

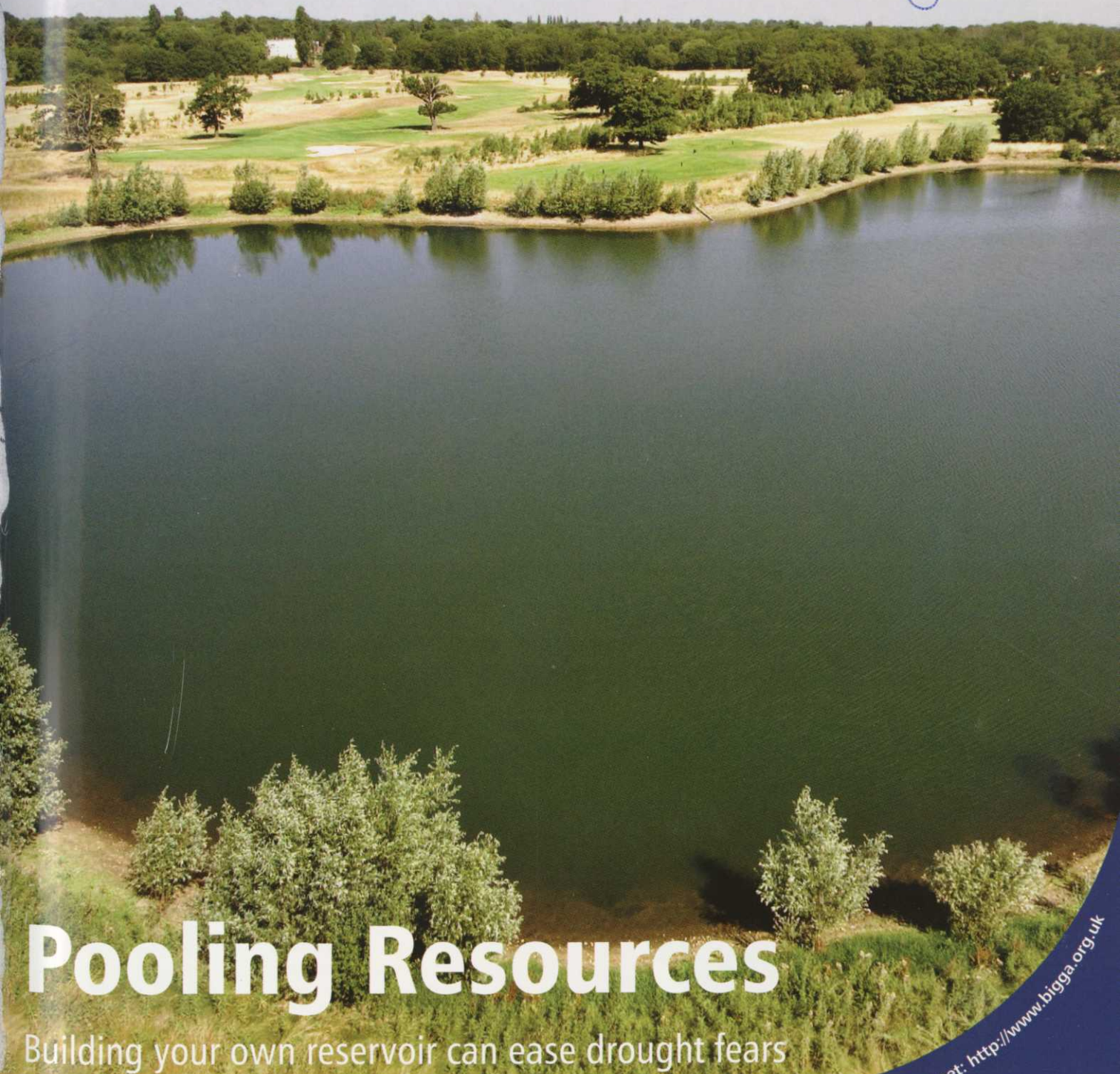


September 2006 – £3.80

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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Pooling Resources

Building your own reservoir can ease drought fears

BIGGA's Fantastic Outdoor Range

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

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



**PHONE
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to
order!**



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

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



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



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

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

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833800 to
order your
kit today!**

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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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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

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Bill Lloyd talks about all-weather golf surfaces unaffected by drought.



When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.



Welcome

TIME TO CHANGE PRACTICES

I suppose in magazine terms we're now approaching autumn although, as I write this it's very early August and I'm just about to head off on my summer hols.

But unlike most years, the thought of the onset of autumn this time around isn't accompanied by a sigh. Such has been the brutal nature of the summer months - the hottest July since records began - a little bit of respite for individuals, as well as golf courses, is a very pleasurable thought.

Having said that, just because the calendar will say autumn it doesn't mean to say that the expected weather conditions will follow. Such has been the unpredictability of weather patterns recently, there is nothing to say that we'll be in for cooler damper spells just because we've left what we traditionally consider to be summer behind.

It may be, of course, that you will have to scrap your traditional working practices to fall into line with the new weather patterns. We all know that you cut fairways and greens far more often in December than you did even 10 years ago. It may be that those changes will continue and even accelerate to the extent that you will be doing your winter programme much later than in the past and traditional on-going "golf season" work, might well extend to cover more of the year than it has done.

That obviously has knock-ons when it comes to integrating course maintenance work with the competition schedules, and enlightened clubs might well take the opportunity to re-schedule some of their events to times in the year which had not previously been utilised for club competitions.

Talking of competitions it has been interesting to read the comments about Hoylake following the Open Championship. There has been more debate about the golf course this year in the aftermath of the event than any Open I can remember since Carnoustie. The vast majority of opinion, in an industry which does polarise views, has been positive. Showing the golfing public that a course doesn't need to be green has, by general agreement, done British greenkeeping a great service and Craig Gilholm and his team must be commended for their work.

That said, Hoylake's "look" was mainly down to the fact that prior to the Championship, it hadn't rained in at least three weeks and if Craig should be credited with anything, it should be with holding his nerve and doing nothing when others might have been tempted to tamper.

Links courses, given the weather, should look like Hoylake because controlling run and gauging distance is what links golf is all about - indeed some would say that it's what golf is all about full stop. Gripping it and ripping it and firing straight at the pins is fine but it takes a real craftsman to hit a 3-iron under the wind and run it up the approach to finish pin high 10 feet from the hole.

It just so happens that Tiger can play both games!

Scott MacCallum, Editor

PGA AND RANSOMES JACOBSEN SIGN AGREEMENT

A three year contract was recently signed, making Ransomes Jacobsen the official supplier of turfcare equipment to the Professional Golfers' Association.

In addition to official supplier status, the Ipswich based turf equipment manufacturer, will also supply support equipment for golf courses preparing for PGA tournaments. The agreement also gives PGA managed golf courses, throughout the world, access to Ransomes Jacobsen equipment.



Sandy Jones with David Withers

HOLE IN ONE...AGAIN!...

Bury GC, situated five miles North of Manchester, located between Whitefield and Bury, made front page news recently.

During a board competition one Saturday, three different men managed holes in one at the same hole (14th) and all within one hour of each other. Named 'The Conifers', this par 3 hole is played from an elevated tee - the shot is almost total carry to the green.

When asked if there was anything unusual about the pin position of the 14th, Head Greenkeeper Spencer Lloyd-Pye said "The pin was bog standard, it's just weird that three hole-in-one's happened within an hour of each other."

The story appeared on the front page of the Manchester Evening News and also featured in the Bolton and Bury Evening News, as well as being discussed on Talksport.

LADIES' GOLFING COMMUNITY EXPANDS IT TEAM

Building on its success since launching in November 2005, online ladies' golf community AmateurLadyGolfer.co.uk (ALG) is looking to appoint up to 25 regional representatives throughout the UK and Ireland, to help fulfil its vision of improving the golfing and social experience for lady golfers whatever their ability or skill level.

ALG is offering its community members first refusal on the potentially lucrative independent regional representative positions.



Founder of ALG, Casie McDonald Wood

Women remain a minority in the golf world with, on average, only 103 lady members per club in the 2,500 golf clubs in the UK and Ireland.

Many women take up golf and then give up after a couple of years for reasons including lack of encouragement, the wrong equipment, insufficient coaching and feeling like second-class club members. "We are providing them with a solid reason to continue with the sport", said Casie McDonald Wood, ALG's founder.

DROUGHT SEMINAR

For clubs coping with drought restrictions, Stella Rixon with STRI's southern advisory team have organised a seminar at Chipstead GC in Surrey, on Wednesday September 13, entitled "Drought Issues and Planning for the Future."

This one day seminar will cover all drought related issues including protection and efficient use of water resources, storage, recycling and harvesting, alternative water supplies, rules and regulations, turf maintenance and managing under restrictions.

Adrian Mortram from STRI's Irrigation Services will lead a "walk about" and talk about the club's on site irrigation system. Other speakers include: Dr Jerry Knox from the UK Irrigation Association, Chris Haspell from Water Direct and representatives from the Environment Agency and the EGU.

Further details and booking forms are available on-line at: www.stri.co.uk or contact Amy Crooks on Tel: 01274 565131.

HELPING RAIN TO DRAIN

Heat waves or prolonged periods of drought followed by intense rainfall can cause localised flash flooding. In the event of extreme rainfall, the capacities of sewers, covered watercourses and other drainage systems can be tested to their limits. If drainage capacity is exceeded surface flooding may occur.

Experience has shown that much of the recorded flooding in urban areas is attributable to the passage of above ground surface flow. Recognising the importance of flood pathways

along highways and other routes, and the storage of water in low spots, is the first step to better management. Through good design, a second important step is to direct flood flows along routes where the risk to health and safety is minimal.

CIRIA's new guidance Designing for exceedance in urban drainage - good practice (C635) provides advice for the design and management of urban sewerage and drainage systems and is available to buy or download from CIRIA. Visit: www.ciria.org or Tel: 020 7549 3300.

COMPETITION WINNER

BIGGA Environment Competition sponsor, Scotts, presented one of its high-tech iTurf electronic weather stations to 2005 winner, Thorpeness GC.

Thorpeness Course Manager Ian Willett, was delighted with his prize: "The Scotts iTurf weather station is a very exciting piece of equipment to have on the course. It will enable us to accurately monitor disease, weather conditions, soil moisture and also help us with more effective water management. We can't wait to put it through its paces."

The BIGGA competition, which had been running for ten years, provides a platform for golf clubs to demonstrate their environmental credentials and prove that golf can be a positive and sustainable use of land. Thorpeness GC was selected as 2005 winner after attempting to win the top prize for eight years. "It's been a long road, but we are absolutely delighted to have finally made it," said Ian.

Over the past eight years, Ian and his small team have put in an enormous amount of work to ensure the course is as environmentally friendly as possible. This has included composting, controlling water waste, installing bird and bat boxes, closely monitoring flora and fauna on course to ensure minimum impact from course maintenance, and using locally grown turf for repair work.



Scotts Mick Fance (left) presents Thorpeness GC Course Manager Ian Willett, with an iTurf weather station.

HI-TEC REACHES ALL STAR STATUS

Hi-Tec was announced as the 'Official Footwear Supplier' for this year's star-studded, celebrity-swamped Northern Rock All Star Cup, held at The Celtic Manor Resort from August 26 to 28.

The celebrity golf tournament was hosted by prime time TV favourites, Ant and Dec. The three day event featured an amazing line-up of A-list stars, including HI-TEC's latest 'model designer' Jodie Kidd.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2006 - TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

Don't forget the deadline for entries into this year's Championship is September 8.

The National Championship will take place at Burton-on-Trent GC on Monday, October 2 and Tuesday, October 3.

BEAT THE DROUGHT

Scotts has published a Turf Stress Management Technical Update to help golf, sports and amenity turf managers, develop a drought management strategy and maintain their grass to the highest standards even during testing conditions.

The document contains a broad range of advice on factors which can affect turf quality in dry conditions, such as irrigation, use of drought tolerant grass species, mowing regimes and correct nutritional inputs to minimise stress. It also includes guidance on the use of a range of products, which can help as part of a drought management strategy.

For your free copy of Scotts' Turf Stress Management Technical Update, call: 0871 220 5353.



The Turf Stress Management Technical Update gives golf, sports and amenity turf managers practical advice on how to develop a drought management strategy.

SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH LEADS TO SECOND INTAKE

Writtle College are now enrolling for the second intake on their 15 week Sports Turf Mechanics course for September 2006, after its successful launch in March 2006 following consultation with the industry.

The course is suitable for individuals or employers in the sports turf industry that are looking for training opportunities for employees.

Discussions at BTME with the GTC and IOG were very positive with each institution showing interest in the course. These discussions lead to the potential of the course being awarded joint certification, as well as allowing other colleges around the country to adopt this course in a collaborative approach to training.

Intake dates for the Sports Turf Mechanics Course are: September 14 - December 21 2006; January 11 - April 26, 2007 (excluding February 15, 2007).

For details of how to apply, please contact The Training Group on Tel: 01245 424102 or Email: shortcourses@writtle.ac.uk

TOUGH COMPETITION

This year's Golf Management Competitions recently took place in the South West and South Wales Region. These events are organised by BIGGA and sponsored by The Scotts Company (UK) Limited. Winning teams received £200 worth of Scott's products for their clubs, together with individual prizes for team members. The host clubs this year were Neath GC, Minchinhampton GC and Moors Valley GC, all of which were excellent venues, thoroughly enjoyed by the teams participating.



Winners of the South West Section were Long Ashton GC



Winners of the South Wales Section were Trefloyne GC



Winners of the South Coast Section were Southsea GC

INDUSTRY CALL FOR HELP

Horticultural employers have had the opportunity to make NVQs and SVQs more relevant to the business world, through amending the industry's National Occupational Standards.

Lantra, Sector Skills Council for environmental and land-based industries, has been looking for input to make sure that vocational qualifications, designed by employers, are delivering work-ready employees.

Sharon Mahay, Standards and Qualifications Co-ordinator, said: "We want the qualifications to be as relevant as possible, which can only happen with employer input."

The changes will affect the content of the Production Horticulture and Horticulture Occupational Standards and NVQ/SVQ Levels 1, 2 and 3.

SNAPPY DRESSER KEEPS COURSE IN CONDITION



A versatile Dakota top-dressing machine from Campey Turf Care Systems, is helping a Lancashire golf course maintain high-quality greens

Colin Worthington, Head Greenkeeper at Werneth GC, says that the Dakota 410 has become an essential part of his machinery fleet. Colin, who has worked at the club for 26 years, exemplifies many greenkeepers who advocate a 'little and often' approach, applying top-dressings frequently but sparingly. This requires equipment that can be set precisely and which lends itself to quick, efficient operation. He uses the Dakota 410 at least once a month from April through to October, applying top-dressing and fertiliser on the greens.

DEMONSTRATIONS DELIVER

Campey Turf Care successfully staged two summer Open Days at their Macclesfield headquarters.

Groundsmen and greenkeepers were able to witness first hand, the quality and performance of the purpose built turf maintenance equipment available from the company.

What made the Open Days particularly effective were the working demonstrations that ran throughout the afternoons. These enabled turf professionals to see the benefits that could quickly be achieved.



REGIONAL QUALIFIER

The road to America got off to a very positive start for Tydd St Giles GC, when they clinched the Woodhall Spa Regional Qualifier for the John Deere International with a superb score of 61.

The team consisting of: Managing Director, Adrian Hurst; Course Manager, Derek Beba, and Head Greenkeeper, Kevin Goude started superbly with Adrian holing four long putts in the first five holes - in the Texas Scramble format. That was good enough to withstand the challenge of RAF Cottesmore who succumbed in a card play-off having also finished 10 under par over the magnificent Hotchkin course.

Sleaford GC finished third with a 63.

The shotgun start was organised superbly by the Lincolnshire-based John Deere dealership Burden's, marshalled by Woodhall Spa member, Norman Burden. A total of 17 teams were invited plus a guest team, comprising David Hart and Howard Storey, from John Deere and Scott MacCallum, from BIGGA. BIGGA benefits to the tune of £25 for each team that plays, with the money raised going towards education and development initiatives within the Association.

The guest team didn't disgrace itself with a score of 67, mainly through the fine play of David, while Howard produced the shot of the day on the team's final hole when he launched a 7-iron over a tree not four feet in front of him, having first located his ball in the deep undergrowth.

Tydd now head on to the National Final at East Sussex National where the team will be strengthened by the inclusion of Norman himself. Another fine performance there and they'll be off to America later in the year to take part in the International Final.



Left to right - Norman Burden, Adrian Hurst, Derek Beba, Kevin Goude and David Hart.

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LOCAL IS BEST FOR SCOTTISH MARKET



Scottish Operations Manager, Billy Nimmo, stands proudly outside his new facility.

Barenbrug UK has celebrated its commitment to a local presence in Scotland, with the official opening of its Sales and Production complex in Falkirk.

The facility, which is the most advanced blending and bagging plant in Scotland, includes a 12,000 sq ft warehouse that can

hold 520 tons of grass seed and a three ton capacity blender, capable of processing six bags of grass seed a minute.

Guests from throughout Scotland had the chance to see the facilities first hand and hear from guest speakers: Allan Patterson of St Andrews Links Trust and David Johnston, plant breeder at the Agri Food Biosciences Institute (AFBI).

Allan Patterson is the Head Greenkeeper for the new prestigious Course No 7 at St Andrews. He provided the audience with a fascinating insight into the work involved in building the new 18-hole course and why he had chosen Barenbrug varieties and mixtures for this challenging task.

STUDENT SOWS TOP SEEDS

A City and Guilds student from Swansea, beat stiff competition to design the winning garden of the year at the Royal Welsh Show 2006 - one of the most prestigious events of its type in Europe.

Saunurée Evans, 30, who designed the 'Tequila Sunrise' garden, was helped by nine other students and staff in the creation of the sunny landscape. They spent five days working on the Mexican-inspired garden, creating a central patio composed of a sun, surrounded by botanical rays of orange, blue and red.

Evans joined horticulture about two years ago and has since successfully completed the City and Guilds Certificate in Gardening and the City and Guilds Garden Design courses. In 2006, she was hailed Neath Port Talbot College Student of the Year.



DROUGHT TOLERANT MIXTURES GO ON TRIAL

Significant improvements in tall fescue cultivars, together with the interest in more drought tolerant species, has resulted in DLF Trifolium putting a range of new formulations into trial. The new mixtures, to be sown this autumn, will assess the best formulations for the future and will be available for all customers and interested parties to visit, alongside other landscape, wildflower and sports turf demonstration trials.

In addition, DLF will sow mixtures under different nutrient programmes to assess requirements in line with customers looking to adopt more sustainable maintenance programmes.

Pro26 Ecosward, a mixture with tiny clovers known as microclovers bred by DLF Trifolium, is looking particularly green at the moment, under the drought conditions.

A new mixture, Pro29 Drought Master has been formulated to take advantage of the exceptional colour,

density, wear tolerance and disease resistance of new tall fescue cultivars Masterpiece and Debussy. By including Limousine, the UK's leading smooth stalked meadow grass, and a dark leaved perennial rye grass, the mixture is aimed at customers interested in long term drought tolerance who require a mixture with very good visual merit as well.

For more information call: 01386 791102 or visit: www.dlf.co.uk/amenity.



THE MODERN DAY TRIUMVIRATE



Serious golfers should understand the need for maintenance of a club's biggest single asset, according to the "modern day triumvirate" at Temple GC.

Former Chairman of Green Malcolm Peake, Secretary Keith Adderley and Course Manager Martin Gunn, say it makes sound business sense for management to allocate the highest proportion of its resources to the golf course - but not all golfers understand the need for maintenance, be it routine or non routine, disruptive or non disruptive.

"We have all been faced with the perennial question, "why have the greens been tined just when they have reached their peak," said Malcolm. "Of course trying to explain that one of the major reasons the putting surfaces are so good is because they have been regularly aerated, is one of those areas that the triumvirate of Chairmen of Green, Course Managers and Secretaries is frequently faced with.

"And this is where presenting a united front, singing from the same hymn sheet, backed up by an understanding and supportive board or general committee is vitally important," said Malcolm.

This united front is becoming more important by the day as the impact of restrictive legislation, health and safety, increasingly likely water shortages and other factors beyond management's control, will have serious and ongoing ramifications to courses and clubs.

This modern day triumvirate - as important to the future of golf as the great triumvirate of James Braid, JH Taylor and Harry Vardon was to its development - must work in close harmony and be able to communicate constantly changing and evolving course management policies to members.

"Hopefully all clubs have the hugely important course management policy document, with the underlying theme that the golf course in question is managed and maintained in keeping with its location and natural environment aiming to present it in as good condition and for as long as possible - subject to local climate and weather conditions," Malcolm said. Communication is the key. "And with the ability to reach most members quickly by email, this objective should be easier to achieve," he added. At Temple, members are kept informed in various ways including informal liaison meetings, a monthly course bulletin and weekly competition results emails.

"Modern day life is such that we all have increasingly limited time and demanding expectations," said Malcolm. "This is no difference at golf clubs where the average golfer expects millionaires' golf at rock bottom process.

"With the supply of golf clubs and courses now outstripping demand and financial resources at golf clubs under huge pressure, the role of the modern day triumvirate and the requirement for good communication of policy is critical if this great game, and the camaraderie and friendships associated with it, is to survive."

TV BOOST FOR SUSTAINABLE GOLF

The campaign by The R&A to promote sustainable golf courses worldwide, received a major boost from the Open Championship at Royal Liverpool GC, Hoylake - with television's multi-million audiences a key factor.

For several years, the televising of major tournaments such as The Masters has led many club golfers to ask for "greener greens and fairways", requiring the application of huge quantities of water and chemicals. At this year's Open, however, spectators watched one of the most successful championships ever, played out on dry, brown fairways, which had not been watered at all during the long weeks of drought and record temperatures running up to The Open.

The excellence of Hoylake's sustainable course led to many tributes:

"I think it's a fantastic test. With the golf course being this fast, it lent itself to just amazing creativity. This is the way - how it all started and how I think that it should be played." Tiger Woods.

"I wish our fairways in the States were like this. It's nice, it's golf, instead of trying to grip it and rip it." Chris DiMarco.

Agronomists and greenkeepers confirmed that Hoylake was a shining example of The R&A's definition of the sustainable course: "Optimising the playing

quality of the golf course in harmony with the conservation of its natural environment under economically sound and socially responsible management".

Robert Webb, Chairman of The R&A Golf Course Committee, which spearheads the drive for sustainable courses, said: "We have had to work hard to get the message of best practice course management across to many amateur golfers and their club administrators, so The Open has helped our cause significantly. People watching television coverage around the world - or on the course itself - must have heeded the message that best practice course management, with conservation of water, minimum use of pesticides and enhancement of the natural environment - makes for more pleasurable golf and, at the same time, demonstrates greater social responsibility.

