



Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

- The Open Support Team – Carnoustie 2007
- Course Feature – Nuolen GC, Switzerland
- On Course For Safety – Chemical safety
- Overseeding – Talking Heads
- Golf Course Architecture – Turning your worst hole into the best

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Picture: Nuolen GC, Switzerland



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Greenkeeper

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Welcome



Golf on the Up Again?

We're often reported on how the game of golf is in the doldrums and how that has had a direct effect on the greenkeeping industry and BIGGA itself, so it is good to find a survey which appears to indicate some light at the end of the tunnel.

Golf, it seems, is in line to become the number one sport for British men with more than half the male UK population teeing off on a regular basis.

The survey, carried out for the Quinn Direct British Masters, for which BIGGA Vice Chairman, Kenny Mackay and his team at The Belfry, are currently busily preparing, found that 51% of men between the ages of 20 and 50 own golf clubs and claim to play more than once a month. That figure goes up to 65% for those over 30.

The survey also makes the point of making a cost comparison between playing golf and watching football. A season ticket for Chelsea and Arsenal is over £1000 while a season ticket for The Belfry comes in under half of that. When it comes to watching or following the game, 40% of the men asked follow major golf tournaments.

Asked which sporting star they most admired golf again came out on top with Tiger Woods picking up 39% of the vote, 3% ahead of David Beckham with Johnny Wilkinson third with 17%. Now this was obviously carried out before the Lewis Hamilton phenomenon hit town but it is still very pleasing that a non-British golfer should come in ahead of Mr Posh Spice. The fact that the likes of Justin Timberlake, Catherine Zeta Jones, Chris Evans and Ant and Dec also play golf does all to its street cred.

It all indicates that golf is on the up again. And if it is true it's very good news as the game has been stuck in a rut for some time now. Memberships numbers have been down and waiting lists and joining fees are all but a thing of the past at all but the most exclusive clubs. That doesn't help clubs to produce consistent revenue streams, nor does those infamous 2 for 1 deals that have led to golf clubs cutting their throats to attract loss leader business. Golfers have been doing their sums and realising that you can play golf regularly much cheaper as a visitor than as a golf club member.

That can't be right so hopefully if there is a new surge of popularity the concept of being a golf club member will be embraced again and help to stabilise the game.

Wouldn't it be great to see a host of young golfers, welcomed by their local clubs, playing after school, having lessons and enjoying the game which gives us all our living?

However golf clubs will need to become much more friendly places to visit so when people young or old drop in they are welcomed and encouraged.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

NEW DESIGNS

Final year students, studying the BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture at Writtle College, have successfully completed the design and build of three new gardens on the grounds of the College.

The students, who carried out the build as an assessed unit within their course, had to design a garden to a client brief, draw up the specifications and detail drawings, quantify the materials required and then build the 6x6 metre garden in ten days.



Left to Right: Michael Smith, Fay Dyke (designer), Stuart Irvine in their "Inside Out Garden" sponsored by Hanging Garden Nurseries.

All materials were supplied by Writtle College and included recycled materials from previous projects. The plants were sponsored by Hanging Garden Nurseries Ltd, Premier plants UK and Grenville Nursery, all local employers located within a couple of miles of the College.

The Gardens will be used as outdoor classrooms, showing design principles, use of materials, construction issues and horticultural maintenance tasks.

BIGGA HQ TELEPHONE EXTENSIONS

As you should already be aware, BIGGA HQ recently had a new telephone system fitted. When you phone the usual number: 01347 833800, it will ask if you know the extension of the person you would like to speak to. For reference the extensions of BIGGA staff are printed below:

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CLOSE SHAVE

Steve Beverly, Head Greenkeeper at Immingham Golf Club, turned up for work recently to find their secondary greenshed had been broken into, the front door was smashed off and a triple mower had been stolen. The culprits had broken into the side of the shed, started the mower using a screwdriver and rammed it into the door, breaking it off its hinges and then driven off on the mower.

