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# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL



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## Greenkeeper INTERNATIONAL

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

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# Welcome



## LIES, DAMNED LIES AND STATISTICS

There are, so the saying goes, "Lies, damned lies and statistics." and it might well be right.

We've been running a poll on your new website about Augusta Syndrome on the question, "Does Augusta Syndrome have a big impact at your club with members demanding Masters-like conditions?" – and, as I write, the voting stands at:- A Lot 21%; A Little 41% and Not at All 38%.

Now you can read that in several ways. You could say that only one in five Course Managers experience real grief because of Augusta Syndrome and that two out of five Course Managers see no impact at all.

Alternatively you could say that three out of five Course Managers are affected by the phenomenon known as Augusta Syndrome and, of those, one in five see it as a major issue.

One interpretation makes it appear a minor concern overall while the other presents it as quite a significant issue for the majority of you every April and May.

Statistics. Don't yah just love 'em.

I think that what it does indicate is that Augusta Syndrome certainly exists up and down the golf clubs of Great Britain – although, admittedly, the poll may have been entered by some non-British based Course Managers – to some degree or another.

That is a little sad because if the average golf club member can't differentiate between the resources levels at Augusta and their own clubs, nor indeed the weather conditions early in the year in Georgia, and certain parts of the UK, they do have a problem indeed.

Can't they just enjoy the spectacle of the Masters – the magnificent azaleas and rhododendrons, the stunningly difficult putts that can be left and the superb shot making – for what it is, without trying to compare it to their own course?

It's a little like season ticket holders at, I don't know, let's say, Preston North End, complaining that their facilities are not as good as those at the New Wembley. Sure, both have a pitch surrounded by seating, but I'm sure the Directors of Preston North End have invested significantly less on Deepdale than the FA have ploughed into the New Wembley.

That's not to say that the facilities for Preston North End season ticket holder are, and I'm guessing here, never having visited Deepdale, any less suitable than they should be, it's just that we are talking about two facilities operating in completely different markets with different demands, expectations and budgets.

So let's be thankful that out of five of you have no pressure imposed upon you by members around Masters time but we really need to work on those golf club members who still think that they should be facing 30 foot putts with 25 feet of borrow on greens which stimp at 16 to win their Sunday morning bounce game.

Don't, however, let any of this interfere with your own enjoyment of The Masters nor let you stop admiring, albeit from afar, the magnificent work of the Augusta greenkeeping team.

## NEW APPOINTMENT

Daniel Rounding joins Terrain Aeration as Representative/Operative, returning to an industry and aeration system, which he knows well. Having previously worked with Director Lynda Green when they were both with Colin Pryce Terralift, Daniel brings a wealth of experience to the post including first hand knowledge of deep, compressed air de-compaction treatment.



## DEALER NETWORK IS STRENGTHENED

LMS Lincoln Ltd of Wellingore near Lincoln, the family-owned grounds care business, has been appointed the Wiedenmann UK dealer for the region. Their territory encompasses all of Lincolnshire, from the Humber in the north to the Wash in the south, and strengthens the dealer network in the east of England.

A well respected name in the area, they represent numerous well-known industry brands including Ransomes Jacobsen, Atco, Allen, Hayter, Honda, Mountfield, Ryobi and Stiga.

## SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WITHIN EUROPEAN GOLF

Syngenta Professional Products has become the first Technical Member of Golf Environment Europe and the first sponsor of GEE's Environmental Innovation and Technology Network.

Through these agreements, Syngenta sets out its commitment to support environmental education and information exchange within European golf. Syngenta's support of the Innovation and Technology Network will facilitate practical projects across a wide range of environmental topics.

The Network will collate and disseminate information across a wide range of environmental issues, including; turfgrass management, pollution prevention, water resource management, ecology, waste management, energy efficiency, renewable energies, climate change, landscape and cultural heritage conservation.

## BIGGA WINS!

BIGGA has grabbed runner up position at the Membership Development Awards 2007.

The judges thought our entry showed an Association that is genuinely concerned for its members and understands what they want from their organisation.

Congratulations to the membership department!



## DEMONSTRATION DAYS

Sisis Equipment Ltd is arranging a series of demonstration days in South Wales/S.West England: Best of both Worlds, April 17 Coombe Dingle Sports Centre, Bristol University - Learn the secrets of creating and maintaining quality playing surfaces, whether natural turf or synthetic. Working demonstrations and presentations.

Tee to Green, April 30, Glamorganshire GC, Penarth; May 1, Minchinhampton GC, Stroud; May 2, Burghill Valley GC, Hereford. See a working demonstration of the Sisis Aer-Aid System and other recent introductions to the range of Sisis turf machinery designed to maintain your course from tee to green.

The events are free. Please contact Jane on: 01625 503030 or: jane@sisis.com for details.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

## VEGAS WEDDING

Adam Turner, Head Greenkeeper at St Michael's Golf Club, whisked fiancée Jane off to Las Vegas to tie the knot on the bridge of the Star Ship Enterprise on Valentine's Day. (The bridge is a full size mock up and is at the Las Vegas Hilton.)

"We thought it would be a laugh as we didn't fancy all the fuss that goes with a white wedding, plus we're not religious so it seems a bit of a waste of time having it at a church. There was a Klingon at the ceremony which was a bit distracting!" said newly wed Adam.



## YOUNG GREENKEEPER IS NAMED STUDENT OF THE YEAR



**Michael Wannell, named Student of the Year 2006 by the South West England Regional Committee of the Institute of Groundsmanship**

A Duchy College student has been chosen as Student of the Year 2006 by the Wales and South West England Regional Committee of the Institute of Groundsmanship. Michael Wannell, age 21, from Chagford, was presented with his prize at the institute's Annual Conference at Newcastle.

Michael is employed by Bovey Castle in Devon, and was previously a National Trust warden at Castle Drogo. He is studying with Duchy College, part of Cornwall College, for an NVQ 2 Apprenticeship in Greenkeeping and was competing against many other under 25 year-olds undertaking a career in groundsmanship. Judges were looking for the student making the greatest progress, while nominated entrants also submitted a 500 word essay on the subject: 'What do you consider are the most important issues facing the next generation of groundsmen/groundskeepers?' and were interviewed by a panel of judges from the institute and from industry.

## CELTIC MANOR CEMENTS RELATIONSHIP

World-class golf and leisure destination, The Celtic Manor Resort, has cemented its long-standing relationship with Toro by signing its first partnership deal with the company for both course machinery and irrigation.

Director of golf courses and estates management Jim McKenzie said: "We have had an informal agreement with Toro since 1993, which has been underpinned by the quality of their machinery and support. Signing an official partnership agreement is a step forward and the next stage in our relationship.

"This five-year deal will enable us to plan the needs of our courses and other areas of the estate far in advance. We hold the Wales Open here every year, and of course there's the Ryder Cup to prepare for in 2010 – the biggest event that Wales will probably ever see. Continuing our association with a market leader like Toro is also very important for us. Support is key, too, and we have a very close relationship with our local dealer Ted Hopkins, who provide us with superb service."



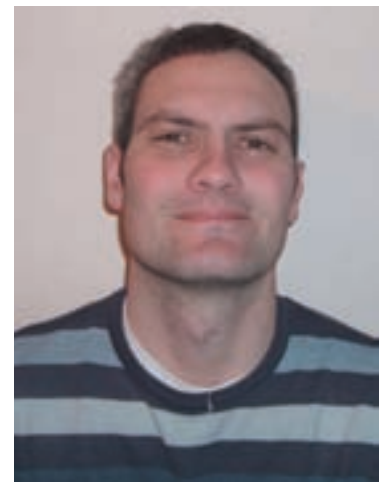
**Front: Mark Colcomb, right, vice president of finance and support, and Toro's Bob Buckingham. Back, left to right: Trevor Chard, Lely; Andrew Brown, Toro; Graham Dale, Lely; Russell Phillips, vice president of facilities and development; and Jim McKenzie.**

## COMPETITION WINNERS

Winners from the recent Groundsman and Greenkeeper Competition, run by DLF Trifolium, can look forward to an all expenses paid trip to Denmark this Spring.

Nick Hargreaves, Assistant Greenkeeper, Woodhall Spa Golf Club in Lincolnshire and Colin Ashman from Millfield School in Somerset will be visiting DLF Trifolium A/S, the parent company in Denmark, where they will see the grass breeding facilities and extensive trialling grounds.

As well as finding out more about the complexities of grass breeding, the two winners will visit sporting venues of interest and may even have time to see a few tourist attractions in Copenhagen.



**Winner: Colin Ashman**

## RECORD FAST RECOVERY OF STOLEN A-PLANT COMPRESSOR



Stolen compressor

A-Plant believes it has created an industry record by locating one of the company's hire compressors within 15 minutes of it being stolen from a customer's site in Surrey.

The compressor is protected by the Enigma security system which is employed throughout the A-Plant fleet not only on compressors, but also other equipment such as dumpers, rollers, excavators and telehandlers. The swift recovery of A-Plant machines protected by the Enigma security system ensures that the hire customer is not additionally charged for the stolen machine.

The first call concerning the theft of the compressor in Surrey came into A-Plant at 13.16. The machine was immediately tracked by Global Positioning Satellite via the Enigma system and its progress was relayed back to computer screens at A-Plant, showing the speed it was travelling and its current location. The compressor was eventually left down a side road in Croydon, some 3 miles from where it was stolen, and the exact location was pinpointed by aerial photography supplied via the Enigma system. With the help of the aerial photograph, A-Plant staff were able to arrive quickly to begin recovery of the compressor at 13.30.

The Enigma system is centred on a mobile GPRS (General Packet Radio Service) device, fitted to A-Plant equipment, which provides internet tracking by communicating with host servers with bespoke software running to decode the incoming data. One of the unique aspects of the Enigma system is that it was developed with security as the principal requirement and, as such, provides A-Plant with a wealth of information about the status of every piece of plant equipped with the system.

## BOOK REVIEW

Heather and its Management  
By Bob Taylor and Lee Penrose  
Published by the STRI



Any greenkeeper who manages heather, wishes to introduce or reintroduce heather or just has an interest in growing heather on a golf course, should read this compact booklet written by Bob Taylor and Lee Penrose. This update of the 'original 'heather book' incorporates data gathered from an STRI 2002 survey into the status and distribution of heather on golf courses. It is packed full of useful practical hints and tips that are well illustrated by a wealth of colour pictures. The booklet shows that heather becoming a scarce resource and shows how golf can help to preserve this important habitat resource.

The booklet is available from the STRI Bookshop or on-line at [www.stri.co.uk/bookshop](http://www.stri.co.uk/bookshop)

Review by Ken Richardson, BIGGA Education and Training Manager

## NEW APPOINTMENT

Martyn Jones, founder of the National Turfgrass Foundation, has been appointed President of the recently formed Independent Greenkeepers' Association.

## NEW NATIONAL SPECIFICATION MANAGER

Rain Bird has announced the addition of Paul Roche to its Golf Division in the role of National Specification Manager. In this position, Roche is responsible for the development and management of key relationships with architects, irrigation designers and contractors serving the golf market. In addition, Roche is involved with the further development of Rain Bird's valued service offerings for both its customers and business partners.

Roche brings to Rain Bird and its customers over 20 years of irrigation experience. For the past 14 years, Roche has led the Golf Irrigation effort for SV Moffett Company in Rochester, NY - a well-respected Rain Bird Golf irrigation distribution partner. Roche is well versed in all aspects of golf irrigation including design, installation, and maintenance of modern sophisticated irrigation systems.

## PROMOTION



Mark Rayner

Scotts' Mark Rayner has been promoted from Area Sales Manager for the Midlands to Key Account Manager. In the new national role he will be looking to develop business for the company throughout the UK.

Mark has been with Scotts for three years and has over 25 years' experience in the Turf & Amenity market covering local authorities, contractors, turf growers, sports and golf.

## TOP OTTERBINE PRIZE



**Topturf's Colin Clark (second from left) receives the Otterbine Contractor of the Year award from Lely's Robert Jackson. Also pictured are (left to right): Rob Callaway, Topturf, Reg Varney, Otterbine, and Roger Lupton, Lely.**

Topturf Irrigation (Service) Limited has been named Otterbine Contractor of the Year for 2006 by distributor Lely. They were presented with their award by Robert Jackson, Otterbine sales manager at Lely.

He said: "The high level of sales, service and support Topturf offers its Otterbine customers in an increasingly competitive market made them a clear winner for this award. Their product knowledge and technical expertise on the company's range of aerators and aerating fountains is second to none and they deserve to be recognised."

Topturf Irrigation (Services) Limited was formed in 2004 as a specialist service support company for irrigation and aeration products. It is the only company in the UK to have US factory-trained Otterbine engineers. Its core business is golf, but it also works in a wide range of other markets such as sport, local authority and residential.

## HEAVY DUTY MOWERS

Adding to its recently acquired range of DR mower/trimmers, RochfordGM has now announced it is now the sole UK distributors for the DR Field and Brush Mowers. These machines are renowned for long grass mowing and control of weeds and brush and are arguably the most powerful walk-behind brush mower on the market.

Powered by Kawasaki or Briggs & Stratton engines, the DR Field & Brush Mowers offer the option of cutting widths from 22in (56cm) to 30in (76cm) and electric start models. They are also fitted with heavy-duty tyres with aggressive tread for maximum traction and are liquid filled to prevent punctures and leaking.

For further details visit [www.drproducts.co.uk](http://www.drproducts.co.uk)



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## OVER 120 DELEGATES ATTEND

Avoncrop Amenity Products organised two seminars, one at Whitchurch Golf Club near Cardiff and the second at Maidenhead Golf Club in Berkshire. Over 120 delegates attended the two days, which focused on managing turf stress and the problems associated with extremes in the weather.

Following the success of a similar seminar programme last year, Avoncrop Amenity Products in partnership with Barenbrug, Scotts UK, Syngenta Crop Protection and WBB Minerals, gave presentations on symptoms of stressed turf and problems that can be expected. Solutions and management practices that could assist in reducing the level of pressure were highlighted.

Simon Barnaby of Syngenta explained how stress manifests itself in turf, in many cases as disease, saying that the extremes of climatic conditions have brought different problems and far more aggressive disease outbreaks. Pest problems have increased with Chafer Grubs, which until a few years ago have never been reported in Scotland, it has to be asked is global warming causing new problems.

Over the two days of seminars Nick Martin John Noyce and Michael Fance delivered the Scotts presentations. They covered the subject of turf stress management both from the principles involved in the selection of the correct product technology as well as the practical implementation of sound turf management practices.

Jayne Leyland after lunch covered advances in turf species breeding to cope with both drought and water logging which is so topical at the moment. Further research identifying cultivars that offer low or high temperature germination to extend the renovation window and to offer solutions to climatic change were also highlighted. WBB Minerals Technical Manager Mick Higgins, explained the principals of rootzone drainage and the importance of matching existing rootzones with compatible top dressings. Mick demonstrated how a mismatched top dressing applied to a properly constructed rootzone rendered it totally useless due to root break. Chris Briggs of Avoncrop Amenity Products

says we will continue to organise these seminars as there is a huge wealth of information and knowledge that can be drawn upon for the benefit of turf managers, from what ever discipline they come from be it golf or small sports clubs.

## CUSTOMERS GET MORE THAN JUST BAGS OF SEED



**Left to right: Duncan Allan and Alison Allan, Don Valley; Billy Nimmo, Barenbrug; Elizabeth Wilson, JA Humphrey; Jayne Leyland, Barenbrug; and Andrew Allan, Don Valley.**

Underlining its commitment to its network of BAR range distributors, Barenbrug has recently completed a series of technical training days aimed at keeping distributors up to date with the latest in research and development, new cultivars and mixtures.

The company's UK Research and Development Manager Jayne Leyland, who ran the training sessions, included sections on the impact of climate change and the solutions to these challenges which are emerging from Barenbrug's breeding programmes. She also revealed the latest results from the company's cool temperature germination trials, which show that selected cultivars can extend the renovation window by germinating in cooler temperatures, and others which can germinate in warmer temperatures and so help with re-instatement following combined heat and drought damage.



## TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW INCREASED

Scotts has further increased its technical expertise across both its professional Ornamental Horticulture and Turf and Amenity businesses with the appointment of key personnel.

Stuart Staples returns to the UK as Technical Manager for the Turf and Amenity division, with specific responsibility for fertilisers. Stuart has worked for Scotts for a number of years, initially as research and development trials officer at the UK-based Levington Research Station, and more recently as international technical manager at the company's International headquarters in Holland. He will continue to fulfil the responsibilities of international technical manager alongside his new role.

Nia Frost has been appointed as Technical Sales Manager for both the Ornamental Horticulture and Turf and Amenity businesses, with particular responsibility for controls products. Nia has a great deal of expertise in this field; she holds a BSc in plant biology and spent nine years working for Bayer in a variety of R & D roles.

## NEIL THOMAS MEMORIAL GOLF DAY

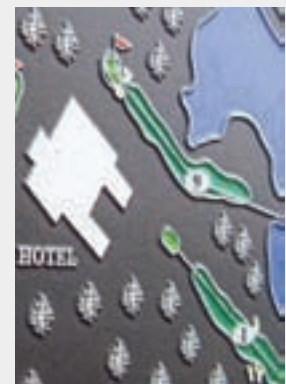
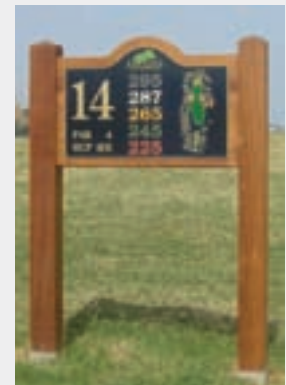
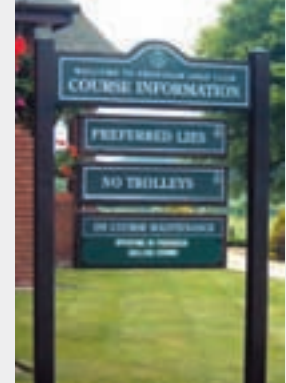
Anyone wishing to enter a team in the annual BIGGA Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day taking place on Monday, June 18 should contact Sarah at BIGGA House, tel: 01347 833800, or email: [sarah@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sarah@bigga.co.uk)

This year the Chairman's nominated charity is The Rainbow Trust and profits from the day will go to this very worthy cause.

A team of four can be entered for £250 + VAT with the day comprising a bacon roll on arrival, 18 holes of golf at Aldwark Manor Golf Club, a ploughman's lunch, half-way house, a barbecue and the opportunity to win some great prizes.

Corporate entry is also available at £475 + VAT and includes the entry of one team and sponsorship of a tee and recognition within the pages of Greenkeeper International.

The closing date for entries, subject to availability, is Friday, May 18.



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## SETTING THE STANDARD

**In this article David Golding, GTC's Education Director, explains the ongoing work with its Training Providers to ensure greenkeeping courses are to the required standards and available through various delivery options.**

**Whether you are a student or an employer, the GTC is constantly working with the official authorities, Inspectorates and Awarding Bodies whose job it is to formally police the quality of Government funded training programmes through colleges and Centres.**

The programmes include all the popular vocational qualifications, the apprenticeship scheme, Higher Education courses such as the HNC/D and the Foundation Degree.

Inspectors and External Verifiers visit provider establishments to meet with staff and students and to check the human and physical resources available to deliver the various programmes.

What is increasingly important to the providers is the demands put on them to ensure the national targets set by the Government are met.

As a result we are now hearing that centres are having funding withdrawn when success rates are not met.

We can view this news as a positive indication that the funding bodies are only looking to fund those centres that are meeting the targets. However, we must also be aware of the centres drive to ensure students do "pass" and therefore meet the targets.

Quality must never be compromised just to meet targets and I know that there has always been the "bums on seats" issue when colleges have been accused of "passing" every student!

It is a very bold statement and one we all need to consider very carefully especially as so many centres are looking to recruit qualified from within the turf industry and this has to be encouraged.

If anybody should know about quality and standards and the importance of maintaining quality it is these sector competent personnel.

I have to admit we do receive calls and emails from staff within centres frustrated about the system and procedures they have been asked to deliver, knowing these will result in poor delivery and more importantly incompetent students!