"We're thrilled with this boost to our work and like to think it will lead even more golfers to turn to our website: www.bestcourseforgolf.org which has already attracted registration from nearly 2,000 clubs worldwide".

PAST CHAIRMAN STAYS LOYAL TO MASSEY FERGUSON

Long-established Cambridgeshire golf club, Gog Magog, has selected a 46hp Massey Ferguson 1547 compact tractor to handle a variety of turf maintenance and transport tasks across the club's two 18-hole chalk downland courses.

Chairman of the British and International Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) in 2005, Kerran Daly has been Course Manager at Gog Magog GC since July 1999. He leads a team of two Head Greenkeepers and 10 greenkeeping staff.

GOLF COURSE LIGHTNING SAFETY

Every day thousands of golfers roam the links of Europe's golf courses, many heedless of impending weather changes. They may wait until the sky darkens, the clouds open and rain descends in torrents before seeking shelter from lightning. Yet a Lightning Protection Institute study in the US, shows the frequency of lightning deaths and injuries to golfers ranks only second to fishing as a leisure time activity during which lightning deaths occur and this is only due to the number of fishermen outnumbering the golfers.



Lightning strikes are unpredictable, especially since the warning thunder is heard only after the lightning strikes. Though lightning strikes are invisible, they produce a flash as a result of ionised air. According to the United States Inland Marine Underwriters Association the following facts may help understand the gravity of exposure to lightning.

- Lightning kills nearly 100 people in the United States alone each year and injures hundreds more.
 - Lightning strikes create temperatures that can reach between 8,500 and 33,500 °C, hotter than the surface of the sun!
 - Lightning strikes can travel up to 10 miles before striking the ground.
 - A typical flash carries a current of 12 million volts and 242,000 amperes (equivalent of 2.9 billion kilowatts of power).
 - Most lightning injury and damage are the result of a lightning strike occurring several hundred metres from the affected person or object.
- Technology is available in the form of devices and systems that enable the detection of an

SCOTTS® DONATE TO WEE ONE FOUNDATION

Scotts/Landmark Seed are to donate \$5.00 to the Wee One Foundation, for every 25-pound bucket sold of its new Memorial Creeping Bentgrass. The Wee One Foundation was established in memory of Wayne Otto, CGCS and his dedication to the betterment of the golf maintenance profession.

The Wee One Foundation provides financial assistance to golf course management professionals who incur extensive medical expenses within their families. For more information, visit www.weeone.org

Quick establishing Memorial Creeping Bentgrass is the result of eight years of selection and is most notable for its outstanding resistance to Dollar Spot and Brown Patch, medium to fine leaf texture and medium green colour.

For more information visit: www.scottsproseed.com

BAGS OF WORK



Rolawn Limited has appointed Graham Gilbertson as Bulk Product Production Manager.

Graham (36) brings to his new role a wealth of experience in the packing and agricultural industry, having previously worked for

Excel, a leading contract logistics company and also run his own farm.

WRAP LAUNCHES CAPITAL FUNDING COMPETITION

A new capital support competition, recently launched by WRAP (the Waste & Resources Action Programme) is aimed at accelerating investment in higher value wood recycling infrastructure in the UK.

For more information visit: www.mediacentre.info/wrap

approaching thunderstorm. These systems detect electrical disturbances through radio frequency signals and can determine the distance and relative electrical activity of the storm.

A Strike Guard predictor system, from Hydroscape Ltd was used by the R&A, to monitor potential storm activity during The Open. The system monitors cloud and cloud to ground lightning and provides warning alarms at user-set lightning activity distances.

Although it should be recognised that no system of warnings, shelters or evacuation procedures can ever completely manage the lightning hazard, reasonable safety precautions are appropriate and potentially life saving. For instance, the posting of lightning warnings is within the capability of all course management and the provision of shelters need not be costly.



WISE WORDS

As we look to the dark nights and cooler, wetter weather why not prepare to improve the course without actually stepping outside the maintenance yard!

David Golding, GTC's Education Director recalls his days as an apprentice and offers a few ideas, which cannot fail to pay dividends for both staff and the golfers.

I know we talk about climate change and the implications of milder winters, all year growth and efforts to supply the golfers with all year round golf but there are still days when we really do need to "cabin up" and look at the maintenance of the golf course furniture, tools and equipment.

I remember my apprenticeship days back at Buxton and High Peak GC, when January and February were the months when we had painted the tee markers and flagsticks for the umpteenth time, varnished the benches and the gang-mowers were in bits all over the shed awaiting hasty assembly sometime during March!

We often became painters and decorators in the clubhouse when the inevitable snow descended over the Peak District, hence the multi-skilled label we greenkeepers wore and many still do for that matter.

I know that the majority of your time is still spent on the course both with the on-going maintenance tasks but more and more reconstruction seems to be the order of the day, so when do you address staff training?

More and more Course Managers have a designated time during the week when training takes place and that is the way forward, but bad weather days seem an obvious time when so much can be achieved by both formal and informal training sessions.

The GTC can provide the support Learning Materials and the Approved Training Providers will assess you to identify the evidence required for staff to receive certification and qualifications where appropriate.

The Training Providers can arrange specialist short courses and BIGGA are also becoming increasingly involved, as major providers, often spurred on by the BIGGA Sections requesting local education and training linked to the formal work-based qualifications, this is good news.

Certificates of Competence or Vocational Qualifications are the work-based options but any craft training given can be programme, by using the national standards. For example, N/SVQ Level 2 Sports Turf standards are clearly detailed in the GTC training manual.

A Course Manager operating as trainer and mentor is without doubt a golf clubs finest asset when we are looking at staff development.

The support now available from both training providers and manufacturers/dealers should give Course Managers the confidence to prepare, plan and implement a programme for all staff and don't forget to involve the employers!



The GTC are continually working with the full support of the English, Scottish and Welsh Golfing Unions to engage the employers through seminars, our On Course newsletter and the various organisations websites.

There is much talk about the historical problems of identifying the employer at the traditional members golf clubs and whilst proprietary owned courses have often one person "in charge" and the more resort type courses have General Managers with overall responsibility, we must ensure Course Managers remain skilled, professional and patient people who can maintain and manage courses often operating in isolation and in difficult circumstances.

The R&A, in promoting their sustainable golf course programme, are continually trying to engage employers, however as with the development of Course Policy Documents, it is often the Course Managers who instigates the work in the best interests for the long term benefits to the golfer and the golf course.

My personal advice would always be that, as a Course Manager, do not undertake any policy or programme without full support of your employer and concentrate on ensuring your team, no matter how large or small, are trained to allow you to maintain and manage the course to the highest standard possible as detailed in the employer led course policy document!

The cost of the Training Manual is £25.00.

Learning Materials Level 2 CD-Rom - £30.00

Learning Materials Level 2 printed papers including CD-Rom - £120.00

Learning Materials Level 3 CD-Rom - £30.00

Learning Materials Level 3 printed papers including CD-Rom - £120.00

Prices are quoted inclusive of VAT, postage and packing for those purchasing within the UK. Prices may vary for countries outside the UK - please check on application.

Cheques/postal orders are to be made payable to the Greenkeepers Training Committee Ltd.

Overseas purchases - please send a 'Sterling Draft' drawn on an English Bank for the total cost.

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

GTC is supported by:





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

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Education Update

Ken Richardson provides an insight into the department's projects.

Although the 2007 Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week Programme will not be distributed until October, I thought that I would give you some advance information on what it contains. This article also includes some important information on the finals of the TORO Student of the Year Programme, on the BIGGA Education and Training Manual and an update on OnCourse - the golf course management software package.

Continue to Learn 2007

The Continue to Learn Programme for Harrogate Week 2007 will be distributed in the October edition of Greenkeeper International. Thanks to support from the GTC and with the cooperation of the EGU, the AGCS, the R&A and the PGA, we have been able to produce an even more extensive programme of Workshops and Seminars. They will offer educational and development opportunities to greenkeepers, groundsman, golf club managers, sports club managers and professional golfers in the purpose built Queen's Suite of Harrogate International Centre. The price of the Workshops will remain the same as in 2006 and we have introduced a discount scheme for the Continue to Learn Seminars. We have added even more one-day workshops, extended the half-day workshop programme and included more seminars. We are also providing many seminars free of charge so the more sessions you attend the cheaper they get.

The week of education begins on Sunday, January 21 with five, two-day workshops. The Workshops are:

HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR GREENKEEPERS

Health and Safety is an important topic in any industry and all greenkeepers, groundsman, golf club managers and sports club managers need to understand their responsibilities to themselves, to fellow employees, to golfers, to visitors and to members of the public. This workshop is aimed at those with a basic knowledge of health and safety and it will show how to identify high-risk areas, how to set standards for health, safety and welfare and how to set up control measures. The Workshop will enable delegates to produce an action plan for their place of work.

MOVING INTO MANAGEMENT

Taking the first steps into a management position can be very daunting but this two-day workshop will help delegates to take charge, be more assertive and maintain discipline. Team building, performance appraisal, motivation and improving team performance, are also covered by Frank Newberry in this interactive workshop. Delegates will take away a list of personal goals and an individual action plan.

AN INTRODUCTION TO GOLF COURSE DESIGN

This workshop continues to be popular among greenkeepers and golf club officials. It does not set out to train you to be a golf course architect but rather to give you enough information to be able to design basic golf course features and understand 'golf course design speak'. Howard Swan and Simon Gidman bring many years of design experience and proven success in presenting workshops to this interactive two-day event.

USING WATER WISELY

Who can tell what the future will bring? Not the weather forecasters or the 'profits of doom'. Next summer could be very dry or it could be very wet. However, no matter what the weather brings, greenkeepers and groundsman need to ensure that they have sufficient water available to irrigate their playing surfaces when it is needed. This two-day workshop led by Dennis and Adrian Mortram, will help delegates prepare for the next drought.

A1 ASSESSOR

This two-day workshop will give you the chance to become a qualified N/SVQ assessor, allowing you formally to assess your staff against National Standards. The Workshop will be presented by Plan-it Training and the GTC.

TORO Student of the Year Competition 2006



The TORO Student of the Year Competition reaches its climax this month when eight candidates attend the National Final at BIGGA House. The judging panel drawn from BIGGA and

TORO will interview Barrie Lewis and Kenneth Gilroy from Scotland, Stephen Eager from Ireland, James Billington from the North, Michael Emptage and Stephen Stroomer from the South East, Abigail Crosswood from the South West and South Wales and Graham Brumpton from the Midlands and they will select the winner of the TORO Scholarship. Watch out for more news in the October Edition of Greenkeeper International.

BIGGA Education and Training Manual

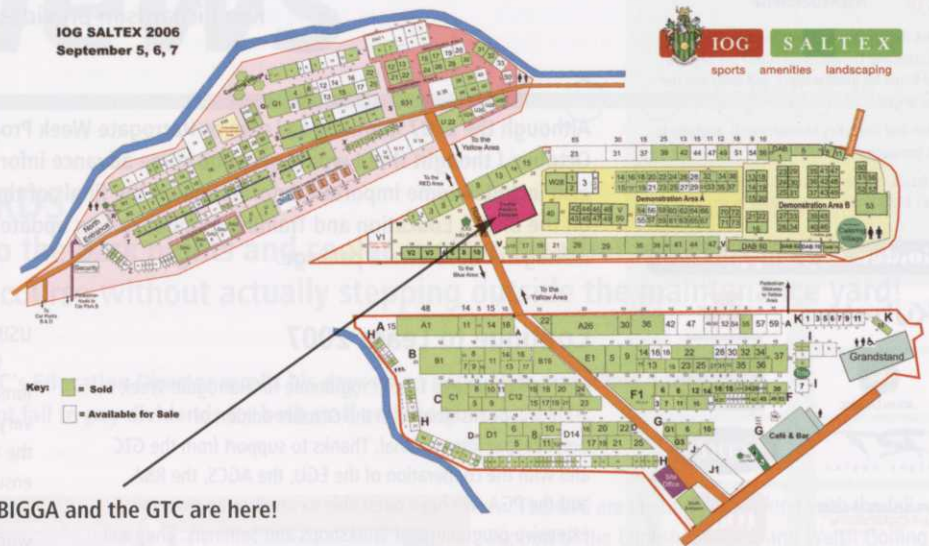
For all of you out there who are under training, have staff being trained or want to get into training, the BIGGA Education and Training Manual is a must read. The manual is an Internet based resource and you can enter it through the BIGGA website. It contains a wide range of information on education, training and development advice, most of which can be downloaded and adapted for your own use. So if you need to find out about Apprenticeships, N/SVQ and other qualifications, career progression, Induction Training, Training Records, Job Specifications, Job Descriptions or On the Job Training visit this site.

Rachael and Gemma would like to welcome 43 new members to the Association.

Membership Update

See you at Saltext!

This year BIGGA and the GTC have a joint stand at Saltext. Rachael will be on hand to answer your queries, collect membership renewals and distribute membership forms along with Clive Osgood your South East Regional Administrator. Fiona from the GTC will also be available to answer your questions on greenkeeper training. Our stand has also moved and we are located in the Central Pavilion Complex at stand EH7. We look forward to seeing you there.



BIGGA and the GTC are here!

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 this 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.

SEPTEMBER'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 Gary Anderson of Moortown Golf Club.



STOP PRESS...

The Job vacancy pages of the BIGGA website are now accessed through the home page at www.bigga.org.uk

THE BIGGA LEGAL HELPLINE NUMBER HAS CHANGED TO:
0800 019 2569
with immediate effect
Normal service is not affected

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 Ian Culross, North
 Alan Madden, Ayrshire

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Stephen Birrell, North West
 Kevin Bush, North Wales
 Nicholas Casson, North West
 Roger Cockburn, North East
 John Gibson, Northern
 John Hardy, Cleveland
 John Hardy, Cleveland
 John Maree, North West
 Thomas McCoy, North West
 Paul Sandalls, North Wales
 Robert Smith, North West

MIDLAND REGION

Jonathan Baines, Midland

Steven Dipple, Midland
 Jamie Irvine, BB&O
 Andrew Lintin, East of England
 Graham Wallace, BB&O
 Geoffrey Wells, East Midland

SOUTH EAST REGION

Michael Barney, East Anglia
 Sam Battley, East Anglia
 Peter Bowman, London
 Robert Bramwell, Essex
 Matthew Cartledge, East Anglia
 James Cooper, East Anglia
 Lee Dowd, London
 Andrew Howell, East Anglia
 Richard Mant, East Anglia
 Luke Rapley, Surrey
 Danny Stunt, Kent
 Andrew West, East Anglia

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 Beverly Blair, South Coast
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 William Ridgley, South Coast

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 William Owen, USA

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Jonathan Cary, South West

CORPORATE MEMBER

Andy Church, Northern

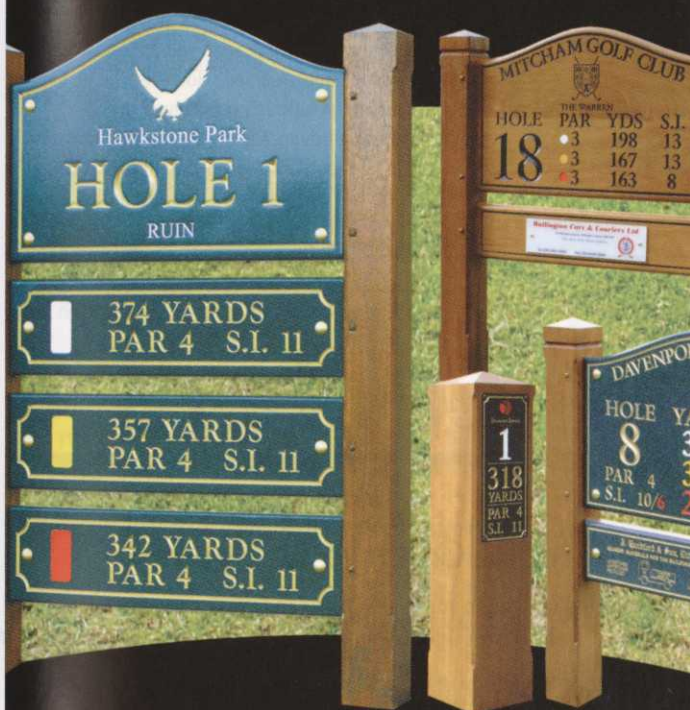
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EDUCATION 21 - 25 January 2007

EXHIBITION 23 - 25 January 2007

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.

DEVELOPING A WORK ETHIC

Andy Turnbull, Course Manager for Sports Turf at Warwickshire College offers his advice.

The most important thing any young greenkeeper needs to learn is a work ethic and willingness to learn. When I was a Golf Course Manager, my biggest frustration was the attitude of some young greenstaff. Turning up late, finding any excuse to sit on their backside, having to always get them going after break times - all contribute to the conclusion that this person does not want to follow a career in greenkeeping.

So, how can young greenkeepers show that they can work hard, are reliable and would be missed if they left?

1. Be the first at work waiting for the gates to be unlocked, showing you want to be there.



Clipping edges - a simple job but one that has a great effect on overall course presentation if carried out conscientiously



2. When allocated a task don't moan about it but do the best you can.
3. If you finish the job early and no one is around find something else to do, for example, pick up a broom and sweep the shed or yard or clean some machines and check oil levels.
4. Ask questions, showing you want to learn about the job.

Golf greenkeeping can provide a worthwhile and rewarding career. Wages for a Course Manager are generally above many other professions, e.g. teaching, and the opportunities are available to achieve any level of qualification you are capable of - from NVQ to Masters Degrees. However, the higher you progress in greenkeeping the fewer the opportunities for advancement. By showing initiative and gaining a reputation for working hard and being reliable, you will give yourself a good chance to progress in your career.

Letters ▶▶

Thank you Hoylake!

I am sure that many of my colleagues, like myself, suffer from Augusta Syndrome. It always strikes during that awful hiatus between winter and soil temperatures rising. Suddenly we are besieged by telly watching members all asking "Why aren't our greens, tees shrubs et al like Augusta?"

My stock answers of,

a) "We are on 300 feet of clay and have a climate more akin to Alaska than Augusta", or...

b) "We don't have six members, a course closed for half the year for preparation or a 20 zillion dollar budget", just don't seem to cut the ice.

This year at Hoylake we were treated to a fantastic display of golf. The best man won, not just because he is technically great, but he also worked out the nuances of links golf better than any other player.

So I say God bless you Hoylake. For the great golf? Well, yes for that, but more for producing a brilliant course where, to this date, not one of my members has asked, "Why can't our course look like that?"

A very grateful Greenkeeper!

Tony Leinster

Deputy Head Greenkeeper

Bearwood GC

It Need Not Be Green To Be Good

I just wanted to write to you to thank you and the Association for selecting me to be part of the BIGGA Open Support Team, for the recent championship at Hoylake.

The five days were everything that I hoped they would be and more. From the moment we turned up, the level of expectancy and professionalism was to the fore, as one would expect for such an event. The organisation was first class for the whole week. The catering arrangements were excellent - the ladies in the cathedral kept us well stocked.

As this was my first time, it was very good to have seasoned Support Team workers to encourage us along. The level of professionalism shown by all attending the championship was very encouraging for our Association. The camaraderie of all the volunteers was wonderful and added to the experience.

The work was hard and the hours long, but the opportunity to walk inside the ropes in the Open Championship eased the pain of the blisters and the heat. If anyone is considering volunteering for next year's Open, I heartily recommend it, it's an experience quite unlike any other.

On a final note, congratulations must go to Craig Gilholm and his team for giving us a traditional golfing experience of the highest calibre. The work of the green staff at Royal Liverpool should go to exemplify the fact that it need not be green to be good.

A great many thanks once again.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Scruton

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.

Letters ▶▶

Seasonal Planning

I've read a lot recently, saying that you don't have to starve your greens of fertiliser to grow fine turf. I wholly agree with this but feel that if you can get fescue to link with its mycorrhiza, you'll need little or no fertiliser and, done properly, your grass will thrive - not starve.

Mycorrhiza won't establish sufficiently if you've got high phosphate levels or if weedkillers are drying it out. However, if you have the right conditions for mycorrhiza, my methods to maximise the link with fescue are as follows:

Start your efforts in the spring.

In spring:

1. Apply wetting agent.
2. Cut as seldom and as high as possible (above 6mm).
3. Spray sulphate of iron after heavy rain.
4. Delay cutting for as long as possible after this application.
5. Lower height of cut gradually and increase frequency in response to grass growth.

In summer:

1. Spray sulphate of iron after heavy rain in June.
2. Again, miss out mowing for as long as possible after this application.
3. Cut as often as needed but no lower than 5mm.
4. Verticut between June and August as required.
5. If needed use nitrogen fertilisers from the end of May until the end of August.

In autumn:

1. From September, start to raise the height of cut and reduce mowing frequency.
2. If you've suffered a dry summer, re-apply wetting agent.
3. Spray sulphate of iron after heavy rain, remembering to put off mowing for as long as possible.
4. Adopt your winter cutting height and cut as seldom as possible.

Notes:

- I spray sulphate of iron about three to five times a year.
- I use long term wetting agents.
- Top dressing, heatherjacket control and hand weeding, are carried out in addition to the above.

This plan is based on the ideas that mycorrhiza: grow actively in spring and autumn and should not be disturbed then; provides nutrients to grasses during their growing season; uses carbon (carbohydrate) which grasses store in their roots; are moisture dependant and encourage grass root growth.

Sulphate of iron boosts photosynthesis and carbon production; spare carbon is stored in the roots; mowing uses up the plants carbon; fescue doesn't use applied nitrogen until late May and after the end of August; nitrogen applied before the end of May will boost competing grasses; fescue can tolerate aggressive mowing and verticutting when growing actively between June and August - but only then.

I've based what I'm doing on long established greenkeeping principles and seem to be achieving good results. I'd be happy to hear from anyone working along similar lines or anyone who has any thoughts on the subject.

Yours faithfully,
David Woodbyrne
Dumfries

Thank You

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be part of the BIGGA Support Team at this year's Open Championship.

It was a wonderful experience and it was a privilege to be able to work with such a brilliant team.

I met some great people and it is a memory I will treasure.

Yours sincerely,
Shane Wells

Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich

The Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich competition took place in July and Belleisle GC never looked better. I can't say what Kevin Thomson and his dedicated staff did but it was equivalent to waving a magic wand over the course.

The weather wasn't the usual sun baked Costa Ayrshire, still, the swallows were skimming the fairways while the light drizzle kept the golfers cool. It was obvious that the sun was just peaking from behind silver linings, awaiting the lovely afternoon to come.

