be a huge use of fuel and significant stress upon the tractor.

The same applies to a mower with blades, which come into contact.

There is increased fuel consumption, more wear on the bearings, seals and hydraulics and all engine components.

As a result, the set up of the mower features strongly in the environmental equation - with no-contact offering reductions in the use of fuel, water, chemicals and pesticides.

### WATER LESS

For greenkeepers facing drought conditions, the fact that typically a bent grass will show a surface area of exposed tissue damage that will be five to six times greater when mown with a scissoring cut - rather than the same grass mown by a sharper scything cut - has tremendous implications.

Water lost through transpiration will be significantly higher in the blade of grass showing greater tissue damage.

Ragged edges of cut grass also demonstrate more surface area on which spores may find a home and therefore an increased risk of disease.

In the UK, Course Manager at the Lancaster GC, Warren Bevan, says his top priority is to make the club most water efficient.

An 18-hole, par 71, gently undulating parkland course, the site covers 120 acres. Laid out by James Braid in 1932 it is set on the Lune Estuary and the course is predominantly boulder clay.

"Nine are sand greens and nine the original push-up greens," says Warren.

"So this requires two styles of management."

Currently the greenkeeping team is on a tees re-building programme and these are being grassed using dwarf ryegrass and fescue bent, with bent grasses used on the greens.

Significant developments in irrigation equipment led the club to invest in a new system this year, to replace their old one.

Other management tools used to increase water efficiency include keeping mower blades surgically sharp and the use of retentive wetting agents.

"A cleaner more surgical cut is vital, rather than tearing your grass plants," he says.

"As they are not stressed the evapotranspiration rate is a lot lower, so you save considerably on water and fertilisers."

Purchasing a set of grinders Warren says:

"At first I was concerned that although the Board had invested in the machinery they would not see the impact.

"Unlike a mower you do not see the grinding machine out on the course."

During the first season when their agronomist visited the course, he immediately noticed a significant improvement on the greens and commented on how much fresher they looked.

"Keeping the blades sharp I have also had positive comments from players who say the course is quicker," he says.

Warren is also grooming, verticutting and top dressing the course.

"Having grinders means we can top dress more confidently, knowing we can re-grind our blades and in a couple of hours have them all turned around," he says.

"We alternate between hand mowing and triple cutting and use Toro machines with 3250 for the tees and 6500 on the fairways."



Grass - bad



Grass - good

### BACK TO BASICS

Cost-saving benefits of maintaining surgically sharp blades are huge and this means the price of buying the right equipment is insignificant in comparison.

An essential means of saving money and improving reputation, investing in grinders is probably one of the most inexpensive ways of dramatically raising the profile of the golf course and the team that maintains it.

Everyone benefits - the golf club, course manager, staff, members...and the grass plants.

### ADVANTAGES OF NO-CONTACT CUT:

- Healthier, more attractive grass
- Significantly less tissue damage to grass blades
- Plants suffer less evapotranspiration
- Grass winters better with improved root zone
- Increased drought and heat tolerance
- Less risk of diseases
- Greater recovery from the impact or shock of cutting
- Dramatically stronger, more rigid grass blade tissue
- Stronger tissue gives rise usually to a consistent putting surface at higher heights of cut
- A higher quality cut
- Newly seeded grass establishes more quickly with good root growth and less damage to top growth

For a free demonstration of the latest grinders or further information call Kim at Bernhard and Company on: 01788 811600, email: [info@bernhard.co.uk](mailto:info@bernhard.co.uk) or visit: [www.bernhard.co.uk](http://www.bernhard.co.uk).



# NEW PRODUCTS

## TAKE THE EFFORT OUT OF SPRAYING

Hardi Ltd has introduced two New Electronic Knapsacks.

The BPE 12 volt unit for the professional user comes complete with pressure adjustment and pressure gauge for precise applications.

The BPE 6 volt unit for general purpose use alleviating the tiresome need to continually pump to keep the unit charged.

For more information contact Paul Davies on: 01788 861144.



## TOTAL SOLUTION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Barenbrug UK has launched a new mixture to help groundsmen and greenkeepers successfully respond to the challenges of climatic and environmental change. BAR 10 with RTF has been designed to provide users with a mixture that is capable of withstanding both drought and waterlogging together with unrivalled recovery and superior wear tolerance.

The mixture is a blend of RTF Rhizomatous Tall Fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*), tufted tall fescue and heat tolerant perennial ryegrass. To coincide with the launch Barenbrug has produced a brochure on RTF, which is available free from the company.

For further information on BAR 10 with RTF or a copy of the free RTF brochure call: 01359 272000.



The residents of this development in Colchester are absolutely delighted with their new RTF turf

## NEW GRASS AND GROUNDS CARE PRODUCTS

An extensive range of new diesel and petrol powered grass and grounds care machines will enter the Massey Ferguson product portfolio in January 2007, following a partnership agreement between Massey Ferguson parent, AGCO, and outdoor power product specialist, MTD.

Manufactured by MTD to Massey Ferguson design criteria and specifications, the new products have been developed specifically for the professional, estate and high-end residential market and will be sold through and supported by selected Massey Ferguson dealers in the United Kingdom, Ireland and mainland Europe.

Customers for whom diesel is either the fuel of choice or necessity, have four specific machines from which to select which include two sub compact tractors, both available with optional side-discharge mid rotary decks; a commercial ride-on zero-turn mower with side-discharge deck that can be converted to mulching mode; and a four-wheel drive two-seater utility vehicle with 408kg load capacity rear cargo box.

Other specialist machines within Massey Ferguson's extended grounds care line-up for 2007, include a walk-behind rotary mower, a walk-behind tiller, a residential ride-on zero-turn mower and 10 lawn and garden tractors available in a variety of cutting widths with the choice of side discharge, rear discharge or mulching decks.

For more information visit: [www.masseyferguson.com](http://www.masseyferguson.com)

## TWO NEW MACHINES FROM STM/HUMUS

Simon Tullett Machinery introduces two new mowers and area clearance machines originally designed for the fruit growing industry, but finding great success in general groundcare.

The GFM is a three-machine tractor, front-mounted line up consisting of two rotor units side by side giving cuts up to 6m width, and capable of mowing and heavy scrub clearance.

The KM is primarily designed for clearing forestry debris, and has a powerful shredding and pulverising action that copes with heavy twigs and branches.

Contact STM on: 01789 488450.





## ELECTRONIC HYDRAULICS

Tycrop is making top dressing and material handling easier, with the option of electronic hydraulics.

Available on both the ProPass PP-180 and Material Handler MH-400, the optional electronic hydraulics make for easier operation. Owners will enjoy a simplified control system with fewer components and a handheld controller that can be mounted in the cab or on the side of the equipment.

For more information visit: [www.tycropturf.com](http://www.tycropturf.com)



## SUPERSPREAD DEBUT

Following the 2005 UK launch of the Pequea GT100 Top Dresser, Lloyds and Co Letchworth Ltd introduce their sister model, the SuperSpread.

Superspread is capable of handling almost any material that can be spread. The conveyor main roller turns on fully adjustable heavy duty bearings and infinitely adjustable hydraulic controls vary speed of conveyor and delivery device.