We obviously respect the confidentiality of this information but we act on this immediately through the most effective route possible.

I do not wish to portray a picture of doom, but the reality is that there is an increasing amount of pressure being put on all providers to ensure learners achieve and the GTC will continue its partnership approach with its provider network to ensure we are all working together to produce knowledgeable, competent greenkeepers.

One again a reminder that with all vocational qualifications and apprenticeship schemes centres must have the support of the employer and senior greenkeeping staff for the system to work.

Enough said on this matter for this month you will be pleased to hear but these work-based awards must be a strong centre staff - golf course staff partnership.

The more academic qualifications HNC/D, Foundation Degree, B.Sc and M.Sc can now be assessed part and full time and with the increasing demands on Course Managers and Deputies, I am pleased that several providers have introduced more flexible delivery routes to gain these very prestigious awards.

Distance learning has been popular and the part-time often-called twilight shift has been offered at several centres.

By far the most popular route of late has become the on-line learning route, which despite teething problems must be here to stay.

All of the above options do require students to be dedicated to the course, not the golf course on this occasion, that is taken as read, but the training programme as set out by the college.

The on-line learning route has for obvious reasons become popular with international greenkeeping students from countries where no education system for turf students is available.

As an aside, by way of an update, the working group established to develop pan-European standards met during the Harrogate Week. An agreed set of skills (standards) at three levels has been developed and will soon be circulated, as part of a consultation process and more news on this initiative will follow shortly.

If you have concerns about the training programmes you or your staff are registered on, especially when you feel quality is an issue please contact me immediately and we will give it our immediate attention.

The GTC has invited all of its approved training providers to its headquarters in late June when Awarding Body representatives will be present to discuss all issues relating to greenkeeper programmes.

In addition to Awarding Body issues, providers will be invited to debate all current issues facing turf maintenance, as it is important that the GTC ensures that the provider network is relaying the best principles and practices to all turf students.

Much to do but please feel free to contribute if you feel the GTC can assist you whether you are an employer, greenkeeper, turf lecturer et al.

David may be contacted by Email at: david@the-gtc.co.uk or Tel: 01347 838640



Ken Richardson discusses the department's latest projects

**The countdown is running to the release onto the Internet of the BIGGA/AGCS Safety Management System and Ken Richardson gives an overview of how you can access the site and start producing your own Safety Management System. Ken also takes a closer look at Continuing Professional Development schemes.**

## National Register of Spray Operators (NRoSO)

NRoSO is a register of sprayer operators who use CPD as a means of on-going training. The Scheme is open to anybody who holds an appropriate NPTC PA certificate of competence, or was born before December, 31, 1964 and is applying pesticides under "Grandfather Rights". As a member you are required to collect 30 or more CPD points in each three-year period to qualify for membership renewal. A similar range of education and training as in the BIGGA Scheme attract CPD credits. For example an in-house, one-day health and safety workshop would attract 12 credits. For full details go to [www.nroso.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nroso.nptc.org.uk)

Organisers of education and training who wish to have their event recognised for the award of NRoSO credits can download an application form from [www.nroso.nptc.org.uk/events.aspx](http://www.nroso.nptc.org.uk/events.aspx) or contact NPTC on 024 76857300

## The BIGGA CPD Scheme

All greenkeeper members of BIGGA are entitled to join the BIGGA CPD Scheme. It encourages greenkeepers to adapt outdated skills, keep in touch with changes in legislation, update skills and knowledge, promote greenkeeping as a profession and give them the skills to cope with change. If you accumulate 10 credits in the year 1 July to 30 June, you will be awarded a Certificate. Moreover, if you are awarded five consecutive Certificates, you will receive a diploma in CPD. All types of education and training could attract CPD credits; for example, a one-day seminar could attract 3 credits. Contact BIGGA to have your course, seminar, workshop or conference registered.

The BIGGA CPD Scheme is free to join and application forms are available from BIGGA House.

## Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Class A members of the GCSAA need show that they are keeping their knowledge and skills up to date by participating in on-going training. The GCSAA Scheme is similar to the BIGGA CPD Scheme in that superintendents can gain credits for a wide range of education and training. BIGGA works with the GCSAA to gain recognition for its workshops and seminars at Harrogate each year and both UK based members of the GCSAA and visitors from overseas can take advantage of the arrangement.



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For details, please contact Ken Richardson on 01347 833800 or via [kem@bigga.co.uk](mailto:kem@bigga.co.uk)

---

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## BIGGA/AGCS Safety Management System

The launch of the BIGGA/AGCS Internet based Safety Management System sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen is fast approaching. This interactive resource that has been in development for almost two years, has been designed to make it possible for all golf clubs to produce a safety management system for the whole club. It has been designed by a team of software experts, using inputs from golf course managers and golf club secretaries, to be a practical, easy to use system that should help clubs to conform with health and safety law, follow codes of practice and make golf courses safer places to work and play.

The resource will be available, free of charge to all members of BIGGA and/or members of the AGCS, through each Association's website. Check the members area of the BIGGA website to see if the system is up and running.

More details on the System, plus a handy reference guide will appear in the May edition of Greenkeeper International.

## Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

There are many CPD schemes operating for a variety of trades and professions. The four main CPD schemes for greenkeepers, groundsmen and others working with fine turf management are the BIGGA Scheme, the BASIS Scheme, the NRoSO Scheme and the GCSAA Scheme. The Schemes have been designed to show that turf professionals are continuing to improve their knowledge and skills, thereby keeping up to date with changes in their industries.

## BASIS Registration

To be a member of the Register demonstrates that each person is technically qualified in line with Government legislation and that they are updated on an annual basis. To remain on the Register, individuals need to accrue annual Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points. Many BIGGA courses seminars and workshops attract BASIS CPD credits. For details of membership go to [www.basis-reg.com/index2.asp](http://www.basis-reg.com/index2.asp).



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IAN	WAKEMAN	North
ANDREW	WILSON	North
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PHILIP	BALDOCK	Northern
JASON	BAXTER	Northern
WILLIAM	BINNER	Northern
JOHN	BINNER	Northern
BEN	BINNER	Northern
DAVID	CARRIGAN	North West
RICHARD	CLEWORTH	North Wales
STEPHEN	COOPER	Northern
MICHAEL	CURRY	Cleveland
GRAEME	FLETCHEER	North West
PAUL	HARDY	Cleveland
ALISTAIR	HOLROYDE	Northern
SAM	HOLTRY	Northern
ROBERT	HULSE	North Wales
MILES	JOHNSON	North Wales
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ROBERT	MCCABE	Northern
JOHN	O'CONNOR	North West
RICHARD	OATES	Sheffield
STEPHEN	REDMOND	Sheffield
JOHN	ROBERTS	Sheffield
ALAN	SHAW	Northern
ASH	SMITH	Northern
JOHN	STUTTARD	Northern
BENJAMIN	TAYLOR	Northern
JOSHUA	TAYLOR	Sheffield
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ANTHONY	WOOD	Sheffield
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STUART	FITZGERALD	East Midlands
BENJAMIN	GRIFFITHS	Berks/Bucks & Oxon
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MIKE	MARTIN	Berks/Bucks & Oxon
DANIEL	MCLAREN	Berks/Bucks & Oxon
RICKY	MOGGRIDGE	Mid Anglia
MURRAY	RAWSON	Mid Anglia
MARK	REYNOLDS	Mid Anglia
KARL	SIMS	Berks/Bucks & Oxon
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JAMIE	STUBBS	Berks/Bucks & Oxon
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ANDREW	PEARSON	Surrey
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GARETH	HARDISTY	Devon & Cornwall
GARY	HAWLEY	South West
MATTHEW	INKER	South West
ANDREW	LEWIS	South Coast
ROBERT	MCKINLAY	South West
ANTONY	MOORE	Devon & Cornwall
GAVIN	MOORE	Devon & Cornwall
ADRIAN	MOUNTAIN	South Coast
NICHOLAS	OLDS	Devon & Cornwall
JOHN	ROGERS	South West
JAMES	ROWLES	South West
CURTIS	SMALL	Devon & Cornwall
SIMON	SMITH	Devon & Cornwall
BRIAN	SUMMERS	Devon & Cornwall
CHRIS	SYMES	South Coast
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E & D FUND		
ROBERT	NOBLE-FORBES	45
PHILIP	BROOKS	44
KEVIN	LEESE	44

## Happy BIGGA Members

It looks like Greenkeepers are happier with their Greenkeeping Association lately with BIGGA members being more faithful to the organisation than ever before. A staggering 90.3% of members chose to renew in 2006 up until September, compared with 79.5% at our all time low in 2002.

Year	Members that renewed	Retention
2000	5186	85.4%
2001	5893	86.3%
2002	5277	79.5%
2003	5862	88%
2004	5169	86%
2005	5688	86.8%
2006 to September	4463	90.3%

In the marketing world it is said that if you are keeping 90% or more of your members you are doing a great job in terms of customer satisfaction. We are doing our best to keep this figure as high as possible by improving our service to you.

Still think it's not good enough? Get in touch now and let us know why: [vanessa@bigga.co.uk](mailto:vanessa@bigga.co.uk) or 01347 833800. We would welcome any feedback from you as to how we can improve our service.

### What have we done for you lately:

- In 2006 a new legal helpline was chosen with an improved service.
- The BIGGA website was upgraded to improve interaction between members.
- In 2006 we spent £200,000 on education and training.
- More than £25,000 was given in scholarships and refund of fees.
- Four more BIGGA Members became Master Greenkeepers.
- Harrogate Week 2007 included 50% more education hours than ever before.
- The membership administration system was improved for greater efficiency.
- Direct Debit payments were introduced so that membership fees could be spread over the year.

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- All bookings are subject to availability of rooms allocated to this offer at participating hotels.
- A maximum of 2 rooms can be booked under any one reservation.
- This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers or special promotions.
- The promotional rates are non-commissionable. Priority Club points do not apply.

## Competition success

BIGGA came runner-up in The Membership Development Awards 2007. With the retention figures, shown above, we demonstrated how the Association has improved its service to members.



Email your letters to;  
melissa@bigga.co.uk

## ANAHEIM 2007

I would like to thank all at Bernhards Grinders and BIGGA for the excellent trip that was provided for the 10 delegates to the GCSAA show in Anaheim, California. This was an incredible experience for all who participated and we were made to feel extremely welcome by all of our American counterparts with whom we had the pleasure of meeting.

I would additionally like to thank all at British Seed Houses, Florantine, the GCSAA and Ransomes Jacobsen for the wonderful hospitality offered towards us while on the visit - it certainly will not be forgotten.

Finally, I would like to thank Kim and the rest of Bernhards staff for making this trip possible and thanks also to the rest of the delegation who made this trip truly memorable.

**Andrew de Wet**

Staverton Park Golf Club



## SCHOLARSHIP GRADUATION

The Nordic course, Turfgrass for golf courses, has now come to an end. The essence of this programme has been three gatherings, at which a different topic was addressed.

- Turfgrass physiology and plant material
  - Morphology and plant physiology – plant morphology, seasonal development, non-structural carbohydrate content
  - Plant material – species, varieties, mixtures
  - Growth components – light, temperature, water, mineral nutrients, soil air
  - Establishment – germination, direct drilling
- Pest management and biological disease control
  - Pest management – fungi, insects, weeds
  - Maintenance techniques for the prevention of pests
  - Integrated pest management (IPM) and biological disease control
  - Weed control without the use of herbicides
  - Soil microbiological activity and soil organic matter
- Winter survival of turf
  - Turfgrass overwintering physiology
  - Causes of winter injuries
  - Management techniques for the prevention of winter injuries

In addition to the above, we had to perform compulsory written assignments, and a compulsory oral and written report of a course project. I was involved with 2 others, and we made a report called “thatch – the worse enemy for the greenkeeper”. We had to perform a 45 min. presentation of the report.

I am very grateful for the scholarship from BIGGA and Ransomes Jacobsen. Thank you very much for the opportunity to achieve new goals. I have been able to get a higher standard for my golf course and most importantly, I feel much more confident in discussions towards the golf course manager and to some extent to the board members. For the moment I am trying to set up my budget for the 2007 season. I do think that my ability to stand up and do a presentation is more solid now than earlier.

Once again – thank you very much for the possibility to achieve a higher level of education.

**Best regards**

**Per-Ove B. Lysvold**

Head Greenkeeper

Voss Golf course - Norway

## THANK YOU

Just a short note to thank all those involved in arranging this year's BIGGA delegation to the Golf Industry Show in Anaheim. The week was crammed full with interesting seminars, innovative ideas, new products and field trips to some great venues including L.A Country Club and the grounds of the L.A. Galaxy “Soccer” team.

During the show and education conferences I was impressed by the levels of enthusiasm, dedication and commitment shown by all our American colleagues. The quality of education available was something for us to aspire to. Amazing levels of interest and hospitality were shown to us and it will be great to reciprocate when the American delegation come to Harrogate next January.

This trip reminded me of how different our approaches to the industry are, the Americans are leading the way with research, science based education, lifting standards and pushing boundaries whilst here at home we are driving forward with ecological, efficient and responsible maintenance practices. We have so much to learn from each other it is important to keep communicating and this delegation is a very important part of that.

What a great week we all had, exchanging ideas, making new friends, visiting excellent venues and learning so much. I thoroughly recommend this to any greenkeepers in the industry - it's a great opportunity to see a different side of the industry. Thank you to John Pemberton, the other greenkeepers in the delegation, Stephen Bernhard, all the Bernhard Company team and especially Kim Furnell for making last week happen.

**Glenn Kirby**

The London Golf Club



All Golf Clubs, regardless of size, have safety hazards e.g. slips, trips and falls, use of cutting machinery etc. These hazards can pose risks to members of the club, to visitors and to all employees. A Safety Management System, SMS, is a proactive tool that is used to identify, reduce and control these hazards to prevent injury to those who use the Club and the employees. A SMS consists of all the arrangements used by the Club at all levels to actively to manage health and safety. Its purpose is to provide an easily understood framework for those who manage the Club and its employees of how a Health and Safety policy is formulated and executed. Actively managing health and safety will help in preventing accidents and also in ensuring compliance with UK law

## The SMS is comprised of clearly defined elements:

- A clear statement of the Health and Safety Policy outlining the top-level goals of the Club.
- A commitment to providing support and financial resources to achieving these goals.
- An organisational structure of the persons responsible for achieving the aims and goals outlined in the policy.
- A plan of how the policy would be implemented addressing the assessment of risks and how these are to be reduced.
- How health and safety standards and performance will be measured and assessed.
- How the system will be audited and reviewed to ensure that it continues to meet the clubs needs and aspirations.

An SMS should form part of the routine day to day running of a Club and not seen as something looked at once a year or

when there has been an accident. The progress of the required actions within it should form part of the Club's regular Committee meetings.

A key element of the success of any Safety Management System is a commitment from the Board of Management/Committee to proactively embrace the actions within the SMS and to discharge the Club's health and safety responsibilities. This commitment must be made clear to all those who use the Club and work in it.

It is important that individual committee members are seen to be applying and adhering to the requirements of the SMS as their behaviour will influence the attitude and actions of others within the Club.

A Club which implements a successful Safety Management Systems will benefit from improved morale of their employees, reduction in accidents and injuries as well as providing a firm base for the defence in any criminal or civil action on health and safety. This should be reflected in a reduced overall financial cost to a Club.

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# RESPONSE OF GRASS SEED GERMINATION RELATIVE TO SOIL TEMPERATURE

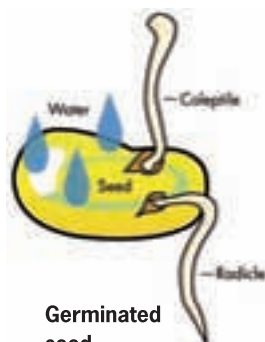
## Gerard van 't Klooster looks at the remarkable results of temperature germination trials

One of the most frequent enquiries we get from Course Managers and greenkeepers is about germination times for particular grass seed species or mixtures. The traditional response has been a very general statement in relation to a specific species, for example 7-10 days for perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) and 14-21 days for smooth-stalked meadowgrass (*Poa pratensis*). But, as our research at Barenbrug discovered during a recent germination trials programme, there are significant differences in temperature germination response not only between species, but also between different cultivars within a species.

### The germination process



Grass seed



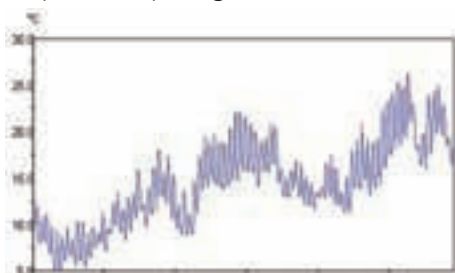
Germinated seed

Germination of grass seed begins when sufficient temperatures are present and adequate moisture is available for absorption; the larger the seed the more water is required. Moisture taken in results in a cascade of signals that direct development; Gibberellin hormones signal the production of enzymes which function to break down the starchy endosperm for nourishing the embryo. The radicle (primary root) is the first structure to emerge from the embryo, followed by the coleoptile, or primary shoot (see diagram below). Green leaf tissue emerges to begin the photosynthetic process to provide energy for successful establishment of the emerging plant.

### Trial objectives

The increased performance and presentation demands placed upon natural turf surfaces during recent years have been further compounded by the effects of climate change. One of the most influential factors is the inconsistency of seasonal temperatures; cold temperatures in late spring (soil temperatures of just 8°C), warm winters (soil temperatures remaining at 10°C or above) and extremely hot periods during summer months (soil temperatures at +30°C). Graph 1 (see below) shows the differences in soil temperatures at Barenbrug Research in Holland during the cold,

late spring of 2006. The temperature influence is an extremely important point to note. The opportunity for turf managers to have access to temperature response germination data cannot be



underestimated. Having the information to select individual cultivars and mixture formulations for increased percentage germination at different soil temperatures, combined with other desirable characteristics, will offer real practical solutions.

**Graph 1. Variation of soil temperatures at 4in (100mm) depth of soil during April to June 2006.**

Discussions with end users, combined with experience from our own trials, made it apparent there were significant differences in germination temperature response between cultivars within the same species. Observations of turf trials for many years showed consistency in temperature germination response for the same individual cultivar. These experiences inspired more research into the germination process; this particular characteristic would become a very influential part of cultivar selection when formulating seed mixtures for successful seeding or overseeding, particularly given the demands of reduced or enforced renovation windows. It was with this objective in mind that our company began temperature germination response trials.

### Trial methodology

In 2005, we began working with the University of Hohenheim in Germany to research the germination temperature response of different cultivars of *Poa pratensis*.

The joint research programme became the first series of trials to explore a more detailed examination of the germination process. *Poa pratensis* was the first species selected for the pilot germination experiment, because the general understanding of the germination and establishment period within this species is a notoriously slow process, therefore any significant differences could offer real practical value. The ability to germinate or achieve higher percentage germination at cooler (or warmer) soil temperatures could significantly assist the establishment period or renovation window.

The optimum germination temperature range

for *Poa pratensis* is accepted as 16-32°C. Five different cultivars were tested for speed of germination under different temperature regimes. The

experiment was conducted on a temperature gradient plate. This temperature gradient plate has 196 protected cells and the temperature of the cells can be adjusted between 0-30°C. The temperature range for the trial was set from 5-35°C. All the cultivars were tested in three replications. 25 seeds per replication were sown on the germination paper in each cell. This is the same protocol as would be used in an official International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) test, but with a different temperature scale (lower and higher). Only seed lots with a positive ISTA germination certificate (certified seed, as per the official label sown onto a bag of grass seed) were used (see Graph 2 below). Every 12 hours seeds which had successfully germinated were counted and recorded.

Cultivars of other species of amenity turf grasses, including *Lolium perenne* and *Festuca rubra* spp., have been independently trialled by us for temperature germination response. The experiments were again carried out using a temperature gradient plate. The temperature gradient was set to a range of 10-30°C. All the cultivars were tested in two replications and assessed (counted) in the same way as the official ISTA test. An important part of the protocol was also to test different seed lots to see if the influence of the seed lot on germination was bigger than the specific cultivar influence.