It was a very successful competition enjoyed by young and old. I can't say that my own golf was up to any standard, I did however manage to secure a few points for my team in the Stableford. Harry's wife Jessie presented the presentation of the quaich and second and third prizes, to the winners. The winners of the quaich were: S Mitchell, D Gemmell, N Hannon and J Brooks. The quaich remains with Harry's family - each winner received a miniature replica to keep, together with a prize of some description.

All the Diamond family were busying themselves with handing out free raffle tickets and seeing that everyone was supplied with a free drink of their choice. Two of Harry's brothers - Neil and Campbell were there to assist when called upon, together with all the Diamond grandchildren. It was a pleasure to see the girls growing up into young ladies and still attending at their grandpa's memorial quaich.

The competition is so well organised that it seems to run itself but I know that a lot of effort, both by the family and the club, goes into the setting up of the competition each year. Finance is always a problem, the family would like to send a special message of thanks to all the sponsors and others who contributed towards making the competition the success it was. They also send a big thank you to all the golfers who took part in the quaich and wish them a great golfing year, keeping fit to play in the Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich in 2007.

Kindest regards,
Cecil George

Safety in the Turf Care Machinery Industry

Safety has always been of paramount importance for all those involved in the turf care machinery industry. But with the sharper legal focus on employee health and safety, it is becoming an even more prominent issue. Today it impacts directly on how Course Managers and Greenkeepers manage their machinery fleets.



For everyone responsible for course management, the regulations governing the safety and operation of course machines are clear. They can be found in The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) 1998, which in part state that equipment provided for use at work must be:

- 'Safe for use, maintained in a safe condition and, in certain circumstances, inspected to ensure this remains the case.'
- 'Used only by people who have received adequate information, instruction and training.'

So let's look at these two key statements in turn:

1. Safe for use, maintained in a safe condition and, in certain circumstances, inspected to ensure this remains the case.

Daily Maintenance Checklist
Duplicate this page for routine use

Maintenance Check Item	For the week of:						
	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Check the safety interlock operation							
Check the brake operation							
Check the engine oil and fuel level							
Drain the water/fuel separator							
Check the air filter restriction indicator							
Check the radiator and screen for debris							
Check unusual engine noises (1)							
Check unusual operating noises							
Check the hydraulic system oil level							
Check the hydraulic filter indicator (2)							
Check hydraulic hoses for damage							
Check for fluid leaks							
Check the tyre pressure							
Check the instrument operation							
Check the reel-to-bedknife adjustment							
Check the height-of-cut adjustment							
Check all grease fittings for lubrication (3)							
Touch-up damaged paint							

1. Check the glow plug and injector nozzles if hard starting, excess smoke, or rough running is noted.
2. Check with the engine running and the oil at operating temperature.
3. Immediately after every washing, regardless of the interval listed.

Notation for Areas of Concern

Inspection performed by:		
Item	Date	Information
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

Implementing and following a machine maintenance schedule has many benefits, but improving the performance of the machine and aftercut appearance is the primary aim though following maintenance schedules and looking after your machine will give other benefits. Chief among these are operator safety, machine reliability - resulting in less downtime - and a reasonable return on the residual price when the time comes to sell.

Daily checks differ from course to course, though standard check-sheets can be found in the operator's manuals supplied with the machine.

Most daily checks are second nature with experienced operators and take little time to complete. Checking for fluid leaks, damaged hoses and units can be carried out with a cursory glance and investigated further if required, whereas interlock switches, braking, steering and instrument operation are normally checked the moment the operator drives from the shed. Checking oil levels, air filter and tyre pressures becomes routine and takes little time to do. It is possible with some greens machines that a difference of 1 psi in the tyre pressure will give a 0.25mm mismatch, which is visible to the naked eye.

At the end of a day's work, it is worth taking the time to wash units down with low-pressure water - lubricate to purge any water and top up the diesel tank to minimise any condensation forming in the tank over night.

One of the most important daily checks is to verify the unit is on cut. This will reduce the risk of damage to the reel, excessive wear on the moving parts and give a better quality of cut. There are so many variables that can affect quality of cut and it is important to understand all factors involved.

It is important to check the following to maintain reel mower performance on a daily basis:

- **Bedknife to Reel Adjustment** - Both the reel and knife's cutting edges need to be straight and sharp, so grind as necessary and back lap little and often. The reel should be adjusted to the bedknife so that it pinches paper when placed between the two and cuts paper when it is passed over the bedknife into the path of the reel. This is one of the most effective preventative maintenance practices.
- **Attitude Adjustment** - where units have this capability, is normally set for the height of cut used. 'Attitude' refers to the bottom of the bedknife and the ground plane under the cutting unit. A large angle is referred to as an aggressive bedknife attitude. The opposite applies to a small angle and in this less aggressive set-up the bedknife can be riding on the turf. This is one of the first places greenkeepers should look when trouble-shooting aftercut appearance issues. Designs in units, such as the DPA unit and the Bedbar pivot location, now allow for operators to maintain a virtually-constant aggressiveness as the reel wears.
- **Rollers need to be set parallel with the cylinder** using a set-up plate and at the same time roller bearings should be checked for excessive play. Modern components such as the DPA unit have rollers that are parallel with the reel throughout and do not require the need to 'parallel'.
- **Height of cut needs to be checked for desired finish.** As with tyre pressures, errors in setting the height of cut on a greens machine by as little as a 0.25mm mismatch will be visible to the naked eye. With courses achieving ever-lower heights of cut on their greens, it is becoming more critical to achieve continuity through setting heights of cut.

It is important to maintain continuity across all cutting units and ideally to ensure the same person sets all units. Again, this is another area to look at when trouble-shooting aftercut appearance issues.

By Ian Sumpter

REELMASTER 5210 / 5410 / 5510 / 5610
QUICK REFERENCE AID

CHECK/SERVICE (daily)
 1. OIL LEVEL - ENGINE
 2. OIL LEVEL - HYDRAULIC TANK
 3. COOLANT LEVEL - RADIATOR
 4. FUEL/WATER SEPARATOR
 5. PRE-CLEANER - AIR CLEANER
 6. RADIATOR SCREEN
 7. BRAKE FUNCTION
 8. TIRE PRESSURE
 9. BATTERY
 10. BELTS (FAN, ALT.)
 GREASING - SEE OPERATOR'S MANUAL

FLUID SPECIFICATIONS/CHANGE INTERVALS

SEE OPERATOR'S MANUAL FOR INITIAL CHANGES	FLUID TYPE	CAPACITY	CHANGE INTERVAL	FILTER	FILTER PART NO.
A. ENGINE OIL	SAE 15W-40/34	22 QTS (20.9 L) (20.9 L) (20.9 L)	100 HRS.	100-5167	104-5167
B. HYD. CIRCUIT OIL	ISO VG 46/58	9 GALS.*	800 HRS.	SEE RECOMMENDATION	31-8873
C. AIR CLEANER				SEE RECOMMENDATION	100-9019 100-9018 100-9013 100-9012
D. FILTER, BRAKE FUEL			400 HRS.		99-7612
E. WATER SEPARATOR			400 HRS.		99-9794
F. FUEL TANK	NO. 2-Diesel	14 GALS.	Drain and Flush, 2 yrs.		
G. COOLANT	50/50 Ethylene glycol/water	22 QTS (20.9 L) (20.9 L) (20.9 L)	Drain and Flush, 2 yrs.		

* INCLUDING FILTER

Lastly, all these daily checks should be recorded as supporting evidence that the machine has been inspected and complies with PUWER regulations 'safe for use'. Full maintenance check-sheets can be found in the service manual. The sheets give service intervals, specifications and interval hours and can be used as a guide and recording method for the golf course mechanic. To help the mechanic, certain manufacturers have a quick-reference guide located on the machine. This incorporates useful information from the service manual, such as daily checks, engine oil type, interval hours and part numbers. Obviously, it is always recommended that any advanced maintenance is best left to a qualified person. Again all maintenance checks should be recorded as supporting evidence that the machine has been inspected and complies with PUWER regulations stated previously - 'safe for use, maintained in a safe condition and, in certain circumstances, inspected to ensure this remains the case.'

2. 'Used only by people who have received adequate information, instruction and training':

In the Continue to Learn booklet of this series of articles - volume 2, 2005 - Keith Jaynes looked at the requirements for installing machinery, and pointed out the clear distinction between installation and operator training. Therefore I shall not attempt to deal with installation again here. Suffice to say, manufacturers and golf club employers share a responsibility to ensure machines are installed legally. Before an operator uses any new machine, a competent person should always cover a comprehensive installation briefing. Those responsible for receiving machines should sign installation/delivery paperwork only when they are happy that a complete installation handover has been given.

The past few years have seen an increase in operator training courses. This has come about in part, due to the Health and Safety executive reviewing the use of machines in the agricultural/groundscare industry and the possible introduction of a mandatory licence for all operators.

Some dealers have seen this structured training as an opportunity to contribute to the safety of the industry and improve customer care and after sale satisfaction. Manufacturer's training or accredited training through Lantra, is generally available from manufacturers, training providers or local dealers. We have not yet seen the introduction of a mandatory operator's licence but casting an eye towards the construction industry, with its introduction of the CITB licence for machinery operators, I believe it is only a matter of time before we see something similar in our industry.

There are a variety of resources available for golf courses to offer in-house training. Manufacturers produce videos covering both general and machine-specific safety on the golf course. Greenkeepers using Toro equipment can now take advantage of a

variety of operator training courses run by distributor Lely UK, which are unique in the industry. Courses are part of a year-round training programme and are held over two days at Lely's St Neots training facilities. The sessions are very popular and comprise:

GOLF COURSE MANAGER'S COURSE

Designed to provide an understanding and knowledge of how best to manage a machinery fleet, including routine paperwork. Covers available information to assist turf professionals in the management of their courses. Also includes a brief look at Health and Safety on the golf course.

GROUNDSCARE OPERATOR'S MAINTENANCE COURSE

Provides an understanding and knowledge of troubleshooting, routine servicing and maintenance of Toro groundscare machinery. Covers principles and factors that affect clip, unit configuration and after-cut appearance, as well as giving training in the use of Toro equipment.

CUTTING TECHNOLOGY AND AFTER-CUT APPEARANCE

Aimed at troubleshooting, routine servicing and maintenance of cutting units. Teaches the principles and factors that affect clip, unit configuration and after cut appearance. Participants also learn about grinding procedures.

GROUNDSCARE MECHANIC'S COURSE

For troubleshooting, routine servicing and maintenance of Toro groundscare machinery. Training in the principles and factors that affect clip, unit configuration and after cut appearance, and how to use an ACE handheld system. Also covers Level 1 electrics and components, and Level 1 hydraulics and hydrostatic units.

SPRAY TECHNICIAN'S COURSE

For training in using and calibrating a pro-monitor and pro-controller. Additionally deals with troubleshooting, routine servicing and maintenance, including sonic booms.

Ian Sumpter is Training Manager for Lely UK Turf Division.





Algae Alert!

Tim Soane talks about the biggest threat to ponds, lakes and irrigation pens on golf courses - algae



A lot has been said about the threat of global warming to all different aspects of our daily lives but nobody has yet pointed out the very real menace it poses to golf courses from one end of the country to the other. And I am not talking about tinder dry greens or parched and brown fairways, either.

The unprecedented heat and endless withering weeks of burning sunshine this past summer - not to mention hosepipe bans and water restrictions in some areas - gave Course Managers and greenkeepers alike almighty challenges and headaches trying to keep precious grass surfaces in pristine condition against colossal odds.

But, while they fretted over frazzled greens and browning fairways a far more insidious and menacing threat erupted amongst them virtually overnight and practically without warning - highly toxic blue green algae.

Nature's most ugly - and, potentially, damaging - aquatic mantle rampaged across lakes, ponds and, most chillingly of all, crucial irrigation reservoirs throughout July and August at almost Apocalyptic speed - in some cases its green choking pea soup-like mass achieving depths of over 1.5 metres in just a matter of days.

What were once picturesque water features enhancing the natural rhythms and undulations of every kind of course from Championship standard through to local pay and plays were turned, almost overnight, into unsightly, slimy eyesores - distasteful and off putting to members and exasperating for the Course Managers and greenkeepers.

It is no exaggeration to say that my small team and I were literally run off our feet during these months, trying to keep up with calls from existing clients and scores of new Course Managers who called us in desperation because of the algae problems, which burst upon their water areas from one day to the next.

The real worry is not - despite the distaste and anger it provokes in members - the ruined visual appearance and aesthetics of the course or its water features but the very practical threat which blue green algae poses, should it infiltrate the waters of the irrigation reservoirs and lakes without being detected.

Highly toxic, it can lead to serious de-oxygenisation of the water and the blockage of pumps and pipe work of irrigation systems. Most worryingly of all it can inflict incalculable damage to the greens and fairways onto which any contaminated irrigation water is sprayed, rendering the course unplayable within hours and running up a bill of unthinkable, disastrous, magnitude.

Algae is, without exaggeration, one of the Course Manager's worst nightmares - and the threat of it is going to become greater and greater as

global warming delivers more and more summers in the future on the scale of this one. Make no mistake, it is the new scourge of golf courses along with elodia, broadleaved pondweed and several other invasive weed species whose growth is accelerated by prolonged sunshine and nutrient rich run-off, from nearby greens and fairways. Be in no doubt the troubles of summer 2006 are just a foretaste of much more to come.

To a large extent, it is today's generation of course designers and architects, who must shoulder a good deal of the responsibility for this. Their preference has been to create more and more new courses with large tracts of shallow, largely static, water or lakes and ponds with very little depth, flow or current. Almost without fail, nobody thinks to stipulate the installation of water agitators or pumps at the time of building these wonderful aquatic features and thus are inbuilt the perfect - I would go as far as to say optimum - conditions for the dreaded algae to flourish.

Blue green algae - some people call it blanket weed - comes in two forms: the wispy filamentous type, often known as maidenhair or silkenweed, which is free floating and then the single cell species which creates the choking, pea soup like masses which proliferate at alarming speed through all kinds of water areas from large lakes to suburban garden ponds.

Both are relatively simple organisms, which require very little encouragement to bloom and multiply. Hot weather, plentiful sunshine and shallow, slow moving water are the three key components for explosive growth. I have recently been engaged on consultancy work with a major water authority near London, where an entire six kilometre stretch of one of their rivers had become engulfed to a depth of over a metre in little over two weeks!

The hotter and longer the sun shines, the more rapidly it will bloom and spread. Modern golf courses, with their emphasis on numerous water features that are invariably shallow and with little or no current or flow, provide almost laboratory standard growing conditions for it. The fierce and relentless onset of global warming, as evidenced this summer, will only exacerbate an already serious problem for many years to come for greenkeepers and Course Managers. You can be sure that, Summer 2006, was only the beginning of an emerging pattern both in terms of weather and its effects on aquatic areas.

What then, is the answer? In a nutshell, not a lot. And by that I mean the remedy is relatively simple and straightforward. For greenkeepers and Course Managers to lay their hands on it, does not require too much imagination or trouble.

First and foremost, if the problem is to be tackled from a long term point of view then those courses with relatively shallow water areas of little or no movement should start thinking about having them dug deeper and/or the installation of heavier duty pumps, water aerators or simple pump and fountain features which will, at least get the water moving about.

Secondly, today's course architects and celebrity designers need rapidly to take on board the realities and implications of global warming and the future prospect of more, not less, tinder-box dry summers. They must re-examine their instincts for incorporating water features of only a shallow aspect and static character and instead make them deeper and with a real flow of water - otherwise don't bother with them.

Don't get me wrong, water on a course is great and vastly enhances its aesthetics and playing challenges so I would never say dispense with it altogether - but it is critical that the designers get it right in today's changing climatic times - otherwise they could be creating expensive breeding grounds for toxic green eyesores.

More immediately, blue green algae can be controlled and very largely suppressed if courses adopt all-year round aquatic maintenance. The crucial thing for Course Managers, greenkeepers - and particularly the accountants protecting their budgets - to realise is that algae control is not something which can be cherry picked on an ad-hoc basis - say, in Spring to make a course look attractive for the approaching summer or every alternate year to enable something else to be accommodated in the CapEx columns in intervening years.

Unequivocally, anti-algae treatments, depending on the size of the water area(s) involved, need to be carried out between two or four times a year on a sustained on-going basis. Obviously companies like our own specialise in the work - but, if they wish, a ground staff team are perfectly capable of implementing the necessary preventative measure on their lakes, ponds and irrigation reservoirs etc.

At the heart of the treatment programme is a very simple and straightforward material readily available to anybody who knows a friendly farmer or two - barley straw.

When this is immersed in the affected water, a 100% environmentally safe chemical reaction takes place with the algae, which is then slowly and steadily destroyed and degraded by the straw. Usually, the first effects are visible within two to three weeks of the straw being submerged and its algae decomposing properties generally go on working for two to four months depending on the depth and density of the algae.

There's a bit of a knack in how the barley straw should be deployed an affected water course and how it is most effectively baled up for immersion. Similarly, at Clearwater, we have developed a number of accelerants - all 100% environmentally friendly - which we mix in with the straw to carefully worked out levels and these speed up the decomposition process on the algae. This, in certain instances can achieve quite startlingly rapid results.

Obviously, prevention is the best cure of all and it is especially important to realise that by deploying the barley straw throughout the year, including the winter months, then



Lake covered in algae - before

resistance levels in water courses are built up. If nowhere else, golf Course Managers and groundsmen, should be avidly following such a strategy in relation to their irrigation reservoirs and pens.

What happens if prevention has not been practised and algae density has reached extreme levels? In such circumstances the last resort is chemical spraying but for safety and efficacy's sake, it should, without fail, be conducted by a specialist contractor to ensure that the correct strengths of chemical in relation to the cubic capacity of the affected water area, is applied.

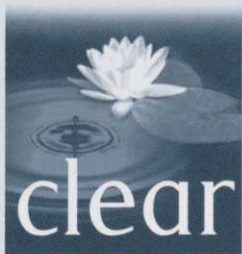
Even then this creates something of a Catch 22 situation in relation to irrigation reservoirs. Compromised by toxic algae, their water cannot under any circumstances be utilised for spraying or irrigation purposes on fairways or greens for fear of disastrous consequences - but then neither can the water be used after the chemical treatment without leaving it for an absolute minimum of 14 days.

Let's face it, blue green algae is nobody's friend and I cannot pretend that, with the fierce onset of global warming as we have seen this summer, the picture is a particularly happy one. There is no question that the future is a sunny one but, for once, that is not what greenkeepers and Course Managers really want to be hearing.

Tim Soane is Founding Director of Clearwater Pond and Lake Management Ltd.



Lake as above - after



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Pooling Resources

There seems to be intelligent argument to counter the accepted belief that water is going to become an ever more valuable commodity and as it is a resource that is relied upon by golf courses using it wisely, it is going to become ever more important.

One way to lessen the impact of water restrictions is to harvest and save the water that we do have access to, namely rainwater and this month Greenkeeper International looks at the building of reservoirs. Irritec look at the project from the early stages while Maureen Keepin adds further input and chats with Course Managers who have already taken the plunge, as it were.

Controlling your own water supply - building a golf course reservoir

Approximately 250 thousand million cubic metres of water falls onto Britain each year, with around 60% of it running into the sea. Much of that 60% is required by the environment, for hydrological processes, navigation and other purposes but saving just a tiny fraction of the excess of this quantity, would provide all the country's irrigation water requirements. Water can be intercepted as it falls to the ground via rainwater harvesting and drainage collection techniques, or it can be taken from the rivers under abstraction licences. Generally, for abstractions of less than 20m³ per day and up to 7,300m³ a year, a licence is not required but whether a licence is or isn't needed, often the best way of ensuring your summer water supply is to store water in your own dedicated reservoir. Any water stored in a reservoir has been temporarily taken out of the hydrological cycle and is 100% yours - to do with as you will, when you will.

Once a club has decided to investigate a reservoir for the course, the first question to address is where might one be sited? Often the club's first conjecture is, 'We have a low part of the course that is wettish in any case, how about there?'



42,000m³ synthetically lined reservoir

RESERVOIR SITING

If the club has negotiated an abstraction licence for winter storage, then they must show the water that comes out of the reservoir in the summer is the same that went in to it in the winter. If this were not the case, the club would scratch out a hole at the lowest part of the course, deep into the water table and keep abstracting from this all summer - the water actually flowing in from the sides and the bottom! A reservoir must therefore be lined to prevent not only water escaping but also water entering.

Most small reservoirs (being less than 50,000m³) are lined with a synthetic polymer liner. Any reservoir which is synthetically lined and empty in the autumn when the water tables start to rise again, will face problems. Unless the water table can be permanently, artificially lowered below the base of the reservoir, the liner may push out from the bed and the sides and be damaged. In addition, digging at or beneath the water table, is extremely difficult - the walls and bed of the hole rapidly merging into a large amorphous pudding. Reservoir sites should therefore be up and away from valley bottoms and on plenty of deep, well structured and drained land.

Pooling Resources

The next question normally asked is, 'Can we put one in the centre of the course and use it as a water feature?'

Unfortunately the answer to this is normally, 'no'. The accepted depth to which water in an ornamental pond or lake can be drawn down, is just eight to 12 inches. Full reservoirs are often pretty -but a less than full one can be ugly. A reservoir is used for storage and by design must be drawn down to a great extent in the season. If the reservoir is not drawn down, all the water below that level is unnecessary. A reservoir in August that has been lowered by four metres may look very ugly indeed and must be sited well out of the way of aesthetically-sensitive eyes.

"Ah, but such-and-such club have a reservoir they draw from and that looks fine!", is the common rejoinder, but in fact that club will almost certainly have a borehole that tops up the reservoir during the day, at a low, constant rate, or another reservoir which does the same. Either way, the lake from which they pump is just a temporary holding, or balancing reservoir, with little nett loss occurring from it.