For more information tel: 01462 683031 or email: [sales@lloydsandco.com](mailto:sales@lloydsandco.com)

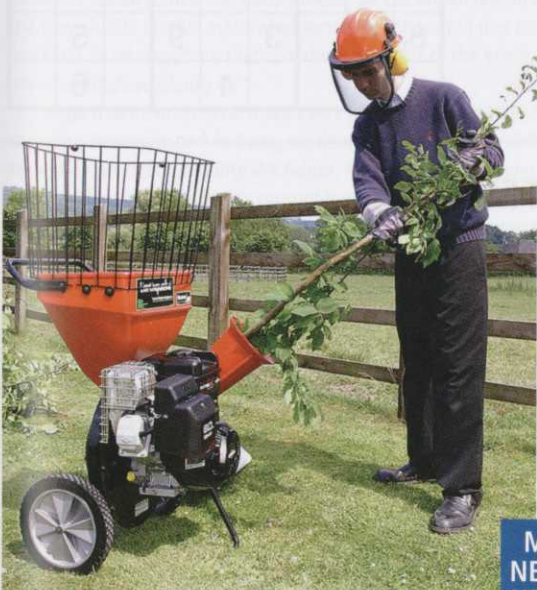


## CHIPPER/SHREDDER ADDS TO ROCHFORD SUCCESS

Having recently been appointed UK distributor for the US manufactured Ardisam range of outdoor power equipment, Somerset based Rochford Garden Machinery, have announced the latest of the Ardisam machines to be introduced into the UK, the CS8 Chipper / Shredder.

The CS8 is a total garden waste management system, chipping and shredding garden waste as well as vacuuming and even bagging in one-step.

For further details call: 01963 828000 or visit: [www.rochfordgm.co.uk](http://www.rochfordgm.co.uk)



The new Ardisam CS8 Chipper/Shredder from Rochford GM

**MORE SALTEX  
NEW PRODUCTS  
NEXT MONTH...**

## MCCORMICK UNVEILS NEW COMPACT TRACTORS

Replacing the single McCormick G30R compact tractor are two new versions - the G31 with forward-facing driving position and the G31R with reversible seat, instruments and controls. A new Perkins engine gives the tractor more power and the new front-end implement drive and lift system options add to the little tractor's versatility.

Visit: [www.mccormick-intl.com](http://www.mccormick-intl.com) for more information.



## PEST REPELLER

New from STV, the poison-free pest control specialist, comes the STV789 Advanced Pest Repeller.

The product is particularly useful in the control of mice, rats, squirrels and all rodent pests, with the signal penetrating walls, ceilings and floors where these destructive creatures harbour.

For further information call the customer service line on: 01953 881580.



## HOVER MOWER POWERS UP WITH HONDA

Allen Power Equipment has launched the XR44, a 40cm (16in) cut machine, powered by a brand new 57cc four-stroke engine developed by Honda especially for hover mowers and exclusive to the Allen XR44.

For more information call: 01235 515400 or visit their website: [www.allenpower.com](http://www.allenpower.com).

## MOLE CONTROL

New and improved from STV, the poison-free pest control specialist, comes the Big Cheese Sonic Mole Repeller.

This simple yet effective product for deterring moles, the most destructive of garden pests, issues a vibrant sonic pulse every 25 seconds protecting lawns, seedbeds and seedling plants from damage over an area of 1,000 square metres.

For further information call the customer service line on: 01953 881580.





# 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.

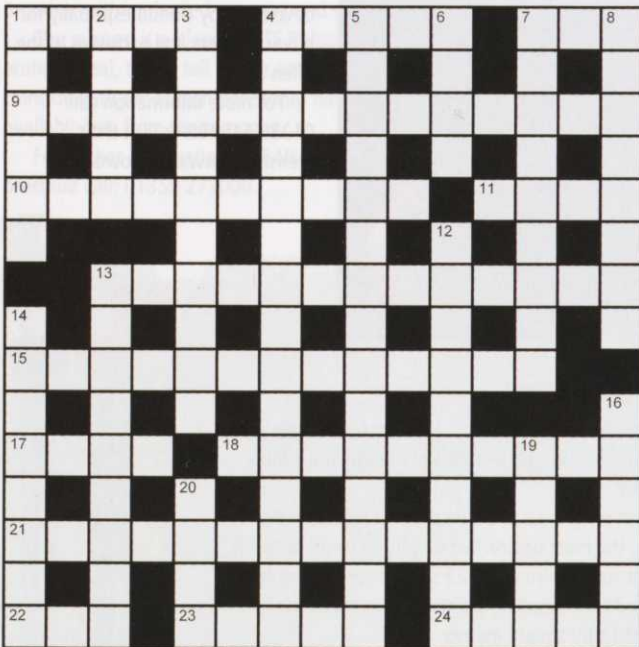
## CROSSWORD - Compiled by Anax

### ACROSS

- 1 Public discussion (5)
- 4 Having two feet (5)
- 7 Meadow, pastureland (3)
- 9 Source of earthquakes in California (3,7,5)
- 10 Fertilize (10)
- 11 Blemish causing by healing injury (4)
- 13 It signifies winning position in motor racing (9,4)
- 15 2005 hit for the Kaiser Chiefs (1,7,1,4)
- 17 1964 film based on the Battle of Rorke's Drift (4)
- 18 1985 film starring Jeff Bridges and Glenn Close (6,4)
- 21 Of dreams, marked by haphazard imagery (15)
- 22 English hawthorn (3)
- 23 Ecclesiastical council (5)
- 24 Clinic offering treatment for substance abuse (5)

### DOWN

- 1 Dashboard (6)
- 2 The approach of a particular event (3-2)
- 3 Composer of the first recognised opera "Orfeo" (10)
- 4 German raconteur noted for exaggerated adventure stories (5,10)
- 5 In ancient Rome, the Emperor's military escort (10,5)
- 6 To challenge (4)
- 7 Lover of Guinevere (alternative spelling) (9)
- 8 Very close friend (5,3)
- 12 Dickens' unfinished last novel, "The Mystery of ----" (5,5)
- 13 Natural consequence (9)
- 14 Tranquillizer, also called Valium (8)
- 16 Instinctive reaction (6)
- 19 Wander aimlessly (5)
- 20 US elevator inventor (4)



## ANAGRAM

Allegations were made against him by BBC's Panorama programme.

## HARDEN PARK PRY

## QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. Why was there no winner of the World Series in 1994?
2. Who was the French Woman who reached the Wimbledon singles final for the first time in 1998 at her 14th attempt?
3. Which group or artist recorded the album - 'The In Sound From Way Out!'?
4. Tony Jacklin won the Open in 1969. Who was the next Briton to win the title?
5. Which sport forbids any competitor to play left-handed?
6. What do you call a person who watches a sport?
7. Which group of artist recorded the album - 'Soul's Core'?
8. Who is England's most capped scrum half?
9. Magnolia, Flowering Peach and Carolina Cherry are holes at which famous course?

## SUDOKU

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

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

Supplied by [www.dailysudoku.com](http://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 four!



ANSWERS TO ALL THE PUZZLES ARE SHOWN ON PAGE 52





# News from the Chief Executive

I am sure many of you anxiously followed the progress of the European Ryder Cup team on Sunday, either listening on the radio like me, or perhaps watching it on Sky. What a contest and what a result! Congratulations to the team and to their Captain Ian Woosnam. The strong bond between the European players and their overwhelming camaraderie was self evident and while the American team consisted of a group of very talented players, to my mind they lacked that little something extra that makes a team. I suppose a smile comes easier when you're winning! In a different type of contest were eight finalists of the Toro Student of the Year Award, held recently at BIGGA HOUSE. The standard of competitors' rises year on year and my congratulations go to the winner Mike Emptage, who was nominated by Hadlow College. A full report on the final will appear in next month's magazine.

My colleague, Ken Richardson, continues to beaver away on the Health and Safety Management System project with the help of various members of the task group together with significant input from Health and Safety consultants, Exact. The result of this project is scheduled to be released at Harrogate Week. I am currently awaiting confirmation of sponsorship of the project and hope to be able to give full details of the scheme in the November issue of Greenkeeper International.