One of the key benefits of *Lolium perenne* is that as a species it generally has the ability to begin the germination process at cooler soil temperatures. Research and practical experience has shown that germination of *Lolium perenne* at relatively low temperatures of 7-10°C is possible, although there are again differences within cultivars, with some needing relatively higher temperatures than this to germinate.

### Trial results

#### *Poa pratensis*

The *Poa pratensis* trial revealed significant differences in temperature germination response at both low and high temperatures relative to the species.

Table 1 shows the data results of the smooth-stalked meadowgrass trial (University of Hohenheim). Note the significant difference of relative high and low temperature percentage germination.







**Count on it.**

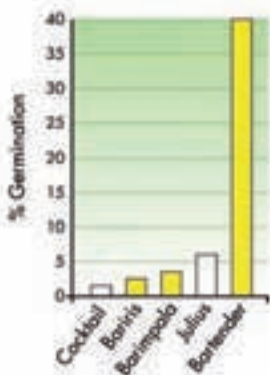
**Average germination rate (%)**

Temp(°C)	Bartender	Julius	Bariris	Cocktail	Barimpala
35.0	56.00	20.00	22.67	66.67	82.00
32.7	89.33	45.33	60.00	82.67	94.00
30.4	90.67	52.00	57.33	74.67	88.00
28.1	92.00	66.67	24.00	76.00	88.00
25.8	80.00	40.00	9.33	86.67	72.00
23.5	76.00	44.00	10.67	69.33	62.00
21.2	70.67	52.00	9.33	81.33	62.00
18.8	61.33	45.33	9.33	73.33	30.00
16.5	62.67	46.67	2.67	53.33	30.00
14.2	68.00	21.33	8.00	33.33	32.00
11.9	41.33	8.00	4.00	2.67	6.00
9.6	9.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Table 1. Germination percentage for 5 Poa pratensis cultivars.**

Graph 2 (below) represents the significant cool temperature, high percentage germination capability (41 per cent) of a particular cultivar of Poa pratensis, Bartender, in comparison with four different cultivars of the same species (less than 10 per cent)

**Germination temperature trials**  
Germination of different cultivars of smooth-stalked meadowgrass (Poa pratensis) at 11.9°C after 17 days.



**Graph 2. Percentage germination at 11.90C after 17 days**

**Lolium perenne**

Lolium perenne is an extremely variable species in relation to characteristics such as fineness of leaf, wear tolerance, shade tolerance and tolerance to close mowing. There are circumstances when a combination of these characteristics in conjunction with temperature response germination could be invaluable. Table 2 shows the results of the laboratory trials in Holland at low temperature, 100C day temperature and 70C night temperature. Note the high percentage germination (+80 per cent) of several cultivars after just 14 days at this temperature. Sowing different combinations of cultivars for different rootzone/soil temperatures could significantly influence the rapid germination and subsequent establishment and performance of the sward.

Crop Name		Ryegrass, perennial	Ryegrass, perennial	Ryegrass, perennial			
Description		14 days germination	25 days germination	35 days germination			
Rating Unit	Sample Size	PLANT	PLANT	PLANT			
Entry No.	Entry Name	Unit	Rate	Rate			
1	Barclay	1	i	64	f	78	ei
2	Barball	61	c	94	ab	95	Ab
3	Barcredo	0	i	55	g	70	I
4	Barrage	31	ef	72	ef	75	Ghi
5	Barluxe	0	i	36	h	54	J
6	Barlinda	0	i	64	f	79	e-h
7	Barmona	6	hi	62	f	70	I
8	Bardessa	17	fi	72	ef	79	e-h
9	Barsportivo	88	ab	95	ab	96	Ab
10	Sabor	8	hi	72	ef	83	d-h
11	Pinnacle	11	ghi	80	de	91	a-d
12	Bareine	77	ab	99	a	99	A
13	Bartwingo	6	hi	85	bcd	88	Bcd
14	Bardoria	24	fg	68	f	75	Hi
15	Premier II	42	de	92	abc	94	Abc
16	Bargold	88	ab	96	ab	96	Ab
17	Romance	69	c	80	de	83	d-g
18	Barrington	89	ab	98	a	98	A
19	Adeline	90	ab	97	a	98	Ab
20	Barlennium	74	b	90	abc	90	a-d
21	Barlady	95	a	96	ab	96	Ab
22	Bareuro	83	ab	95	ab	95	Ab
23	Barvites	58	c	83	cd	84	Def
24	Barsoccer	48	cd	72	ef	76	fi
25	Barillion	53	cd	83	cd	85	De
26	Barsunny	86	ab	93	ab	94	Abc
27	Bardorado	86	ab	95	ab	96	Ab
28	Barblack	83	ab	96	ab	96	Ab
29	Pinnacle II	24	fg	88	a-d	90	a-d
LSD (P=.05)		10.8	6.2	5.5			
Standard Deviation		6.6	3.8	3.4			
CV		13.26	4.54	3.87			
Grand Mean		50.09	83.24	87.23			
Bartlett's X2		53.941	40.599	29.958			
P(Bartlett's X2)		0.0005*	0.17	0.619			
Replicate F		1.725	1.614	1.51			
Replicate Prob(F)		0.186	0.207	0.228			
Treatment F		80.183	47.355	28.872			
Treatment Prob(F)		0.000	0.000	0.000			

**Means followed by same letter do not significantly differ (P=.05, Student-Newman-Keuls) Mean comparisons performed only when AOV Treatment P(F) is significant at mean comparison OSL.**

**Table 2. Germination temperature for different perennial ryegrass cultivars.**

**Conclusion**

Germination temperatures for individual cultivars of Poa pratensis cultivars are significant. Cultivars such as Bartender have an excellent germination percentage capability at lower temperatures combined with a wide temperature optimum. Conversely, Barimpala has an excellent germination percentage capability at higher temperatures with a more limited germination percentage at the perceived 'optimum' germination temperatures. There is a significant difference in the temperature germination response of perennial ryegrass cultivars. Certain cultivars show a significantly high germination rate of +80 per cent with a soil temperature of 100C.

The Hohenheim research programme revealed a very surprising result; a cultivar of Poa pratensis, Bartender, can – unlike other cultivars of the same species – germinate at soil temperatures as low as 70C. As a result of these findings, Bartender was included in the formulation of a special mixture for Falkirk Stadium, in Scotland, where it again proved its ability to germinate successfully at cooler soil temperatures. This enabled it to compete and establish with the Lolium perenne in the mixture and to effectively provide the required characteristics for this particular project.

At the other end of the scale, different cultivars can germinate successfully at temperatures higher than 300C. This rootzone temperature can be found in many stadiums throughout Europe in the summer. The majority of Poa pratensis cultivars will have very low germination percentage at these high temperatures. A cultivar of Poa pratensis, Barimpala, has been used for many years in Italy and other southern European countries with great success. The data from the temperature germination research in Germany clearly demonstrated why this particular cultivar performs so well. It is important to understand why individual cultivars perform particularly well given certain constraints, and in the case of Barimpala, the research data concurred with results in the field to provide the explanation. Naturally, germination is a key factor, but successful establishment is vital. To increase the chances of this, turf managers should take great care with seeding or overseeding, paying particular attention to adequate irrigation. When overseeding, it is important to delay nutrient input until a high percentage of successful germination is reached, otherwise you will only be feeding the existing sward which will out-compete the new, more desirable grasses.

It is imperative that Course Managers and greenkeepers have access to vital information such as temperature germination response. Good germination is not only the start, but could be the key to seeding and overseeding success. Other key characteristics remain extremely important, but there are certainly times when temperature germination response will be the key to a solution. Our company is continuing germination temperature response trials to screen both existing and, most importantly, new cultivars from the breeding programme.

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(2) International Seed Testing Association (ISTA)

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# Course Feature

## Best Peak Practice

**Scott MacCallum travelled to Derbyshire to meet a Course Manager who is living up to the family name.**

The Peak District town of Buxton is known for its famous spring water while the local golf club, Buxton & High Peak Golf Club, is certainly synonymous with the name Norton.

Steve Norton is the current Course Manager, having taken on the role in 2001. His father, Ray, worked at the club for 35 years but that's nothing. His grandfather, Bill, devoted 55 years to the club starting in 1911 as a shepherd (sheep were an ideal form of early triple mower); caddie; and eventually pro/greenkeeper with stints as Club Steward thrown in as well. Another sideline was cutting the juniors' hair for them in the pro shop. You had to turn your hand to everything in those days.

"It seems that I've inherited the family role – that of custodian of Buxton & High Peak Golf Club. When I was growing up I didn't realise it would become a lifetime's work," joked Steve, who was given some time off to increasing his greenkeeping knowledge in other parts of the country before, almost inevitably, returning home.

And there is a fair chance that the dynasty will not end with Steve, as his 12 year-old son, Jonty, is already mad keen to join the family firm and helps his dad on the course whenever the opportunity arises. Steve also smiles when he says that the incoming Captain may cause him a few problems when he takes up the reins in December.

"He's my brother, Philip!"

Buxton & High Peak is very much a



community golf club edging right onto the edge of the town and split by the extraordinarily busy A6.

"I remember when we were kids that we just ambled across it. We rarely needed to stop for cars. Now at peak times we can be sitting on a machine for up to half an hour for a gap in the traffic to allow us to cross."

Steve started as a 16 year-old under his father at the club before moving to become Assistant Course Manager at Tewkesbury Park Golf and Country Club which was initially owned by Country Club Hotels but was bought by Marriot while he was there.

He then moved to Goodwood which was also owned by Marriott and worked there for just over a year before moving to Elsham, near Scunthorpe, where he spent five and a half good years at a "great golf club with some lovely people".

The lure of his home town was too strong though and Steve, who had retained his membership, was invited to take up the challenge.

"After my father left the course was managed by an ex-farmer, a super guy, but it would be fair to say the most sophisticated agronomic techniques weren't employed. He didn't have the experience or the knowledge to take the club forward, nor did he have the right people to support him in the club."

***"A lot of the machinery was still the same kit my father had used and a lot of it was older than me,"***

Steve found a course in need of some drastic work. "The club had invested in reports from several agronomists, including the STRI, and all had reached the same conclusion which had taken them back a bit. They needed investment in machinery, investment in buildings, investment in staff training.

“ There was an old Toro Mark 1 and the Certes hand mowers were at least 40 years old.

**It was a working museum. ”**



“A lot of the machinery was still the same kit my father had used and a lot of it was older than me,” recalled Steve.

“We had an old Land Rover which was used to trail a set of five Allen gang mowers. The view was that the Land Rover still worked so why the need to change it. There was an old Toro Mark 1 and the Certes hand mowers were at least 40 years old. It was a working museum.” Steve marked out a five year plan to remove thatch and solve the drainage problems. At its lowest ebb for six months of the year they were on temporary greens and the club was leaching members at an alarming rate.

“The plan wasn’t difficult to sell to the club because they’d hit rock bottom but I knew that due to the drastic nature of the work that needed to be done a lot of criticism would come our way.”

The first 18 months involved making sure the foundations were in place and that the equipment which would be expected to take the strain was safely tucked away in the maintenance facility.

The club has a basic irrigation system but as the local water is licensed to Perrier, the owner of Buxton Spring Water, they would be unable to drill a borehole even if they wanted to. The thought of irrigating a green with Perrier has quite a ring to it though!

“We didn’t have a top dressing machine and you can’t put on top dressing without one while we also invested heavily in aeration equipment.”

When they started, they did so with a vengeance.

“For the first three years we hollow tined every six weeks with heavy top dressing into the rootzone and scarified in between times. We also vertidraind three times a year,” said Steve, a close friend of another Buxton Boy, David Golding, of the GTC, who began his greenkeeping career working under his dad.

The golf season, because of the unusual nature of Buxton, is only really May to September so the membership had to be particularly tolerant. Last year the Met Office, who have a station in the town, recorded 64 inches of rain, while the highest village in England is just a few miles away.

“We used to have four months of snow every year but now it falls as rain. I remember being confined to barracks and working on odd jobs in the clubhouse for much of the year,” said Steve, adding that the Norton family, himself included, are skilled joiners providing much of the course furniture.

“Granddad Bill always said you should have more than one string to your bow.”

There was four and a half inches of thatch across the entire course and the par-3 8th green which used to be played over the aforementioned A6 had six and a half inches of thatch.



**The Buxton team – Len Frith, Phil Riley, Steve Norton and Colin Ralpheson**

“If you put your foot in it you just sunk. Underneath it was like a bale of straw it was so yellow.”

That green has been hollow tined on a four weekly cycle for four years and now can be walked on, even after rain, without leaving a foot print.

“It has created a bit of a buzz around the clubhouse and has help to prove that we do know what we’re doing,” said Steve, who explained that the old greens were of a clay bowl design ideal for winter only golf but which struggled when the game became a year round pursuit.

Other than the occasional break because of snow the membership have played on the main greens now constantly for 18 months and because of the success the club has been able to raise membership fees by £100 and direct the additional finance towards further on-course improvements.

“I’m indebted to the Chairman of Green, Drew Turner, who has taken on the brunt of acting as spokesman and being the buffer between us and the membership, while the Finance Chairman is a very forward thinking guy who has put in rolling programmes of investment.

Another issue was drainage and the team has tackled that with huge enthusiasm, drying out areas which have consistently sat in puddles and provided much improved playing conditions.

And all the work has been carried out in-house with the help of a neighbouring farmer who offers digging equipment in exchange for work on his garden.

“We had our latest recruit start just yesterday. Colin Ralpheson has now done – pause to look at the clock – 12 and a half hours with us, but the bulk of the work has been down by my First Assistant and Mechanic Len Frith, Phil Riley and myself.

“Len – who as we talked was getting to grips with a recently-installed Bernhard grinder - worked for my granddad as a kid divoting and then worked for my dad as well before joining ICI as an engineer. He returned to us 14 years ago after a spell with his own lawnmower



**The suite of bunkers designed by Phil Riley**



**A set of steps built by Steve**

company. He is one of the nicest guys and very good at what he does. He wants to retire but I won't let him. He keeps all the machinery going and has probably saved this club as much as £70,000 and his work goes on unseen, unrewarded and unthanked.

"Phil has just finished his Level 3 at Reaseheath College and he has now got the knowledge and skill to move anywhere but I wouldn't want him to go."

Phil, a 23 year-old rugby player, has also left his mark on the course with a suite of four greenside bunkers borne out of one enormous bunker which he designed and built with his two colleagues.

The trio have also worked hard on a tee levelling and replacement programme where they use a wooden grid to create levels for the rootzone and then remove the wood and replace with a soil and seed mix when the turf has knitted.

Steve places a great store in communication with his staff and membership and how important it is to be sociable.

"Greenkeeping is not exactly rocket science if you follow what our training and nature tells us, 90% of our job is learning to communicate, learning to get on with club members and listening to what they want. Egos do get in the way but if you are delivering what the membership wants it shouldn't be an issue," he said, as we tucked into a sponge cake which had been handed in to the team by one of the lady members.

"What the members want might not be what we want but we are in a consumer business and if the customer wants it, what's wrong with giving it to them?"

A well schooled golfer he used to play off 2 but now is 5. something he has spotted a change in the game as demonstrated by son Jonty.

"When I was a learning it was all about hitting it straight. If I hit it 20 yards off line I lost a ball so you had to hit it straight and we were all obsessed with getting our handicaps down. Your golfing prowess was gauged by your handicap. Now Jonty and his friends measure their ability by how far they hit the ball and they don't want a low handicap because they wouldn't win prizes!

"Golf has to change to reflect that and make golf accessible to youngsters – allow them to play in jeans and trainers."

It may be that it will be young Jonty Norton who, 25 years from now as Course Manager and the fourth generation Norton, will be sitting in his office talking about the changing face of the golf.



A newly built tee



The 8th green which had six and a half inches of thatch



Steve and Len built this fence on the edge of the course



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# HONEY I SHRUNK THE GRASS!

One of the new “tools” which the modern day Course Manager has at his or her disposal is the growth suppressant. Slowing down the natural rate of growth is great for cutting down on mowing, but are we messing with nature and is there a downside?

Greenkeeper International spoke with six top greenkeepers with differing but equally interesting views on the subject.

**Duncan Kelso, Kings Hill GC**



I started to use growth suppressants after reading some research from the USA which made me aware of them and their potential benefits.

Economically, it means doing things less often which makes more time available to do other things. This means fuel savings and the ability to direct manpower in other directions. Then there was the turf side of the equation and a number of things to do with the plant including its ability to recover from drought

I began using them in powder form, which was difficult to administer, but since the latest liquid versions have been launched it is a lot easier to amend rates

I always worry about the consequences of doing something new but that's why we

did trials first and we do constantly monitor it. People are always a bit sceptical but we haven't really found any problems yet.

I've only seen positives and have been using them mixed with other things. We've tended to go with, and it sounds bizarre, liquid fertiliser with them. The rates of fertiliser are very small, sulphate of ammonia and sulphate of iron, and we've been doing that on certain fairways to retain density.

In terms of saved time we lose one mow a week. If tees were cut three times a week you'd be cutting two times a week and with fairways, if you were cutting every week you might cut twice every three weeks.

Cost savings are not really the issue. It just frees up people to get other things done. You can never do enough, there is always something else to do free up some labour which might make a difference elsewhere – attention to detail stuff.

They have got to be in the top three in terms of greenkeeping tools, probably behind the vertidrain.

They work for us and we'll continue to use them from an economic point of view and from the turf point of view. We're predominately fescue here and we've been using it on fescues for a long time and not seen them diminish.

**Paul Lowe – Rhuddlan GC**



My greenkeeping philosophy is all about competition and using stress to favour the finer grasses. If you use growth suppressants they do help with deeper roots and a denser sward which is actually less stressful for the grass which on the one hand is great, but I need that stress to win the battle.

That's where I feel it an old theory that a good drought gets rid of a load of rubbish and growth suppressants will help you overcome certain things. Annual meadow grass is shallow rooting so I need to promote my deeper rooting grasses to win the battle.

They do have their uses, it's just that they just don't sit in with my strategies. I'd say they were an excellent tool if you were managing annual meadow grass as they overcome some of



the weaknesses of poa.

Most greenkeepers are either going through the change from annual meadow grass to fescue or they are thinking about going through it.

I believe if we mess about with nature we'll lose, as she's got a bigger budget than we have. I don't believe any chemical or growth suppressant is a good thing. Some would argue that they are not doing damage but, I'll admit, I'm not convinced by that.

Clubs want us to be as environmentally friendly as we can and we don't want anything to be done just for the sake of it.

If you look at cutting down maintenance and using less fuel, this is where I swing to the other side. If you have a site with difficult to manage areas - banks or very fast growing areas which are predominately rye or meadow grass growth - suppressants have their place. It is more environmental to use less fuel diesel, fewer man hours and we can concentrate on getting good grasses on greens. They can be used as a tool to overcome problems.

### Brian Turner – Worplesdon GC



I've been using growth suppressants for a few years now.

Suppressants help you with mowing and you can cut that down to a minimum. I used them on my greens seven times last year. It did the trick giving us an even covering of grass, more bents and they seemed to be more aggressive. The energy seemed to go into the root system so we could keep our fertiliser down. At the moment I'm a great believer in them.

My view on new products is that they've got to make a difference and the new suppressants do make a difference. A lot of products you see are very much of a muchness, But with these, I've been converted.

Things can go wrong if you don't get your timing right or you can overdose it

by silly amounts but I can't see a problem myself and, talking to the experts, a lot of it is common sense.

Obviously no-one can tell what's going to happen in the long term. We don't know that, no-one knows that, but at the moment it is beneficial.

Most greenkeepers would cut their greens every day during the growing season. Modern growth suppressants mean that you have a bit of leeway and can leave them once or twice during the week if you wanted to.

Not everyone has the amount of staff they want and the ability to attend to the attention to detail isn't always possible and this does give you a little bit of leeway. It has certainly helped us. It has made such a difference that I'll be using them on fairways tees and greens this year! That's how much I think of them.

As I said when a new product comes along it must make a difference and while the early growth suppressants were good the new versions are even better. I'll be using it for a few years or until experts say you want to be a bit careful with it.

When people start to use it see benefits they will find room in their budgets for it.