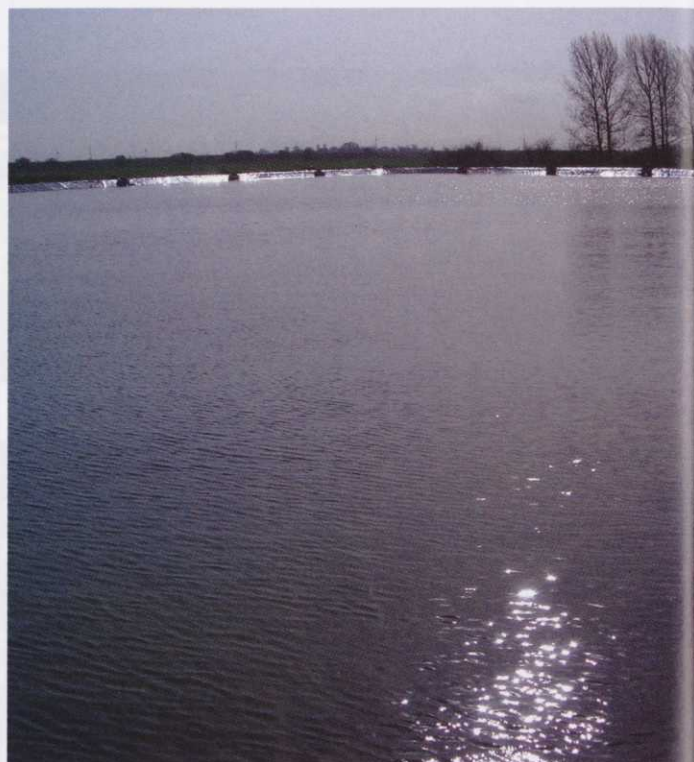
SURVEY AND DESIGN

Once a club has decided it needs to investigate the viability of a reservoir, potential sites need to be investigated to determine the construction feasibility and thus the site design parameters. A good relief survey of the site should be taken at an early stage and trial holes excavated as deep as possible - ideally to the water table or even bedrock. Most small reservoirs are generally constructed on a balanced excavation basis, whereby the amount of spoil arising from the excavation, becomes the impounding embankments above the excavation.

Observing the structure of the substrate, testing its on-site strength, removing samples and analysing them as required in a laboratory, will give a good indication as to all the slope angles needed on the finished structure. It will also allow the maximum depth of excavation to be set. Correct slope angles and a detailed specification for the embankment construction methodology is critical to the long term stability of the reservoir structure. Only on-site investigation and geotechnical examination will ensure that, with the correct safety factor, a reservoir's embankments will pass the 100 year test mark.

Test digging will indicate the presence of suitable clay on or near a site, which can then be further explored. Clay lined or clay cored reservoirs are fine - if all other conditions are ideal. However, leaving slopes open to saturation and erosion almost always results in the design requiring shallower embankment slopes. This makes for a bigger reservoir 'footprint' and thus a larger reservoir site. The economies of scale mean that ordinarily, clay lined reservoirs are not considered for small projects. Guarantees that the water will not leak out can also only be given for synthetically lined reservoirs. Almost all synthetic lining systems incorporate a polymer membrane above a protective 'carpet underlay'. The quality, specification and thickness of both the waterproof membrane and the protection layer need to be very carefully specified. Correct site investigation should lead to the most suitable lining system, but it is important that the lifespan of the lining is accurately accounted for and the liner warranty carefully scrutinised. Clubs should be budgeting to replace their reservoir liners every 25 to 30 years, not 10 or 15, irrespective of whether they're constructed in soft sand or flinty chalk.

The optimum depth for a golf course reservoir is between 4m and 8m. This allows for an efficient excavation whereby, in principle, one cubic metre of excavation stores, not only one cubic metre of water below ground but also one cubic metre of water above ground, by its contribution to the embankments. The capacity of the reservoir is calculated as being the amount of water required by the irrigation system in a 40 or 50 year drought. Nett losses due to evaporation must be added to this, a safe freeboard for wave action and an allowance for dead water at the base of the reservoir. On a reasonably level field a reservoir of 12,000m³ (sufficient for most 18-hole greens and tees systems) may occupy a total footprint



13,500m³ reservoir for greens tees and approaches at Spalding GC



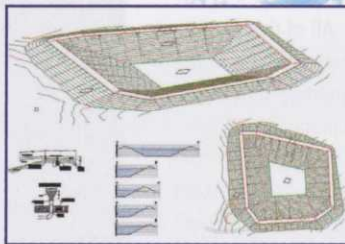
Slope facing at Kent National



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THE PGA AND RANSOMES JACOBSEN SIGN OFFICIAL SUPPLIER AGREEMENT

The Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) and Ransomes Jacobsen, a subsidiary of Textron Inc. (NYSE:TXT), have signed a three-year agreement where the Ipswich-based turf equipment manufacturer becomes the Official supplier of turfcare equipment to the PGA.

In addition to Official supplier status, Ransomes Jacobsen will supply support equipment to the PGA for use by specified golf courses preparing for PGA tournaments. The agreement also gives golf courses managed by PGA Golf Management access to Ransomes Jacobsen equipment with enhanced benefits and terms. PGA Golf Management manage seven golf clubs throughout the World including Laucala Island Resort in Fiji and the Riffa Golf Club, Bahrain's first international 18-hole grass golf course.

Commenting at the signing of the agreement at The Open Championship, Sandy Jones, Chief Executive of The PGA commented, "We are delighted with the outcome of our negotiations with Ransomes Jacobsen. We have entered this business partnership knowing that we will be working with one of the leading turf equipment manufacturers, world-wide. Through PGA Golf Management we have had a great relationship with Ransomes Jacobsen for some time as their products were specified for the Riffa development in Bahrain. Most importantly, they are a global player and are committed and concerned for the development of golf. Their network of professional dealers and distributors throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa will ensure that we have the best equipment to support our events and our managed courses."



David Withers, Managing Director at Ransomes Jacobsen added, "This is great news for Ransomes Jacobsen; we had some tough times in the late 90s but in recent years we have seen significant improvements in terms of customer satisfaction and market share as well as better volumes and profitability. This Agreement is a mark of this progress and reflects the PGA's confidence in us as a leading supplier to the golf sector. We look forward to working with the PGA and PGA Golf Management over the coming years"

In addition to its key relationships with major organisations and sports governing bodies; Ransomes Jacobsen has made an ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability in all of its activities. As the first turf care manufacturer to be awarded the environmental standard ISO 14001, Ransomes Jacobsen will continue to 'strive to accommodate and promote sustainable working methods in pursuit of excellence.'

Pooling Resources

area of one and a half to two acres. A reservoir of 25,000m³ (for many 18-hole fairway systems) may require two and a half acres. A 50,000m³ reservoir may require four or five acres.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Many reservoirs are scraped and pushed into shape by bulldozers and similar plant. Others are constructed using 360 degree excavators and dump trucks. However they are constructed, the most crucial component of the build is the correct specification for the construction of the embankments and a variety of plant is available for this. All of this plant must be transported to site. Ensuring an adequate and safe haulage route through tight rural roads and across the golf course, is an important consideration in the siting of the reservoir and its safety planning.

Almost all reservoir construction projects are subject to the Construction Design and Management Regulations 1994 (the CDM Regs). As a golf club, this means that you have legal responsibilities to the health and safety of the project both during and after construction. No blind eye should ever be turned to these regulations and clubs can be prosecuted for not following the regulations irrespective of whether any injury actually occurs. The very positive side of the CDM regulations is that by following a few simple codes of practice, accidents are very few and far between in reservoir construction. The CDM Regs also lay out the relationship between all the parties. The club will be the client, the engineer is the designer and possibly the planning supervisor and the contractors are principle contractors and sub-contractors. This prevents any grey areas of responsibility and ensures that the contract relationships are seamless. The creation of an agreed Health and Safety Plan, by the planning supervisor at the project's feasibility stage, is a must. As with many modern regulations (though not all), embracing the CDM Regs wholeheartedly is the only way to ensure your project is safe and that you are protected as a club. It is even possible to nominate an 'agent' to assume these risks for you.

The issue of a safety fence around the finished product is one of the most talked about subjects in a reservoir project. All reservoirs must have some escape method if somebody falls in but keeping the wildlife and local teenagers out to start with, is a major issue. Any reservoir situated near a housing estate or public footpath ought to have a properly specified fence, to recognised health and safety standards. This should be situated at the bottom of the external embankments, so as to minimise its visual impact against the sky-line. However, a more remote reservoir need not require one. It is one of the vagaries of law and insurance that one can walk directly off a cliff into the sea or a river with little recourse to the landowner, but a strong case would need to be made that a reservoir's risks had been minimised if a suitable fence had not been included in the design.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Reservoirs can be almost any shape and size. Fitting them into corners of fields, between hedgerows, or fitting them to existing hillside contours, are common processes. If the reservoir construction is part of a new abstraction licence, often a consideration at an early stage is to look for the nett environmental benefits of a reservoir.

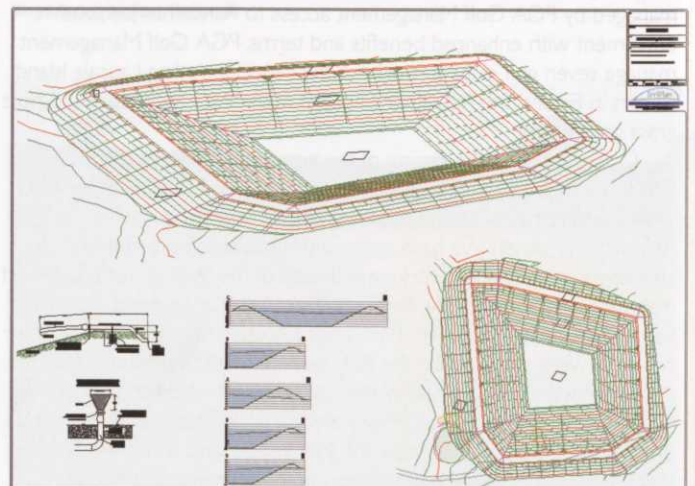
Putting energy into water in order to move it long distances in municipal pipelines; chlorinating that water at great expense; and then applying it to a golf course, is plainly wasteful of energy. Simply abstracting, conserving and applying water locally has an immediate environmental benefit. However, in recent years treating the reservoir itself as an environmentally beneficial structure, has become important to the Environment Agency and to planning departments around the country. A properly managed and fenced off area can provide excellent protected habitat. About the only animals that need to be excluded are deer, foxes, rabbits and, of course, pet dogs. Using wildflower seed blends can provide a valuable habitat for small rodents and birds.



Synthetically lined reservoir embankment sown with a wildflower seed mix



A floating island provides refuge and shade for fish and nesting sites for wildfowl



A good design is essential for planning and for tendering contractors

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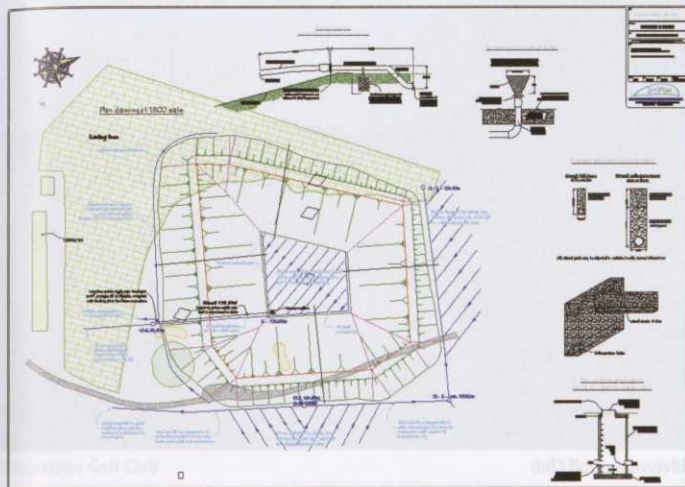
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At the Old Course GC in Darby, near Leicester, attention has turned to re-opening a lake, which dates back to 1861. Strategically sited at the 14th green, this is now allowed to have large trees growing in it - but at the time had a capacity of 250,000 gallons.



A lined reservoir not far off being ready for filling



Finished embankment surface

Non-geometric shapes, marginal shallows, access ramps for amphibians and ducklings, and even floating islands that rise and fall with the water level, can help to promote a reservoir both visually and environmentally. For very little cost, a new reservoir can be favoured and supported by the Environment Agency, your local Wildlife Trust and the Local Authority by making a significant contribution to habitat creation.

CONSTRUCTION

The whole process, from feasibility, through engineering design and specification, to supervision and post-construction observation, should be handled by an independent firm of suitably qualified consulting engineers. The finished design should be well modelled and presented using dedicated civil engineering software so that the club and the local planning department know exactly what will be constructed.

Correct plans with sections and detail drawings will allow competing contractors to provide prices on a like-for-like basis.

The purpose of the golf reservoir is to store water, so that it can be applied through the irrigation system in the summer. Though construction must be seen as an individual project, the reservoir is just one component of a larger system - from the collection of the water, through to its emission from the sprinklers' nozzles. Fitting the reservoir into the overall abstraction and irrigation system must not be left to chance.

Each reservoir is a bespoke component of the irrigation system, therefore budget prices are notoriously difficult to predict without the feasibility, design and tendering stages being complete. Generally, the deeper the excavation and the more level the site, the lower the costs. Shallow reservoirs above high water tables and reservoirs constructed in rocky or hard ground tend to be the most expensive.

At today's prices, a 12,000m³ synthetically lined construction may cost in the region of £70,000 - £130,000, a 25,000m³ lined reservoir may cost £120,000 - £180,000 and a 50,000m³ lined reservoir is likely to be in excess of £160,000.

An abstraction licence itself, may take some time to be awarded but reservoir planning and design processes also do not happen overnight. The most appropriate time of year to construct a reservoir is in late summer or early autumn when the land is generally drier. Carrying out major earthworks in winter can dramatically push prices up as contractors have to cost in the days when the weather makes excavation and movement too difficult. With this in mind, for a late summer construction, a contractor must be appointed at least three months before and as planning consent can take six months or more, clubs should allow themselves a minimum of one year planning.

As pressure on water resources grows, the cost of water increases and its reliability of supply decreases. One of the best ways to ensure that you have a sufficient known quantity of water for your summer's irrigation system, is to be able to stand beside your own private reservoir in March and see the water for yourself. Saving your little bit of water that would otherwise run off to the sea, puts you back in control and removes your dependence on third parties.

Marcus White CEng BSc (Hons) MSc MIAgrE MASIC is a member of the Institution of Agricultural Engineers and of the American Society of Irrigation Consultant.

He is a Director of Derbyshire based consulting engineers, Irriplan Limited, who specialise in irrigation engineering, reservoir engineering and water resource management for golf courses. For more information visit: www.Irriplan.net.



Steve Cherry, Course Manager at Silverstone



Silverstone Golf Club

Solving water shortages

As more drought orders come into force never has water storage been such a vital issue - where every drop of water counts. Maureen Keepin reports...

As most of the earth is covered by water - more than 70 per cent - and the UK is wetter than most countries, we would not expect a dramatic problem to arise with regard to supply.

But with only one per cent of this resource readily accessible, global warming, climatic changes, increased use of water, more housing, no notable increase in reservoirs, no grand plan and water companies losing a staggering 3.6 billion litres of water each day through leaks - water management is a serious issue which needs to be addressed. In these critical times, ponds, lakes and reservoirs come into their own.

SEEKING SOLUTIONS

Collecting water from the golf course during wetter periods, for use in the drier times, is an extremely sound proposition for most clubs. Serious and expensive damage can occur very quickly if grass roots are unable to obtain sufficient water to make up for transpiration losses and the grass becomes stressed.

Basically the scheme involves collecting ground water and surface water run-off, channelling this into a piped drainage system and feeding that into a storage reservoir in the ground - which need or need not be lined.

"Everyone ought to be investigating this now, as there are planning issues which need to be overcome to build these resources," says Nigel Wyatt, Contracts Director for irrigation, drainage and water management specialist MJ Abbott.

"Time is of the essence and the requirements are different for every club."

Determining the amount of water you need to store is critical. If a drought order hits in July, clubs will need to store enough water for August to September. If the drought order comes into force in March, they will need sufficient water for the whole season.

As a general rule, when planning water storage requirements, clubs should allow for one inch (30mm) of water over a given area per week.

THE REMEDIES

Designing and planning water storage facilities can be carried out by experienced contractors who will take into account ecological and aesthetic issues. This ensures the functional requirement is met and that the project enhances the environment.

Gravity pipework alone is unlikely to be sufficient to take the water to the right place, so generally water will need to go through pumping systems into a series of reservoirs.

"The Belfry is a good example of this," says Nigel.

Water management was a prime concern when improvements were carried out to the Brabazon Course for the Ryder Cup. No summer abstraction of water is allowed, so a large quantity of water is required to be stored over

the winter. The irrigation storage reservoir at The Belfry, already one of the largest of its kind in this country, was extended to accommodate the storage of 15million gallons of water.

HOLDING WATER

Where feature lakes are installed they need to retain their water levels to be aesthetically pleasing, so the amount of water available for use should only be the top 200-400mm in depth. It is crucial they are kept free from a build-up of vegetation and weeds. Aeration helps with this, as it stimulates aerobic digestion.

For this reason, a preferred option is the construction of a reservoir within an area out of play - conditional on planning from the local authority. Generally the most economic solution is the method of cutting and filling. The first operation is the removal of the topsoil over the area of the site and then excavation of the subsoil can be carried out. On a level site it is possible to excavate the centre and place the fill to form banks and surrounds. Key to the success of this is ensuring compaction of the fill material within the bank.

LINING LAKES

There are two possible options for lining lakes and reservoirs. If the indigenous subsoil is clay, it may be possible to puddle this to form an impermeable layer. However, if the subsoil itself is permeable it will be necessary to install a man-made lining system.

Typically a geotextile underlay is used over the subsoil surface, followed by a polyethylene lining system. This lining system is sandwiched by another layer of geotextile and secured around the perimeter of the reservoir by a key trench. The final operation is to spread a protective layer of topsoil at a minimum depth of 150mm over the geotextile. This acts to protect it and enables growth of indigenous plant species.

"We can no longer take water for granted," says Nigel.

"Creating or increasing on-site water storage facilities is a sound solution more and more clubs are implementing."

So, what measures are clubs taking?



Silverstone Golf Club

At the Old Gorse GC in Oadby, near Leicester, attention has turned to reclaiming a lake, which dates back to 1961. Strategically sited at the side of the 16th green, this is now silted up and has large trees growing in it - but at the time had a capacity of 250,000 gallons.

"Water at the moment is a top priority," says Course Manager, Frank Kempster.

"We are not restricted at the moment, but we cannot be complacent."

At the time the reservoir was built, every green had its own hydrant and to water the course hosepipes were connected to these, with free standing sprinklers.

"It was in 1972 we decided to go on to an automatic system and initially the plan was to fill a holding tank from the reservoir," he says.

"We found we were watering more and the diesel pump just could not transfer enough water into the holding tank to water the greens at night.

"As a result, in 1973 we went on to mains."

To water more efficiently, a new irrigation system was installed in the winter of 2005, together with a new mains supply.

Looking back, Frank realises he and many others were quite naive about irrigation systems.

"Too much irrigation was being carried out then and the greens were watered for 45 minutes each," he says. "Now with the new system the most we apply is eight to 10 minutes and only on certain greens."

Within the next five years the club is looking at cleaning out the lake, which has a clay base, and increasing its size. They are also considering whether it would be beneficial to have the lake lined.

A third of the golf course drainage currently goes into this lake together with all run-off from the A6, which passes in front of the club.

"When we do get a wet winter, if we excavate sufficiently, we will have good storage capacity. "Our aim is to make mains our back-up, rather than the sole source."

Proposals are to make a special feature of the lake, by bringing the water closer to the green and planting it up to attract wildlife.

Willow trees at the side of the green are being thinned, with three to be taken out this winter.

Frank's father was Head Greenkeeper at the club from 1959 to 1969 and it was after this, in the 1970s, when there was a period the club did not make any major investments. "Now we are having to play catch up, as there are more than 12 golf clubs within a 10 mile radius, so it is a very competitive market," he says. "Every endeavour is being made to improve player enjoyment and this will certainly be enhanced by bringing the lake back as a major feature."

Over at the Silverstone GC in Buckinghamshire, two new holes, bringing the course up to 20, will have their part to play in addressing drought issues.

"This will give us greater flexibility and keep playing conditions high," says Steve Cherry, Course Manager. "We can switch the course around if areas do get stressed by drought conditions."



Plans are to play the new holes May through to October and then rest and refresh them by going back to the original holes.

On the water front, three reservoirs and a borehole supply their water needs. With a current total capacity of 250,000 gallons of water, the club is looking to extend this towards the end of the year.

"Two smaller reservoirs are sited down in the lowest part of the course and our main reservoir, which holds 150,000 gallons, is at the top," says Steve.

The electronic pump feeds water up to the top reservoir which is always kept topped up by the smaller lakes. "Down the bottom the level of water has dropped by eight feet, so if we do get another three weeks of dry weather there could be a problem," commented Steve. A 47 metres deep borehole is also used to supply water, but if extraction is constant for more than one month this supply is drastically reduced.

Currently the club is in the process of installing irrigation to the tees, which means extra water will be required to service them.

"Our plan is to double the capacity of the bottom reservoirs, making them a more interesting feature of the course, as they run alongside the 14th and 16th holes."

To achieve better feeds into the lakes, wider channels are currently being created.

Recognising the importance of addressing all water issues, Steve will also be implementing an overseeding programme this autumn, using more drought resistant Top Green cultivars.

"We have been looking at the best mixture to use on our course with seed agent Rigby Taylor," he says. "Golfers want to play 365 days of the year, so the formulation will help retain good grass cover in all weather conditions."

With water shortages continuing, there is a real urgency for clubs to create long-term water plans - and fully justify the water they use for irrigation by keeping records of how much they apply, when, where and why.

WATER-SAVING WAYS

- Draw up a schedule to identify areas requiring water.
- Confine irrigation to crucial areas of play.
- Train staff to work on increasing levels of awareness of water efficiency.
- Regularly check irrigation systems for leaks.
- Inspect sprinkler nozzles to ensure they operate properly.
- Upgrade, replace or computerise your irrigation system and use weather station for greatest efficiency.
- Water at night or early in the morning, when it is not windy.
- Use more drought tolerant turfgrass species and wetting agents.
- Encourage rooting and do not cut grass too short during period of good root growth.
- Sharpen mower blades regularly to keep grass healthier and reduce its need for fertilisers and water.
- Mulch any landscaped areas and use drought tolerant plants.
- Use wash-down systems which recycle water.



Toro Student of the Year 2006 Preview

We've whittled them down to eight - time to get up close and personal with this year's finalists.

Summer. A time to relax, visit the beach, top up your tan. Well, not if your chosen profession is greenkeeping, June through to September remains the busiest time of the golfing year. The pressure is piled onto BIGGA members, as wannabe Woods and enthusiastic Els, come out of hibernation. As well as The Open and the US PGA Championship, summer months see numerous high profile Section, Regional and National BIGGA events. Well earned "time outs" were taken by 35 student greenkeepers, as they attended the Regional Finals of the Toro Student of the Year Award 2006.