In October, UK members should receive their copy of the Member's Handbook, a benefit that I hope they find of significant interest and value. Additional funding has been secured to be able to provide Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers with a pocket diary that they will receive before Christmas, regrettably the costs of providing one for every member are prohibitive, there may however, be a few spare diaries available on the BIGGA stand at Harrogate on a first come first served basis. October also sees the launch of the Harrogate Week 2007 'Continue to Learn' education programme that has grown in size and stature compared to previous years.

I hope that you will take time to study the brochure that contains details of workshops and seminars organised not only by BIGGA but also by many of the leading bodies in the industry. Exhibitors have also been allocated education time and many have taken the opportunity to give presentations to visitors on technical and product matters.

Harrogate Week is not just an important event for BIGGA it is also a key event in the turf and club management industry as a whole. Despite the absence of some major machinery manufacturers in January 2007, there will never the less be an impressive event that you really cannot afford to miss. All visitors in January 2006 will automatically be pre-registered for the exhibition and they should receive acknowledgement in the post in due course. Harrogate Week has its own website that contains full details of the event, the address is: [www.harrogateweek.org.uk](http://www.harrogateweek.org.uk)

I hope that members will make every effort to support their Association by attending Harrogate and in doing so, demonstrating to the exhibitors that you value their investment in BIGGA's future. Please do not be under any illusion that BIGGA can continue in its present form if funding issues are not resolved. The profit from Harrogate Week is vital to the future well being of the Association and a roller coaster of lean year, fat year is not sustainable.

I am saddened by the relatively poor number of entries for the National Tournament; at the time of writing we have received only 60 applications. If you have any thoughts on how this decline can be turned around, please let me know. Finally, I am pleased to report that we have appointed a new company to re-design the Association's website with a targeted launch at Harrogate Week 2007. The new site will incorporate many of the suggestions that members have made in recent months and will also give the staff at HQ far greater ease of information input. We recognise the growing value of the site to members and have taken the opportunity of a grant from the R&A to make the changes possible.

**John Pemberton**

Around  
the Green

SCOTTISH REGION

## East

As I write this report, September has arrived with a definite autumnal feel to the air. After the prolonged dry spell, which brought its own problems, the borders were hit with 70mls of rainfall during Friday, August 18. Due in part to the dry spell, there have been wide spread complaints of "Anthracnose" resulting in a boom in sales of potash based products.

The following report is courtesy of Graeme Bryce, Greenkeeping lecturer at Oatridge College: Scottish Open - Loch Lomond GC 2006 - "Team Oatridge" comprised of Barrie Lewis, Ratho Park; Murray White, Longniddry; Iain Ramsay, Edinburgh Leisure, The Braids; and Daniel McGarrell, Holland Bush, and their lecturer, Graeme Bryce. They set off to Loch Lomond GC to participate in the maintenance of the course for the 2006 Scottish Open. Three of the four students are currently undertaking an SVQ Level II in Greenkeeping/Sportsturf and are just about to enter their second year. The other student, Barrie Lewis has achieved his SVQ Level II and will be entering SVQ Level III this academic year. Both Iain Ramsay and Barrie Lewis won their respective year prizes through hard work and effort and were awarded their accolades at the Oatridge College prize giving in June this year. Barrie also won through to the final Toro Student of the Year 2006.

Under the direction of Course Superintendent, David Cole, the Oatridge team were divided into various groups of greenkeepers who had specific tasks to complete. The tasks included, bunker maintenance, divotting, switching fairways, maintaining paths and other means of golf course maintenance.

The Oatridge team were extremely well looked after for the entire duration of the tournament week and mixed in well with the resident greenkeeping crew. The maintenance of a golf course of this magnitude aids in inspiring these up and coming student greenkeepers and helps them to realise exactly what they could achieve with determination and hard work.

Plenty of photographs were taken as a souvenir of the tournament week and will be looked upon fondly, especially the photograph taken with the Scottish Open winner Johan Edfors. Hopefully Oatridge will be able to provide the necessary support for years to come.

"Team Oatridge" would like to thank all of the Loch Lomond greenstaff who were absolutely fantastic in helping the guys feel at home and for making sure they made the most of their experience. They would also like to thank their respective employers for allowing them the time off.

The Willie Woods Tournament was held at Haddington GC on Wednesday, August 23, with sunny conditions being the order of the day. The results on the day were as follows: 1. S Lamb and R Kelly, 36pts; 2. R Burgon and R McCulloch, 36.5pts. Longest Drive - P Ormiston and M Pagan, Nearest the Pin - I Kinlay and R McCulloch.

A big thank you is due to Haddington GC for courtesy of the course and to Norman Wood and his greenstaff for their efforts on the day.

A date for your diary is Saturday, December 9, when the annual dinner dance is being held at The Kilspindie House Hotel in Aberlady. A function not to be missed, tickets are available from your Secretary Kevin Hodges or any committee member.

On September 3, our trade hit the headlines for all the wrong reasons, with a full page article in Scotland on Sunday on the demise of GCNI. A much respected trade journal, which reported information at the cutting



edge of our industry, it has regressed with a change of ownership into the equivalent of a 'lads magazine'.

Hopefully by the time you read these notes, I will be enjoying a cold beer and Greek salad in sunny Crete.

Until next month

Mike Dooner

## Central

An excellent display by the Central Section team, competing in the Norrie Whytock Memorial Tournament on August 21, at Auchterarder GC, saw them taking away the Trophy as overall winners. The best three scores from Derek Scott, Kenny Mitchell, Paul Armour and Brian Heggie (Capt.), counted towards the total tally and respectfully defeated all other four Sections in Scotland. The course was in terrific order. Congratulations to Archie Dunn and his team for the presentation of the course. Many thanks to Bayer for sponsorship and Peter Boyd, for the administration and organisation of the event. Belated congratulations to Brian Heggie who was crowned the Scottish National Champion over Leven Links late last month. This is the third year in a row that Brian has taken the title. Leven was in great links condition and was stiff competition for a vast array of golfing greenkeepers around Scotland. Congratulations to Andy O'Hara and his team for turning out a great test of golf. Leven recently lost all use of the irrigation system for nearly a week, and guess what? Andy O'Hara, Course Manager, confirmed that the course hadn't played as well in many years. As well as the Central Section taking the Champion Golfer title, over home ground we also swept the team prize for best four scores on the day. Well done to all that participated.

Andy O'Hara has also been in the spotlight recently as he won the coveted title of LANTRA Modern Apprentice of the Year. The nomination came via Gordon Nimmo at Elmwood College, not only for pushing himself through SVQ level III, but also for the support he gave to many colleagues, on his own staff and elsewhere, in completing their NVQ qualifications.

On the employment merry-go-round, Andy O'Hara has recently appointed Gordon McRae as Deputy Head Greenkeeper. Gordon moved to the position from the same role at Ratho Park GC. Also moving into a Deputy Head role is John Wood who has moved from Portmarnock Hotel and Golf Links, Dublin to the Old Course, St Andrews. Peter Pattenden, Head Greenkeeper Gleneagles PGA Centenary, has left to take the position of Golf Courses and Estates Manager at De Vere Carden Park. He has been replaced by Donald Robb - previously Head Greenkeeper at Blairgowrie GC. We wish all of them the best of luck in their respective new positions.

On a sincere note, it is with regret that we inform you of the resignation from the committee of John Crawford, Course Manager at Stirling GC, Secretary/Treasurer of the Section for well over 20 years. We would like to thank him for his service to the association, and wish him all the best.

For the Section's first education evening at Elmwood Golf Course (1st Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm) we were entertained by Allan Patterson and Paul Kember, Head Greenkeeper and Associate Architect respectively, of the St Andrews Links Trust seventh course. The talk ran through the various processes from feasibility studies, appointment of architect, the various planning stages and right through to the finishing works and seed specifications that will hopefully make the whole project a must play success. Our thanks go to Allan and Paul for giving freely of their time and wish them continued success with the construction.