### Andy Campbell, The Duke's Course, St Andrews



I started using them when I was at Carden Park on the fairways because they were fairly wet. We needed to fertilise them in spring so we got the resultant massive rush of growth and if the weather turned wet again we'd have the problem of getting the grass off. We started experimenting with suppressants and got a response straight away with the grass being held back, while we also got density and colour. With creeping bent grass greens we were also getting peaks and troughs and we were trying to find a way to even that out. Using growth suppressants worked very well for us.

I didn't really think about using them for poa suppression in those days but when we

put it on at the higher rate, like everyone else, we noticed some scorching. Then we had the idea that we would use them when we were overseeding to give the new seed a chance to out compete the grasses which were already there

Aside from the poa suppression there is the usage of water and holding its colour longer. Significantly we reduced the amount of feed - just little bit of iron or nitrogen mixed in with suppressant at a quarter rate - we were doing it every 21 to 30 days, depending on weather, and we have probably used less fertiliser than has been ever used in the past. And that's on a golf course that had a reputation, in the early days, of being managed along traditional lines. But we don't get any loss of colour, we get good root extension and a healthier plant. If we are not chopping the head of the plant all the time it must be better for it.

I don't think there are any long term issues. I've spoken to people in the States who have been using them for years and there is no evidence of any problems. Equally, there is no real evidence that on its own they significantly reduce poa. They certainly control your poa, in conjunction with other measures but whether you want it or not is debatable

If you were to stop using them the sward would revert to what it always was. They are not a miracle cure for changing grass species.

If you take the very purist view on it. It is a chemical of sorts and should we be applying chemicals at all? Well, some people would say that, but if we didn't we'd end up with no grass at all. With the rates we are applying it is impossible to get into a water source, you don't see any degeneration or pollution of the rootzone. Indeed there is no factual evidence that they do any harm at all.

At the end of the day, tip it on its head. If you are using growth regulation you are cutting down on fertiliser; the amount of water used and the amount of fuel needed to mow the grass. Is that better than throwing three or four different kinds of resource at it?

They have the potential, when people get use to them and get more experience of using them, to be as effective to greenkeepers as an irrigation system. Purist might say that's not proper greenkeeping well go back to using the scythe.



### **Ian Stephens – Carholm GC**

I'm been in greenkeeping since I left school, but I look at the growth suppressant debate from the point of view of my volunteer work for the National Trust which I've been doing for 18 years. It just seems to be a bad thing to be putting down chemical to suppress elements of flora because grass, weeds and flowers all grow for a reason.

I know the companies who promote growth suppressants are into making working life easier for the greenkeeper but I don't like the idea of spraying something on that affects the natural make up of the plant.

I can see that they do have their uses dangerous banks places that are difficult to get to but I know a lot of people who are using them on greens. I'd much rather try to promote good green growth even if it means more work for the team.

I'm also on a low budget golf course as well so I can't really afford to use it. Often you find that when you've sprayed one product you've got to combat it by spraying another to balance it up and you end up putting on all sorts of stuff. I'm trying to use as little chemical as possible.

I'm an advocate of traditional greenkeeping methods, that would be the idea scenario for me but I'm at an 18 hole course and we've got four full time and one part time person. I'd like to do a lot traditional methods but with manpower an issue you've got to find a compromise.

However if it worked for the good old boys in the old days they must have been doing something right.

I'm doing a college course at the moment and I we had to try a particular product. I went with a blinker approach, thinking it was complete rubbish - it was a product for black layer control - but to be fair it actually worked during the three

month trial and now I'm going to be using that where I am now if I get issues with blacklayer.

So I'm not so stuck in one camp and not open minded enough not to try new things. I've been greenkeeping about 19 years now and I know I haven't learned all there is to learn and I suspect when I retire that I still won't have.

The club lets me get on with what I think best but we have an unusual situation as we're on common land, a private club which leases the land of the council, we are dictated to about what we can and can't do. We have horses grazing on the land and we have to be careful to ensure we are not using fertiliser with too many nitrates so it doesn't interfere with the horses. I'm actually investigating a more organic mix. If I do use a different product I'll mention it to the Chairman of Green.

Different if a neighbouring club started using a product and the course looked great. Can get pressurised into doing all that but that is all part of the open minded policy go along there pop along to greenkeeper and have a chat. They are the best people to go to rather than reps as they will tell you exactly how good it is, a fellow greenkeeper will give you the negative as well as the positive feedback.

I certainly wouldn't rule out using growth suppressants in the future but I'd think carefully about it and initially use them on trial areas.



### **Alex McCombie - Ledreborg Palace GC, Denmark**

I have 142 bunkers on the course which is a huge task for me and I have to try and look at it from a management perspective. Growth suppressants are another tool and I have to assess the cost of using them against my staffing costs - having to flymo bunkers every week, against having to do it once a month. Growth suppressants could be very useful to me and I'm seriously considering it for the first time ever.

Having been though the college system and you have believes instilled in you by not just college system but also the Course Managers you've work under.

So it is very much a conscious thing you wonder if you are doing the right thing but you have to look at it from a management perspective – is it going to make my life easier. Environmentally, it does make you think about the reduced use of fuel and reduced pollution, which enters your thought processes.

It was a conscious thing for me to begin with but you've got to look beyond that on something like this because I have to manage my golf course and the reasons I'm here is to manage it to a level of high perfection. If you can use something like growth suppressants, which will allow me to do my job more effectively and have a lesser effect on the environment, then I have to consider it. It's my job.

When I was still the Deputy at Parkstone I would have come to a different conclusion. When I was a Deputy I was fairly vocal in what I believed in, but when you get into the world where you are actually making decision which are really counting and having an impact, 52 weeks a year, on your golf course you have to move away from the fuzzy world where you can say what you like but it doesn't have that much of an impact.

When you are in the hot seat it is so different. I've having to look at things and deal with things so differently now. I think it's good as it gives you a whole different perspective on the greenkeeping world and sports turf management.

I still a have my ideas and beliefs but I'm not so vociferous particularly, with things I've disagreed with in the past because I understand we all have difficult jobs, we all have golf courses to manage and we all have to do that within the constraints that we have.

I now believe that you must be constructive and balanced and accept that people might do things differently and good luck to them.

With growth suppressants I'm sure in the past I would have said, "Don't be stupid. I don't agree it with them and I'm never going to use them". Now I have to consider them, as I have to consider all options. That's my job as a Course Manager.

In Denmark chemical usage depends very much on whether it is on private or publicly owned land and it's something I'm investigating at the moment but the believe I will be allowed to use it because we are on private land. Denmark is very restrictive on chemicals and golf has a bad image. We are seen as bad managers of the land and people who use lots of chemicals and lots of

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# Fairway mowers

James de Havilland reports

**No radical changes, but keeping abreast of developments is still important.**

**Although fairway mowers have evolved markedly over the past decade, the pace of change has settled, with 'new' models essentially introducing nip and tuck developments as opposed to anything radically different.**

This is actually rather refreshing. Although there is no such thing as a 'perfect' fairway mower, there must be few courses that are unable to find a model that fits their specific requirements. In some instances choice is limited by allegiance to one manufacturer over another, but few would argue there is no real choice these days.

One growing demand is for mowers that are physically lighter as it is increasingly necessary to mow fairways when conditions are less than ideal. Introduced at the end of

last year, this weight issue has been tackled on the Toro Reelmaster RM5410-D, RM5510-D and RM5610-D. These models weigh between 68 to 90kg less than their existing predecessors. To put this into the context, this is equivalent to saving the weight of an operator weighing between 10 and 14 stone.

It is arguably the saving of weight that is the biggest challenge facing manufacturers. When the late Colin Chapman briefed his designers, he reportedly suggested that they 'just add lightness' to improve their designs. That was difficult with racing cars; it is equally challenging with mowers.

The problem is too light a design may not be up to the rigors of everyday mowing. Ultra-light fairway mowers, diminutive 5 inch reels and 2WD have their place. Unfortunately that is not necessarily tackling a steeply undulating parkland course that is struggling to prepare its fairways following a few days of warm temperatures, heavy rain and rampant growth.

Another consideration is that modern mowers have to meet modern health and safety demands. A few years ago the thought of fitting a fairway mower with any form of cab would have been considered unusual. These days, many courses are looking at fitting air conditioned cabs to protect operators from both heat and ultra violet sun rays. Take one step forward and two back perhaps?

One area that has seen subtle change is the ease of servicing the cutting units. As fairway mowers are now delivering a quality of cut that would have amazed golfers a generation ago, the need to ensure this quality can be maintained cannot be over emphasised. The best mower in the world is hardly that if expected to work with dull bottom blades and reels.

The key is keeping an eye on what is happening and never being afraid to have a different make and model of machine demonstrated. Change may appear slow when compared year-on-year, but just look back to what was on offer 10 years ago. We have never had it so good.

**Toro Reelmaster RM5410-D, RM5510-D and RM5610-D mowers feature the company's Dual Precision Adjustment (DPA) cutting units. These are claimed to allow quick and precise adjustment of the bedknife from both sides. The aim is to ensure the cutting edge retains its keen to edge longer, so delivering a more consistent finish over an extended period. Operator comfort is enhanced by the fitting of new deluxe suspension seats, improved control ergonomics and a control panel which moves automatically as the seat is adjusted.**



Jacobsen ultra light fairway mowers can deliver a simply stunning finish. Of equal importance, these machines can mow with less risk of soil compaction both late and early in the season. The key is integrating machines of this type into the management of the course and having a heavier machine available should the grass 'get away'.



Spring can be a stressful time, accelerated grass growth not always being accompanied by the right conditions to mow it. Our changeable climate meant many courses were faced with spring-like rates of growth in August and September 2006. Modern mower choices need to reflect this, the retention of 'heavier' fairway mowers possibly being a necessity rather than a luxury in the future.



John Deere's new C Series fairway mowers are available with the company's established fairway tender conditioner with rear roller power brush for use on both standard and ESP cutting units. Apart from improving the condition of the turf by reducing thatch and standing the grass up prior to cutting, the system is also claimed to virtually eliminates clumping early in the morning when dew is lying on the ground.



In the not so dim and distant past, a trailed gang set was the only tool available for fairway mowing. Those courses still using this type of equipment may cast envious glances at neighbours with ride-on kit, but not always. For some, fairways are over manicured and forgiving. For the sake of the game, we all need to keep an open mind and remember how fickle fashion is. Environmental pressure may make regular mowing of fairways too carbon hungry; what then?



Claymore Grass Machinery is now importing the Shibaura SR525 fairway mower into the UK. It will be a tough call for the company to break into a sector dominated by the 'big three', but the new machine will certainly have its followers. Powered by a Shibaura 4-cylinder 27.9 kW (38 hp) 1,662 cc diesel, the SR525 has automatic or full time 4WD and can be specified with a choice of 7 inch reels with 7, 9 (standard) or 11 blades. As guide, the unit weights in at 1,280 kg.



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# What's *your* Number?



**Name:** Peter Lloyd  
**Company:** Korec  
**Position:** Business Development Director

**How long have you been in the industry?**

"Not that long, around 18 months."

**How did you get into it?**

"We sold a GPS and mapping software to a golf club and decided to make a special product from that – the Trimble GPS."

**What other jobs have you done?**

"I'm a Civil Engineering graduate and have been employed by Korec for 17 years. I was previously involved in the selling of surveying equipment."

**What do you like about your current job?**

"The variety of solutions you can provide for customers."

**What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?**

"I've not been in it that long so not that many – The acceptance of new technology by greenkeepers and course managers."

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

"I don't get too much spare time. I play golf – but not very well. I have two children – a son of 15 and a daughter of 17 – so family life is important. I'm also a die hard Manchester United supporter."

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?**

"I would like to see golf club's adopting new technology to work efficiently and more productively and I would like to have been a part of that."

**Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?**

"I wouldn't like to name names."

**What do you consider to be your lucky number?**

"7."

**Pick a number**

"7 of course."

**You've picked Roger Hargreaves, from SISIS, do you know him?**

"He is not known to me."

# HOBBIES

Our new feature, finds out what greenkeepers get up to in their spare time.

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



**Name:** Tim Gee  
**Club:** Mundesley Golf Club  
**Position:** Head Greenkeeper  
**Age:** 39 years old  
**Hobby:** His hobby and part time job is firefighting

**Tim's girlfriend, Victoria Hinks, contacted GI as she wanted to make readers aware of the good work that he does on a day-to-day basis.**

**What exactly does Tim's hobby/part time job entail?**

"He's on call for the fire service 24 hours a day, seven days a week, if he gets a call while he's working at the golf club he'll take the quickest route through the golf course to get to his car with his alerter going off! He's been a firefighter for just over 20 years, he's a Crew Manager and is now due to receive his long service medal."

**What is it about firefighting that you think appeals to him?**

"Firefighting is definitely in his blood he's so devoted to it, he's done it for half of his life now. I'm sure it's the mix of adrenalin, excitement and the love for it that appeals so much to him, the fact that he is such a caring person and would go to any lengths to help people helps!"



The chosen ones enjoy refreshments during a seminar. Left to right: Stephen Privett, John Gubb, Glenn Kirby, Andrew de Wet, Barry Crawford, Paul O'Kane, Mark Henderson, Rob Welford, Roger Neale and Ian Somerville.

# TRIP OF A LIFETIME

## Lucky BIGGA delegate, Rob Welford, gives his take on the 2007 GCSAA Show

***With the jet lag finally subsiding and the reality of the British weather hitting me once again it is time to reflect on what was a fantastic experience for us, the 10 chosen ones, who travelled to Los Angeles and to the 2007 GCSAA show in Anaheim courtesy of the BIGGA delegation, sponsored by Bernhard & Co.***

So there we were 8.30 on a Sunday morning at Heathrow, standing in line, bags in hand ready to check in like school children on an activity weekend. To say that we were all excited to various extents was obvious. The only downside was the 11 ½ hour flight looming ominously before us.

Some good fortune was bestowed upon us with the flight being only half full, so some quick seat swapping ensued and everyone had legroom aplenty. The flight was relatively mundane except for the landing at Los Angeles, where we thought the captain of the plane turned into the 'Stig' from Top Gear, gentle oversteer in a 737 is not funny. Getting through US immigration was a breeze for most of us (they asked for Barry Crawford's guardian to make themselves known) and there we were, Los Angeles, sunshine, 20oC and short bus ride to the hotel awaited us.

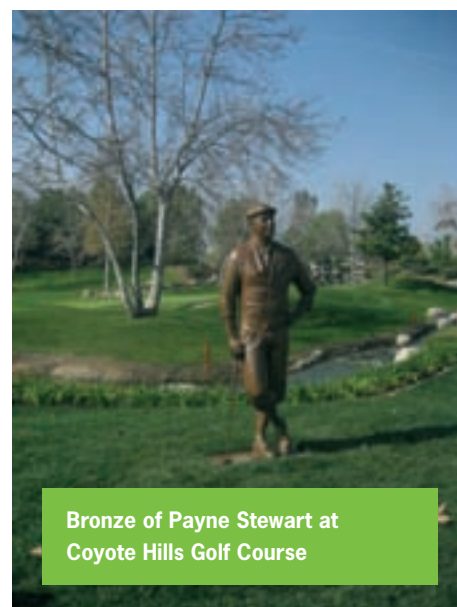
Bernhard & Co had done us proud; we were staying in the Anabella Hotel which was located next door to the Anaheim convention centre and directly over the road from Downtown Disneyland. We had the rest of the afternoon to settle in and acclimatise to the eight hour time difference, familiarise ourselves to the surrounding area and look forward to the busy schedule that had been prepared for us.

Monday morning arrived with an early morning wake-up call which prompted the need for food, and soon we were all assembled for the cross town ride to Los Angeles Country Club. Upon arrival we were greeted by Bruce Williams, Course Superintendent. LACC is one of the most prestigious private members courses in LA to the extent that the USGA in the 1980's were begging them to hold the U.S Open and it is currently ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in the top 100 US private golf club listings. Originally built in 1897 but substantially remodelled in the 1920's LACC is a 36 hole facility which consists of the North and South courses.

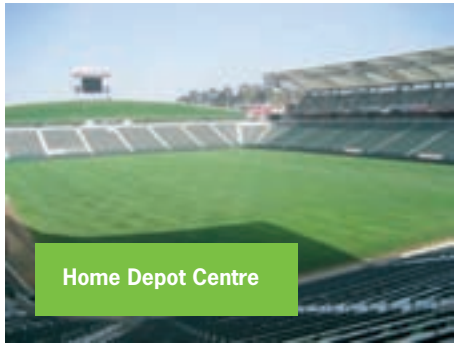
The South course is divided by Wilshire Boulevard which is a six lane freeway and facilitates the need for all machinery to be taken across the 'road' (usually early in the morning), although golf carts of which there are many can use the very narrow tunnel.

The courses are Bermuda grass which was dormant at this time of the year and unusually for

the area they only overseed the tees. The greens on the north course are Penn A4 creeping bent and were initially handpicked to minimise poa annua while the south course greens were poa, creeping bent mixture. The total number of staff for both courses was 50 all year round, this also included gardener for clubhouse lawns and flower beds (all clubhouse flowers and plantings inside and out are grown on site). The membership cost for LACC is \$150,000 joining fee and roughly \$1,200-\$1,600 per month! The annual operating budget is \$4,000,000.



Bronze of Payne Stewart at Coyote Hills Golf Course



Everything at LACC is on a grand scale with the irrigation tank having a massive 1,000,000 gallon capacity drawn from wells and during the summer 800,000 gallons are applied every night. After being shown around both courses we were entertained in the clubhouse which again is a sight to behold.

Tuesday and Wednesday gave us the chance to experience education the US way which consisted of an all day seminar on the Tuesday entitled 'Taking Control of Green Speed'. The seminar lasted from 8am to 5pm and was hosted by Michael D. Morris CGCS (Superintendent at Crystal Downs) and Tomas D. Nikolai Ph.D. The seminar looked at all the possible factors that affect green speed, starting with a history on green speed and the stimpmeter, and progressing onto golfer expectations. From there we looked at the effects of weather on green speed such as rainfall and humidity, and then onto heights of cut, types of mower (triplex vs. pedestrian), frequency and type of blade sharpening, topdressing practices, irrigation, grass species and finally rolling at which point we ran out of time, and we still had fertility and plant growth regulators to discuss!

Well what did we learn from all this? Firstly, that both the hosts were passionate and very knowledgeable on the subject as all the data was collected from various studies some lasting five years or more. Secondly, that American Superintendents seem to have more pressures placed upon them with regards to green speed by their memberships, (not saying that this doesn't happen in the UK) and finally don't sit at the front if your English as John Gubb, was asked every question under the sun during the day and spent the rest of the week in hiding. On a more serious note we all came away with ideas to try on our own courses back home, and the scale and depth of the education provided is something that BIGGA should strive for during Harrogate Week.

Wednesday was the 'Turfgrass Field Seminar' which consisted of visits to three local golf courses and the Home Depot Centre (home of the LA Galaxy). The first course we visited was Alta Vista Country Club which is a private members club where the main topic of discussion was salt management on poa greens. The Superintendent, Jorge Morales, talked at length about the

problems of using effluent water for irrigation and showed us a demonstration of a TDS-meter which he used for monitoring the salt levels in his greens. He uses the results from the TDS-meter to determine the amount of irrigation required to flush through (leach) the salts.

Our second course of the day was Coyote Hills Golf Course where we met by Superintendent, Elliot Weber, who has been at the course since 2004. Coyote Hills is the only course that was jointly designed by twice US Open champion, Payne Stewart, and to commemorate this a bronze statue stands outside the clubhouse. Another interesting fact about Coyote Hills is that on the course are 200 oil wells which produce 300-500 barrels of oil a day (nice little earner). Here we looked at the pros and cons of overseeding dormant Bermuda grass fairways and roughs. After a brief look at the fairways we had a tour of the maintenance facility which in typical American fashion was spotless.



Next we visited Westridge Golf Club where we looked at the problems facing this high volume (50,000+ rounds per year) public course which was originally established with cool season grasses, using creeping bent on greens and perennial rye in fairways and roughs. The Superintendent is currently fighting the transition of the greens to poa and is purposely trying to transition roughs and fairways to a warm season turf with common Bermuda grass.