Travelling the width and breadth of the country, was BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, in search of this year's eight National Contenders. Joined by Iain McLeod, Warren Bevan, Lee Strutt MG and Gavin Robson, from the BIGGA Board of Management, as well as Trevor Chard, John Pike and Peter Mansfield from Toro, Ken and the rest of the judges, through much discussion and many difficult decisions, decided on the final eight to come to BIGGA HOUSE on September 17 and 18 for the Grand Final.



Name: Mike Emptage
Age: 25
Address: Ramsgate, Kent
Golf Club: St Augustines

Mike has been Assistant Greenkeeper at St Augustines GC, Ramsgate, for two years, where Gary Kennington is Course Manager.

A keen golfer and water sports enthusiast, Mike is also an auxiliary coastguard in Margate. Prior to his current position, Mike worked for the local council for three years, mowing grass. Currently studying for his NVQ Level 2 at Hadlow College, Mike said: "I wish to gain my NVQ qualifications and greenkeeping knowledge, to eventually become a Head Greenkeeper."



Name: Barrie Lewis
Age: 17
Address: Bridgend, West Lothian
Golf Club: Ratho Park

Barrie is Assistant Greenkeeper at Ratho Park GC, Mid Lothian, Edinburgh, working under the watchful eye of Head Greenkeeper, Tom Murray. Prior to this Barrie worked at Bridgend and District GC, West Lothian for 10 months and previously Uphall GC, also for 10 months.

Studying for an NVQ Level 2 at Oatridge College, Barrie's hobbies include football and keeping fit. A keen golfer, his greatest achievements have been reaching the Scotland under 15s squad and winning four Junior Championships at Bridgend and District GC.

"My aspiration in life is to become a professional golfer, however, if this doesn't happen I want to build a successful career for myself as a Greenkeeper, perhaps even travelling the world in the process by working in huge golfing countries such as, America, Australia and South Africa," said Barrie.



Name: Abigail Crosswood
Age: 18
Address: Newquay, Cornwall
Golf Club: Newquay

Abigail has worked as Assistant Greenkeeper at Newquay GC, Cornwall for the last two years, under the supervision of Course Manager, Chris Pearson.

Having completed her NVQ Level 2 at Duchy College Training Agency, Abigail has been accepted at Myerscough College to study a foundation degree in Sports Turf Science, online. Abigail, who was part of the BIGGA Open Support Team at Hoylake this year, said: "Following a foundations degree I want to get my honours degree, then I hope to become a Head Greenkeeper and to go into the management of a golf course. I am also very interested in the design aspect and at some point would like to incorporate this into my future."



Name: Graham Brumpton
Age: 32
Address: Ipswich, Suffolk
Golf Club: Ipswich (Purdis Heath)

Graham is Assistant Greenkeeper at Ipswich GC, Purdis Heath, Suffolk - a position he has held for 15 and a half years, working under the watchful eye of Course Manager, Norman Fenwick.

Having studied at Otley College, Graham has just completed his NVQ Level 3. Graham's hobbies are football, gardening, surfing the net and reading.

"One thing I can guarantee is that whatever happens in my career, I will most definitely keep progressing as far as I possibly can with my training, whether it's a nationally recognised college certificate, attending seminars, or speaking to people that have been in the greenkeeping trade and have learnt through their own experiences because, at the end of the day, you can never stop learning," said Graham.



Name: James Billington
Age: 23
Address: Northwich, Cheshire
Golf Club: Portal Premier Golf and Country Club

James has been Assistant Greenkeeper at Portal Premier Golf and Country Club, Tarporley, Cheshire, for three years, working under Course Manager, Justin Lee's supervision.

Currently studying for NVQ Level 3 at Reaseheath College, James is keen on many outdoor activities, including angling and has recently begun to play some casual golf with friends at the club.

"After studying Environmental Management, I attained employment as a trainee at a municipal course. After one year I felt the urge to progress to a private members course and did so with an assistants position at Portal Premier," said James.



Name: Steven Paul Stroomer
Age: 37
Address: Stevenage, Herts
Golf Club: Brocket Hall

Steven has been Course Manager at Brocket Hall GC, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, for the past 10 months. Steven was promoted to CM of the Palmerston course after two years at the club, completing NVQ Level 2 in Amenity Horticulture and currently studying at Oaklands College for his NVQ Level 3 in Sports Turf.

Club Captain of Datchworth Cricket Club, Steven is heavily involved in the maintenance of the cricket ground and clubhouse facilities.

"I hope to complete NVQ Level 3 ahead of schedule and plan to move to the position of Course Manager of a club of my own in the next five years," said Steven.



Name: Kenneth Gilroy
Age: 25
Address: Shiskine, Isle of Arran
Golf Club: Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club

Kenneth has been First Assistant at Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club, Blackwaterfoot, Isle of Arran, for the past three months, working under the watchful eye of Head Greenkeeper Stewart Fotheringham.

Currently studying NVQ Level 3 with Gosta Training Ltd, Kenneth enjoys football, golf, rugby, music and reading.

"To be recognised for the work you do is very satisfying, so when the college nominated me for Toro Student of the Year, I was ecstatic. The tag 'Toro Student of the Year' speaks for itself...greenkeeping to me is the same as playing golf - the more you practice, spend time at and commit yourself to it, the more you get back and the greater the awards," said Kenneth.

You've heard from all eight National Contenders but who will excel in the Grand Final and win Toro Student of the Year 2006?

Entailing a further interview and the completion of a survey of Aldwark Manor GC, (evaluating nine of the holes), home of BIGGA HQ - there will be tough competition at the September final.

The amazing prize involves an eight week trip to the USA, where, for six weeks, the University of Massachusetts will be home, as the lucky winner completes a residential turf management study course. The trip also includes visits to the Toro Headquarters in Minneapolis, the Toro Irrigation Division and to the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in Anaheim, in February 2007.

The two runners-up will be invited to attend the Continue to Learn programme during Harrogate Week 2007. All the finalists will receive a voucher for free entry to the Continue to Learn seminars being held at Harrogate Week 2007.



Name: Stephen Eager
Age: 28
Address: Newtownabbey, Glengormley
Golf Club: Fortwilliam

Stephen has been Greenkeeper at Fortwilliam GC, Belfast, for the past year, where Michael O'Neill is Course Manager.

Currently studying for NVQ Level 2 at Greenmount College, Stephen enjoys playing golf and fishing and won Golfer of the Year in 2005.



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Take Your Fate

By Henry Bechelet



Henry Bechelet

"If you think you can, you can. And if you think you can't, you're right."- Henry Ford

KILLING TIME?

I hate articles that start with quotes. This article is about attitude and doing what it takes.

The kind of greenkeeper you are will depend upon your attitude towards things. It will depend on what you care about. Your knowledge, skill and standards will all impact on the condition of the course. Ultimately, the condition of the turf is a reflection of you.

Attitude is what we think and feel about things. It stems from our values and beliefs and it guides the way we behave. Our attitudes help us form internal goals and they power our drive to achieve them.

OPEN UP

Attitudes can be held about anything. The strength of feeling will depend on the subject. Our attitudes are unique but they can also borrow from those we admire. They can be positive and negative in their outlook and impact. They are formed as we go through life and they can change over time or depending on mood. We can master our own attitudes if we need to, primarily by learning.

Attitudes stem from what we believe and what we value. Our beliefs are what we perceive to be true and they come largely from experience but they are also formed through education. Our values are what we view as being good or right. These are our principles and they help determine our

goals in life. For example, I value the qualities of the finer grasses and believe that it is possible to establish their dominance in golf greens. I am driven to write articles to try to encourage the same attitude in you. While you are still reading I have a chance. I need to tell you that success is not just about technical knowledge it's also about having the right attitude when implementing it.

The relationship between attitude and behaviour is not straightforward. External "intervening factors" can have an impact on our response to feelings. We don't live in isolation. For instance, the situation may preclude the desired course of action (through lack of resources), unforeseen events may have a negative impact (bad weather) and other people may be influencing the situation (golfers!). People also commonly have conflicting attitudes about things that might hamper proceedings. Valuing the finer grasses as well as a verdant green colour won't get you very far with the finer grasses.

Some theories about attitude take into account strength of feeling. Sometimes people judge different aspects of things separately and then average an overall impression. How much we like someone might compensate for deficiencies in results. Be careful if you make important decisions in this way, it may muddle things up.

We need a clear consistency of attitude for action to be properly focused on goal achievement. The greenkeeper needs to be clear in his

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Take Your Fate

values and beliefs to have a chance of producing the desired results. This works in all areas; course presentation, construction work, surface playing quality, staff motivation etc.

INSPIRATION

Attitude has its biggest impact on motivation. Our internal drive to achieve. Strength of conviction coupled with an objective focus will achieve your goals. Encouraging the finer grasses needs a plan based on sound principles, coupled with a strong will to succeed. A positive attitude achieves ambition then moves you on to bigger and better things. A positive attitude can be inspired from your peers, consultants, articles, books, your successes and even failures, it just depends on your attitude.

ASPIRATION

For UK greenkeeping, the "bigger and better thing" is more sustainable putting surfaces. Progressive thinkers demand the establishment of quality surfaces with the finer grasses. We are talking about putting surfaces comprising an even blend of bents and/or fescues with minimal annual meadow-grass. Establishing this kind of equilibrium gives high quality surfaces with reduced vulnerabilities. They are easier to look after and cost less to maintain. You know the arguments.

To achieve this goal you may have to alter your attitude about turf management. The technique is simple but slightly different than the common belief, so to pull it off you might need to change your ways. Essentially, all you have to do is move the environment away from constant aggressive surface preparations, to one more settled with occasional controlled beneficial stress. These concepts are discussed in more detail in the article "Changing the Nature of your Greens" which is freely available at: www.stri.co.uk. To succeed you will have to stick to your newfound principles for an uncomfortable while, in the face of imperceptible changes. Be clear on this, we are not talking about stressing-out your greens, that theory is now redundant, we are talking about gradual change without deterioration. The transition to the finer grasses can be slow and it can test your resolve. You will need to stay positive and fully focused at all times.

COPPING OUT?

I know 90% of UK greenkeepers already value the finer grasses. Everyone would take a bent/fescue sward tomorrow and be proud to show it off. So why aren't they more commonplace? Where are we failing? This is already a goal for a lot of us and it has been for years.

I don't believe that our past failures are due to a lack of greenkeeper knowledge. All the greenkeepers I work with are very knowledgeable and highly skilled. Maybe it's the way the knowledge is being applied. You might be taking the easy way out. We should not discount the impact of

possible "intervening factors" throwing us off. Golfers who value colour, fertiliser salesmen who value their bonus or advisors who value the easy option may be to blame. Just because we like someone doesn't mean that they are the best person to ask about good greenkeeping. I don't know the answer but there are probably a lot of things at play. I do think that lack of greenkeeper belief is a big factor in our failure to properly establish the finer grasses. A lack of supportive evidence may be a reason for this.

WHO DO YOU TRUST?

If you want to favour the finer grasses you have to believe that it's possible. If you want to know how to go about it there are a number of sources available. There are true believers out there who are willing to help. It might be time to learn from people who know what they are talking about. You will easily sniff-out the charlatans.

WE WERE ALL YOUNG ONCE

A lot of this is about advocating traditional greenkeeping values. Traditional minded greenkeepers who already value and strive for the finer grasses tend to have a no-nonsense, down-to-earth attitude. The intervening factors don't get a look-in. Some greenkeepers in this highly technical age might have the attitude that traditional greenkeeping method is out-of-date and opt for more gratifying methods. Judicious fertilising and irrigating is just not as attractive as the higher input, more aggressive approach. What the new clothes generation might not appreciate is that the traditional greenkeeping values have been hard earned. There is no point getting older if you don't get wiser. At some point we all realise that no matter how good a greenkeeper you are Poa annua will keep on punishing you. It is not a good friend.

HELP!

The two developments in recent times have been; the Danish model of encouraging the fescues; and the move by The R&A to champion a wider adoption of their techniques to promote better and more sustainable surfaces. The Danes are already walking the walk and I'm sure that they'd be delighted to talk to you. The R&A are putting their money where their mouth is and funding research into this area to come up with the proof. Their website (www.bestcourseforgolf.org) is also very informative. If you need convincing, help is at hand. The STRI are at the forefront of all these developments. To do what it takes, start by opening your mind to the possibility of the finer grasses. Now is the time to take your fate for a ride.

Henry Bechelet is the STRI Turfgrass Agronomist covering North and Eastern England. Henry may be contacted by email at henry.bechelet@stri.co.uk or via www.stri.co.uk



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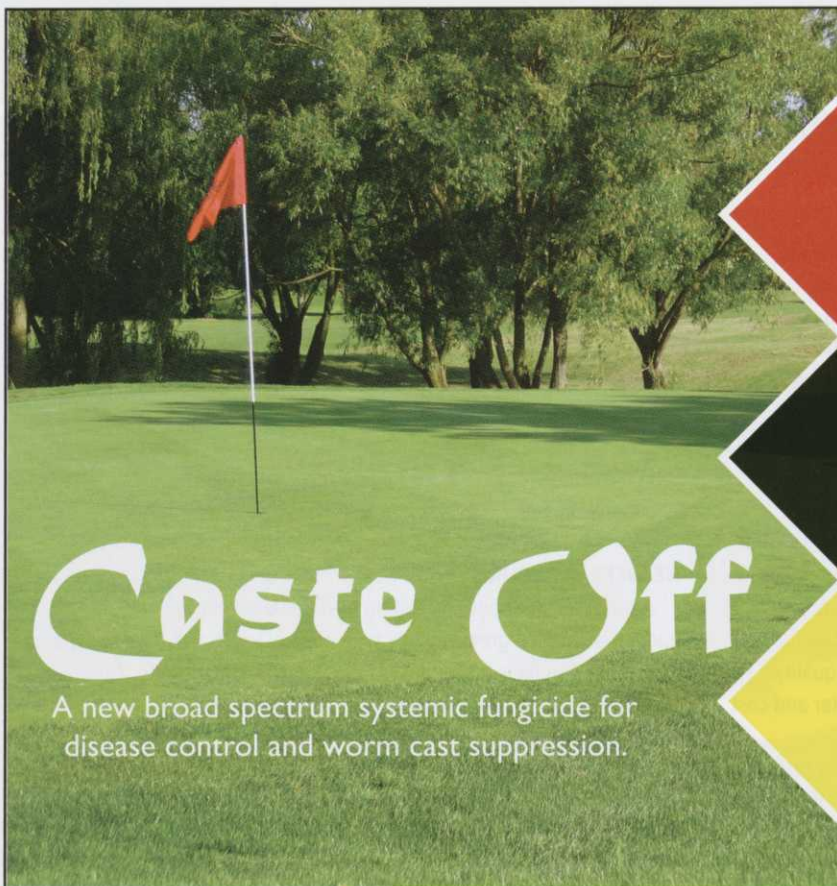
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A photograph of two golfers on a golf course. One golfer in a grey shirt and dark trousers is in the middle of a putting stroke on a green. The other golfer in a light blue shirt and white trousers stands nearby, watching. The green is surrounded by sand traps and trees. In the background, there are large, multi-story buildings under a blue sky with light clouds.

All-weather golf surfaces unaffected by drought

Bill Lloyd discusses...

Growing pressure on water supplies is forcing many turf professionals to look closely at ways of reducing their dependency, on what is being seen as an increasingly precious commodity.

The prospect of longer, hotter summers and drier, cooler winters means that economies will have to be made in the way that home owners and businesses utilise the UK's shrinking water resources. If water-saving measures are not adopted voluntarily, then we can all look forward to more hosepipe bans, drought orders and other unwelcome actions designed to reduce the use of non-essential water.

Golf course irrigation systems that have been installed or upgraded at considerable cost during the past 30 years or so will be of little use if there is no water available to pump through them.

Yet, there is a proven and cost-effective way of producing and maintaining good looking, high performing, low upkeep playing surfaces that requires no water and is widely available to all golf courses.

Synthetic turf has made huge forward advances in recent years, moving very close to the real thing in terms of its appearance, its feel and the way that the surface reacts to the striking of a golf ball.

These advances have been achieved through the adoption of new materials, better manufacturing techniques and improved installation methods. A further element is the use of special sand-like fillers, such as Turfill®, to pack the spaces between the fibres producing a free-draining "turf" at depths of up to 2in (50mm). The result is a range of surfaces that deliver virtually all of the characteristics of natural turf, even down to creating backspin on the ball and fully inserting a tee peg.

Top players say that striking a golf ball directly from a professionally-installed synthetic tee feels little different from striking the ball off natural turf. The jarring associated with an unforgiving tee mat or the early rubber-backed surfaces is gone, absorbed by the combination of dense, grass-like synthetic fibres surrounded by a deep, sand-like filler.

One immediate benefit is that the surface does not suffer the costly damage experienced when players take a turf divot in wet or very dry conditions. Even better from the maintenance aspect is that synthetic turf

requires no mowing, no aeration and no watering to maintain its colour, feel or appearance.

An ironic aspect of the synthetic turf surfaces, already in use at many golf clubs throughout the UK and Ireland, is that the majority were installed to alleviate the wear, tear and puddling of natural turf caused during periods of wetter weather by golfers' feet and the movement of trolleys, golf buggies and turf maintenance equipment.

First used more than 10 years ago to create highly-acceptable full size winter tees, synthetic turf surfaces are now in widespread use across the UK. The latest materials can be specified in virtually any shape, size and fibre length (filled and unfilled) to provide an economical, low maintenance, highly realistic alternative to grass, that is totally unaffected by drought.

In doing so, all-weather surfaces are able to complement fine turf both as an alternative playing surface and as an aid to recovery following adverse weather and high wear.

For those who have yet to consider or install an all-weather golf surface, following is a list of potential applications with installation and maintenance requirements.

GOLF COURSE TEES AND PRACTICE TEES

Available in a variety of fibre lengths for use with and without filler, the best synthetic golf course tees and golf practice tees need to be professionally installed on a properly-constructed base that allows free drainage and will remain level and true for years to come.

Filled surfaces are ideal as an alternative to a natural golf course tee because the all-weather synthetic "turf" looks and performs just like natural grass. The depth of filler means that golfers can play off a standard tee peg or hit the ball directly from the surface.



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Huxley® Golf

PREMIER ALL-WEATHER SURFACES FOR GOLF



Huxley Golf specialises in the design, supply and installation of all-weather surfaces for golf. From practice tees (as shown above) to putting greens, golf tees, paths, cartways and driving ranges. Huxley golf can provide you with a top quality surface which looks, feels and reacts just like natural turf.

You'll find full information and lots of pictures on our website

www.huxleygolf.com

or contact:

Huxley Golf, The Dean, New Alresford,
Hampshire SO24 9BL,
Tel: 01962 733222 Fax: 01962 734702
Email: sales@huxleygolf.co.uk

SUPPLIER TO THE
PGA NATIONAL
TRAINING ACADEMY



OPPORTUNITY

For couple to make a significant life change

The designer/operator of the leased operations of Lochranza Golf Course and Lochranza Caravan & Camping Park on the Isle of Arran is seeking to retire and invites an offer from a suitably experienced Greenkeeper/Golfer and Wife/Partner who have the ability to see the real potential of this location, take on the challenges, and enjoy a wonderful way of life.

New 20 year leases will commence from November 2006.

Interested parties are invited to visit web sites then make an appointment to view.

www.lochranzagolf.com • www. arran.net/lochranza

All-weather golf surfaces unaffected by drought



Installed without filler onto a prepared base, all-weather practice tees offer a durable and rewarding surface that combines excellent ball striking abilities with low maintenance

Professional and low handicap golfers are impressed that they are able to "work" the ball in exactly the same way that they can off top quality natural turf.

Being very similar in playing quality to a normal grass tee, it is most important that an all-weather filled surface is kept free of soil and mud to avoid clogging, compaction and poor drainage. The filler will also need topping-up as it settles down and is displaced by spiked shoes, the action of a metal or wooden club and rain water. An annual "birthday" is highly recommended to keep the surface in prime playing condition.

An alternative for high wear practice tees and other locations where regular maintenance is difficult or uneconomical is to use a surface without the addition of filler. Also installed on a properly prepared base, the latest nylon materials offer a rewarding and durable tee surface that provides excellent ball-striking characteristics with minimal maintenance.

Many golf clubs and teaching academies such as the National Golf Centre at Woodhall Spa have installed large all-weather unfilled practice tees, typically around 25 yards (23m) in length, to improve standards and help speed the recovery of natural grass.

PATHWAYS, CARTWAYS, STANDING AREAS AND LAWNS

Utilising much shorter fibres than those employed in the construction of all-weather tees, the material used for pathways and similar high-wear areas offers a very durable surface that is both attractive to look at and safe and silent to walk on.

Installed onto a properly prepared base to promote good drainage and long-term stability, such surfaces are in use already at many high throughput golf courses helping to combat turf wear and soil erosion in areas of concentrated foot fall such as waiting and standing zones alongside tees, dedicated pathways between tees and greens, and on bridges and their approaches.

Carnoustie Links, for example, has made extensive use of synthetic turf to minimise wear on pathways and bridges crossing burns.

Normally filled to provide a resilient and attractive surface that looks just like natural grass, all-weather pathway turf - as it is commonly known - can be used also for patios, pro-shop approaches and as a highly realistic, prestige and low maintenance replacement for lawns and verges.

PUTTING AND CHIPPING GREENS

With hand watering still practised on a number of natural grass putting and chipping practice greens, the installation of a full-size synthetic replacement could be good news for many hard-pressed greenkeepers charged with producing the best possible putting surface on all greens in times of drought (and also monsoon!).



This tournament quality filled putting and chipping surface is suitable for applications including golf club putting greens, teaching academies, golf resorts and home practice

The latest crush-resistant, filled nylon turf putting surfaces look, play and feel remarkably like the real thing, offering a tournament quality finish and a true roll of the ball. The addition of a filler means that the surface also has excellent shot-holding characteristics for those wanting to practise their short game.

All-weather practice greens are now in use at many golf clubs providing members with the same high quality all-weather practice surfaces used by a number of leading European Tour professionals at their homes.

At the golf club or at home, an all-weather putting green will require minimal maintenance and no applications of water to remain good looking, consistent and true throughout the year.

GOLF GREENS

Perhaps the most controversial use of synthetic turf is as a replacement for a natural grass golf green. However, this application is not new and there are many golf clubs in the USA and a number on this side of the Atlantic that have adopted synthetic materials for the overall benefit of the golf course, its members and visitors.

The principle advantages are low maintenance and no requirement for water with the ability to produce a true and consistent playing surface all year round. These plus points make such greens very suitable for commercial pay and play courses and for academies, schools and hotels where the number of qualified greenkeeping staff is low or non-existent.