On Wednesday, August 8, William Nisbet and Steve Nixon, of Bernhard & Co. gave an excellent presentation on cutting unit technology, and its impact on turf-grass health. There was also a demonstration of their grinding technique. Many thanks go to Willie and Steve for an informative

presentation. Both these sessions were well attended, and we hope to see more new faces at future presentations.

In association with CMAE (Club Managers Association of Europe) we are running a seminar on Wednesday 18th October at Murrayshall House Hotel, Perth. The aim of the day is to blend presentations, discussion and debate on all aspects relating to golf courses. The presentations will deal with the different perspectives of those involved i.e. managers/secretaries, players, greenkeepers, advisers. Succinct presentations will be followed by short Q & A Sessions. Thereafter, delegates will form Topic Discussion Groups with each group providing feedback for a Final Plenary Session. Letters will be posted to members shortly.

If anyone has any educational ideas that they wish to see being run within the section then please give us the heads-up. This can be at any level of the industry and in any subject. I have heard it said more than once that nothing is ever run up here, north of the border, so let's prove this to be untrue. We will attempt to provide sessions to suit your requirements. Your education and your personal development is in your hands. Please visit the Section website for more information on future events and to keep up with other news. [www.biggacentralsection.org.uk](http://www.biggacentralsection.org.uk)

Euan Grant

## North

Hello everybody. It seems I may have upset a few people with my off the cuff comments about certain teams in the SPL in August's report, so to avoid any more ill feeling my apologies to those I upset. There was no malice intended. In any case I'm sure the best team will win the league in the end!

The autumn outing will have been played at Fraserburgh GC by now so the results will be in the next issue.

The season is drawing to a close now and I'm sure the autumn renovation programmes are in full swing, with coring and overseeding the norm for the next few weeks.

The Boy's Home International's went very well at Moray GC with Scotland coming out on top to claim the title. The course was in great shape and along with the weather presented a tough challenge to the players over the few days. Well done to George Paterson and his staff for all their efforts that week. The following week the Boys Amateur Championship was played at Royal Aberdeen GC and was won by Andrew Nixon, from England, who beat Bjorn Akesson from Sweden at the 38th hole in the final. It was one of the best matches I've seen for years with high quality golf throughout the final. I would like to take this opportunity again to thank my own staff for their hard work and efforts that week, in ensuring that the course was presented at its best.

Bob Mackay, in Aviemore, is no nearer finding the culprit for his vandalism but he was saying that it is slowly healing and the seed he has put down is now filling the gaps.

When the forms went out for the autumn outing, Dale asked if anybody fancied a dinner dance for the Section sometime in the winter. How do members feel about this and is there a chance that it may work? Perhaps if we get a few at the AGM then it can be discussed in more detail.

The dreaded crane fly is busy making more work for us in the winter by injecting their eggs into the turf. It looks like it will be another bad year for leather jackets on the fairways etc as there are millions of the buggers about here at the moment, mind you I'm sure the reps will be only to glad to supply the products to get rid of them.

Eoin Riddell and his staff will be busy this year as there is a new irrigation system going in at Dornoch, which will cover the whole course. The old system was giving major problems in all areas, so I'm sure an up



NORTHERN REGION

to date system will be a big help over the next few years. The only downside to these modern systems is the capacity of water you need to keep them going during a dry spell. Our reservoir holds three million gallons when full but even this was well down by the middle of August after daily watering although the course still looked like it hadn't seen water for months. Bring on the rain!

Has anyone else there got some major projects on the go that they want people to hear about, if so let me know on: grassman351@aol.com.

Not much else for you folks.

Robert Patterson

Royal Aberdeen GC

## West

Here are the results from our spring outing that I forgot to put in my last report.

Scratch prize- Chris Kerr, 1. 1. Scott McKittrick, 2. Andy Peace, 3. Stuart Taylor; 2. 1. John Barr, 2. Drew McKechnie, 3. Tom Hindmarsh; 3. 1. Chris Locke, 2. Keith Goldie, 3. Alan Martin.

The visitors' prize was won by Davy McBride, the Ian Mackay Trade Trophy by Alistair Taylor, Longest Drive was Stuart Taylor and Nearest the Pin, Scott Ballantyne. Well done to all the winners.

Also at the Scottish National Gordon Howat, of Souters, won the Trade Cup, Gordon is now a member of the West Section committee.

At the recent Harry Diamond Quaich, Eddie McGhee, Douglas MacIntosh and Cecil George represented the Section. Eddie's team finished second and he also won a Nearest the Pin - well done, Cecil was a great friend of Harry over the years and always attends this very popular event.

I travelled up to Auchterarder GC for this year's Norrie Whytoch Trophy and once again it was disappointment on the day. Many thanks to my team for their effort better luck next year. Thanks to Archie Dunn and his staff for the good condition of the course, also to Peter Boyd for arranging the day and to Bayer for their continuation of this event.

David Drummond is retiring at the end of the year after many years' service with Bayer I would wish him many happy years' retirement from all in the Section.

Congratulations to the winners, the Central Section.

Our AGM will be held at Drumpellier GC on October 26, arrival between 9am and 9.30 for coffee, then 10am for AGM, Thereafter a game of golf is arranged - format to be decided on the day.

The match against the Club Masters will be at East Kilbride GC on Monday, November 6 - we haven't lost the quaich since I took over as Chairman. Long may it continue. There are still a few places left in the team if you are interested in playing please get in contact.

Once again we are returning to the studio for our annual night out it has proved a popular venue over the last couple of years with a good attendance, we had thought of changing the venue but could not get the same value for money elsewhere. The date is Saturday, November 25 starting time approximately 7.30pm. Tickets are now on sale from Fraser Ross: 07970366355 or Gavin Jarvis: 07921060402, please come along for an enjoyable night.

Well that's all for now hopefully more news next month.

Gavin Jarvis

## North West

A little bit of news has come to me from my roving reporter, an old friend of the north west Section, namely Mike Bottomley, has returned to Holdsworth GC from Rossendale after an absence of some 20 years. Good luck Mike. We hope Alan Jones, from Swinton Park GC, is feeling better as we are hearing he has not been very well.

As I write this we are having some serious rain here in Liverpool, the first for some months. I guess where I am going in two days - Corfu, I would call good planning as it is currently 39 degrees there. The autumn tournament will take place on October 4 at St Annes old links, please contact Billy Merritt for details and to register to play. If anyone has any news, views or opinions or needs advice, please contact the secretary, Bert Cross on: 0151-724-5412 or myself on: 0151 289 4625 my e-mail is jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan

## Sheffield

Barry Lax, Head Greenkeeper at Worksop GC in Nottinghamshire is to retire on the 31st of this month after 35 years in charge of this highly regarded course.

When I joined the BGGGA (later to become BIGGA) in January 1977, Barry was the Secretary/Treasurer of the Sheffield Section. As a young greenkeeper I was immediately impressed with the calm assured way that he dealt with Section affairs. He is without doubt one of the most respected greenkeepers that our Section has had and one whose advice we would readily seek.

Barry came to Worksop GC in March 1971 having gained experience at a market garden centre, Lindrick Golf Club, Worksop Cricket and Social Club and as Head Groundsman at British Wire Ropes in Retford.

Whoever succeeds Barry as Head Greenkeeper at Worksop will do well to maintain his high standards. Having known Barry for 35 years, I know he is a man of great principles, a fair man, a moderniser as well as a respecter of traditions.

Barry, and his wife Sylvia, are keen dancers and are hoping to have more time in their retirement to pursue their hobby. They have two children, Joanne and John and two grandchildren, Daniel and Mitchell who they hope to spend more time with over the coming months and years.