Last, but not least, was the highlight of the day for many of us 'soccer' fans a tour of the Home Depot Centre (read B&Q Trafford). This is home to multiple sporting events such as two major league soccer teams (Chivas USA and LA Galaxy), tennis, athletics and cycling and of course the 'Dave Beckham Academy'. We were privileged to be invited onto the pitch for a team photo although the atmosphere was lacking compared to what it will be like when Beckham plays in front of a 27,000 capacity crowd.

Thursday came and finally it was time for the show. The show here is 2½ days and attracts as many as 27,000 visitors. Well what can I say? Awesome. You cannot believe the size of this show, although I was informed that this year was one of the largest yet. Everyone is catered for with such features as an international lounge, bookshop and merchandise store. Each of us did our turn manning the BIGGA stand and we were



well received by all that passed by, stopped and chatted. I was impressed with the number of BIGGA members that were present at the show and this was a truly international affair and a result for Anglo-US relationships.

As well as the above we indulged in some extra curricular activities such as the Bernhard & Co Prestige Club Reception, the Official Opening Reception for the Conference and Show, Reception for the outgoing GCSAA President as well as the Opening Session where the Old Tom Morris Award was presented to Charlie Sifford, which included a video message from Tiger Woods. The keynote speaker was golfer and commentator Johnny Miller. Bernhard & Co also gave us an exclusive audience with Gerry Byrne, from the K Club Ireland, where we looked at the processes and problems he faced holding the 2006 Ryder Cup.

So that was that with the only spare time coming on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, where with heavy hearts and some heads too we boarded the, this time full, flight bound for London Heathrow and the real world.

We would like to extend our thanks to all those companies and organisations who fed and watered us, and especially those where lasting friendships were forged.

Finally I would like to round things off by extending a huge thank you to everyone who made our trip possible at Bernhard & Co especially Kim, Sam and Stephen as well as those involved from BIGGA for giving us ten chosen ones a week that we will never forget. To all of you who have read this article and got this far (without falling asleep), let me remind you that to enter for this trip was free and I would recommend it to anyone.



# PREVENTING DISEASE – IT'S A LIFESTYLE CHOICE!



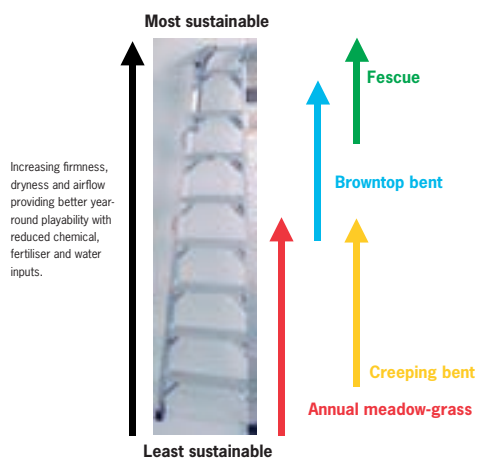
By Steve Isaac, Assistant Director of Golf Course Management, The R&A

## Your initial reaction?

"How much disease could be prevented through better management of our environment?" A quote from The R&A Golf Course Committee? No, it is actually taken from the World Health Organisation's website but it is an excellent way to introduce the subject of preventing turfgrass diseases because it focuses attention on the key issue. If you were asked how to prevent disease on your greens, what would your immediate response be? Hopefully, it would not be straight to the fungicide bottle. With so much information and education available to turf managers these days, including our best practice website [www.bestcourseforgolf.org](http://www.bestcourseforgolf.org), everyone should be aware of the many approaches that should be considered before considering the chemical one. The thought process to preventing disease should begin by looking at the environment in which the turf, and its potential nemesis, is growing.

## Dry, firm and airy

### The Sustainability Ladder



Remember the sustainability ladder - see the August 2006 issue of Greenkeeper International - This describes the route to increasing sustainability through improvement of the growing environment. Climbing away from thatchy, soft, wet, shaded and disease-ridden turf at the foot of the ladder is dependent on improving drainage, firmness and air movement. The range of growing conditions represented by the rungs of the ladder can be related directly to the requirements of grass species.

No matter what grass you are growing, as you climb the rungs and promote a better environment you will see less disease. When you reach a rung beyond the comfort zone for a species, it will either become less common or be prone to an increasing array of fungal attacks. Of the grasses commonly seen to northern European greens, annual meadow-grass is the one that will be most prone to disease within and, even more so, at both ends of its range. To soft, wet and thatchy greens you will see more microdochium (that's fusarium to our more mature readers) and anthracnose. Above its comfort zone, you will have created such a dry and lean environment that meadow-grass will be under stress and prone to the same diseases, plus others such as dollar spot. However, if you have worked on improving the environment to this degree you will probably be seeing the quantity of less susceptible grasses increasing on the greens, either through natural re-colonisation or via overseeding. So, grass species and where your greens are on the sustainability ladder will reflect the number and severity of disease outbreaks you will witness.

Reduce the risk of disease by:

- Developing a healthier growing environment.
- Good thatch management – think firm and dry.
- Minimising shade – turf prefers consistent growing conditions and heavily shaded greens become cookers in summer, freezers in winter, which promotes weak turf.
- Climbing the sustainability ladder.

## Less susceptible grasses

As already noted, the ladder concept can be related to the main grass species we use on our greens, with fescue being the most sustainable and annual meadow-grass the least. This is reflected in the inputs of chemicals, fertiliser and water required to manage these grasses and in their relative resistance to our most common and disfiguring diseases.

Also consider where your grasses come from. The days of European colonialism are rife with tales of indigenous peoples dying in their thousands from diseases imported by the new arrivals who were relatively immune to the effects of what they considered to be common ailments. The reverse also occurred (and still does) as travelers fall foul of diseases their immune system has never encountered before. Could the same happen to grasses? I make the point after seeing a grass trial in Norway in May 2005. Most of the imported varieties were decimated by fusarium coming out of the winter. The grasses that were the healthiest and completely free of disease scars were those browntop bents bred in Norway (see image below and Jorvik sign).

Even within a single grass species there can be tremendous variability in the disease resistance of cultivars. When choosing grasses for overseeding it is worth checking on this as part of the selection process. However, there is little information available on this matter with the "Turfgrass Seed 2007" publication only listing resistance to red thread for all the species under evaluation – hardly the disease likely to cause you the most sleepless nights.

Possibly the best way to assess which cultivars will be most resistant to disease attack on your course is to have a small trial area where you can plant those out which match your requirements, grow them on for a year or two and see for yourself. One course manager I know who does this is Per Rasmussen at Smørum in Denmark, and he has been able to select fescues for overseeding which exhibit the minimum of disease incidence, saving him time and money (above right).





Reduce the risk of disease by:

- Promoting less susceptible grasses.
- Selecting cultivars for overseeding that show greater resilience to common diseases.
- Testing grasses at your site before using them on the golf course.
- Climbing the sustainability ladder.



### Cultural management practices

These should be the focus of any integrated disease management programme. Again, they can be related to the sustainability ladder and the premise that drier, firmer turf with decent access to light and air movement is going to be more resistant to disease. So, to minimise disease, implement a maintenance programme that controls thatch, improves drainage and avoids lush turf growth. Excessive application of fertiliser and water will encourage disease.

Over the last few summers, there have been

reports of a greater incidence of dollar spot, notably in southeast England (see the article on the main 2006 disease problems in the January 2007 issue of STRI's International Turfgrass Bulletin). There has been speculation that the desirable trend for reducing nitrogen input has contributed to this and that dollar spot is a real threat to those wishing to turn to fescue. Dollar spot attacks all grasses – it is a significant disease of fine turf in the USA and they are not blessed with fescue-dominated golf courses. Perhaps those witnessing this phenomenon have been cutting back on the nitrogen too quickly for the type of turf they are managing? It could be that the combination of stressful summer weather, notably last year's drought, and a significant reduction in nitrogen was the cause but the disease affected those grasses the worst that require higher levels of nitrogen to see off attacks.

Also be wary of too much cultural management, especially when the climate imparts significant stress. STRI's promotion of the principle of "Disturbance" can be used to explain why different grasses require alternative approaches to cultural practices and when they are likely to be under greater disease pressure.

Reduce the risk of disease by:

- Implementing cultural practices that will positively help control disease incidence.
- Avoiding practices which may encourage diseases.
- Climbing the sustainability ladder.

### Prediction models

Web-based services, which predict when disease pressure is high enough to warrant fungicide application, may be useful in maximising the efficacy of plant protection products but we need to question what their advice is based on? If the red alert for applying a fungicide is triggered by

the most susceptible scenario, and the cynic in me suggests it is, then users of these systems must be aware of this and interpret the warning according to their situation. If you happen to be managing the most susceptible scenario (probably one towards the bottom of the sustainable ladder) then sign up to such a service now! More effective in the long run would be to start planning to climb the ladder. For those not in this situation, don't reach for the fungicide just because the website tells you to. You will have to take this information and interpret the threat in relation to the turf environment you are managing. A red alert for fusarium is unlikely to worry those managing fescue too much.

Returning to the subject of cultural practices, prediction models may be of value in helping to plan maintenance to avoid work that could encourage disease.

### Be honest with yourself

There are plenty of tricks that can be used to mask disease risk and actual outbreaks. I prefer to follow the sage advice of an old Ethiopian proverb: "He who conceals his disease cannot expect to be cured". If you get regular damaging outbreaks of disease it is because you are managing a high-risk situation. Only by accepting this and trying to address it will you find a cure. Better management of the environment to develop healthier turf will significantly reduce the risk of disease, so make your preparations to climb the sustainability ladder and improve your chances of preventing disease.

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For more than 90 years, Toro has partnered with turf care professionals like you to create the world's most appealing landscapes. Toro is committed to providing innovative, reliable equipment to make your job easier. Now Toro introduces a product to help your bottom line: Toro Financing. Designed specifically for turf care professionals, Toro Financing can help you acquire the equipment you need to create picturesque, playable landscapes – and stay on-budget.

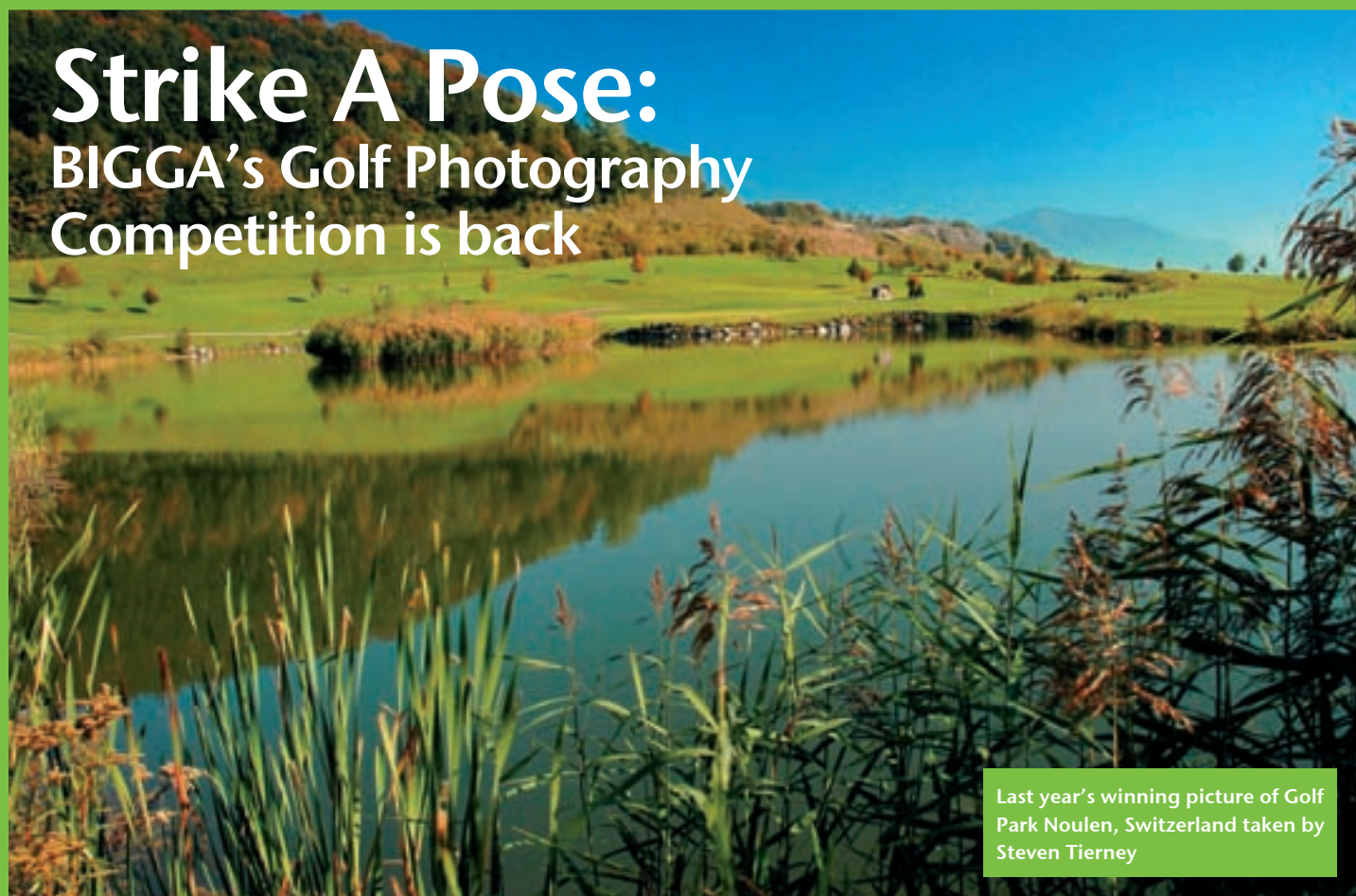
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**TORO**

**Count on it.**

# Strike A Pose: BIGGA's Golf Photography Competition is back



Last year's winning picture of Golf Park Noulén, Switzerland taken by Steven Tierney



Second prize last year went to Gary Crawford for his picture of Royal County Down.



Iain Barr took third place last year with his shot of Largs Golf Club.

*Calling all budding photographers! Are you proud of the hard work you have put into making the most of your course? Do you catch yourself admiring it at its spring finest, or wintry best?*

The BIGGA Golf Photography Competition allows greenkeepers to display their artistic talents and creative flair, while also earning some publicity for their club.

The winner will receive a full course profile in Greenkeeper International, a trophy and special prize, while the 12 best will be selected for the 2008 BIGGA Calendar.

Photographs will be accepted in three forms. Prints (nine inch

by seven inch), transparencies, or digitally (pictures MUST be at least 300 psi and capable of being blown up to nine inches by seven inches in size).

Anyone wishing to enter should send their pictures to: Scott MacCallum or Melissa Toombs, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF (digital photographs should be sent on CD) by July 31, 2007. Alternatively you can email them to [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk) or [melissa@bigga.co.uk](mailto:melissa@bigga.co.uk)

Entries will be judged by Alan Birch, whose inspiration the competition has been; Professional Golf Course Photographer, Eric Hepworth, and Scott MacCallum, Greenkeeper International Editor.

So come on, don't just post your pictures on the website bulletin board...happy snapping!

# As Easy as ABC



## The Difference between Thatch and Mat

By Dan Prest, Askham Bryan College

**Lying beneath the green stuff is a complex world. The dying bits in the soil would more than likely be called thatch, scarifying would probably be your solution. You may, without realising, also have a layer of mat. Do you realise that you will benefit from a touch of thatch and mat?**

Thatch is found just above the soil surface and consists of undecomposed plant material. As this material decomposes it is possible that new plant life forms within the thatch layer. This means that rhizomes and stolons could be provided with a useful growing medium. A good amount of thatch would be around 12mm.

Too much thatch could mean that water and nutrients will not get to the roots below the thatch layer, this could cause

problems of growth, therefore increasing weed and pest invasion. There a number of ways to control thatch possibly scarification, but also hollow coring and topdressing.

Often confused with thatch is the mat layer. This layer is mixed with the soil surface. It can occur when soil is mixed into the thatch layer. Examples of this would include soil deposits in thatch by worms or topdressing with soil. Mat can be beneficial and is sometimes overlooked. It can provide protection in areas of heavy wear and can also stabilise turf from heavy activities.

Look for the thatch layer from the top of a core sample and it should be easily found (if present). Look for the Mat layer at the bottom and work up the sample with your finger and thumb until the soil layer is easily removed. The Mat layer can be found at the base of that grassed part intermingled with the remaining soil.

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE



**Thatch at 5mm to 15mm**

**Mat at 15mm to around 25mm**

**25mm+ Rootzone**

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- Improves drainage efficiency and reduces excess water retention
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# In the Shed

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

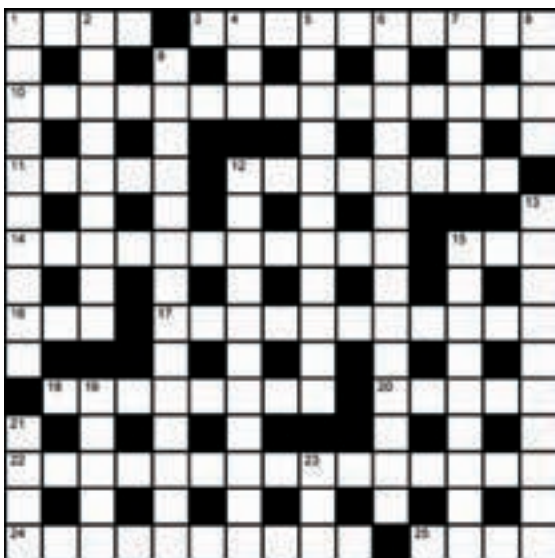
## CROSSWORD - Compiled by Anax

### ACROSS

- 1 Follower of a religion founded in the Punjab in the 16th Century (4)  
 3 Person who reveals nothing about their self (6,4)  
 10 Become enraged, usually without justification (3,3,3,6)  
 11 Mathematical expression employing a colon (5)  
 12 Name for any suburb of a French-speaking city (8)  
 14 Rugby position favoured by ex Lions player Gareth Chilcott (4,7)  
 15 Dog of inferior or mixed breed (3)  
 16 Cereal grass distilled to make whiskey (3)  
 17 Vengeance (11)  
 18 "Turning -", Vapors hit of 1980 (8)  
 20 In the OT, father of Jacob and Esau (5)  
 22 11th Century outlaw who opposed William the Conqueror (8,3,4)  
 24 Musical genre whose name came from the lyrics of "Born To Be Wild" (5,5)  
 25 Shakespearian hero, king who was betrayed by two of his daughters (4)

### DOWN

- 1 The first of its type was Longleat, opened in the 1960s (6,4)  
 2 The pressing of a single character, often when using a computer (9)  
 4 One's personal circumstances (3)  
 5 Risky or based on curiosity (11)  
 6 60th anniversary (7,7)  
 7 Biological group containing one or more families (5)  
 8 Capital of the Ukraine (4)  
 9 Description of theatre productions (especially in New York) considered to be avant-garde or experimental (3,3,8)  
 12 Type of murder considered as the most serious (5,6)  
 13 Raspberry or similar disapproving sound (5,5)  
 15 Plates, dishes etc., exemplified by willow-pattern (5-4)  
 19 Major heart artery (5)  
 21 Title formerly given to Iranian monarch (4)  
 23 Drink of which oolong and cambric are varieties (3)



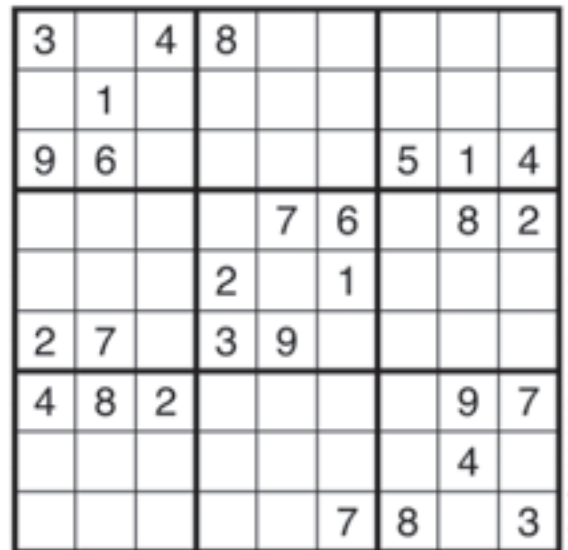
ANSWERS TO ALL THE PUZZLES ARE SHOWN ON PAGE 57

## QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. In which sport might you see the two teams defending goals of different sizes?
2. Who was the lead singer of The Four Seasons in the 1960s and 1970s?
3. If you were at the brickyard, what sport would you be watching?
4. Which sporting star has a line of designer clothing called Aneres?
5. Which pop band had a hit single with Open Your Heart in 1981?
6. Which sportsman's autobiography is called My Side?
7. Which sport has four letters and begins with a T?
8. What non-mechanical sport achieves the highest speeds?
9. What is the only Olympic sport that has a finish line that no competitor will ever cross?