Laid on a stable, free-draining base, the materials used in the construction of an all-weather golf green are very similar to those employed for synthetic putting and chipping greens with filler helping provide an acceptable putting surface with good shot-holding capabilities.

INDOOR PUTTING GREENS

Ideal as a replacement for a high maintenance, water-demanding natural grass putting green, indoor putting greens are being used increasingly for coaching, for practice and for putter assessment and development.

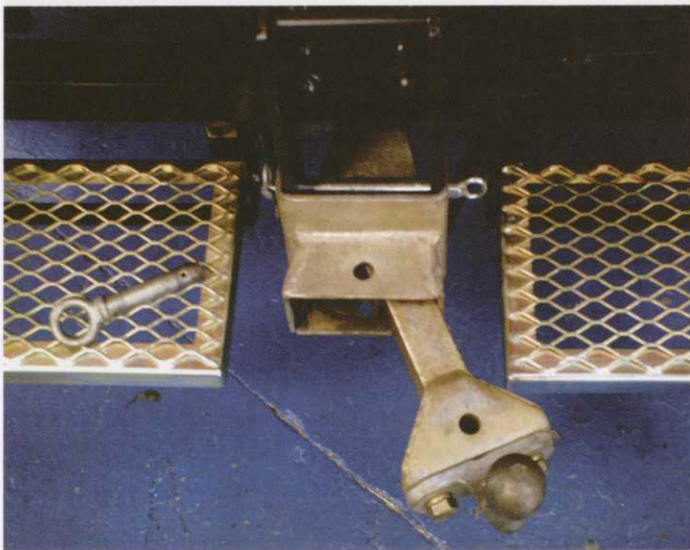
Permanently installed on a timber or solid base - the latter with the option of undulations - or in the form of a quickly-assembled modular putting green, the latest filled nylon surfaces offer a true ball roll, excellent speed and a highly realistic appearance. As a bonus, they can be produced in shapes and sizes to fit just about any space.

*Huxley Golf have provided advice and assistance with this article.
For information Tel: 01962 733222 or Email: sales@huxleygolf.co.uk
or visit: www.huxleygolf.com*

NEW PRODUCTS

TIME SAVING TOW UNIT

The British invented quick hitch tow unit saves time, fuel and a lot of hassle. Interested parties are asked to contact Nigel Nangreave on Tel: 0044 121 308 8647, Mobile: 07800 967 012 or Email: NGreentee@aol.com



PUNCTURES?

Prime Golf has launched Flat Free, a tyre sealant and life enhancer that protects all greenkeeping machinery and golf carts.

For more information call: 01603 759355.

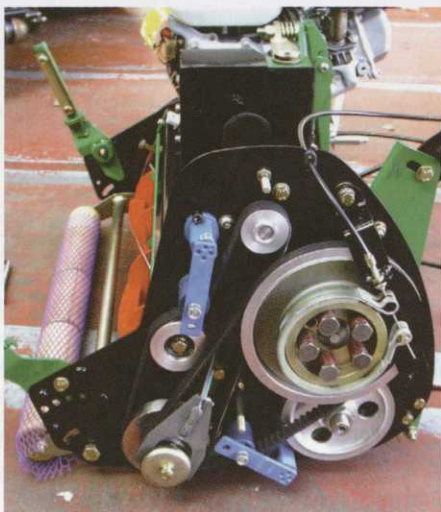
PEDESTRIAN MOWERS UPGRADED

Ransomes Jacobsen, has introduced new drive trains to its range of walk-behind pedestrian mowers, which are now quieter and smoother to operate.

New legislation states that the noise levels of mowers in the 50-70 cm width of cut category must not exceed 98 dBA, a reduction of 2 dBA from previous requirements. The Marquis, Super Certes and Super Bowl fall into this category and were previously chain driven.

By redesigning the final drive, removing the chains and replacing them with drive belts similar to the tried and tested versions used on the Jacobsen Greens King 500 series, Ransomes' engineers have reduced the overall sound level and the machines are now guaranteed to operate at or below 96 dBA.

More information is available at: www.textron.com



WORLD FIRST

Lastec's new 2261 Articulator is the world's first 1.5m (61") commercial articulating mower.

The new machine follows ground contours independently for a perfect cut. This is made possible by 24° of articulation on each deck with the result that, like all Articulators, it will conquer the most daunting, undulating terrain.

Visit: www.lastec.com for more information.



PLAGUED BY MOLES OR GEESE?

Nature Guard has launched Liquid Fence, the USA's number one selling range of pest repellents, into the UK.

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

'POWERSHUTTLE HILO' TRANSMISSION ADDS VERSATILITY

A new transmission option for Landini's most popular mid-size tractor, brings a package of features that make the Powerfarm more productive and even easier to drive when used for highways and turf care work.

For more information visit: www.landini.com



Landini's mid-range 68hp to 99hp Powerfarm tractors are more productive and easier to drive when fitted with the new Powershuttle HiLo transmission.

UPGRADED TORNADO DEBRIS BLOWERS

Staffordshire machinery manufacturer, Turfmech, has upgraded its three-model range of tractor-mounted Tornado debris blowers, to provide greater airflow, a wider air delivery pattern and quieter operation.

Further changes to Turfmech's Tornado blowers include an improved rear anti-scalp roller and larger puncture-resistant turf tyres.

For more information call: 01889 271503, or visit: www.turfmech.co.uk



COULD THIS BE THE DEATH OF THE CADDY?

Showcasing at this year's Open Championship was CaddyAid, a cutting edge piece of software which gives golfers of any handicap, the ability to view their balls' position in relation to the course and pin, as well as revealing course secrets with the Fairway Flyover. So, whether you're a 30+ handicapper or a future star trying to turn pro, the software - which is available on the Pocket LOOX N520 device from Fujitsu Siemens Computers - could make all the difference to your game.

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



A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH

Gearing up for the autumn season, Pinnacle Power Equipment has introduced the Billy Goat Force™.

The Billy Goat name itself, is testimony to the quality and reliability of the blower with a robotically welded 'tough-as-nails' frame with the unit 'floating' on grass for easy operation.

For further details call: 01932 788799.



NEW TURN MOWER

Ransomes Jacobsen, has introduced a new zero turn mower, the Iseki SZ330 with a choice of 1.5 or 1.85 metre cutting decks.

The new machine is powered by a 32hp, three-cylinder, liquid cooled diesel engine with easy access via a tilting, one-piece engine cover. A removable screen in front of the radiator is also easily accessed for cleaning with an air hose.

More information is available at: www.textron.com



INVISIBLE HAND PROTECTION FITS LIKE A GLOVE

Already well established in America, a new hand protection shielding lotion that bonds with the outer layers of the skin, is now available in the UK.

Gloves in a bottle, is a non greasy, non-sticky, hypoallergenic and completely safe hand protection shielding lotion that is an ideal skin safeguard for applications that include all work in harsh weather conditions, household work, DIY, hospital duties, sport, gardening, construction and engineering work.

Visit: www.glovesinabottle.com for more information.

NEW COMPACT TRACTORS

JCB Groundcare have unveiled a range of compact tractors.

The six new tractors will be ideal for use by grounds maintenance contractors, landscapers and greenkeepers - around the golf course, parks, sports and amenity grounds, smallholdings and equestrian centres.

The new compact tractor models include: the JCB 323, the JCB 327, JCB 331 and JCB 335, which are 23, 27, 31 and 35 horsepower machines respectively. All have hydrostatic transmission and category one three point linkages. The two larger models, the JCB 354 and JCB 359 compact tractors are 54 and 59hp machines respectively.

Visit: www.jcb.com for more information.



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.

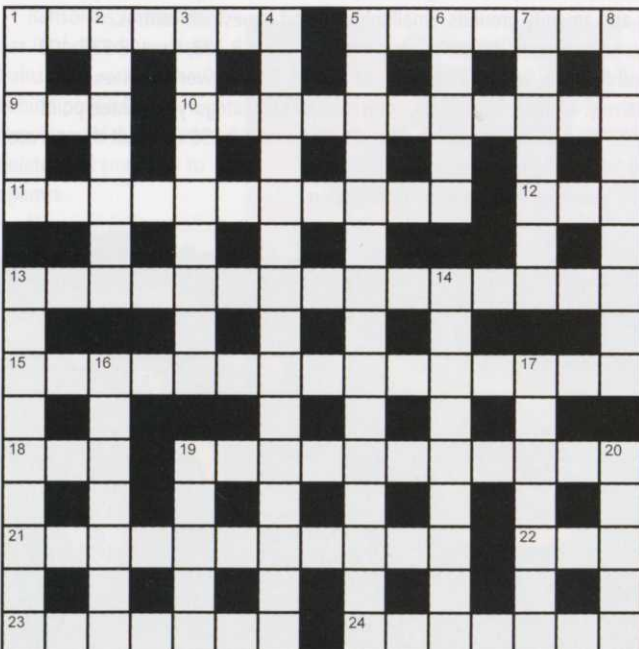
CROSSWORD - Compiled by Anax

ACROSS

- 1 Colloquial term for a "holiday" resort for overweight children (3,4)
- 5 Group of families living together (7)
- 9 Actor's prompt (3)
- 10 Purpose (6,5)
- 11 Without question (11)
- 12 Old, usually over-worked horse (3)
- 13 Incessantly (6,4,5)
- 15 Securely held (5,4,3,3)
- 18 Club head extremity (3)
- 19 Most influential (11)
- 21 Inauspicious (11)
- 22 Undercover operative (3)
- 23 Contempt (7)
- 24 Easing of international tensions (7)

DOWN

- 1 Lightweight triangular scarf (5)
- 2 Foot-operated machinery part (7)
- 3 Instrument for those with nothing to play (3,6)
- 4 Stage at which commitment is irrevocable (5,2,2,6)
- 5 Domain of the dreamily unrealistic (5-6-4)
- 6 Cause to become unclear (5)
- 7 Sir Peter, British actor and raconteur 1921-2004 (7)
- 8 Calamity, crisis (9)
- 13 Finances held by one party for the future benefit of another (5,4)
- 14 Feeling (9)
- 16 Clouseau's boss (7)
- 17 Hot Egyptian wind (7)
- 19 Heavy jacket, also called windcheater (5)
- 20 Minty herbaceous plant (5)



ANAGRAM

Host of the BIGGA National Championship 2006.

COBBLE FULTON GRUNT TORN

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. Mark Webber drives for which Formula One team?
2. Which city will host the 2006 winter Olympic Games?
3. Which Guinness Premiership team play at Kingston Park?
4. From which club did Blackburn sign Morten Gamst Pedersen from?
5. Against which country did Geraint Jones score his only Test century?
6. Steve Marlet left Fulham for which German club?
7. Pedro de la Rosa is a test driver for which Formula One team?
8. When did Hearts last win the Scottish League?
9. Where did Sunderland play their home games before the move to the Stadium of Light?

SUDOKU

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

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

Supplied by www.dailysudoku.com

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

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



ANSWERS TO ALL THE PUZZLES ARE SHOWN ON PAGE 49



News from the Chief Executive

There is a belief by some that members' subscriptions fund the activities of the Association. This is only true in part and there is no doubt that without the commercial aspects of the business then BIGGA would be a far different organisation to the one that it is today. In reality the cost of providing member benefits and membership administration account for most, if not all, of this income stream thereby contributing nothing towards the general overheads and other related subsidies and costs. Last year's turnover amounted to £1.8million of which only 23% was derived from members, while without members there would not be an association it is also important to put things into context.

Membership numbers have stagnated over recent years and while recruitment continues there is also a steady haemorrhaging of numbers, mainly as a result of greenkeepers leaving the industry or changing jobs and their new employer not agreeing to pay their subscription. Much of what greenkeepers do in managing turf is equally relevant to other aspects of sport and amenity turf maintenance and for some time there has been discussions at Board level about the notion that Groundsmen should be allowed to become more active members of BIGGA, by the creation of a specific 'Groundsman' category. This idea has been loosely circulated around the Section Secretaries and Regional Administrators for discussion with members and, of the feedback that I have had, there seems to be a wide difference of opinion ranging from very positive to the dogged belief that BIGGA is a greenkeeping association for greenkeepers only. In the commercial world then, the more numbers that we can boast the more pulling power we have with benefit providers, advertisers, sponsors and in particular exhibitors at Harrogate. Why would groundsmen wish to join? Hopefully to take advantage of the membership benefits, participate in BIGGA's education programme and also to network on a local and national basis with other people in a similar industry to their own. Courtesy golf should never become an issue, this is, and always has been, down to the policy of individual golf clubs and as a Groundsman member they could be issued with a different coloured membership card that clearly states 'Groundsman Member'. What's stopping this thought being actioned? The answer - the reaction of greenkeeper members and the Constitution. The current Constitution allows only 'Any person employed in the keeping of the green at a golfing establishment' to be Full members (subject to having the required minimum qualification) and any change would need to be agreed by members at an AGM. If the members attending are not in agreement then the motion would fail and even if it did get approved it is important that generally the membership approves. At the moment a Groundsman can join as an Associate member but it would surely be valued more if they could have their own category, with specific benefits and subject to such conditions as may from time to time be determined by the Board. We are not looking for a confrontation with the IOG merely proposing an alternative choice for Groundsmen. Twice this week I have been involved in dealings with groundsmen where we have been able to offer limited help because of the Constitution and I am sure many of you already have contact with people who would benefit from being a member under the appropriate circumstances. To grow stronger as an Association we need to grow the membership however the members also need to support their Association.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 26 when this will again be discussed with a view to putting together a firm proposal for circulation to members prior to the AGM. However there is no point in wasting time if a suitable suggestion will not be supported, even in principle. Please let me have your views either through the office or direct. My e-mail address is: john@bigga.co.uk

John Pemberton

Around
the Green

SCOTTISH REGION

East

Since my last report, we have enjoyed record temperatures throughout Scotland, which have had suppliers of Wetting Agents and Irrigation Equipment jumping for joy, and the opposite effect for fertiliser manufacturers who are reporting a poor year.

The Open Championship has come and gone, with Craig Gilholm and his team putting in a fantastic effort prior to and during the Championship. The Hoylake greens staff were augmented by an additional 10 greenkeepers, drafted in by Craig from the UK and Canada, these included Mark Reid from Craigielaw and John Arbuckle from over the fence at Kilspondie. Although the days were long and tiring, with a 4.30am start to hand cut greens and working in the evenings after the finish of play - Mark and John enjoyed the experience of a lifetime, one that will live long in their memories.

Our Secretary, Kevin Hodges, has asked me to inform you that the committee are currently considering two venues for this year's Christmas extravaganza, these being the Kilspondie House Hotel in Aberlady and the Maitland in Haddington. Hopefully by September, the place and date will be finalised for the end of the year.

A club currently in the news is Whitekirk GC in East Lothian, who has applied for planning permission for a new 18-hole course and a huge hotel complex.

Also in the news is Swanston Farms Ltd, who are the new owners of Swanston GC. Work is currently underway on new golf holes, on land bordering the Edinburgh Bypass. At present, with the Clubhouse demolished, the members have relegated two temporary portacabins at the rear. However, a new clubhouse is planned, so the current arrangements are of a temporary nature.

Some time ago, I paid a visit to one of my suppliers, Greenbest, who are fertiliser blenders based in Dorset. On the day, I was met by Managing Director, Tim Le Mesurier, who spent the morning showing me around his premises and explaining the various processes involved in mixing both liquid and granular fertilisers. During the afternoon, we visited an airfield near Shaftesbury where Tim, a qualified pilot, owns a quarter share of a four seater PA28 Piper Archer. After a bite of lunch, Tim prepared the plane for take-off. Once on board, I was thoroughly grilled on all the safety procedures and what to do in case of emergency. It was not until we were airborne that the penny dropped - if anything happens to Tim, I groaned, you are on your own Mr Dooner! However, my fears were groundless and the views were fantastic, with our flight path taking us down over the New Forest, out over the Chanel and around the Isle of Wight, at one point dropping to 2000 feet to go around the Needles!

Finally, a big thank you to Tim for a most enjoyable day and trip of a lifetime.

Until next month.

Mike Dooner

North

Hell, the year is flying by. The days are closing in fast - I even need the light on in the morning now to see my Frosties. July was a scorcher with record sunshine and minimal rainfall recorded and August looks like it will be much the same.

I would think most greenkeepers will need rain by now and I'm sure the water pools and reservoirs will have taken a pounding in the last few weeks. Has anybody run out of water or is being switched off by the water board? Let me know if you have any interesting stories about water issues. The up side of the very dry spell, is that it's walloped the Poa into submission especially on fairways and walking areas etc.

The challenge tour event at Murcar GC went very well, with golfers and press universal in their praise of the golf course and facilities. Well done to Brian Anderson and his team for producing a quality course for the tournament. The winner and several of the players were quoted as saying that it was nice to play real links golf for a change as it presents a much tougher challenge than their normally used to.

August also brought along the Boys Home Internationals to Moray GC and the British Boys Championships to Royal Aberdeen GC. (Report in next issue on how they went.)

Last month I mentioned that Gareth Evans, Assistant Greenkeeper at Cruden Bay GC, was leaving the job - he has had a change of heart and has stayed at Cruden Bay to continue as a Greenkeeper.

One new member to report this month is Mr Malcolm Parsons who is Head Greenkeeper at Dufftown GC. Welcome to the Section.

This year the AGM will be at Royal Aberdeen GC on October 25. The committee are not yet sure of the format on the day but the idea is to try and get more support for the AGM and run it like a mini outing. Should anybody have any suggestions on a format for the day let me know on: grassman351@aol.com

That's about it folks, keep up the good work.

Robert Patterson

Royal Aberdeen GC

NORTHERN REGION

North East

The John Deere Team Championship was played at Matfen Hall GC recently. The event was sponsored by Greenlays again this year and also John Deere Credit who put on some very good prizes like Nearest the Pin.

Craig Parkinson, Course Manager and his staff, can be proud of their course, considering the way the weather has been over the past few weeks alot of good comments were made and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Apparently 22 teams took part - not a bad turnout, wish we could get as many for our spring and autumn Section competitions, perhaps the prize at the end of day was more tempting.

Matfen Hall were the winners, their team consisting of: Craig Parkinson, John Harrison (Director of golf) and Ian Edgeworth, with a score of 60 nett. Whicham came second with 63 nett and City of Newcastle third with 64 nett. Therefore Matfen travel to East Sussex National on September 12. Winners of the National Finals will then travel to The John Deere World Championship at the Reynolds Plantation Resort, Georgia on November 8 to 12.

Also worth mentioning is that a committee member playing for Houghton Le Spring GC had a hole in one.

Jimmy Richardson

North West

After a slow start, what a great summer we are having. I hope you have not had too many problems, there are parts of my own course that have big cracks appearing.

At least there are no water restrictions in Liverpool. Only one thing to mention this month and that is SISIS are holding a machinery demonstration day, here at West Derby GC, details are below. Numbers will be limited so if you want to come along make sure you fill a form in.

Tee to Green programme, West Derby GC, October 4: 9.15 am - breakfast of bacon baps and coffee, 9.45 am - presentation of SISIS AIR- AID, 10.30 am - demonstrations of the latest SISIS turf maintenance machinery on tee, fairway and green and 11.30am - coffee and biscuits.

To book contact, SISIS equipment Ltd on Tel: 01625 503030 or email: publicity@sisis.com

If anyone has any news, views or opinions, or needs advice please contact the Secretary, Bert Cross on: 0151 7245412 or myself on: 0151 2894625, my email is: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan

Northern

At last it has arrived; the great British summer is upon us and all you hear is moans of "it's too hot" and "I want winter to arrive", there's just no pleasing some people.

There was plenty of moaning going on at Otley GC, where, just as the temperatures were getting in to the high 90s, the irrigation decided to pack in, so I must say a large thank you to Simon and the rest of the Par 4 team for getting it back up and running and keeping our greens alive!

We are currently in the process of arranging a small football tournament, which hopefully will involve ourselves, the North East Section and maybe teams from some other Sections - so if anybody fancies lacing up the old boots and representing the Section in something other than golf, please do get in touch. Even if you don't normally play in the usual Section golf events, get your name down, it would be great to see some new faces there if possible.

The same applies to all you cricketers out there, if any of you fancy representing the Section at an up-coming match, please let me know. If we can generate sufficient numbers of interested players it promises to be a great day.

If anyone has any news they would like to share with the rest of the Section please get in touch.

Adam Speight, 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford, BD2 4EB. Tel: 01274 638366, Mobile: 07939 319060.

Sheffield

On July 11, we held our Annual Tournament at Serlby Park GC. It was a nice day and some good golf was played by all! I would like to thank Serlby Park for giving us the courtesy of their course, and dual thanks go to Dave Smith, from Mansfield Sand, for being the main sponsors of the day - and for him being Captain of Serlby Park. The day was enjoyed by everyone present. Thanks go to Mark Aspinall and his staff for producing the course in such excellent condition, thanks Mark! and also to the catering staff for providing an excellent meal and finally thanks to the other trade members who provided prizes.

The results from the golf are as follows: the eventual winner was Andy Bunting - well done Andy - he also won Best Net and the winner of Best Gross was Richard Jones - well done Richard. 1. A Bunting; 2. R Jones; 3. D Turner; 4. D Brownlow and 5. N Maltby.

Any news, please feel free to contact me on: 07793111845 or email: jv.lax@tesco.net - I haven't heard much from anyone lately!

John Lax

MIDLAND REGION

Golf Management Trophy



Winners: the Mid Herts GC team at Verulam GC.

The 2006 Midland Region Golf Management Trophy days, sponsored for the ninth successive year by Scotts UK Professional, were held at Verulam GC on July 27 and Boston GC on August 9. At Verulam, 20 teams from golf clubs had entered and at Boston 16 teams played. The competition is keenly contested for the Scotts Trophy, £200 worth of Scotts products to the winning golf club plus individual prizes for the first three placed teams. The format is four man teams, comprising a greenkeeper who is a member of BIGGA and three golf club officials playing a Stableford, with the best two scores on each hole to count - and has proved a popular event. The winning team at Verulam GC with 83 points was Mid Herts GC, who won on a countback from Ellesborough GC. Berkhamsted GC were 3rd

with 82 points. Worksop GC were the runaway victors at Boston GC, on a very blustery and difficult day with an excellent score of 86 points, with Kedleston Park 2nd with 80 points and Kirby Muxloe GC 3rd with 77 points.

Before the presentation Les Howkins (Master Greenkeeper and Course Manager at Cotgrave Place G & CC) gave a short talk on the benefits of BIGGA membership, which was well received.

The Midland Region is most grateful to Scotts UK Professional for their continued sponsorship of these events, and to the two golf clubs for providing their courses and facilities. Great credit for the excellent preparation of the golf courses is due to Chris Carpenter and his staff at Verulam GC and to Bruce Hicks and his staff at Boston GC.