Over the years Barry will have made many friends and acquaintances in the golf industry and I am sure they will join me and other members of the Sheffield Section in wishing him and Sylvia a long and happy retirement.

Gordon Brammah

Chairman, BIGGA

Sheffield continued...

On September 5 we held our autumn competition at Sitwell Park GC who we would like to thank for giving us the courtesy of their course. It was quite a few years since we have visited Sitwell - it was enjoyed by all who played. We would also like to say well done to Chris Colton and his staff for the condition and presentation of Sitwell - well done Chris. I would also like to congratulate Chris in his forthcoming wedding when he will be marrying Judith. All the best to you both! Thanks also go to Glen Sawyer Golf and Turf Machinery for being the main sponsor of the competition, which was very much appreciated thanks Glen! Thanks also





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



**Peter Larter**  
**NORTHERN & MIDLAND**  
 Tel: 01476 550115

to Peter Fell, from Aitkens, for providing the raffle prize thanks Pete! Thanks also to the catering staff for providing an excellent meal.

Finally to the golf. Their was some good golf played on a lovely day for golf - which we were very lucky to of had what with the recent weather. The competition was close, John Goldthorpe emerging as the eventual winner - well done John! The prizes were presented by Dave Holyhead, the Captain of Sitwell Park. Thanks Dave.

The results were as follows: 1. John Goldthorpe, 35pts, bb9; 2. Chris Colton, 35pts, bb9; 3. Antony Whittington, 35pts; 4. Rob Marsden, 33pts; 5. Dave Chappell, 32pts. The guest prize went to Geoff Hardy, Secretary of Sitwell. Well done Geoff.

Any news feel free to contact me On 07793111845 or [jv.lax@tesco.net](mailto:jv.lax@tesco.net)  
 John Lax

## MIDLAND REGION

### East Midlands

Congratulations are in order this month for two of our members. Firstly to Antony Bindley who has got married, this seemingly happened quite quickly but Antony assured me he had known her for sometime, but they always say the quiet ones are the worst! I just hope you've got an agreement where you can still play golf and cricket. Seriously though we

all hope you have a very happy life together. Secondly congratulations to David James, Deputy Course Manager at Luffenham Heath GC, on achieving his NVQ Level 4, I am sure it will stand you in good stead for the future. Well done.

On a much sadder note, I wish to inform you that John Carter, a former member and now working in the trade has undergone a serious operation for cancer treatment and at this moment in time is seriously ill. I am sure those of you that know him will wish him a successful recovery and look forward to seeing him again and enjoying his wicked sense of humour. Get well soon John.

Richard Barker

### East of England

The annual match against the trade was held at Blankney GC, with a resounding win for the greenkeepers, 4/2 - the trade did squeeze a couple of wins but it wasn't enough was it Stuart, better luck next year. Our thanks go to John and Blankney for granting us courtesy and for looking after us so well.

By the time this comes to print, we will have played our second match, which is against the Secretaries at Norwood Park, results will follow next month.

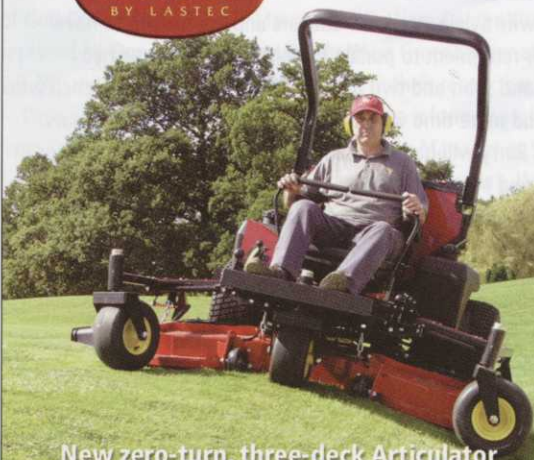
Finally, we have our AGM at Spalding GC on November 2. Please try to attend - we should have the seminar programme for the winter finalised by then,

Allan Walker

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## Mid Anglia

Sorry the article has been a bit quiet lately but we are back and ready to go. Back in Spring our first competition was held at Bedford and County GC, around 30 people attended and the weather was fantastic. Our thanks go to the golf club for their hospitality and also to Geoff Fenn and his team for the great condition of the course.

The prize winners on the day were, 1. Frank (straight down the middle) Whittle, from Stocks; 2. Tim McCreddie, from Royston; 3. Gary Boulton, from Dunstable Downs. Longest Drive. Kevin Armstrong, John O` Gaunt; and Nearest the Pin. Frank Whittle. Congratulations to Frank and Tim who both qualify for the National

Championship, at Burton on Trent, in October - good luck lads. I would like to thank Darren Mugford, from Rigby Taylor, for the sponsorship of the prize table and to the other members of the trade who donate prizes for the raffle. Thanks guys.

One fine evening our Chairman for the Section, Frank Scullion, was playing

golf with a member at his course when they noticed a hot air balloon quite low in the sky, after a few more holes the balloon had come to rest on one of Frank's fairways. Running over to the balloon he asked the host if he knew where he was, and to Frank's surprise he said yes, Dunstable Downs GC unbeknown to him that Gavin Simkins, from Mount Pleasant, was on board. So Frank would like to say to Gavin please use the car park like everyone else.

Following a great day at Letchworth GC in August the results were: 1. D. Hodkin, Knebworth, 40pts; 2. R. Groves, Letchworth, 37pts; 3. S. Mason, Stocks, 37pts and 4. J. Smith, South Beds, 37pts. Nearest the Pin - G. James and Longest Drive - N. Phelan. Well done Dan, that's three years on the trot for the Summer competition, we will have to ask Andrew to send you on holiday when next year's venue is arranged.

Congratulations go to James Camfield and his staff for presenting the course in such great condition, with all the dry weather we have had the lads had done a terrific job. Thanks also go to Letchworth GC for their hospitality and to the caterers for the fantastic evening meal.

Our main sponsor for the day was Tacit and we would like to thank Tim Webb for the superb selection of prizes on offer, and also to our other trade members for their continued support at our events. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Colin Robinson from John O` Gaunt all the best for the future. He and his wife will be travelling

round the world with some friends for a year. Good luck and best wishes from the Mid Anglia Section. Also due to an ever increasing workload Bob Butfoy has resigned from the committee, I would like to wish him all the best and hope he has some luck

in getting some staff.

Gerald Bruce

**SOUTH EAST**

## Surrey

Tuesday, September 5. I'm sitting writing this in my garden under a blue sky in a temperature of about 20 degrees. Hopefully all that horrid rain of August has passed and an Indian summer is on its way.

Saltex at Windsor starts today and although we have no stand this year, I will be there strolling around the show taking advantage of any freebies that the exhibitors may be offering. One stand that is always easy to find, because of the large interest shown by the visitors, is Jim's beers and

burgers frequented by most of the Surrey greenkeeping fraternity.

Wednesday, September 6. The weather continues to be warm, dry and sunny and yesterday at Saltex I did bump into a number of familiar faces as I promenaded with my charming companion, the voluptuous Mark Day. We dined on biscuits at the Avoncrop stand, stuffed pasties and pies on the Sheriff stand and were amazed at the various demonstrations that the exhibitors were only too anxious to display to such an important looking pair of undoubtedly executive personnel. Without our badges on they kept referring to us as Mr Laurel and Mr Hardy, was this another fine mess that Mark had got me into?

My next encounter was Brian Turner, who, like me, has just had another important birthday. He was accompanied by his deputy Paul Robinson and Bernard Roe - Brian's left hand man. Brian and Paul have won the Surrey Bowl this year and full details will be found, with photographs in the news Section of this edition.

The details and report of the golf day at Farnham will appear in next months magazine.

Brian Willmott.