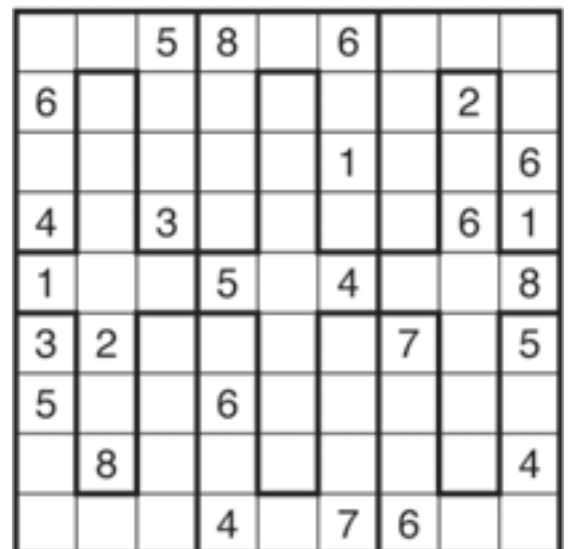
## MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x4 box contains the numbers 1 to 9 and the letters A, B and C.



## SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 12 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.



Supplied by  
www.dailysudoku.com

# Health Check for Lakes



**Jon Jinks, explains the importance of maintaining water quality on lakes, ponds and fountains, and why the provision of water features on golf courses is becoming increasingly popular.**

Having spent much of my working life on golf courses and sports arenas, including some of the finest in the land, it is clear that the demand for bodies of water – both as aesthetic features and obstacles for play – is on the increase.

Indeed, most golf clubs we now visit in the course of our work have some form of water features such as reservoirs, ornamental ponds or fountains.

In the past, such features have always been viewed by the general golfing public as an aesthetic addition, or perhaps a means to affect the difficulty of the course. Increasingly, because of the recent extremes in our weather conditions, it has become commonplace for end-users to be aware of the environmental and financial benefits of water features, as well as the aesthetic qualities that they offer.

For example, irrigation reservoirs have historically always been 'out-of-play' areas

by the end of the season becoming due to the fact that the water has been used up and they have emptied and become unsightly. However, this can be overcome by introducing a network of water features around the property, which can be linked across the site by their own weir and transfer systems – all 'topped-up' naturally by the golf course drainage system. The addition of such features provide Course Managers with the ideal opportunity openly to discuss wider issues such as water harvesting and the need for water quality standards to be maintained. While it is now commonplace to construct holding reservoirs, maintaining water quality is a far more complex process requiring extensive design and planning in order to produce a sustainable water body on any golfing or sporting arena.

Items such as water sourcing, water quality and overall water management must be brought into play ideally at the design stage of any project. This is to ensure that the feature remains aesthetically pleasing throughout the golfing year, as well as meeting stringent standards required by the Environment Agency as to retained bodies of water on private land.

Aside of aesthetics, it should be remembered that it is the landowner's responsibility to maintain water quality of any pond on their property. Failure to meet these standards could result in severe fines. Therefore, it is essential that all persons responsible for such bodies of water are aware of the management tools available to both improve and maintain water.

The surest way of maintaining water quality is through the introduction of a plentiful

oxygen supply and by eliminating the stratification process which, in layman's terms, means preventing the water from layering at different temperatures. This can be done through the introduction of water falls, transfer recycle style systems within the pool network, or the usage of one of the many available aeration style units such as Otterbine or Kasco. Additionally, the introduction of suitable flora and fauna will enhance the appearance and assist in the replication of the natural environment processes that exist in any natural occurring body of water. Obviously, the promotion of aerobic bacteria requires oxygen to survive and will dramatically reduce the build-up of organic materials and prevent the production of foul odours, both of which will affect the overall experience of playing golf on the course. So, when investigating the idea of a water



feature give consideration to the irrigation requirements of the course and the possibilities of aligning the drainage network into the overall scheme. It is more likely that power is required at the features to mechanically introduce waterfalls or aeration units. In other words, before finalising budgets, ensure that all avenues have been visited.

In conclusion, we must start utilising the thousands of pounds worth of water which naturally falls on courses and sports areas to its maximum potential, thus improving environmental and ecological processes, while aesthetically enhancing playing areas through financially sound practices.

**For further information on Osprey Irrigation please visit: [www.ospreyirrigation.co.uk](http://www.ospreyirrigation.co.uk)**

**Jon Jinks is Managing Director of Osprey Irrigation, available on: 01939 236677 or: 07974 423888.**



# Anatomy of a lake:

## One club's answer to water shortages

By Paul Worster

"Why not put another lake on the course? It'll be a feature, make the course more difficult, and provide water for irrigation." Sounds pretty simple, but as usual – there's more than meets the eye.



In the first instance the terms "feature lake" and "water storage reservoir" may not necessarily be synonymous. To quote the late Fred Hawtree – "the tidal area of such a feature is not necessarily handsome" so any such feature has to be a compromise between aesthetics and function. The answer may be to have a large surface area with a shallow shelf around the edge, which will support some vegetation, and help to buffer or disguise an unsightly edge if water is drawn off.

How big does the lake need to be? Enter the experts. Minchinhampton set out to create sufficient storage capacity to allow 90 days emergency watering on the greens and surrounds should our boreholes be cut off for any reason. Irrigation consultant, Roger Davey, was put in touch with Course Architects Hawtree Ltd, calculations were made as to how much water was actually needed, and the lake sized accordingly. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

In the first instance a plot of land

between two fairways was identified as being suitable. Obviously, any proposed new strategic feature on the course, has to fit with the existing course, and Martin Hawtree was brought in to confirm this. Having established that the proposed site was suitable – ie reasonably level (in our case what

looked to be a level site actually had a one in a hundred fall. So a lake a hundred metres from end to end will have one end at ground level, and the other contained in a bund a metre high. Or, one end will be at ground level, and the other end a metre below ground level. Complicated? Yes, because a balance had to be struck between not having a too high an artificial structure (ie the bund wall), but not excavating too deep and removing too much ground thus adding to the cost.

A design was finally agreed upon, for a lake of 6000 square metre surface area with an average depth of two metres, which gave 11700 cubic metres of water storage, and which called for 7500 cubic metres of excavation. The design included a bund wall at the lower end of one-and-a-half metres in height, including a freeboard of approx a quarter of a metre (to prevent overflowing). The design also incorporated a safety shelf, which as the term implies, is a shelf a metre deep and two metres wide, around the

side of the lake, so that anyone falling in doesn't immediately tumble into water over two metres deep.

Then there was the small matter of Planning Consent. No significant objections were received, but Stroud District Council called for an Archaeology Assessment. I thought it was odd skimming through the Yellow Pages, that there were quite so many Archaeological Contractors listed. I soon found out why. Every single Planning application in this country has an archaeological assessment and reports are compiled for the relevant District Council. In our case, a fee proposal, methodology statement, safety assessment, and site assessment were quickly forthcoming. As soon as the initial payment had been made, the tempo slowed somewhat – eventually a scruffy looking bloke turned up on site, scuffed his feet in the grass and said, "this is a golf course and all this has been dug up before – you won't find much here pal" – and he was right. Over a thousand pounds for about two hours work, plus a report, which was clearly a word-processor copy of someone else's report. (A Dorset caravan site to be precise.) Having cleared that immense hurdle and planning consent gained you might think we were ready to start. Wrong. In removing 7500 cubic metres of ground, one has to consider where this material is going. Back to the drawing board with the architect to design mounding and fill areas to complement the lake, but on a relatively flat site, new mounding cannot be too high, so large areas of fairly low mounding are involved. In fact the maximum height of mounding was only a metre so over ten thousand square metres of areas were needed – not too far from the proposed lake in which to lose the spoil. This involved crossing two fairways so haul routes, with turf and topsoil stripped and stored, had to be established.

The contractor was responsible for marking and setting all outlines and levels to the Architects plan and satisfaction. Digging commenced with rotavating and stripping the topsoil on the lake site – 6000 square metres - and the additional 10,000 square metres for dumping the spoil. The dig started by digging a long trench down the middle of the lake to the



correct depth. The machine used was a 21 tonne Komatsu 210 Excavator. A 12 tonne 4WD Dumper, and a 12 tonne tractor and dump trailer were used for transport. A 14 tonne Komatsu 140 excavator was also on site for stripping and shaping. The material coming out of the dig was predominately large angular Cotswold Limestone, but a certain amount of small underlying material was salvaged to help line the completed lake – this material was moved to one side and saved. The Cotswold stone was mostly soft enough to dig without significant difficulty and the dig progressed quite rapidly, with the operatives working from 7am until 5.30 pm. As each mound area on the course was filled with rubble, the 21 tonne machine clattered across, tracked the stone in, and shaped to the architects satisfaction. Topsoiling was on-going while further excavation continued. Topsoiling was carried out using a 5 tonne TB 145 digger and



6 tonne dumper. Turfing and seeding commenced straight away as each area was completed. The decision, on budget grounds, was taken to seed the outside of the mounds, and turf the inside slopes to speed up development.



The weather was mainly appalling with torrential and prolonged rain making the ground somewhat tricky in places.



With the lake dig completed and the depth checked by laser, the small material was put back around the sides, safety shelf, and base. A trench was then dug around the top to take the lining fabrics which would be required to waterproof the lake. Enter stage left – GeoTechnical Services to line the lake. The lining consists of three layers which are laid in 4 or 6 metre wide strips. Each strip is welded with a heat gun to its neighbour, as it is laid. An underlay, which is like a very thick felt with a cushion effect, is the first layer. This protects the middle layer, which is the impermeable (waterproof) part. A

further layer of felt overlay completes the job. All these materials are tucked into the trench around the top, and backfilled. This took a week with four operatives puffing up and down the slopes towing each strip of material by hand (or by foot in this case). It looked like extremely hard work and I was quite glad not to be involved.



Finally, the topsoil was laid around the lake and down to the bottom of the safety shelf and all haul routes were repaired “on the way out”. Believe you me, I’ve never been so glad to wave goodbye to anyone ever. The relief didn’t last long however, the entire bank which measured 330 metres around and was between five and 15 metres deep had to be prepared and turfed. Enter the MGC greenstaff who deserve medals for their efforts and despite the very worst the weather could throw at them somehow got the job done.



47.5 pallets of turf, some of which were laid in gale-force winds and driving rain, were imported from Teal Turf at Worcester, who responded magnificently lifting and delivering at 24 hours notice during brief windows in the weather. A budget of £160,000 was set, and in the event, this was exceeded by £4000, which was well within contingencies. Having rolled the banks, the lake now looks totally natural, planting with reeds and aquatic plants will be on-going, and the members have applauded the foresight of the committee in sanctioning the project.

# Seasonal Pond and Lake Tips

Due to the mild winter that we have had, Clearwater Pond and Lake Management recommends the following:

- Visual inspection of the water surface. Look for signs of algae. If it was a problem last year it will be this year too. Lemna minor (common duckweed) will give you a carpet of green. If ignored it will kill off everything below the surface and will turn the water stagnant – action must be taken;
- Look at the marginal plants; thypha rush, lesser reed mace and irises all need attention. Removal, cutting back, thinning dividing and re-planting should be considered;
- Look at the oxygenating weed in the watercourse, lake or pond. What type is it? Oxygenators play an important role in the whole system, but some are invasive, taking over the entire body of water. Active management is then paramount!
- Look into the water. What lives below gives a good indication of the water quality e.g. newts, frogs, snakes, dragonfly lava, water voles;
- Fountain and aeration pumps should be removed, cleaned and serviced as they can be very costly to replace should they fail at a critical time;
- Some types of aquatic weed can require chemical treatments and this is the time to have it carried out;
- Removal of leaf mulch from the water surface helps control silt build-up. De-silting can be expensive;
- Filling any pond or lake with mains water will likely increase algae blooms;
- Inspect all inlets and outlets for blockages and damage – repair;
- Inspect the sides and banks for erosion - consider the impact this may have.

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- 3** Aeration - a surprising proportion of sports turf suffers from compacting, reducing the amount of beneficial aerobic microbes in the soil.
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Microbe Inoculation using carefully formulated bacteria, fungi and nutrients to increase and stimulate the population of beneficial aerobic microbes.
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- Reduced reliance on pesticides.
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# NEW PRODUCTS

## MASTIFF UPGRADED

Ransomes Jacobsen has upgraded its Ransomes Mastiff, the stalwart football pitch and stadium mower, with a 91cm (36") cutting width.

The main enhancements are a new Briggs and Stratton Vanguard engine and improvements to the Operator Presence Control (OPC). The new power unit is a premium grade Briggs & Stratton Vanguard 9hp OHV engine, which comes with a two-year warranty in commercial use.

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



## CHIPPER SHREDDER

Countax Ltd has launched a new stand-alone, petrol drive Chipper/Shredder.

The Chipper Shredder is capable of chipping branches up to 60mm diameter and shredding garden waste and twigs up to 15mm diameter.

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

## FARMER RANGE

The new Farmer range of tractor mounted sprayers from Allman's are designed for tractors as small as 20hp 'mini' tractors right up to the agricultural 'workhorse' tractors of 120hp, and are fully equipped for smaller and medium sized spraying tasks on farms. There are 6, 8 and 12 metre manual boom options. The larger capacity models accept a 12 metre hydraulically folding boom and are equipped with a chemical induction hopper.

For more information email: [sales@allman-sprayers.co.uk](mailto:sales@allman-sprayers.co.uk)



## HEAVY-DUTY FRONT-LOADER

A new heavy-duty front loader is now available for the 90hp Kioti DK901 tractor distributed in the UK by Rustons Engineering, of Huntingdon.

The front loader, which has been designed specifically for this model, has a particularly robust design with a very strong frame and a parallel lifting action as standard. The bucket is 2.2m wide, with a capacity of 0.54 m<sup>3</sup>, and has a maximum lift height just under 3.7 metres. It incorporates the same quick-fit design as other Kioti loaders for fast attachment and removal, as required.

For more information contact RECO on: 01480 455151



## MINI-EXCAVATORS

Bobcat has launched two new Zero Tail Swing (ZTS) mini-excavators with operating weights between 2 and 3 tonne, offering an ideal balance of size, weight and performance.

The first new model is the Bobcat 425 ZTS mini-excavator which, equipped with cab, has an operating weight of 2650 kg and is designed for easy transportation.

The second new model is the Bobcat 428 ZTS mini-excavator, it has a maximum digging depth of 2844 mm and, equipped with cab, an operating weight of 2933 kg.

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



## NEW BOOK

Heather and its Management is the latest title in STRI's Studies in Golf Course Management Funded by The R&A, this new book is written by Bob Taylor and Lee Penrose from STRI's Ecology team.

Britain is quite unique in still supporting large expanses of internationally important acid grassland and dune heath, lowland heath and moor, of which heather is normally a dominant component. Golf courses play a key role in its conservation.

Appropriate management is vital in maintaining, restoring and conserving our golf course heathland resource. The aim of this new book is to increase awareness of the sensitivity and fragility of these habitats, to understand the factors that contribute to their decline and to consider practical management opportunities for future conservation.

For further details and book orders, contact Iain Service at STRI, on Tel: 01274 518908 or order on-line at: [www.stri.co.uk](http://www.stri.co.uk)

## TREE SPADE

Civic Trees have added 2.1m diameter tree spade to their fleet of tractor-mounted machines. This addition means that they are now able to efficiently move trees with girths up to 60cm.

The tree spade, which is the largest to be permanently based in the UK, is mounted on a 6-wheel drive Volvo chassis making it a versatile machine capable of accessing every part of the golf course.

The unit joins Civic Tree's existing fleet of tree spades: 0.75m, 0.85m, 1.1m, 1.4m and 1.6m diameter.

For further information please call Deric Newman on: 07768 056590 or visit: [www.civictrees.co.uk](http://www.civictrees.co.uk)



## NO FLIES ON NEW WEBSITE

Pinnacle Power Equipment has launched a brand new website -[www.pinnaclepower.co.uk](http://www.pinnaclepower.co.uk) in time for the 2007 season.

Designed by agency Allingham Kyte, the new site provides full details of the range of Billy Goat vacuums, mowers and scarifiers together with Klippo mowers and Eliet chipper/shredders and the new edger.

Every model in the Pinnacle range is featured via a thumbnail image and accompanying copy.

Visit: [www.pinnaclepower.co.uk](http://www.pinnaclepower.co.uk)



## FIRST FULLY AUTOMATIC 4X4 UTILITY VEHICLE

Club Car has launched a brand new addition to the CarryAll utility vehicle range, the Club Car CarryAll 295.

The CarryAll 295 is the industry's first fully automatic 4x4 utility vehicle and features Club Car's revolutionary Intellitrac™ 4-wheel drive system. Intellitrac constantly senses the driving environment and instantly engages and disengages 4-wheel drive operation as the surroundings change. This seamless process makes the CarryAll 295 easy to drive whatever the conditions.

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



## INNOVATIVE FUN

Segway Inc. is improving the golf experience with the introduction of the second-generation Segway x2 Golf, featuring a scorecard holder, bag carrier and special low-pressure tyres for gentle travel on fairways.

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



## FLOATING HEADS GREEN MOWER

Ransomes Jacobsen has introduced the new Eclipse 122 floating head greens mower. Eclipse is about new and better ways to maintain your turf.

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Commercial Power has announced that it will offer its first engine equipped with Electronic Fuel Injection (EFI) in 2007. The new gasoline powered

EFI model will be an extension of the company's Vanguard 3/LC three-cylinder, liquid-cooled commercial engine line.

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# News from the Chief Executive

## Onward into Spring

**The staff at HQ have already started the task of planning for Harrogate Week 2008, in the wake of a very successful event this year. The major machinery manufacturers have all requested exhibition space and I am pleased to report that it has been possible to integrate them with very little disruption. Already virtually all available space in Halls A, B, C and M has been sold and the task now facing the sales team is to fill Hall Q!**

Education remains a top priority for the event and once again we will be working with other related organisations to bring members and non-members alike as much variety as possible.

The new version of the BIGGA website ([www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)) is now functional and I hope members will take full advantage of the facility. The site has been rewritten to allow full content management by HQ staff, whereas previously most changes had to be made by a third party programmer. Over the next few months further enhancements will be made to the site as well as a review of the style and content of Greenkeeper International.

Tony Cocker, the Association's accountant who completed 10 years of service in January, has decided to take early retirement as of the end of March 2007. Tony succeeded me in the post when I became Chief Executive and his calculator, quill pen and fingerless gloves will be passed on to Stephen Coates, who joined BIGGA a couple of years ago as Tony's understudy. Stephen has been working hard at his professional qualifications and following success in the December exams now only has one module to complete before being fully qualified. BIGGA has been pleased to support his training and will continue to do so.

There is a misplaced rumour that Tony's retirement has been possible thanks to a secret windfall as the administrator for the staff lottery syndicate! Joking apart Tony will be a hard act to follow and his presence around the office will be missed. I would like to thank him for his devotion to duty and the support that he has given to me personally and I wish him a long and happy retirement.

Talks continue, albeit slowly, with the IOG about the feasibility of a merger of the two bodies. At the moment there is nothing to report apart from the fact that a 'Heads of Agreement' document has finally been approved by both organisations and by the time you read this I hope that it will have been signed by the Board of both BIGGA and the IOG. The Agreement sets out the aims of the talks and includes clauses regarding 'Confidentiality' and 'Disclosure of Information'. The next meeting of one of the sub-committees is on April 26 when the potential structure of any new body will be discussed. There is much work yet to be done before a firm conclusion can be reached however I would urge members to give the matter serious consideration and I welcome any constructive feedback, preferably by e-mail or letter.