East Midland

This year's Summer Tournament was held at Market Harborough GC and was sponsored by Banks Amenity.

I decided to leave early and make the 30 mile trip down the motorway with a view to setting out the stall and welcoming everybody. There was glorious sunshine at home and I was looking forward to a good day, how wrong I was - three miles down the motorway you couldn't see past the end of the bonnet due to torrential rain and they had just announced on the radio that flash flooding had hit Market Harborough. Typical, but what can you do, it was too late to cancel, so I just kept going - upon arrival in Market Harborough the Fire service were pumping out flooded shops and clearing the roads and on arrival at the golf club I was duly informed that 50 mm of rain had fallen in just two hours, but the course was open albeit rather wet!

By the time the first group went off the sun was out and a sunny afternoon followed, and judging by the scores, the soggy ground conditions did not affect the way the course played. 1. A Bindley, 78-12 =66, Back nine; 2. R Allen, 75-9 =66; 3. C Weir 79-12 =67; 4. R Barker 74-5 =69, Back nine; 5. A English 89-20 =69. Nearest the Pin - D Branson; Longest Drive - R Mc Carthy; Best Front Nine - P Frith and best Back Nine - N Colley.

After what looked like a dreadful day, the sun finally shone on the East Midland Section and a good day was had by all. Thanks must go to Nick Miles and his team for preparing a wonderful golf course in such difficult conditions, Simon Banks and Banks Amenity Products for their generous sponsorship and finally the catering staff for finishing our day off in style!

Thanks to all who attended and just a reminder, please pass on any news to me that could be included in the Section report.

Our next event will be the National Championships - don't forget to enter and support Gavin and his team at Burton. See you there.

Richard Barker

Midland

Hi folks, straight down to business I'm afraid this month - thank the Lord for that I hear. Within last month's notes I stated that our Annual Angling Match was to be held on September 11. It is in fact to be held on September 10 (Sunday), I still have a few pegs left, if interested please call me on: 07908 421 015.

Our summer tournament was held at Oxley Park GC. The course was in lovely condition as presented by Paul Jeffries and his fine team. Thank you gentlemen, a true testament to your fine skills. A huge thank you to Oxley Park for affording us the use of their fine club. The results of the day were: Best Gross - P Woodham; Nett - 1. D Fellows. 2. P Woodham; 3. E Stant; 4. R Beecham; 5. A Doulton and 6. A Jones. Our thanks to J. Hamond/Bathgate Leisure for the main prize table. Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive was sponsored by N. Tyler/Alpha Amenity and won by D. Fellows and L. Swann respectively. The trade winner was A. Corns. Our stand-in starter was V. Lee, great to see you back on the scene Vince.

Now for all you happy snappers who are awaiting the address to send those calendar pictures to. Such is: Mr. Chairman, 21 St. Catherine's Close, Broadway Park, Walsall, WS1 3TE. I am afraid that we can only use pictures recorded onto CD or DVD. Please get your entries in as soon as possible.

Places are still available for the regional training courses. C'mon guys, continue your development and keep those skills current. Ask your club to support your requirements and meet their responsibilities. Budget cuts and tight

finances are no excuse! What price can you put on safety? For details contact Paul Woodham or Bigga HQ.

Please don't forget that our AGM is to be held at Handsworth GC at 6.30pm on September 11. Anyone wishing for an answer to a specific question on the day, must inform the committee in writing at least seven days prior. Remember this is your Section and the committee can only serve you if we know what you want. Please attend and air your views, they are of the greatest importance.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to welcome 10 new members to our fine Section; S. Dipple, P. Belton, J. Baines, P. Baker, C. Withers, J. Golby, A. Thomas, A. Harper, N. Harris, M. Turnbull.

Sean McDade

East of England

I will start with the results from Grimsby: 1. Graeme Macdonald, 2. Gareth Rogers, 3. Rob Welford and 4. Les Howkins.

Congratulations to Gareth on two fronts, firstly for the condition of the course - a credit to you and your staff - and secondly on your new arrival, Tyler, now Alison has two little boys to look after. Our thanks also go to Lawn Mower Services for sponsoring the day (the golf that is) well done to Graeme, a good knock for an old guy in difficult conditions - also well done in the British dance championships, first place for your team I believe.

The next golf day is the rumble in the jungle, or if you prefer, the match against the trade, which will be held at Blankney GC - results will appear in the next magazine.

Peterborough Milton attended the Scotts management trophy at Boston GC, a good day was had by all, well done to Worksop GC who took the honors, our thanks also go to Bruce and his team for the condition of the course. Les Howkins MG gave a talk on the benefits of BIGGA membership to the individual and the club, which was informative and well received, well done mate.

Finally, I would like to finish on a personal note and say congratulations and well done to my wife who produced our son Connor on the hottest day for a hundred years - even I was sweating a bit and for those who know me, they will know understand that does not happen a lot.

Allan Walker

BB&O

Costa Del BB&O - summer at last! Phew! After a scorching heatwave, with record temperatures and record water shortages hitting the headlines daily - one thing is for sure, the water business is booming and so is my water bill. Let's hope the rain in Spain falls mainly on the English plain!

Studley Wood GC was the venue for the Autumn Invitational and as the name suggests, woods play an important part in the topography of the course. (Topography, supplied courtesy of Eric Kinlon) Designed by Simon Gidman and set in 170 acres of what was once an extensive woodland with testing natural hazards that come courtesy of 13 lakes, some impressive ground vegetation and a richness of fine mature oaks that lie in the centre of the course. History tells us that some 480 years ago, no less a person than Henry VIII enjoyed his sporting afternoons here, hunting deer and wild boar. The result is a course which framed by an ancient and beautiful landscape, combines a feeling of maturity and the prospect of a rewarding day and a fine test of golf. Well, a fantastic day was had by all and the results were as follows in reverse order: 3. Chris Taylor and Chas Forbes-Ritte, Wexham Park GC, 45 pts; 2. Dave Goodchild and Bert Moore, Ellesborough GC, winning on count back with 45 pts; 1. Sid Arrowsmith and yours truly, representing Frilford Heath GC, 47 pts and, Oh yes, we have now joined the Magic Pencil Club and I am sure some stick will be dished out over the coming months. Dave Goodchild picked up the John Deere putting green competition and the reliable Gem duo - Gary Tait and Clive Parnell, as usual hammered the Rigby Team with 38 pts.

Thank you to Ian Richardson, from Headland, the main sponsor for the day, who provided the prizes and to Jon Beck from Sheriff Amenity who set up refreshments at the halfway point and served an array of thirst quenching drinks and snacks.

Thank you to Studley Wood GC and owner Richard Percivale for the courtesy



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



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
 Tel: 01476 550115

and the magnificent facilities that were provided to us on the day. Also thank you to Austin and Geraldine for ensuring that the catering preparations went according to plan, not forgetting Ian Hodgkinson and his team of staff for ensuring the course was presented to a first class standard for all our enjoyment.

Other news around the Section, all the way from the land where cider is the tippie of the day, in Devon is Martin Parrish from Holdsworth GC who joins the boys at Farnham Park GC as First Assistant.

Happy Gilmore and Brian Payne Jnr beat The Badgemore Boys 4 and 2 in a great tussle match in the Rigby Taylor Knockout and will they have to face the Magic Pencil or The Tartan Terminator in the next round. Find out next month.

Andy Goodhall, from Henley GC, was presented with a watch by the club after 25 years of greenkeeping service there, and not for occasionally giving the dimply mound on the 14th a number three haircut. Andy has seen many changes over the years and has slowly watched the course go from strength to strength during his time in the greens department.

Congratulations Andy! - from all the Section and we look forward to seeing you once again at the Section days in the future.

Jamie Newport, from Goring and Streatley GC, - now a part-time bricklayer has joined Drayton Park GC. In his first week the semi-pro footballer from Wallingford who lives for cutting straight fairways had an argument with his mower as the wall surrounding the oil tank, suddenly jumped out tearing off the front of his mower unit. Jamie now talks nicely to his green machine, and his new friend the oil tank.

If any member out there can help find the German genealogy for Aplin, one of the famous Zeppelin designers, Matt (who is researching his history) from Goring and Streatley GC, will be most grateful.

Birthday wishes to my counterpart from the baby boomer era, Brian Willmott

from Surrey, who is also magazine reporter for the area, Brian is 60 this month or so he says, many happy returns to you.

Congratulations to the Lomas family from The Berkshire GC. Chris has joined the first time dad club.

The next Section event will be held at Royal Ascot GC for the annual turkey trot, a great venue to look forward to, date and time to be confirmed. See you there.

Mark Day
 mark@day.fm



Surrey

Wednesday, August 2. I am 60 years old today! Three score years have passed since that eventful day in August 1946 and I have yet to make my mark in the world. My only claims to fame include standing in a bank queue behind Ronnie Corbett, seeing Jimmy Tarbuck at Coombe Hill GC, telling Henry Cooper not to play a golf shot as it was not his turn in a Pro/ Am golf competition and being the same age as Freddie Mercury should he have lived. But my time will come, with your help my new political party will make Mr Blair, Mr Cameron and the other one quiver in their shoes. Brian's Independent Golfing Green Government Exalting Rebellion party or BIGGGER as it will called, only needs your votes and a small membership donation. Cash only please to my Political Manager, Douglas Iolanthie Fernie c/o The Fat Ox public house Upminster and together we can rule the world!

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In the meantime, my humble monthly report must continue with firstly the result of the McMillan Tankard competition at Sunningdale GC played on Monday, July 31. Many thanks to Murray Long for a beautifully prepared course, Sunningdale GC for the courtesy and the artisans for the use of their clubhouse and the excellent alfresco food. Local knowledge or hours and hours of practice, helped Murray Long to win convincingly with 40pts, Chris Lomas was runner up and Nearest the Pin winner, 3. Kevin Westney, 4. Andy Gatland, 5. Ashley Alpress and 6. Peter Craig. The Longest Drive was won, only due to my encouragement by one of the other three in my group. The two in my group who did not fall about laughing when I thinned my dropped ball into the lake again, making it bounce on the surface at least three times and rebound from the sleeper bank at the far end and continue to bounce nearly escaping its watery grave - were those delightful companions Gavin Kyle and Shaun Sturret, Ron (whatever you do don't thin it into the water again) Christie was the fourth.

Elaine and Gary Rowe, (Banstead Downs GC), have replaced their radio alarm with their newborn son Jamie Fletcher, 9lb 2ozs - who arrived on July 12. They will soon discover that Jamie Fletcher, unlike their radio alarm, has no snooze button!

Brian Willmott

Email: brians.willmott@tiscali.co.uk

Kent

It's been that long since we last saw rain in this neck of the woods, I'm beginning to think I should live in a tent and ride a camel to work! Surely this seemingly endless heatwave has to end soon. Somebody who has had the right idea - to stay out of the heat on his golf course and spend longer in an air conditioned college classroom - is Mike Emptage of St. Augustines GC. Special congratulations to Mike, he has been studying at Hadlow College and has been nominated to represent the South East region in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award.

Your committee are arranging an autumn golfing event at a top venue for late September/early October. More specific details shall be posted on the website as soon as the host course has confirmed its availability. Entry forms can also be downloaded from the website so please remember to check it regularly.

Another event awaiting a confirmed date is our football match against Essex Section. Rumour has it that the Kent team has had enough of their current goalkeeper despite several heroic moments in the games we have played so far and he is to be put into a defensive position. All I can say is the new guy had better be good! The game will be played at the Corinthians ground which is close to Brands Hatch some time in October.

Our winter educational programme is all but completed and details of the seminars to be held at Hadlow college in Tonbridge, shall be posted on the website. There shall be some very good speakers talking about topical subjects. These are all completely free of charge and an excellent way to spend a winters day.

Lastly, we are still on the lookout for clubs anywhere in Kent to fill a couple of spaces we have left on next year's fixture list. So please consider accommodating us and if you can then, again, you can contact us via the website.

That's it for this month guys.

Keep Cool!

Rob Holland

kentgreenkeepers.co.uk

East Anglia

Wednesday, June 7 found 50 of our merry band visiting Halesworth GC, for our second meeting of the season - what a little gem we found. The whole course had been manicured to perfection, the greens were very true and a very good pace indeed. You would be having the game of your life, providing you played straight but the deep rough was somewhat punishing and one or two of the lower handicaps did suffer, with the odd way wood shot. The Club Captain Michael Coventry and David Cotton the General Manager and his staff members, made us feel very welcome - the meal was quite excellent. May I pass on the



Jane Jones
SOUTH WEST AND WALES
Tel: 01454 270850

Sections thank's for making the day one of the best we have had in a long time, also may I congratulate you on your course, which was in spectacular condition. Our main sponsor for the day was Lely UK Toro. Julian Copping spent most of the day driving about on the course, ensuring golfers were refreshed with the odd cold drink and Mars bar. I was still unable to play due to a torn shoulder but this gave me a chance to prepare for the prize giving and raffle. Clive Osgood popped in on a flying visit and wished all the players good luck. I would like to thank the other sponsors for their participation in the day: ETT, Scotts, Headland, Tomlinson Ground Care, Textron, Tacit, NHT, Vitax, Sisis, Rigby Taylor, Does, Tower Chemicals, Collier Turf Care and last but not least Aitkens.

The winners were as follows: 0 to 9 Handicap - 1. Matthew Gill, 37pts; 2. Peter Howard, 34pts; 3. Mark Henderson, 32pts - Matthew also won the overall winners shield. 10 to 18 Handicap - 1. James Gill (no relation), 34pts; 2. Alan Sutcliffe, 29pts; 3. Steve Millard, 28pts. 19 to 28 Handicap - 1. Martin Mison, 30pts; 2. John Morley-Smith, 25pts. Ladies competition - 1. Claire Killmurry and 2. Sandi Steed. Trade and Guest - 1. Stuart Robson, Thorpeness Club Captain, 36pts; 2. Michael Coventry, Halesworth Club Captain, 35pts. Captain/Club Official and Greenkeepers Shield - Ray Foreman, President of Thorpeness and Mark Henderson, Deputy Course Manager Thorpeness. They retain the title from last year with 65 points. Nearest the Pin winner was Michael Virley and Alan Sutcliffe won the Longest Drive.

The prized toilet seat went to Julian Copping for arriving late after getting his trailer stuck. Stuart Robson, my Captain, did rather well but I would like to quell the rumour that he came up for a third raffle prize - Steve Millard, who was helping me with the raffle had left his tickets with Stuart and he came to give Steve his winning ticket, so Steve could claim his prize.

Ian Willett



South West and South Wales Regional Seminar

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

The day will be presented by BIGGA South West and South Wales Region, in association with the R&A. 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 GC and member of the Association of Golf Club Secretaries; Richard Whyman, BIGGA Chairman and Course Manager at Burnham and Berrow GC; Phil Weaver, PGA Chairman and Club Professional/Course Manager at Coventry GC and Billy MacMillan, BIGGA Vice Chairman and Course Manager at Tyrells Wood GC.

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

Race night at the Lansdown racecourse was another huge success. Thanks very much to Jon Jarvis for organising it and for so thoughtfully and wisely choosing Ladies' Night. Actually Jon, in hindsight was it so wise unleashing a couple of dozen very enthusiastic but half-drunk greenkeepers on an

unsuspecting racecourse? I can however report that although no-one actually won millions, on the other hand no-one shot themselves on the way home, no-one pulled, but everyone's coming back next year - so watch out for the date. Jon also mentioned that Bath Racecourse is currently looking for a new Head Groundsman - the contact at the racecourse for anyone interested is John Williams.

The Section Summer Tournament was at Shirehampton Park on July 27. Thanks very much to the club for their courtesy and for preparing a fine course. I wasn't there myself - still waiting for shoulder surgery, or possibly amputation, but those who did play enjoyed this long established course very much. Shirehampton has always been a good test of golf, although Dutch Elm took its toll in the 70's. The views across the Portway are simply stunning in places and the whole course sits in a very compact 85 acres. The results were: Category 1, 1. Shaun Richards, Taunton & Pickeridge, 70 - 2 - 68; 2. Roger Neill, Taunton & Pickeridge, 78 - 5 - 73; Category 2, 1. Graham Reynolds, Shirehampton, 79 - 11 - 68; 2. Chris Sealey, Chippenham, 90 - 18 - 72; Category 3, 1. Terry Humphrey, (Unattached), 96 - 22 - 74; 2. Dave Rosselli, Minchinhampton, 102 - 28 - 74.

Shaun Richards qualifies with his net 68 for the National Tournament at Burton in October. This prize, which is an all expenses paid entry to the tournament, comes courtesy of our Patronage Partners.

Many thanks to all at Shirehampton, and to all our Patronage Partners - in no particular order: MJ Abbott, Avoncrop, Bredy Irrigation, BS Mowers, Countrywide, Irritech, Rigby Taylor, Amenity Technology, Tower Chemicals, Symbio and Rufford. Might I just point out that we do enjoy a tremendous benefit from the support of these companies so please do remember them in your purchasing decisions.

The next tournament is the Autumn Tournament and Annual General Meeting at Ogbourne St. George on October 12. At the meeting we are looking for new committee members, ideas, and enthusiasm. If you think you can offer what is needed to take the Section forward, please get in touch with Chris Sealey beforehand.

Finally, at work we've got the decorators in. The rest rooms, office, toilets and so on were built in 1999 and haven't been decorated since. So it's high time for a lick of paint. In clearing out ready for the decorators, I got literally tons of junk out of my office, and still had half a trailer load of books, papers, training videos, and past-editions of Greenkeeper International. Some of the magazines actually went back to the early 1990's (and one from 1980 in black and white throughout), but having sat completely undisturbed in a dusty old pile for ages, I decided to throw them away (recycling of course). Then I made the mistake of skimming through one or two as I was slinging them. I then realised exactly what I'd got - records of everything that has made this industry tick. Happy memories such as the opening of BIGGA House, tempered by sad memories such as the passing of Neil Thomas, distractions such as the rise and fall of Sandy McDivot (Sludgecombe Pay and Play), grand memories from all the Open Championships over these last years - Justin Roses fluke chip at Birkdale in 98 launching his career, Paul Lawrie at "Carnasty" in 99, Tiger wiping the floor with the field in 2000 at St Andrews, and again in 2005, Ben Curtis, never won a tournament before St. Georges in 2003, Jack Nicklaus and Arnold Palmer stopping on the Swilken Bridge - never to play in The Open again. The list goes on. Ryder Cups - who remembers Kiawah Island in 1991? - I've never seen such a mickey-mouse golf course before but what a tournament - featured in the very first edition of Greenkeeper International, Famous European victories at Oak Hill in 95, and Valderama in 97. Nearer home I came across a guy called Paul Cunningham who wrote the South West press reports between 96 and 98 - really well written reports but who the hell was he, and where is he now? Quite a number of recurring themes also - severe droughts in 1994, 5, and 6 and threatened water restrictions. Severe flooding in winter 99\2000 pictures of completely flooded golf courses with flags sticking out of the water, and grinning greenkeepers in boats pretending to change the holes. In the end, I couldn't bring myself to sling any of them, so in keeping with human nature, I rescued them all from the bin and intend to reinstate in my brand newly decorated office. I also mean to read them. Who knows, I might even learn something.

How's your summer going? Drop me a mail and share your experiences.

Paul Worster

Email: paulw@mgcnew.co.uk

Tel: 01453 837355.

South Coast

Hello to you all, my name is Joe Crawley and I've taken over the 'Around The Green' notes for the South Coast Section. Most of you will know me as Mr Starter.

It's fitting to start by saying goodbye to our Secretary (and writer for Around The Green) Alex McCombie. Alex and his family are moving to Denmark where he has taken up the Course Manager's role at Ledreborg Palace GC, which is due to open in April 07. This is life changing for Alex, but I'm sure you will all agree that if there was ever a person to achieve high results in this position, it would be Mr McCombie. The Section has been honourably served by Alex over the years - as an active and very professional BIGGA and Section member. The Section wishes Alex, Margaret and son, Jack, the very best for the future. Alex will be missed by the Section and Parkstone GC.

Alex's departure means we welcome some new Committee members. Chris Bitten - our new Secretary, is from Stoneham GC and regularly attends Section events. Chris is well respected and will do a great job. We wish him all the very best for this role and we, as a Section, must offer him our full support.

I will be putting pen to paper for 'Around The Green'. If you have any news please contact me on 07721 389200.

Our summer invitation golf tournament was held at The Army GC. The course was in superb condition and for the 60 strong field it was an absolute pleasure to play. The weather, although humid, held well with just a few spots of rain for 30 seconds! The Army GC borders the Farnborough Airfield. We would like to thank Tacit for laying on the air display of the new Eurofighter! (Mr. Willmott, is this the new company transport?) The pilots were practicing for the Farnborough Air Show. Ear plugs were required and the ground did move on occasions but in between shots, fantastic manoeuvres were performed in the air (by the aircraft not the golfers!) There are many people to thank to make such a day possible: The Army GC, for courtesy of the course; the catering staff for excellent service and superb food; Bob Leuett and David Howells the ball spotters on the 1st; Sue's wonderful tea and cakes at the half way; and of course a huge thanks for our sponsors, Tacit, who provided top class prizes - a big thank you to Brian Willmott and Mark Chamberlain. We also thank all of our invited guests - we hope you enjoyed your day with our Section as much as we enjoyed your company. Praise to Phil Wentworth and his team for their efforts in presenting the course in great condition. Results: 1. Paul Cooper and Pete Cooper, 49pts; 2. Phil Bennett and S Lewis, 44pts; and on countback in 3. Alex McCombie and Stuart Gibson, 44pts. Longest Drive went to Chris Bitten and Nearest The Pin to Stuart Gibson, Twos - Brian Ives and Phil Wentworth.

The BIGGA/Scotts Management Trophy was held at Moors Valley GC on July 26. 13 teams braved the searing heat. Jane Jones and John Noyce ensured the day was well organised - thanks to you both. The event was a major success and we must pay gratitude to the very friendly and helpful staff at Moors Valley, Roger Chadd and the catering staff, Des and of course Ian Noble and team for providing an excellent course for us to enjoy. Team winners: 1. Southsea GC, 87pts; 2. Moors Valley GC, 86pts; 3. North Hants GC, 84pts. Longest Drive went to Barrie Pulman from Alton GC and Nearest The Pin to Neil King from Upavon GC. Many thanks to our sponsors.

Our next Golf Day is at Corhampton GC on Thursday, October 12. Unfortunately I will not be there as our baby is due that week.