## East Anglia

"At last" I hear you cry. It's been a while I know but modern technology and assumption being the mother of all, one way or the other past notes have gone astray.

However we did not get where we are today worrying about who shot the pigeon and our intrepid travellers found their way to Richmond Park GC, without satellite navigation I might add.

It was a lovely day for the grass, being that the sun shines on the righteous it is little wonder that it rained. 58 of us got wet at some point but a great day was had by all. The course was in excellent shape thanks to Steve Curtis and his crew, the grub was handsome and the hospitality second to none.

The prizes were presented by David Packard, the Vice Captain and the day was sponsored by Ben Burgess. The recipients of the prizes were as follows:-

0-9 Section - 1. Norman Fenwich, 37 pts; 2. Alan Elliot, 36 pts; 3. James Burton, 36 pts.

10-18 Section - 1. Robert Ransome, 43 pts; 2. Robert King, 42 pts; 3. Paul Gould, 41 pts.

19-28 Section - 1. Andy Baker, 36 pts; 2. John Morley-Smith, 35 pts; 3. Richard Mitchell, 34 pts. G & T Section - 1. Mick Crabtree, 39 pts; 2. T Hammond, 39 pts.

Nearest the Pins on the 3rd and in two on the 18th were sponsored by ETT and won by Matt Gill and Paul Gould. Longest Drive for greenkeepers was also sponsored by ETT and won by Joe Simpson. Nearest the Pin on the 3rd for guests and the Longest Drive for guests was sponsored by Banks Amenity and won by Steve Crossdale and Carl Chamberlain. The loo seat, after a tight contest, was awarded to our evergreen Steve Dickinson who plays of plus 48 and was nearest the pin for two on the 18th for quite some time but did not score a point. (Well if he can do it there is hope for us all).

Other sponsors are as follows:- Aitkins; Amenity Wise; Atherton and Ellis; Bartram Mowers; CMW; Collier Turf Care; Consultant Clarkson; E.T.T; Headland Turf; Lely UK; Prime Irrigation; Ransome Jacobsen; Rigby Taylor; Scotts; Sherriff; Sisis; Symbio; Tacit; Textron; Tomlinson Ground Care; Toro and Vitax.

Robert Ransome was the outright winner on the day. A little bird told me (and it wasn't a stork!) that he is getting married in September. (His handicap will go up now I bet). We all wish him and his wife every





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happiness and hopefully he will be in fine fettle when we meet again at Ely on October 3rd.

And finally; A Secretary informs the greenkeeper that his Chairman of Green has resigned after many years. "That's the end of an error then," said the greenkeeper. "Surely you mean era," said the secretary. "No" said the greenkeeper.

Mick Lathrope

## SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES

### *BIGGA South West and South Wales Regional Seminar 2006*

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?"

The day will be presented by BIGGA South West and South Wales Region 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

Tel: 01454 270850 or mobile: 07841948110.

## South West

We really have played some fantastic section matches this year - three wins out of three, Adrian Bennett - Match Captain - what a guy. (When he retires from the captaincy, we'll keep him as a mascot.) Seriously, Adrian has put his heart and soul into the team - I know for a fact he has made 60 - 70 phone calls to make all the arrangements, and I'd like to thank him most sincerely on behalf of the Section, and hope that he'll carry on next year.

The annual match against South Wales was again played over the Old Course at St. Pierre. Many thanks to St. Pierre, who have hosted this match every year, at no cost, for over twenty-five years now. The Old Course was in as good a condition, if not better than I've seen it over those 25 years - congratulations to all the staff involved - it was an absolute credit, and always nice to come back across the bridge with the cup. Tim Morgan, who is an absolute joy to partner, and I held on to a one hole victory which proved crucial in the three and a half - two and a half win. Tim was "Mr Steady" where as my sort of golf is much more fun - you see more of the course, much more of the wildlife, as well as getting more exercise.

Knighton Heath was the venue for the match against the South Coast.

This very traditional heathland course, just outside Ferndown, was in stunning condition although somewhat parched on the fairways. It was however, a joy to play, and a 4 -1 victory was also very satisfying. I've only had one fully functioning shoulder for the last year, but watch out long-driving competitors - it's getting better! The only adverse comment about the course I heard all day was from my playing partner, Mark Freeman, who commented that he had been expecting a sea-view and was severely disappointed. Mind you, the view on a nearby housing estate more than made up. A leggy brunette with the tightest pair of lycra cycling shorts you've ever seen, was deliberately (in my opinion) bending over her car while pretending to wash it. I asked if she'd mind polishing my driver as we went past but she was having none of it. As Wayne Vincent remarked, "I was lining up a two foot eagle putt for the hole on that green, and nobody was even watching me". Good day all round.

Jon Jarvis, Course Manager at Lansdown, dropped me a line to report that he is trying crushed glass in one of his practice bunkers and anyone is welcome to contact him for a progress report, or to view the bunker at any time. Give him a ring at the club.

The AGM is on October 12 at Ogbourne St. George. We need your presence, we need your ideas, inspiration, and support at this meeting. The Section needs good attendances to justify its continued activities. This means you. Please support your committee, who put in a good number of hours working on your behalf, to make a success of the association.

Finally, no-one can accuse Sarah Allcock, ecology and environmental advisor at Minchinhampton, of not taking her job seriously. Her car conked out on the way home the other day. After several panic stricken phone calls to the garage, a tow truck, the AA, and her dad, not necessarily in that order, the problem was eventually diagnosed. A squirrel had made a nest in her engine compartment, and its nuts had got caught in the air intake and blocked it. Sarah, who has a degree in Biological Science, said that's the last time she's ever taking her work home with her.

Let's have a good attendance at the AGM, and let me know any bits of news from around the area.

Paul Worster - paulw@mgcnew.co.uk/01453 837355.

## South Coast

Hello all. As I write this (September 1) I look back on August, as many of you probably have, with some relief due to the wetter month. If you've been on holiday in this time I hope that you avoided the showers (monsoons and flooding in North Hampshire area) and that your golf course received the welcome rain.

The Jim Fry Pair's competition is making "steady" progress. We are down to the semi finals but please can you all ensure that you report your results to Phil Wentworth (mobile: 07831 862705) asap. He does a great job organising this event, please show your gratitude by keeping him up to date. Best of luck to the remaining participants.

Our next golf day is the Autumn Tournament at Corhampton GC, on October 12. Chris Sturgess is excellent at being tournament organiser and always keeps us up to date via email regarding events and producing a play list. If you do not receive this information and would like to be included and kept up to date with all the golf day dates and information please email Chris on: [chrismaggsturgess@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:chrismaggsturgess@tiscali.co.uk) or contact him by phone on 07773 138409.

The AGM will take place at Corhampton GC after the days play and before dinner is served. So, as there will be many rumbling tummies I'm sure the proceedings will progress at a reasonable pace? Of course the AGM is very important and it will not take up too much of your time. If you have any business you would like discussed please feel free to voice your



views at the AGM.

Finally, this is your Section. Please contact me if you have any news, be it happy, sad, interesting, funny etc etc, but please let me know so that we can share it with the whole section. Contact me on joe.crawley@ukgateway.net or on: 07721 389200.

Joe Crawley

**Devon and Cornwall**

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

The retired BIGGA member received a gold medal and a piece of local volcanic rock as a keepsake.

His next major event will be the European Duathlon Championships in Rimini in October.

Don Hunt

**South Wales**

The Pencoed College Open Day was a great success, P. Lacey and A. MacLeod manned the BIGGA marquee for the day assisted by Pencoed College's Paul Discombe and John Sullivan. Our thanks to "Ted Hopkins & Son Ltd" who loaned us some Toro equipment in the form of a fairway mower to enhance our position and to attract attention.