Finally, I look forward to the days getting longer and the clocks going forward so that a few holes of golf after work may become possible. Each year I start the season determined to work hard at reducing my handicap and then in the Autumn analysing where my strategy when wrong! Perhaps this year may be better but as with so many things in life - only time will tell.

**John Pemberton**



## SCOTTISH REGION

### North

There are a few new members to report this month. The Brora boys have come out in force this month with the whole staff joining up - Ian Wakeman, Head Greenkeeper; Andrew Wilson, Assistant Greenkeeper; Anthony Wakeman, Apprentice Greenkeeper; Peter Etheridge, Apprentice Greenkeeper and Alan Murray, Labourer. Also Richie Mackenzie, Second Assistant Greenkeeper at Inverness GC - Welcome all of you, to the North Section.

I hope you are buying up the 200 club tickets for this year, as it will help swell the coffers and give the Section some much-needed revenue. Bob Hardie still has plenty of tickets left if you need more. The Spring Outing this year is at Oldmeldrum GC in early May. The forms will be out soon so let's have a good turnout for this one on the day. More information will be available on the forms about start times etc.

I, along with several other Greenkeepers and Groundsmen from the North Section, attended a small seminar run by Greentech Scotland at Meldrum House GC. The guest speaker on the day was Kevin Cavanaugh from the States. Kevin was Assistant Superintendent at Augusta National for three years - among other posts held in the States. Kevin now works for Floratine products and he gave an interesting talk on various aspects of plant nutrition and health. There was lots to learn and I'm sure everybody who attended would have got something out of the day.

Thanks also to Kenny Harper at Meldrum House for the use of the clubhouse and to Tom Brannan and Neil Mitchell, from Greentech, for organising the day. Paul Marshall has moved from Newburgh GC to become Deputy Head to Hamish Steven at Cruden Bay. All the best Paul in your new post I'm sure you will enjoy working at such a great golf course.

Robert N Patterson, Royal Aberdeen GC

## NORTHERN REGION

### North East

The Spring Competition will be at Tynemouth GC this year, on April 19 with tee off time from 9.30am to 11am - going by recent competitions I think we could be all teed off before 11am, if anyone is likely to be late arriving try and let me know as it's unfair on the club members having to wait all that time if no-one is on the tee. The Autumn Competition will be played at Ravensworth GC on October 4 - this is later than usual but this year we are having the Section AGM on the same date. Tee off from 9.30am to 10.30am.

I called at Parklands GC recently and was surprised at what is going on there - New bays to be constructed, work being done on the driving range and a floodlit crazy golf or is it a miniature 18 holes? Anyway, I call them crazy golf courses so that will most likely raise a few eyebrows because I think that will be the only one in the North East.

Staying at Parklands, congratulations are in order for Head

Wetting Agent pellets are the perfect supplement to your current management strategy of Localised Dry Spot (LDS).

Tower Sport Europe offers a range of high quality, 100% pure surfactant pellets with no binding agents, making sure you deliver the full product to your turf.



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Greenkeeper, Steve Quince, on becoming a father for the first time. Best of luck Steve from the Section. Not forgetting George Gainford, of Prudhoe GC, he has just gone up a step, as he will become a granddad.

As you know Matten Hall are opening their new nine holes in June, well it looks like they have been busy over the winter as they have been planting a few thousand trees on the new course and if they take as well as the ones on the main course heaven help if you don't keep that ball on the fairway.

Just been checking the membership, we have lost three members from the Section this year already, all leaving the trade, it doesn't take a brain surgeon to work out why, the latest member to pack it in was Barry Weddell, from Alnmouth Village, not many of you would know Barry but once upon a time he used to be a regular player in the competitions. Myself and some of the older members, I'm sure, will wish him well for the future. His job has been taken over by young Kerry Shotton, from Alnwick GC.

Jimmy Richardson

### North West

As I write these notes I am busy taking bookings for the Spring Seminar, in fact I have had to close the list at 101 delegates so anyone who could not get a place please accept my apologies. We knew that this particular seminar would be a sellout and we were not disappointed. Many thanks go out to Stuart Yarwood, Steve Oultram, Nick Gray and Dave Austin for their help, also many thanks to the speakers for their precious time and not forgetting Wilmslow GC and their committee for supporting the association and allowing us the use of their clubhouse for the seminar. Many thanks to all who attended and I hope you all enjoyed it.

A bit of news on the job front, Russell Lewis has been appointed Head Greenkeeper at Hale GC; James Blacklock, from Lymm GC, has been appointed to Head Greenkeeper at Ellesmere GC, and takes over from Trevor, who, I believe, is starting a new career venture. We wish them all good luck.

Adie Holt, from Birchwood GC, and his wife, Rhian, are now the proud parents of a daughter. Welcome to Ariana. Put some matchsticks in your eyelids, Adie, it tends to help. We wish Ariana good luck, good health and happiness.

Last, but not least, we have the Spring Tournament coming up at Prestbury GC, the time is to be confirmed but the date is April 19, to play in it you must send a cheque for £20 payable to BIGGA North West Section. The address to send your cheque to is: Bill Merritt, The Lodge, Beacon Park Golf Club, Beacon Lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU. Please remember we will be limited in numbers for this tournament so please get your names down quickly.

If anyone has any news or just needs a little bit of advice, please contact the Secretary Bert Cross on: 0151 7245412 or myself on: 0151 2894625. My email is: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk.

Chris Sheehan

### Northern

Well, after a long hard winter, the cutting and golfing season is nearly upon us and I'm hoping that by the time you read this you should all have received this year's fixture list. A few dates for your diaries which are already confirmed are the: Spring Tournament, Wednesday, April 18, at Hessle GC; President's Day on Thursday,

June 26, at Ripon GC, with first tee off being at 1.30pm. The Autumn Tournament will be held at Fulford GC on either September 25 or 27. I will confirm the date in the next issue of the magazine. Like last year's Christmas Competition, we need to have your name and your entry fee at least one week before the event.

Please note that following a few technical problems, my new email address is: speight619@btinternet.com. You can contact me by email, telephone or post. My details are as follows: Adam Speight, 16a Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford BD2 4EB Tel: 01274 638366 Mobile: 07739 319060

### Sheffield

Sorry there was no news last month but there wasn't anything to report! As I always say, if anyone has any stories/news, even not related to greenkeeping, please feel free to get in touch with me and I will gladly put it in the magazine.

These are the golf dates for this season: Spring Competition, May 14, Rotherham GC, tee off 1.30; Summer Competition, July 9, Wortley GC, tee off 1.30; Sheffield Section Vs Northern Section, July 19, Hickleton GC, tee off 1.30; Autumn Competition, September 17, Brough GC, tee off 1.00; Sheffield Union Greenkeepers, September 24, Sandhills GC. The Christmas competition is still to be arranged.

The Section are running the trip to Wembley in October - date to be arranged - dependent on numbers wanting to go which we will be trying to find out over the next few weeks, anyone interested feel free to contact me or any of the committee so we can have an idea of numbers for transport reasons etc.

Feel free to contact me on: jv.lax@tesco.net or: 07793111845  
John Lax

### North Wales

It has now been just over six years since I took over this scribe's position from my predecessor, Dave Goodridge, of Denbigh GC, and hasn't the time flown, it has been real fun and I have enjoyed it immensely.

I do believe for any Section to move forward, to achieve its goals, we have to introduce new blood with new ideas and a fresh outlook otherwise it's just same old, same old.

This position I took on voluntarily and said to myself two to three years and move on, but I am still here, still writing these notes... And yes over six years I have missed one or two months for one reason or another but all in all I am proud to have contributed my time for British Golf Greenkeeping in what I feel is a really great profession and industry to work in.

I am handing over this pen to my "brother from another mother", who is also my golfing roll up partner at Lymm GC, known by many of you now as the original Gingerbread Man, and the North Wales Section holder of the most raffle tickets sold on any one golf day, with his classic phrase, "Raffle tickets £1 each or I can do you a deal, why not buy 3 for £3!" A man with a vast vocabulary and an insatiable lust for life it can only be the one and only Mr Stuart Yarwood d.b.t.c. (Don't bend the card).

Far from taking a back seat, I will still be on committee and help out actively at Section events throughout the year, which brings me nicely onto our first golf match of the year, our Spring

Tournament being held at Abergele GC and a chance for many of you to inspect the great condition of Darren Anderson's course with its sand greens laid just under five years ago, and from our visit there some three Christmases ago it will be nice to see how they have come on. If you have not yet received your entry form, one should be posted out to you shortly.

Following this date it will be the North Wales vs North West Match being held again at Sutton Hall GC, on May 23. Anyone wishing to put their name forward for the North Wales team please contact Jez Hughes on: 07876 776265 – If possible we are looking for players with that will to win, as last year saw us lose this competition yet again going down in five of the six matches.

A bit of sad news for these final notes, I am to report the passing of Elfyn Owen, on February 2. He was 69 years old and I knew him from his years at Dolgellau GC as Head Greenkeeper, then latterly at Royal St David's, Harlech, where he worked alongside the Kerry bros. Elfyn was one of life's really good guys, a good golfer and a good friend to many and all of you who had that chance meeting with him would have said the same, he did not have a bad word for anybody. His passion was singing in the Welsh male voice choir. In fact he travelled the world with the Godre'r Aran choir (in Welsh it translates 'the choir from the foothills of the mountain') he made friends and had acquaintances from many countries in the world and in their coming over to give him a big send off just showed how well thought of he was.

On a lighter note, Gareth Evans, also from Royal St David's, has

attained a 12 month sabbatical at Pinehurst GC in the USA. We wish him well and have yet to find out if it is No1 No2 No3...No8 etc but, whichever it is I am sure he will have a most enjoyable time.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all those who organised the Spring Seminar held at Wilmslow GC, it takes a lot of preparation and the anticipation of the day going well for all involved bears heavy for the 24 hours prior to the start, making sure the best laid plans come together – and it did with well over 100 attendees, a full panel of speakers and guest speakers on the hot subject of sustainable golf.

This just leaves me to say a big thank you to each and everyone of you who helped with your contribution to the notes, because however small or insignificant you think it may be, it is always a help and I have been grateful for your stories and anecdotes, also a big thank you to everyone who takes the time to read them, some funny, some sad, some serious, some topical, some interesting and some enlightening.

So to end I would like you to think of the words from the song; Never forget where your coming from, Never pretend it's not real, because some day, this will all be someone else's dream!

Mesen Cymru

Andrew Acorn

## MIDLAND REGION

### East Midland

I have to start this month's column with the sad news that Dave Johnson who worked at Horsley Lodge GC passed away on February 20, Dave had worked at Horsley Lodge for 12 years and passed away while doing one of the things he loved in life, playing Shrovetide Football. He will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him and our thoughts go out to Russ and his team at Horsley and to Dave's wife and family at this sad time.

The annual go-carting event took place on February 21 at the East Midlands Formula 1 Carting Centre and we had a good turn out of 21 budding Jenson Buttons. The event was a two-man team event and was won by Ben Cumberland and Dean Buxton, from Bulwell Forest GC, and our thanks go to Toro UK and Andrew Humble, from Toro, for sponsoring the event and all the greenkeepers that attended to make the night a success.

There have been a couple of greenkeepers seeking pastures new lately Scott Purdy has moved to Willesley Park GC as Head Greenkeeper and Frazer Harrison has left his position as First Assistant at Willesley Park to join Shirland GC as Deputy Course Manager and I'm sure we all wish them well in their new jobs. The date for the Spring Tournament this year is Thursday, May 24, at Horsley Lodge GC and entry forms will be sent out soon in the post.

Dan Rodgers

### Berks/Bucks and Oxon

Due to a mix up at BIGGA HQ Berks/Bucks and Oxon Section notes for March did not appear in that issue, so here there are:

Groundhog Day! March - is it spring yet?

Global warming has caused a great debate.

This mild winter past makes it seem just great,  
 On this groundhog day we think of one thing,  
 Will we have winter or will we have spring?  
 On Gobbler's Knob I see no shadow,  
 Spring will soon be on the meadow.

'Spring Forward' and 'Fall Back' - that's how to remember when to change the clocks. This year we 'Sprung Forward' early on Sunday morning, March 26 - so I hope you remembered to put your clocks forward one hour, for some of us that would have been before we went to sleep on Saturday night! Barry Holt, from Burford GC, after 23 years on the job overslept twice in one week, Barry, what on earth were you doing!

Steve Coone, formally a Grounds Manager on a Private Estate, has changed hats and is the new representative for Golf & Turf and will join James Moore on the road covering Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. Welcome to the Section.

T H White has done a great job in preparing and printing this year's fixture card which will be sent out in the next mail out. One for the diary, so remember to log it, Sonning GC will be the venue for the Gem Summer Tournament on July 4 and Beaconsfield GC will host the AGM and Turkey Trot on November 21 this year.

The first event this year will be held at Wycombe Heights GC, sometime in May. Sorry there is no date at the moment, however we are working on it and promise you will have plenty of notice this year to plan your diary for these events.

Congratulations to Chris Lomas, from the Berkshire GC, who has achieved Master Greenkeeper status after clearing the final of many hurdles in October. Chris has joined 45 others from around the world who have attained such a distinction.

April showers bring May flowers, or a sweet pea or two. After all, the month of 'aperire' is now upon us, when in the northern hemisphere buds begin to open and things start to grow after the winter period, or at least that is what is supposed to happen, but with a mild and wet period over the last few months, I hope the sun has shone for all of you over this Easter period.

An exciting time for Rob Surgey, and his team at Wycombe Heights GC, as a new heat generating plant is being trailed and tested. These plants, known by the scientific name Solar Complexus Americanus, were imported from Venezuela. One plant alone, fed by nothing more than half a litre of water per week, or at regular intervals using the greens irrigation system, generates as much heat as a 2kw electric fire. A few of these horticultural wonders which are submerged just below the surface have been strategically placed around the green surrounds of Wycombe Heights GC in the hope that raising soil temperatures will make frost greens a thing of the past. The Scandinavian botanist behind this and responsible for discovering these hot air producing plants was the much acclaimed Professor Olaf Lipro, who is a keen golfer and member at Wycombe Heights GC.

With all this in mind on May 17 we kick off with our first event of the year at Wycombe Heights GC, and battle it out over this testing course designed by the legendary John Jacobs, that has many varied holes with the course situated on a hillside giving stunning scenery over the Chilton's with a particularly enjoyable finish, which will leave you wanting to come back for more.

Rumour has it, that Adam King, from Radley College, is looking at the feasibility of organising a cricket match between the Section members and the IOG. So if there are any budding beefy Botham's

out there who fancy a whack with the willow, give the graphite a rest and get in touch.

Next the website - Yes, I hear you say - the website? Our cyberspace prayers have been answered. Dean Jones has been busy putting the finishing touches to the first ever BBO Greenkeepers website and this can be found by using the domain name now registered which is: bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk

The aim of the website is to bring and enhance current educational opportunities and social events by communicating better on all topics relating to the Section

Mark Day mark@day.fm

### Mid Anglia

The Spring Meeting will be played at East Herts GC on Friday May 4. This will be 18 holes (pm) and this will also be the qualifier for the National Tournament. Entries sent through to Richard Saunders as normal.

On a sad note, I have to inform you that early in March Steve Mason's wife, Sue, passed away after a short illness. Our thoughts are with Steve and his family.

Gerald Bruce

## SOUTH EAST REGION

### Surrey

Wednesday, March 7. It's nearly 6pm and it's still light, surely spring is just around the corner and if it stops raining the faces I see on my daily wanderings will once again grin in happy contentment. I have just returned home after visiting several customers in Sussex and they like you Surrey guys are trying to find jobs for the boys that keep them off the course and causing more damage than good. On Monday, March 5 one of my visits was to the Drift GC to congratulate Mark Pennels on his appointment as the local Mafia boss. Mark had all his staff working on their irrigation system in anticipation the current rainfall levels dropping to those which we experienced last summer. Mark has assured his members that he has no intention of turning it on yet although he is desperate to see if it works! I sometimes bump into other reps as I travel around upsetting other road users and an old face that I see occasionally knocked on the window of Chris Gosden's office at St Georges Hill GC, as we were putting the world to rights, and grinned as if training for a Gunning competition. Chris Rudkin, that amiable and very able representative from Sheriffs, was gesturing with hand signals that I took to mean my time was up and that he was anxious to get at Chris's budget before it was all gone. Yes Chris Rudkin is older than myself and the years could have been kinder, but he plods on with his little dog, Fang, terrorising, his customers by showing them his photograph in his bus pass. Be sure to take a look next time he calls, as he is a dead ringer for Victor Meldrew, although he doesn't believe it.

Peter Broadbent is saying goodbye to Effingham GC where he has been Course Manager for many years and is taking up the a similar position at Woodcote Park GC and we all wish him a very happy future there. Please, will every member of the Surrey Section welcome Robin Douglas, the new Course Manager at Bramley GC, to our bit of

England and wish him every success and happiness.

Daren Wales, Course Manager at Clandon Regis GC, and an old friend of Matthew Lawrence, at Guildford GC, would like to announce his forthcoming marriage to Caroline on the May 11 at Leatherhead and would welcome all members, if they can find the venue, to have a drink before they leave honeymoon.

Brian Willmott

## **Kent**

Hi everyone, the news a little thin on the ground this month so straight in with a couple of Good Luck messages. Firstly to Tony Neve, who has joined my team at Birchwood Park, as Deputy Course Manager and secondly to Mark Todd who left Nizels GC to take over from Huw Morgan at The Wilderness Club. Best wishes to both of them and, indeed, to Huw as he makes his return to his homeland of Wales.

Our website, which has been off the air for a while, is now up and running again in a very much 'New and Improved' style. Please try to check it when you get a free minute for all the latest news as well as a picture gallery and a few 'funnies' to brighten your day. We are still at the same web address which is at the end of this report. You can contact us through the web page as well to give us any news you may have.

Our next golf day will be on June 12. This will be held at the Westgate and Birchington GC which is a lovely seaside links at Westgate on Sea. Entry forms will be downloadable from the web page soon. We hope to see as many of you there as possible. Other events such as team football and golf matches will also be arranged and details posted on the web as soon as we find someone we can beat!

Rob Holland [www.kentgreenkeepers.co.uk](http://www.kentgreenkeepers.co.uk)

## **London**

Welcome to London Section. I would like to apologise for the delay in the Around the Green, this has been due to a technical problem that we hope is now sorted. So a late Happy New Year to you all! In recent months, there have been a variety of events taking place and I feel that things are moving forward for the Section. In October, an educational seminar on Woodland management was held at Oaklands collage. It was a highly productive day and very informative. Thank you to John Nicholson and Mike Edwards for their invaluable input.

Watch out Arsenal, Tottenham and Chelsea - we don't need your millions, the London Section now has a football team to be proud of! The team have been in impressive form, apart from the slip up, against Surrey. Watch out for the re-match!

The Turkey Trot in December was once again held at Porters Park GC, with a great turn out of 55. There was a good standard of golf on the day.

We must give a special mention to Sam Brennan, of Old Fold Manor GC, who got a hole-in-one on the nearest to pin hole with a classy 8-iron. His joy soon turned to regret when handed the bar bill!

The results of the day are as follows: Nearest the pin - Sam Brennan, Old Fold Manor GC; Longest drive - Nick Beesley, Stockley Park GC.

Texas Scramble results: 1. Northwood GC, 60 pts; 2. Highgate GC, 56 pts; 3. Brookmans Park GC, 54 pts; 4. Stockley Park GC,

53 pts.

Congratulations to Martin Smith and his team for presenting the course in superb condition. Thank you to the catering staff and the bar staff and thank you to our main sponsor, Scotts.

Please see below for fixtures and events for 2007:

Spring meeting (Olivers Toro trophy) at Brookmans Park GC, Wednesday April 25, tees from 12pm; Summer meeting at Gerrards Cross GC, Thursday, August 14, tees from 1.45pm. Turkey trot meeting (Scotts Trophy) at Porters Park GC on Wednesday, December 12, tees from 10am.

Paint balling, Saturday, June 9 at Brickwood, contact London Section Secretary Aaron Percival on: 07966 247913 spaces are filling fast.