Finally, congratulations to Rob Patrick, Apprentice Greenkeeper at Stoneham GC, who won the Wentworth Junior Open with 68 pts. Well done Warren!
Joe Crawley

Devon & Cornwall

I would expect many of our members will remember the hit tune sung by Sir Cliff Richard in late 1967, called 'Congratulations' I certainly do, because it was the year that I got married, however, more to the point, it certainly sums up the achievements of some of our members. Firstly, I would like to congratulate Abi

Crosswood, who is a greenkeeper at Newquay GC in Cornwall, she was reached the last eight in the Toro Student of the Year 2006. Abi was selected from the South West and South Wales Section - well done Abi, we all have our fingers crossed for you. Not satisfied with just the achievement, Abi was one of some 60 members of the BIGGA Open Support Team at Hoylake - the only female. She had her name mentioned on the television by no less than Peter Alliss - fame indeed! As you can imagine, she has now become quite a celebrity in her home town of Newquay with a full page and half in the local paper, not to mention an interview with the Daily Telegraph, Abi, what next?

Congratulations must also go to Eric Barber, one of our more senior members, who has just represented Great Britain in the World decathlon at Colebrook, Newfoundland, Canada - and guess what, he won the Gold Medal for his group, the over 70s, that is some achievement. Eric still runs an average of 10 miles a day and sometimes cycles the same distance. Well done Eric.

Last but not least, although our National Chairman, Richard Whyman, is no longer working in our Section, he is still a member of the Devon and Cornwall Section. As you will know, Richard is Head Greenkeeper at Burnham and Berrow GC in Somerset, recently the venue for the English Amateur Championship. Richard informed me that the event has now been held at Burnham for the sixth time, which is more than any other club in the UK. By all accounts, the competitors are delighted with the course, in spite of the recent drought conditions. It was also interesting to note that out of the last eight seeds, seven were English - apparently this is the first time this has happened in Amateur history, some record.

Congratulations must also go to Trevoze GC in Cornwall. In May 2008, the very prestigious Brabazon Golf Tournament is being held at the club, this involves some 250 competitors from 25 different countries taking part. Neil Taylor, the Course Manager, was telling me that work started last year in preparation for the event. A new driving range has been constructed on a 2.5 hectare site, all the bunkers have been revetted, tees extended and all the fairways have been re-seeded with pure fescues and many of the surrounds re-shaped. To give the course more character, Neil was telling me that they have discovered old Cornish stone hedges buried on parts of the course, they are now in the process of uncovering them so as to return the course back to the 1920s and its original character.

Trevoze GC was designed by Harry Colt, one of the pioneers of course design around the turn of the century.

Good luck to all members in these very stressful times, with drying North Westerly winds and drought conditions. Travelling around my patch I have become more of a councillor than a salesman, listening to all the problems you are having to put up with, not to mention all the moans from the club members.

That's all, until next month.

Donovan O Hunt
Administrator

South Wales

Hi all. Not much to report this month.

Rigby Taylor results (sorry if I have missed any of the first round results, as this is all the information I have at present):

Shock results from the first round, Daryl and Lee were outgunned by the oldies - they have been the holders of this event for well over a millennium. Peter Holmstrom and Mark Wilshire beat Andy Roach and Nicky Davies, David Gladwin and Merion Griffiths, beat Daryl Bray and Lee Davies and Gary

Humphries and Rhys McDonaght won against Emyr Nickels and Leyton Lunn.

Congratulations to the winning team, Trefloyne GC, who were resounding winners of the Scotts management trophy, held at Neath GC. Many thanks to Neath GC for hosting the event and for their outstanding hospitality, including welcome pack and pin placements on the day. Also big thanks to Nick Martin from the Scotts Company for their continued support of this popular event. Many thanks also, to our Regional Administrator Jane Jones, for organising the smooth running of the day.

Dates for your diary: autumn competition held over the Alice Spring GC on Friday, October 13. This is our AGM date, prior to golf, the Section secretary will send out details of the times. Please try and attend and air any grievances you have on the way your Section is run or any other BIGGA issues.

Congratulations to Ceri Richards, from Avoncrop, and his partner on the birth of their little girl.

We would like to wish Peter Holmstrom all the best from his switch from greenkeeping to the dark side, he has been appointed by Countrywide as sales rep for the South west and South Wales.

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 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

CROSSWORD

F	A	T	C	A	M	P		C	O	M	M	U	N	E
I	R	I	O	L	U	S								
C	U	E	R	A	I	S	O	N	D	E	T	R	E	
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			L	I	O	C						O	E	
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SUDOKU

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

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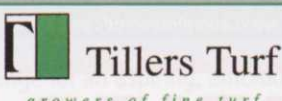
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Opened for play in September 2001, this challenging, privately owned downland course set in scenic Surrey countryside offers a fantastic working environment for the successful applicant.

This post requires a well disciplined, dedicated professional who possesses the following experience:

- 3/5 years + experience Golf Course Maintenance
- Minimum Level 11 NVQ Qualification
- Spraying & Chainsaw Certificates would be advantageous
- Sound Communication Skills
- Knowledge of Machinery & Irrigation systems

The successful applicant will be a highly motivated individual with sound Greenkeeping experience and a strong desire to succeed in his/her chosen career.

Please send your CV and covering letter to be received no later than the 30th September to:

Tony Kyle, Head Greenkeeper, Surrey Downs Golf Club,
Outwood Lane, Kingswood, Surrey, KT20 6JS

TACIT

National Authority Golf Course Equipment
RUGBY, ENGLAND

Sales Area Manager - Scotland

Tacit is a world leading golf course equipment manufacturer and is committed to supplying course managers with superior equipment through innovation and technology.

Our UK business aims to provide course managers with a range of state of the art quality products on a personal bespoke level, whilst tailoring our service to the individual needs of each golf course.

You should have a wealth of experience as a top level course manager, professional golfer or have a proven background in sales; you will be able to bring project management, a strong network of industry contacts and a high level of understanding of the commercial environment. You should be able to display commitment, self discipline, with good working practices and be a team player.

An excellent package of benefits awaits the successful candidate.

Please email or send a full C.V. together with an application letter for the attention of Tim Webb - tim@tacitgolf.com

Tacit, 59 Moat Farm Drive, Hillmorton, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 4HQ

Closing date 30th September 2006

- Interviews will be held in Edinburgh in October 2006



JOHN O'GAUNT GOLF CLUB

SUTTON PARK - SANDY - BEDFORDSHIRE - SG19 2LY

Website: www.johnogauntgolfclub.co.uk

COURSE MANAGER

John O'Gaunt Golf Club is a premier private members club in Bedfordshire that has hosted the EGU Seniors Championships on two occasions. We have two 18 hole traditional established parkland courses, one built on sandy-silty loam and the other on sandy soil.

The presentation and maintenance of both courses presents a real challenge for an aspiring, ambitious Course Manager.

The successful applicant must have the ability, experience and motivation to manage, maintain and develop both courses through leadership of an excellent team of greenkeeping personnel and utilisation of available resources.

The following skills, qualifications and experience are required:

- Significant golf course management experience
- All recognised greenkeeping qualifications up to management level including pesticides handling
- Effective management skills and the ability to motivate staff
- Experience of preparing a course to a high standard of presentation
- Knowledge of statutory regulations including Health and Safety and COSHH
- The ability to assist in compiling and working within an annual budget
- A sound working knowledge of machinery and equipment
- Sound communication, IT and planning skills

A competitive package is available to the successful applicant.

Please apply by 7 October 2006 in confidence, in writing with a full CV to:

The General Manager, John O'Gaunt Golf Club, Sutton Park, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2LY

e mail: stephen@johnogauntgolfclub.co.uk

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- 1/4 page = £560
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Call **Kirstin** on **01347 833800**
to book your space

RANFURLY 1889 CASTLE

Ranfurlly Castle Golf Club, Bridge of Weir

Invites applications for the position of

Head Greenkeeper

We are seeking an experienced, self motivated individual who is suitably qualified to manage and develop an experienced hardworking team.

The successful applicant will have the abilities and dedication to present the course and its surroundings to the highest standard consistent with the reputation of this highly regarded moorland course.

Salary appropriate to experience.

Applicants should forward a CV by Friday 6th October 2006 to: Mr J King, Secretary, The Ranfurlly Castle Golf Club, Golf Road, Bridge of Weir PA11 3HN



Ashford Manor Golf Club

Ashford Manor is an 18-hole par 70 parkland golf course founded in 1898 and is situated between Sunbury and Staines, close to Heathrow Airport

Applications are invited for the position of Assistant Greenkeeper

Applicants should have recognised greenkeeping qualifications and preferably possess the following:

- Spraying Certificates
- Chainsaw Certification
- Be reliable, flexible, hardworking and willing to learn
- Good communication skills and be able to work as part of a team

In return we offer excellent rates of pay along with good training opportunities and full PPE.

Please apply in writing with full CV to: The Course Manager, Ashford Manor Golf Club, Fordbridge Road Ashford, Middlesex, TW15 3RT • Tel: 01784 424644



Duddingston Golf Club Assistant Greenkeeper

We are looking for a reliable, hard working person who has a willingness to learn and improve. The successful candidate will be part of a team that takes pride in producing a golf course of high quality. The financial package includes an attractive salary, an annual bonus, and a company pension scheme.

Requirements:

Minimum of three years golf course experience; NVQ2 or equivalent.

Salary will be negotiated with age and experience being taken into account.

Please apply in writing with a full CV to:

General Manager, Duddingston Golf Club,
Duddingston Road West, Edinburgh, EH15 3QD



Applications are invited for a

First 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 and be able to undertake management responsibilities.

Salary dependant upon qualifications and experience.

Applications by letter including the names of two referees to:

The Secretary, Honiton Golf Club, Middlehills, Honiton, Devon EX14 9TR

Closing date: Friday 18 September 2006

For more information ring the Secretary on: 01404 44422 extn 2 or e-mail: secretary@honitongolfclub.fsnet.co.uk

Recruitment

TOURISM ENTERPRISES OF MESSINIA S.A.



Tourism Enterprises of Messinia S.A (TEMES)

Require an

Experienced Greenkeeper

for the Golf Courses that are being constructed in the Pylos area of Greece.

The following experience and knowledge is required:

- The climatic Condition of the Mediterranean Region
- Maintenance of Bermuda Grass and Agrostis (Creeping Bent Grass)
- Experience in Golf Course Construction and Soil Management

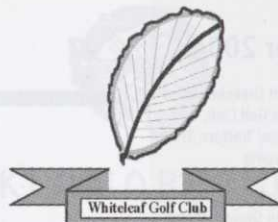
Please send CVs and other qualifications documents to:

I. Iacovou, Golf Director,

5. Pentelis St. 175 64, Athens, Greece

Tel: 0030 210 9490200 • Fax: 0030 210 9409457

E-mail: iacovou@temes.gr



WHITELEAF GOLF CLUB

Established 1907

A very scenic undulating 9 hole Golf Course in the Chilterns

Requires an

Assistant Greenkeeper

Qualification not essential although knowledge of aspects of Greenkeeping would be preferred.

Some weekend working is required.

Training opportunities available.

Salary dependent on experience and qualification.

Applications in writing or e-mail detailing past employment and experience to: The Secretary, Whiteleaf Golf Club Ltd, Upper Icknield Way, Whiteleaf, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 0LY

For further information please telephone 01844 274058

e-mail: whiteleafgc@tiscali.co.uk • www.whiteleafgolfclub.co.uk

Hosts of The AMEX 2006 World Championships



Greenkeepers and Spray Technician - Hertfordshire

5* hotel

Championship golf course

Hosts of 2006 AMEX World Championship

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10 minutes Watford Junction, M1 and M25

Designed to USPGA specification with Troon affiliation, small wonder this 5* estate will host the world's top 50 golfers in September. Opened only in 2003, our highly experienced team with their state-of-the-art equipment ensured that The Times called The Grove one of the best courses in Europe. Due to promotion we need more enthusiastic team players.

Greenkeepers - Qualified and Trainees

You will operate all mowing and agricultural machinery to maintain our Golf Course. Qualified Greenkeepers will have City and Guilds or NVQ qualifications. Trainees will receive extensive coaching and training.

Spray Technician

You will apply fertiliser & chemicals to COSHH regulations, perform safety inspections, maintain storage & mixing areas, compile reports and control stocks. Experienced as a Spray Technician and Greenkeeper, you will have PA1, PA2, PA6 qualifications or similar.

Included in our excellent package is staff accommodation, comprehensive training and use of all our 5* facilities. Please call Louisa Webb on 01923 296 007 or email recruitment@thegrove.co.uk. Alternatively, visit www.thegrove.co.uk

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THE GROVE

Feature listing from September 2004

September 2004; Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Preview; Ravensworth Golf Club; Turf Disease; Royal Holloway College; Tractors; The Greener Approach to Greenkeeping

October 2004; STRI 75th Anniversary; Kenwick Park GC; Ecology; John Deere National Team Championship; Best Practice; Top Dressing; Saltex Review; Aeration

November 2004; Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Final; The BIGGA National Championship; Comrie GC; CV Advice; Drainage; Construction; Fences

December 2004; BTME & ClubHouse Preview; Henley GC; Grass Identification; Trees; Environmental Winner; BIGGA Delegation; Interview Advice; College Listings

January 2005; Sir Michael Bonallack; Parkstone GC; Machinery Servicing; Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship; Recycled Products; John Deere Team Championship; Tees; Negotiation Advice

February 2005; Harrogate 2005 Review; Meet the Chairman; Environmental Competition; Tyres; Coombe Hill GC

March 2005; Alwoodley GC; Difficult Areas; Drainage; Irrigation; Greens

April 2005; Augusta Syndrome; Thornhill GC; Difficult Areas Part 2; Turf Tonics; BIGGA Delegation; Fescue Grass

May 2005; Helliidon Lakes; Power Mowers; Pest Control; Cutting Heights Survey; Nozzles

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

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

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

September 2005; John O'Gaunt GC; Drainage Special; Security; Student of the Year; Massey Ferguson Profile

October 2005; Laleham GC; Dollar Spot; Utility Vehicles; Bio Oil; Pneumatic Fracturing; Best Practice

November 2005; Chipping Norton GC; National Championship; Course Construction; Fertilisers; Servicing

December 2005; Harrogate Week Preview; BIGGA Delegation; Environmental Competition; Fescue Debate; Irrigation

January 2006; Bearwood Lakes GC; Course Furniture; Nicklaus Design; Seed; Alternative Fuel; Disease Survey

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chairman's Column



Time to reflect

Once again September is upon us with daylight hours drawing in faster than we would like. This is a time when we start reflecting on the growing season that is rapidly drawing to a close. We will all assess our own and others performance and how the golf course performed throughout the season. There will always be plus's and minus's, the latter should always be viewed in a positive light, how can the problem be overcome or how to deal with it. The answer is likely to be further education and this is where your association can help you develop for the future.



This autumn our association will, once again, be holding a series of workshops and seminars taking place throughout the country and your educational team of Ken Richardson, Sami Collins and the educational sub committee have put together the most comprehensive educational programme to date for Harrogate week 2007, I am sure there will be something there for you all.

During this month the Toro Student of the Year competition reaches its conclusion with the final taking place at Aldwark Manor. The finalist journey started back in the spring when they were nominated to represent their college etc at the Regional Finals. Ken Richardson and his panel travelled the length and breadth of the country to interview the candidates. With each year that passes, the quality of candidates and their professional approach just gets better, making selection for the finals extremely difficult. As in all competitions many of the candidates were disappointed that they hadn't reached the finals but hopefully they will reflect on not being selected for the finals in a positive light, as each and every one of the candidates were already winners for being selected for the Regional Finals.

The national finals of the John Deere Championships take place this month at East Sussex National. The finalists, who have won through dealer organised local events, will be competing for the chance to play in the World Final at the Reynolds Plantation Golf and Country Club in Greensboro, Georgia. The format of this event brings together the golf clubs management team that can only help to improve communications within the club. I wish all the finalists in the Toro Student greenkeeper of the year and the John Deere championships the best of luck; don't forget that preparation will be the key.

The BIGGA National Championship takes place next month at Burton-on-Trent, supported by Ransomes Jacobsen. The event will be played over 36 holes with the lowest gross score becoming the BIGGA National Champion, the player with the best nett score will receive the BIGGA Challenge cup. If you haven't already entered and wish to take part you need to contact BIGGA House as soon as possible as places are now limited.

Champion of BIGGA

This month my column is dedicated to my deputy at Burnham and Berrow GC, Mick Dodd, as he reaches retirement later this month after 44 years dedicated service to the club. I know that there are still quite a few members out there who will reach the 40 plus years of service at a club but I think it will become the exception to the rule in years to come.

Mick started at Burnham in 1962 after working with his father beforehand. Like many of us he came into our profession by accident and fell in love with working on Burnham's natural links. Mick had two stints totalling about 10 years as Head Greenkeeper but his love of the course outweighed the administrative and political element of the Head Greenkeepers job, he was happy to hand the reigns over so he could concentrate on tending to his beloved links. In 44 years he has seen many major changes to Burnham's layout, from new holes being built on the championship course, to the development of the nine-hole course back in 1976 - not to mention the development in machinery over this period from push hand mowers to state of the art fairway mowers to name but a few. Head Greenkeepers, Secretaries, Stewards and Professionals have come and gone and some returned but Mick was the one the club could turn to, to steer the ship. It has been a pleasure working with Mick over the last three years; both the members and the staff will miss his professionalism and character.

Mick all the boys wish you a long, happy retirement.

Richard Whyman
Chairman

Recruitment

Join An Award-Winning Team



Admin. Assistant £ Salary on application
(Golf Courses and Estates Dept.)

Qualified Greenkeeper £ Salary on application
(NVQ L2 and minimum of 2 years experience)

The Celtic Manor Resort is a world-class destination with exceptional business, golf and leisure facilities, set in 1400 acres of parkland in the beautiful Usk Valley in South Wales.

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- Uniform provided and laundered
- Contributory Pension Scheme (after 1 year's service)
- Accommodation can be provided (subject to availability)
- Generous discounts throughout the Resort

Application Procedure

Visit our website www.celtic-manor.com/employment for more detailed information. Then call our Recruitment Hotline on 01633 410282 / 410281 for an application form. Please note that a valid work permit is required for the above positions.
Recruitment Hotline on 01633 410282 / 410281



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Groundsman / Greenkeeper

Location; Wetherby Race Course

12 Month grow in contract with immediate start available.

The project is currently under way and we are looking for the successful candidate to start as soon as possible working with the construction team and then take over to grow the project in.

Subject to performance a full time position as foreman based at the Sunderland branch may be offered on completion of the grow in.

Salary/rates are negotiable based on experience.

Please apply in writing with a brief description of your experience and your reason for interest in this position and the sports turf construction industry.

Mr Robert Heath, Souters Sports Ltd, Kell Green Farm, Marthall,
Nr Knutsford, CHESHIRE WA16 7SL E-mail: rob@soutersports.co.uk

Deeside Golf Club

require

2 FULL-TIME GREENKEEPERS

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

A competitive salary is offered dependent on qualifications and experience.

Please forward your CV to:

Club Manager, Deeside Golf Club, Golf Road,
Bieldside, ABERDEEN AB15 9DL
or email to admin@deesidegolfclub.com



MIKLAGARD GOLF

Miklagard Golf Course is situated approx 15 miles north of Oslo, and is only a 10 minute drive from Oslo international airport.

We are currently seeking mature ambitious individuals to take on these prominent key roles within a large team.

HEAD MECHANIC

Working alongside the Course Superintendent to promote a professional attitude to machinery management, this position will entail maintaining our large fleet of maintenance machinery to the highest standards.

Dealer approval training and qualification will be provided.

GREENKEEPERS AND TRAINEE GREENKEEPERS

Working under the direction of the Superintendent, these challenging roles will involve working within a large team and maintaining and developing our course to the highest possible standard.

No accommodation is provided, although help will be given to find suitable accommodation.

Applications in writing enclosing a current CV and marking your application 'Confidential' to: ianross@c2i.net or to: Ian Ross, Miklagard golf AS, Postboks 87, 2041 Klofta, Norge



THORNDON PARK GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the following position

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Established in 1920 Thorndon Park is a prestigious members club and is situated in Essex 10 minutes from J29 on the M25. Thorndon Park is a classic Harry Colt design course and provides excellent playing and working conditions.

Applicants need to show abilities in running the course in the Head Greenkeeper's absence, show positive and assertive leadership skills and be able to lead by example.

Ideally the candidate should have had five years experience on golf courses.

The following qualification skills held by the candidate will be an advantage:

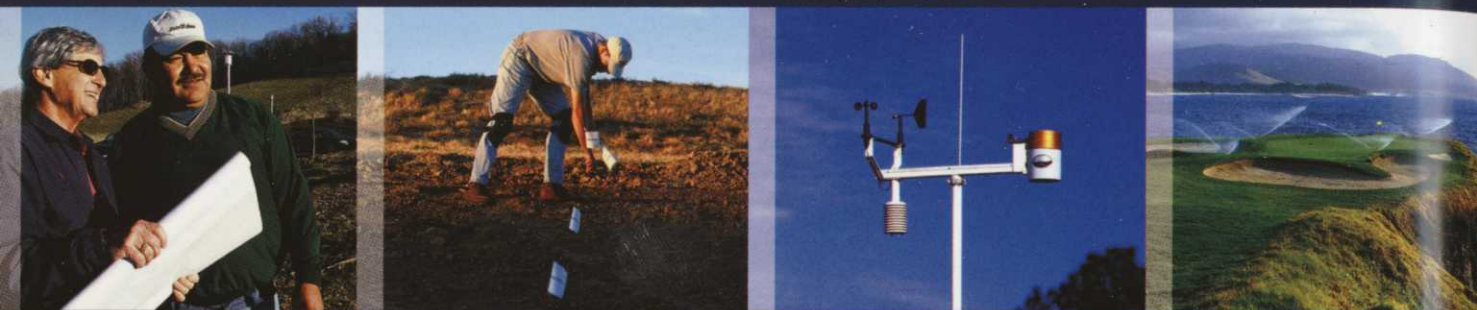
- NVQ level 2, aspiring to level 3.
- Up to date spraying and Chainsaw certificates.
- Knowledge of Health and Safety regulations.
- Knowledge of irrigation systems.
- Computer and administrative skills.
- Good communication skills.
- Good turf management.

This is an excellent opportunity for a dedicated and enthusiastic individual to work closely with the Head Greenkeeper and further their skills and training. The successful applicant will join a motivated team with high standards and good team morale.

Salary negotiable depending on experience and qualifications.

Closing date: Friday 27th September.

Please apply in writing together with C.V to: The Secretary, Thorndon Park Golf Club, Ingrave, Brentwood, Essex CM13 3RH



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