The Summer Competition took place at the Dewstow Parc GC, 24 people took to the course and enjoyed a great day made by the hospitality of the club. Our thanks to the sponsors of the day "R S Birds Ltd" and especially MD Jeffrey Bird who provided a first class prize table.

Results: Winner - Gary Humphries, Birdie Cup; Runner-up - Rhys McDonagh, Jacobsen Cup and 3rd, Mark Wilshire.

The recent and annual match versus the South West Section of "BIGGA" played over the Old Course at the St Pierre Resort, Chepstow. The South West ran out winners by a narrow margin and a great day was had by all. Standards at the resort were excellent, the "Old Course" was in super condition, hospitality was exceptional and the meal was plentiful. Thanks have been sent to all concerned including the sponsors "Inturf" and "Scotts" represented on the day by James Rees and Nick Martin.

With our past Chairman, Russell Anderson, having moved to Copenhagen, the Section has been operating without a Chairman. This position will hopefully be rectified prior to the sections AGM which will be at the Alice Spring's GC on Friday, October 13.

The annual match versus the Secretaries, held over the Grove golf course near Porthcawl was in excellent condition, even with the inside knowledge and assistance from the Course manager and our President, Henry Stead,

We were beaten, although I believe we are still in the lead with eight matches to seven since the event started. Many thanks to the club for hosting the event and all associated at the club for making everyone feel welcome.

With Adrian Panks and Peter Holmstrom moving into the trade and taking up positions with Sisis and Countrywide respectively, two committee officers have been lost,

however Steve Chappell, Course Manager of Neath GC has requested to join the committee and it is hoped that this will be ratified at the forthcoming AGM.

The Rigby Taylor Matchplay Doubles is well underway and is nearing the semi-final stages. While the favourites have been knocked out, last years winners are still very much in it.

Congratulations to Richard Patterson formally assistant to Malcolm Davies, has been appointed Deputy Course Manager at Cradoc GC.

It is the turn of the "IOG" to formulate this forthcoming "Winter Evening Lecture Series" and I'm told that the organisation of such is well underway.

The "IOG" annual dinner and dance will be once again at the "Sophia Gardens" home of Glamorgan County Cricket Club, Cardiff some time in October. It is hoped that sponsorship can be sought as per last year in order to get as many BIGGA

members and their spouses/partners involved in the event. Details will be mailed shortly.

Angus Macleod

**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](mailto: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.

**In the Shed ANSWERS**

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F	O	R	U	M	B	I	P	E	D	L	E	A		
A	U	O	A	R	E	A	L							
S	A	N	A	N	D	R	E	A	S	F	A	U	L	T
C	U	T	O	E	Y	N	E							
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M	A	Y		S	Y	N	O	D		D	E	T	O	X

**SUDOKU**

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

**ANAGRAM**

HARDEN PARK PRY  
Answer: Harry Redknapp

**SPOT THE DIFFERENCE**



**A QUICK NINE HOLES**

1. Player's strike
2. Nathalie Tauziat
3. The Beastie Boys
4. Sandy Lyle
5. Polo
6. A spectator
7. Shawn Mullins
8. Matt Dawson
9. Augusta



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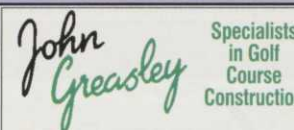
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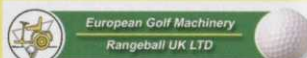
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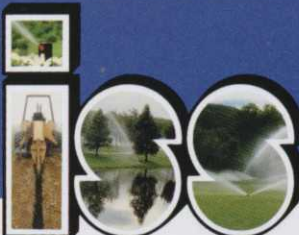
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## ASHBURNHAM GOLF CLUB

requires a

### COURSE MANAGER

Ashburnham Golf Club, located between Carmarthen and Llanelli is regularly ranked among the UK's top 100 golf courses. A traditional links "out and in" layout, and host to a large number of Welsh, national and international events, including the PGA Championships in 1959 and 1969, we are looking for a Course Manager of the highest standard.

All applicants must have proven experience in leading and working within a greens staff team. Demonstrable knowledge of how to help further develop and improve this links course will be essential. The successful applicant will have to show that he/she has all the necessary experience and ability to maintain a private members club within budget to a very high standard.

Applicants for the position will need to demonstrate a high level of competence in all of the following areas:

- NVQ/HNC or similar plus spraying qualifications
- A good knowledge of irrigation systems & machinery
- Health & Safety Awareness
- Excellent leadership & man management skills
- Formulation of and execution to Course Policy
- Ability to work to budget, as well as experience in formulating budgets

All applications by email only please. You must include details of your current and desired remuneration and send your full CV to:  
[golf@ashburnhamgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:golf@ashburnhamgolfclub.co.uk)

Application Deadline: Friday 20th October.



The London Golf Club has one of the best greenkeeping teams in the UK, with outstanding facilities and direct access to comprehensive training programmes. We are looking to recruit the following:

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**First Assistant :** To work directly under a Head Greenkeeper, with opportunities to plan, organise and supervise others in the team.

- Minimum qualifications: - NVQ 2 or equivalent. PA1, PA2, PA6.
- Must be experienced in spray application of fertilisers and pesticides.

**Greenkeepers :** With enthusiasm, a keenness to progress both with and without experience/qualifications. We offer opportunities to develop your greenkeeping ability and gain valuable tournament experience.

Apply in writing to: Greenkeeping Department, The London Golf Club, South Ash Manor Estate, Nr Brands Hatch, Kent TN15 7EN  
e-mail address: [greenkeepers@londongolf.co.uk](mailto:greenkeepers@londongolf.co.uk)

# CHISLEHURST GOLF CLUB

Chislehurst Golf Club invites applications for the position of

## COURSE MANAGER

Established in 1894 this private members club is an 18 hole parkland course situated in the London Borough of Bromley in Kent.

The successful applicant will report to the Board of Directors through the Director of Green.

The board is committed to producing a quality course which presents a challenge to all players. In the last four years significant improvements have been made, and the board will look for this to continue. A whole range of new machinery was purchased 12 months ago to ensure the greenstaff have up to date equipment to enable them to maintain the course at it's optimum level.

**The successful candidate will be expected to bring to the club:**

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- The desire and ability to continue to develop the course and it's presentation
- The ability to manage resource efficiently and exercise strict budgetary control
- Good communication skills and IT aptitude

The role will be demanding and an ideal opportunity for a progressive and proactive Manager.

Salary and benefits will be by negotiation according to experience and qualification.

**Applications with full CV to be sent by 23rd October 2006 to:** The Secretary, Chislehurst Golf Club, Camden Place, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5HJ.

Email: [thesecretary@chiselhurstgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:thesecretary@chiselhurstgolfclub.co.uk) • Ref: Course Manager Advertisement



# Recruitment



## Aldeburgh Golf Club

### Assistant Greenkeeper

We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced greenkeeper, preferably with NVQ 2 or equivalent and PA1, PA2 and PA6.

The job represents an excellent opportunity for further training and professional development, working with fescue turf, in a heathland environment, on a golf course with a fine reputation.

Closing date for applications: 27th October 2006.

**Apply in writing with CV to:**

Mark Broughton, Course Manager,  
Aldeburgh Golf Club, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, IP15 5PE

## SHIRLEY GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for an

### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

This post of responsibility, working closely with the Head Greenkeeper is part of a team of six.

The successful applicant should be qualified to NVQ level 2 or above with relevant experience.

Salary dependant on qualifications and experience.