Finally if you have any information e.g. achievements, good or bad news or anything interesting please let me know on 07818410333. Thank you.

Matt Plested

## **Essex**

Our first meeting of the new Committee took place at Colne Valley GC, with a full attendance of the committee. Several matters were discussed and these will become apparent in the next few months.

Paul O'Kane, Colne Valley GC, qualified to travel to the GCSAA Golf Industries Show and Conference in Anaheim, USA as part of the Bernhard & Co contingent representing BIGGA. I spoke with him for some minutes and he was really enjoying himself and I'm sure he made some good friends out of the other lads on the trip. Don Clark, Orsett GC, went with Andy Turbin, Ernest Doe & Sons and Ransomes Jacobsen. Here again I'm sure that they will both have learnt a lot from their experiences. While I was there I bumped into Ex-Essex member Andy Sheehan, and a few other faces from the past and present. A very large and exciting show and well worth the trip, lots to learn and plenty of new people to meet. Next year it's in Orlando, Florida. So why not take the family along and make a holiday of the whole thing?

Don't forget the Spring Tournament sponsored by Avoncrop Amenity Products. Wednesday, May 2, Gosfield Lake GC, get your entry in early to avoid disappointment.

Just a note if anyone has moved or has not been getting correspondence from the Section please notify Martin Forrester on: 07984-867.939 or by Email: [mdwforrester@hotmail.com](mailto:mdwforrester@hotmail.com) On Thursday, May 17, at Brookweald Cricket Club, Weald Road, South Weald Park, Brentwood, we are holding an Essex BIGGA v Trade cricket match. Start time is 2.30pm. Those interested in playing in the teams should contact Ian Wood on 01708 746157 or mobile 07952470861 or email [ian.wood@romfordgolfclub.co.uk](mailto:ian.wood@romfordgolfclub.co.uk) those not interested in playing but just enjoying the fun, are welcome too. There is a bar open all afternoon and evening. Would all applicants please include official club handicaps with their applications.

Move news of the month, is that Antony Kirwan is moving from Colchester, where he has been for the last eight years, to take on the role of Head Greenkeeper just down the road at Lexden Wood GC. I'm sure that you will all join me in wishing him the best of luck in his new job and the next stage of his career in greenkeeping. You should all be receiving a flyer through the post from Paul O'Kane (Education) informing you of some of the courses that he is

intending to run. There will be limited availability for these courses so an early response would make your chance of getting a place more certain. Fixture cards should also be dropping on your mats, please study these and make a note in your diary.

I'm sorry that this month's news is short but it's the time of year plus I've only just returned from the States.

Sadly I have to inform members of the passing of Jack Cheeseman on March 14, Ex Head Greenkeeper at Colne Valley Golf Club and also in mid February Daryl Spellburg who was Head Greenkeeper at Miller Barn Golf Club.

Anyone who has any news for inclusion can Email me: [highwoods.photographic@virgin.net](mailto:highwoods.photographic@virgin.net) or call me: 01206 852353  
Arnold Phipps-Jones



### South West

I was really sorry to hear that Mark Ford, Head Greenkeeper at Kingsdown GC, has been taken ill recently. Mark, all in the Section wish you a swift and complete recovery. February 22 really was the first day of Spring – mild and temperate, golden sunshine, a warm breeze. Okay, it tanked down with rain all day, blew a gale, and was freezing cold as well. All perfect ingredients for yet another successful South West Section Meeting. The venue was Stockwood Vale GC, Keynsham, but despite the weather we couldn't have had a warmer welcome, or been better looked after. The course, prepared to an almost unbelievable standard by Steve Francome and his team, may have been a little soft underfoot, but that in no way detracted from the day. Yes there actually was golden sunshine, but not until after we'd finished playing golf and retired to the bar. Still, spare a thought for Roger Davey, of sponsors Irritech, - all psyched up for a PowerPoint Presentation after the golf, only to have all his equipment stolen from his hire car the day before. So no laptop, projector, or notes – other people may have crumbled, but Roge is made of sterner stuff – he came up with a quiz on irrigation, and a prize for the highest score. After much deliberation, Chris "the big suntan" Sealey (just back from a fortnight in Goa) won on 14 out of 20 something. I lost count and blew it on the back-ten. The golf was keenly contested as usual, and was well won by Nigel Pring, from Farrington Gurney, with 37 points. Nige, who dragged himself onto the 1st tee moaning about failing eyesight, piles, and not having hit a ball since before Christmas, proceeded to take the course apart playing the back nine in just one over. Jamie Acton came second with 36, and yours truly third with 35. Well done to all the members who attended, both the golf and the Irritech event – the day was a great success.

Thanks to Nobby for all the hard work behind the scenes, and thanks to all the Patronage Partners for their sponsorship. All these names are on the fixture card, but could I just welcome John Mullins, and Vitax, who have recently joined the scheme. Talking about the fixture list, Nobby was offering a prize for who can spot the most deliberate mistakes – the printers dropped a complete clanger, failing miserably to delete some of last year's info from the list. The National Tournament is not at Ogbourne (unfortunately), and you will not be expected to turn out on a Saturday to play at the AGM – the correct date is Thursday, October 11 at

Minchinhampton New.

I had the very great pleasure of bumping into my old friend, Ian McFarlane, long-time Greenkeeper at Saltford GC. In fact 29 years at Saltford, and a career of 47 years-greenkeeping in total. Beat that. Ian was reminiscing of his early days at North Berwick in 1959 - after being at the club for about three months, one morning the boss told him that someone else was going to rake all the bunkers that day, and Ian was going to be allowed to mow one or two greens. Ian whooped for joy and headed straight for the Atco kick-start petrol mower. "Nae so fast laddie," said the boss – "when you get your lines straight, we might let you have a go with that one - until then..." (Gesturing towards a 16 inch push mower) "Enjoy yourself with this!!" (The greens at North Berwick are the size of small football pitches). Happy Days.

Darren Moxham has taken over from Ian at Saltford, and all in the Association wish you well Darren. Ian told me that there was a "nice gathering" for his retirement in the Saltford clubhouse, with a sizeable delegation of members and officials assembled to make a presentation and mark the occasion. In his acceptance speech, Ian, ever the diplomat told them that despite their generosity today, at one time or another during his career he had cursed each and every one of them out on the course! Ian, we wish you a very happy and lengthy retirement. Another retirement in the offing is Ivor Scoones from Long Ashton. Ivor has recently been hors de combat with a knee replacement operation so James Braithwaite has taken over the running of the course. We wish Ivor a swift recovery. I joined the BGGGA in 1975, and Ivor was already well established as the Head Greenkeeper at Long Ashton and went on to be National Chairman of both the BGGGA and BIGGA, as well as Regional Chairman. I remember very well the first section AGM that I attended at Knowle GC in 1976. Ivor was the incoming Secretary, Bob Gates the Chairman, Frank Ainsworth the outgoing Secretary and Derek Cheetham the Match Captain. The atmosphere was like something out of "Twelve Angry Men", with a hot debate about the PGA merging with the Greenkeepers Association, and those four had some very strong views. As a vulnerable teenager I remember cowering at the back and thinking, Please God, don't let him ask me anything!

Back at Minch, Abbotts only have four greens left to do and I'm counting down the days. The local gyppos have recently decided to help by raiding the Abbotts compound, and also our machinery shed. The locks on Abbotts steel containers were cut off like child's play, presumably with the same angle-grinder as peeled open our machine store. Happily our alarm went off before they could nick anything, and of course the police came screeching up about five hours later with the Scenes of Crime officer and his oppo looking like something out of Hinge and Bracket (and about as effective). Needless to say, the criminals disappeared like smoke in the night as did several Abbotts generators and other small expensive pieces of equipment.

Finally, Chris Sealey has long-forgotten Goa as he has just had his application accepted to join the maintenance team at Oakmont for the US Open this year. Oakmont Country Club, Pennsylvania, has greens which are reputed to be "like putting down marble staircases", but maybe no-one told Chris that it also has over 180 bunkers (before he rashly volunteered to rake them every day). Ernie Els was the US Open Champion there in 1994, Larry Nelson before him in 1983, and Johnny Miller shot what is generally

accepted to be the greatest round of the 20th century, a 63 to win the US Open there in 1973. The 3rd and 4th holes feature the famous "Church Pews" bunkers, from which Arnold Palmer once famously took four shots to escape. Hope Chris makes a better job of raking it than Arnie did. One thing is certain – there are few people who deserve this experience more than Chris. Nobby has asked me to remind all members that in order to receive details and invites to tournaments and meetings, they must register with him by returning the slip which was circulated with the fixture lists. Wayne Vincent has also asked that members wishing to represent the section team get in touch with him direct on 07958630590. See you all at Cotswold Hills on the 25th.

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

### South Coast

It's been a wet winter (understatement) but there is light at the end of the tunnel. Our golf season for the Section is nearly upon us.

Our first outing will be the Spring Tournament at Romsey GC on May 3. This event is very special to the section as we remember Colin White. So, it is also very appropriate that Avoncrop Amenity Products are one of the main sponsors, alongside Vitax Ltd. If you have not already received your invite please contact Chris Sturgess on: 07773 138409 or email him: chrismaggisturgess@tiscali.co.uk. Start time TBA.

Approximately four weeks following Romsey will be the Scotts/BIGGA Management Trophy. This will take place at Stoneham GC on May 31. Each Golf Club that enters a team must make up a four ball which must include a member of their greenkeeping staff, the other three must be members of the Clubs Management eg Secretary, Chairman, Chairman of Green, President etc. This is reasonably flexible as long as a Greenkeeper is part of the team. This is an excellent day as it really encourages good networking across the whole of the industry. This was definitely the positive feedback from last year's event. The cost per team is £90. The prizes include individual rewards plus £200 of Scotts products for the winning Golf Club. Jane Jones will, if not already, contact you with further booking detail.

The final of last years or this years or - I'm sorry I can't keep up with the Jim Fry Pairs Competition - is between Tony Gadd and Fred Deamen vs Steve Privett and Simon Justice. Good luck to all! Joking aside, the organising of this competition has been an absolute nightmare for Phil Wentworth. I'm sorry to report from Phil that teams are not organising and completing fixtures on time. This is an superb competition which really gets you guys mixing with other Section members and visiting golf clubs within the South Coast that are not on the current years fixture list. So come on people if you are going to enter this year, please complete your matches on time. This year's organiser for the Jim Fry Pairs is Alan Magee. Thank you very much to Phil Wentworth who has done a tremendous job with this event.

And now, to finish on a positive note, many congratulations to Martyn Bennett, of Basingstoke Golf Club for winning the NVQ Student of the Year in Amenity Horticulture and Sports Turf as awarded by Sparsholt College. Well done mate, keep up the good work and hope to see yourself and the lads from Basingstoke at this years golf days.

That's all for now folks. I will see you on the first tee at Romsey,

if not before.

Joe Crawley 07721 389200

### Devon and Cornwall

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Michael Wannell, who is a Greenkeeper At Bovey Castle GC who has just won the 1.0.0. Groundsman Award for the Wales and South West Region, it is the first time that a Greenkeeper has won this award. Michael has been in the profession for two years working under the guidance of Mike Symons the Head Green Keeper, before becoming a Greenkeeper he worked for the National Trust, at present he is working on his NVQ 11 at the Duchy College in Cornwall, his aim is to be come a Head Greenkeeper in the future - On behalf of our Section we wish him good luck. The award was presented by the IOG National Chairman at Newcastle.

We are very sorry to be losing one of very active members, Chris Pearson, who has been Head Greenkeeper at Newquay GC, in Cornwall, for the past three years, he is returning to Scotland to become Head Greenkeeper at the Dunblane New Golf Course, in Stirlingshire, where I am sure he will be very successful. We will all miss you, Chris, but on behalf of the Section we wish you and your family all the best. I would like to wish Andrew Lunston, who is taking over from Chris. Good luck.

On Wednesday, February 14, the Section held a meeting at East Devon GC, sponsored by Avoncrop, a total of 55 members attended, on yet again a very windy, and blustery day.

Paul Newcombe the Head Greenkeeper took the non-golfers on a course walk while the Golfers played for the Avoncrop Trophy. After lunch we had an Educational talk presented by Steve Isaac the Assistant Director-Golf Course Management from The R&A, which to say the least, was very entertaining, and very educational especially as some of our members brought along their Secretaries, and Greens Chairman, and a Club Captain, I know they were very impressed with the talk

The Result of the Golf Competition is as follows: 1. Mark Evans, RN.D GC, 31pts; 2. Andy Parker, Ilfracombe GC, 28pts; 3. Steve Elliot, West Cornwall GC, 25pts.

Donovan O Hunt Administrator

### South Wales

Hi everybody, I don't know about you lot but I've had just about enough rain to last me all summer long, but I expect by June we'll have a hosepipe ban! Dry patch, I could do with a dry patch right now so I can move my machines around, the grass is growing and its to wet to cut it, except for you lucky old links boy's.

A date for your diaries, the annual BIGGA Spring Seminar will be held on May 3 at the Royal Porthcawl GC in the Common room and the day will be sponsored by Farmura Environmental and STRI will be in attendance, details will be finalised and sent out to the members at a later date. This fixture is usually very well attended so please return your forms early to avoid disappointment. That's it for this month nobody has any news for me so I will go back to my very wet course, if you have anything you think we should now about ring me on: (07889792190) or email me at: henry@henrystead.wanadoo.co.uk. As I write this, the newscaster is telling us we could have a hose pipe ban in the summer good old Britain! Keep on smiling.

Henry Stead



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

## SQUIGGLY SODUKU

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

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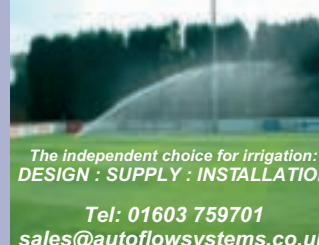
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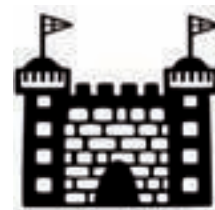
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# Chairman's Column



## Where Does the Time Go?



**Where does the time go? I was waiting for my daughter, Summer, at school yesterday and my phone started ringing its head off. It was BIGGA HOUSE. "Hi Billy. How are you?" I'm very well, young lady," I replied. We exchanged a few pleasantries then, Melissa Toombs, our Assistant Editor, said, "This is just a reminder that we haven't received your Chairman's column for next month's magazine." "Ooh," I said. "What's the absolute deadline for it then." Hoping she would say something like, "Next week, or you have loads of time, Billy," "Friday." she said. "Ooh. Is it now," I replied, "Yes," she said. "Will that be ok, Billy?" What I wanted to say was not for this magazine and will be confined to my head but I'm sure you have an idea of what was on the shortlist of replies that I could have used, but instead I said, "No problem, young lady. "I'm sure that will be just fine and you will have it on Friday."**

So here we are again and yes the time does fly, unlike when I was a young lad waiting for something to happen. You know, like a birthday, or something special like a holiday. It always seemed like an age before anything happened and we spent our lives counting days off the calendar.

Then we grow up and become a little wiser, now that's a debate all in itself, and we start planning things out with the short, medium and long term in mind. In some ways the innocence of youth has its attractions, however frustrating those long past days might have seemed at the time.

It's with thoughts to the future that I might dabble for a moment. Like death and taxes there is nothing more sure than we all will become older and, yes, end our exciting lives in the world of greenkeeping and the daily thrust of the wonderful life of producing a golfing experience for our members and guests at our own golf clubs.

So, have we planned for that time in our life when we have the freedom to take on a new challenge of something new? Well, I see some who have mastered the art of planning and securing something for the future and then, on the other hand, I see those who have found themselves in a position considerably less well off compared with the lifestyle they have enjoyed during their working life.

It's important to put things into context here. We have evolved from a history of poor wages and living in a tied house as the norm, at golf courses associated with high end value property areas. In the most part, we couldn't have dreamed of living, never mind renting or owning, a property there. So what's the problem you might ask? Well, it's kind of like me getting that call from Melissa.

Just as you feel happy comfortable and safe, something unexpected which we haven't thought of or planned for, will come along and take a huge bite out of your bum and put you in a position of having to do something about it before its too late.

In this case for me it was just a few words, but for us all as a whole it's an important development in our lives that needs to be planned for. So I urge you all to be wise and at least give some consideration over the coming years about your future beyond Greenkeeping.

We live in an ever changing world. The days of good pensions have, in my opinion, gone for the masses and become a minority sport for those executives and the very top of the food chain. So what is the answer? Well, I am, as you know, not qualified or so clever enough to give you that advice. However, I'm sure that there has to be a viable and better way forward for us all. So please explore every avenue possible and engage your employers to take part. Together, I am sure, if well planned, managed, and with joint benefits in mind, there can be a more secure future for everyone concerned.

I made a visit to a local golf club yesterday to have a look at a new irrigation lake being constructed, with a view to doing the same at Tyrrells Wood in the near future. Having just gone through about the worst drought in 30 years here in the south east of England last year, it's becoming very common that we have had to re think water storage issues if we are to be sustainable into the future.

I could talk for hours on that subject and all its ills, but another day I'm sure. The thing is I was in the maintenance base and having a coffee with the staff, who, I must say, made me feel very welcome indeed – which without exception is the case when I meet with other Greenkeepers anywhere I travel, so thank you all for that. I am overwhelmed by the reception I have received as your Chairman.

So, Darren, you asked and here it is young man! Your name in lights take it home and keep it forever. Thanks for the time and, of course, the coffee.

It's time to wind up and open my "E"s - another thing that has changed. Who would have thought, years ago, that you could receive and send letters almost in real time anywhere in the world. Now, that is truly amazing don't you think?

The hardest part of me doing it here at home is getting onto the computer with the kids around, chatting with all their mates. So it has, in my case, become a late night pursuit, having spent a few hours trying to get them into bed - an art I have still to master, I'm afraid.

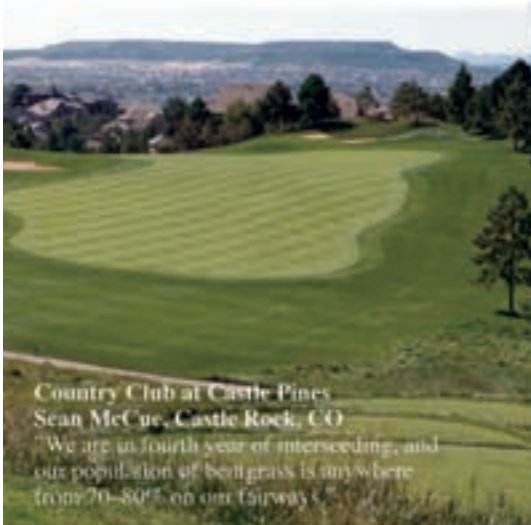
So where does the time go? Well, I think, mostly where you plan it to go. So have a great month, enjoy every moment along the way, engage with others and secure your future.

Billy McMillan  
Chairman

TEE-2-GREEN

# “Interseeding works for us”

HERE IS WHAT **WILL WORK** FOR YOU



Country Club at Castle Pines  
Sean McCue, Castle Rock, CO

“We are in fourth year of interseeding, and our population of bentgrass is anywhere from 70–80% on our fairways.”



Hinsdale Golf Club, Bob Malbusch, MG,  
CGCS, Clarendon Hills, IL

“We had germination in 5-7 days, and just looking at it, 80–90% germination of the bentgrass seed we put down.”



Stone Creek Golf Club  
David Phipps, Oregon City, OR

“I’ve been doing it for two years now, and I’ve seen an overall improvement of appearance, vigor, and turf quality and texture in all my greens.”

“I WILL CONTINUE TO **INTERSEED** TO KEEP GETTING ADDITIONAL POPULATIONS OF **BENTGRASS** OUT THERE AND TO HELP ME COMPETE **AGAINST THE POA ANNUA** POPULATIONS IN OUR FAIRWAYS”

Sean McCue, Country Club at Castle Pines, Castle Rock, CO

These superintendents, from both private clubs and public golf courses across the country, say that interseeding with the advanced bentgrasses from Tee-2-Green is a highly effective method for improving turf.

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“I’VE SEEN AN **OVERALL IMPROVEMENT OF APPEARANCE**”

David Phipps, Stone Creek Golf Club, Oregon City, OR

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