Please send CV and covering letter to be received no later than 14th October 2006 to: The General Manager, Shirley Golf Club, Stratford Road, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands B90 4EW



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Please apply with full CV to: The Course Manager, Bryn Meadows Golf & Country Hotel, Maesycwmmer, Nr Ystrad Mynach, Caerphilly, South Wales CF82 7SN or email to: reception@brynmeadows.co.uk



## THE CRAYTHORNE GOLF CLUB 1ST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

To help supervise a team of up to 5 staff and deputise in the Head Greenkeeper's absence. Must have the ability to lead by example as this is a hands on position. The applicant should be qualified to at least NVQ 2 or its equivalent & have a minimum of 3 years experience. They must also possess a sound working knowledge of Health & Safety regulations. Pa1, Pa2 and Pa6 Spraying Certificates an advantage. Knowledge of golf preferred.

Salary negotiable in accordance with experience.

No accommodation available.

**Applications in writing, with full CV to:**

Mr. V. Gilroy, Head Greenkeeper, The Craythorne, Craythorne Road, Rolleston on Dove, Burton upon Trent, Staffs. DE13 0AZ  
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E-mail: rrrh@polarisworld.com • Web: www.polarisworld.com



## PORTLETHEN GOLF CLUB

require

### 1st ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants will be qualified to NVQ level 2 and preferably hold current spraying certificates.

A competitive salary is offered dependant on qualifications and experience.

Please forward your CV to: Head Greenkeeper, Portlethen Golf Club,  
Badentoy Road, Portlethen, ABERDEEN AB12 4YA  
or email to info@portlethengc.fsnet.co.uk



## Lytham Green Drive Golf Club

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Lytham Green Drive Golf Club, a progressive private club with full membership, on the Fylde Coast in Lancashire seeks a New Head Greenkeeper.

The successful candidate will have to demonstrate their enthusiasm and ability to:-

- Inspire and supervise both staff and contractors working on the course
- Manage and work within annual budgets
- Control maintenance of green keeping machinery
- Use their technical skills to maintain, improve and develop the course to a high standard
- Supervise all aspects of Health and Safety issues on the course.

Appropriate Salary plus benefits available for the successful candidate.

Apply in writing with CV to the Club Secretary, Lytham Green Drive Golf Club,  
Ballam Road, LYTHAM ST ANNES FY8 4LE

Closing date for application Tuesday 31 October 2006

## SELSDON PARK HOTEL & GOLF CLUB

Requires a

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Owned by Principal Hotels, the club has an exciting opportunity for a pro-active Head of our Greens.

The ideal candidate will have previous experience and be a self motivated individual who ensures effective management of employees and resources in line with seasonal requirements.

Please apply by Friday 27th October 2006 in writing or E-Mail to: Katrina Ellis,  
Human Resources, Selsdon Park Hotel & Golf Club, Addington Road, Sanderstead,  
South Croydon, Surrey, CR2 8YA or E-Mail: Katrina.ellis@principal-hotels.com



## SUNNINGDALE GOLF CLUB

require

### Assistant Greenkeepers

- Minimum 2 years' golf course experience
- Qualified to NVQ2 or equivalent preferred, but not essential
- Salary negotiable according to experience and qualifications

### Seasonal Greenkeepers

- A fixed term contract from April to September 2007
- Salary negotiable according to experience and qualifications

Applicants should be self motivated, committed and hardworking as well as having the necessary experience and ability to maintain the amenities of a World Top 50 golf club, host of the Open Championship International Final Qualifying - Europe, and the Women's British Open 2008.

Please apply in writing or email with full CV to: Julie Watts, P.A. to Secretary,  
Sunningdale Golf Club, Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berks SL5 9RR  
juliew@sunningdalegolfclub.co.uk

Closing date for Applicants: 31st October 2006





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Bayer Environmental Science  
Bellwood Trees  
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# Chairman's Column



## Time to stand up and be counted

On returning from the Toro student of the year finals, where once again the professionalism shown by all the candidates was extremely high, my congratulations go to all the finalists whom I am sure will have learnt so much by taking part. Each finalist will sit back and take stock of their performance and identify their strengths and weaknesses, which I am sure we all do on occasions - if not we should do. On the back of our own assessment or appraisal done by others, we will have highlighted areas where improvement can be achieved through further training.

As you look through the Harrogate Week educational programme that is included in this issue, you will find many educational opportunities available to you at very competitive prices. It is up to every one of you to make your employers aware of the savings they can make by you just being a member of BIGGA.

My congratulations go to this year's winner of the Toro Student of the Year - Mike Emptage - who is set for an unbelievable period in his life, meeting fellow greenkeeping students from around the world, as he enrolls on an intensive university programme. Mike will also get the chance to visit the Toro factory and attend the GCSAA show.

Our thanks to Toro who have sponsored the Student Greenkeeper of the Year award for 18 years, giving so many students the chance to better themselves.

As mentioned earlier in my article, the Continue to Learn educational programme is now available. As most of you are aware, the programme is run in conjunction with the BTME trade show, with exhibitors covering the full range of equipment, chemicals and materials required for all sports surfaces. Many of you will be aware that the revenue from the show is a large part of the Association's income, with profits being ploughed back into benefits to you, the members, mainly in the form of subsidised education. As we enter a difficult period with a few of the leading manufacturers not exhibiting in 2007, it is time that we, the members, should stand up and be counted and attend Harrogate week in large numbers, this is the best way to show our industry that we are passionate about our profession and our Association. Many people would say that education should come from the employer and the employer should pay the going rate, I'm afraid that in



the real greenkeeping world this doesn't happen and without the profits from Harrogate your Association wouldn't be able to fill the educational gap. So if you haven't made your mind up yet, think of the big picture and support the week and your association. Recently I attended my Section's committee meeting and was delighted to hear such positive feelings regarding Harrogate week and the need to support it. The Section have decided to provide transport and subsidised accommodation on a first come first served basis, hopefully each Section around the country will be planning something on those lines. On the left of my column you will find all the companies who have already signed up for BTME. You can click online to Harrogate week and view their websites for more information.

### Champion of BIGGA

My Champion of BIGGA this month is Ian Willett, Course Manager at Thorpeness GC in Suffolk and currently the East Anglia Section Secretary. Earlier this year Ian received the unsung heroes award in recognition for the enthusiastic help he offers our profession, Ian is very keen on education and successfully administrates a number of educational events within his Section.

Richard Whyman  
Chairman





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Members may apply for an 80% refund of education and training fees up to a maximum of £350. Conditions apply. Call 01347 833800 for an application form.

## BIGGA REGIONAL TRAINING

BIGGA provide quality education and training courses at a minimum cost thanks to the support of Golden and Silver Key Members who contribute to the Education and Development Fund. Call 01347 833800.

## DISCOUNTED WORKWEAR

BIGGA have teamed up with ARCO, the leading supplier of workwear, safety clothing and maintenance products to offer members 20%\*discount off a choice of goods. Call 01482 611773.

\*Discount not available on selected products.

## CAR LEASING

Driving a brand new car couldn't be easier. Bigga has teamed up with Lex FreeChoice to offer an exclusive scheme which allows you and your family members to drive the car you've always wanted at a price you can afford. Call 0800 419 930 and quote BIGGA.

## CAR RENTAL

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

## INSURANCE QUOTATION SERVICE

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

## NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

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

## BIGGA WEBSITE - [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

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





# The Intelligent Use of Water™



Water. It's what keeps the world alive. As the world's largest manufacturer of irrigation products, we believe it is our responsibility to develop technologies that use water efficiently. Over the past seven decades, our pioneering efforts have resulted in more than 130 patents. From central control systems and automatic shut-off devices to pressure regulating components and low volume drip irrigation, Rain Bird designs products that use water wisely. And our commitment extends beyond products to education, training and services for our industry and our communities.

The need to conserve water has never been greater. We want to do even more, and with your help, we can. Visit [www.rainbird.com](http://www.rainbird.com) for more information about The Intelligent Use of Water.™

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