“We followed the tyre tracks off the golf course and down a path to the town centre where we discovered it had been used to ram over a concrete bollard. After a quick search of the surrounding area (on board our Toro Workman!) we took a car out for a drive around to see if we could find it. While we were out, I got a phone call from the police saying they had picked it up on the far side of town (about a mile away) and it had been taken to a local garage.

We now have the machine back and I have to say that it is not as badly damaged as we thought, the front units are badly bent and there is some bodywork damage, but it does still run!”, said Steve.



After inspection the cost to repair the mower was roughly £3000

“Looking back at it all it is quite amusing because out of all the machinery they could have taken they probably stole the slowest machine, and I am also surprised that the engine ran for that long as we have problems with it.”

SIR STEVE REDGRAVE LAUNCHES THE CARRICK



Sir Steve Redgrave helped launch Scotland’s newest championship standard golf course, The Carrick at Cameron House on the shores of Loch Lomond, when it played host to the opening event of the Golden Golf Tour recently.

The Carrick, which is part of the De Vere Cameron House Resort is now open to the public. Designed by acclaimed golf architect, Doug Carrick, the course uniquely, straddles both the Lowlands and the Highlands of Scotland.

At £7 million, the course is believed to be the most expensive ever constructed in the UK and will, for the first time, make the Loch Lomond golfing experience accessible to all.

GREENING THE GAMES

The 2012 Olympics is now looming with work beginning on the Olympic park and stadium site. The TGA is one of three Associations representing the horticulture industry on the Olympics’ ‘Greening the Games’ steering group.

Working alongside the Horticultural Trades Association (HTA), the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) and other industry partners, it is behind the campaign which aims to showcase and achieve a lasting legacy for UK horticulture. Its success has placed landscaping issues high on the agenda and the TGA is pleased to be representing the turf industry.

One of the main reasons the TGA decided to join the Greening the Games group was to endeavour to have our quality standards specified on all the landscaping contracts associated with the 2012 Olympic Games. As an industry body representing nearly 60 turf companies and affiliated businesses across the UK, the TGA feels its standards will give contractors peace of mind when choosing TGA turf. They’ve become more widely used as landscapers and specifiers realised that they can widen their supply base by not restricting themselves to company-specific turf standards. They can also feel reassured that the association is on hand to help with technical and legislative queries should they arise.

The key message from the Olympic delivery bodies is their desire for a sustainable games and the need for the UK horticulture and landscape industry to demonstrate how it can help to deliver that sustainability. There is particular interest in how trees, shrubs and turf can help deliver a carbon-neutral games.

DEAL SIGNED

Sherriff Amenity has announced the extension of their agreement to be the exclusive suppliers of chemicals and turf care products to Crown Golf. The agreement, which also includes the supply of fertilisers, has been in place since spring 2006 and was due to be reviewed in the early months of 2009.

Crown Golf (Bennelong Golf Partners) is Europe's largest golf operator, currently managing 32 properties, with the equivalent of 57, 18 hole golf courses from high end resort, member and pay for play style facilities. The deal gives all Crowns Course Managers the ability to select the appropriate product for any given situation, on their particular course and to meet their own particular budgetary requirement.



Mark Pyrah, Sherriff Amenity Director (left) and Paul Copsey, Crown Golf's Regional Course Manager

GRASS ROOTS SHOW

Technical Surfaces were recently invited to attend the Grass Roots Football Show 2007 held at the Ricoh Arena, home of Coventry FC. The show – now in its second year – was a great success, attracting people and sports clubs from all over the country.

A number of footballing greats attended the show and provision was made for some areas of the hall to be given over to demonstrations of coaching and technical skills. Former England manager Graham Taylor was present and ran some of the coaching courses for the entertainment of the crowd, together with his BBC Radio 5 Live colleague and former Wolverhampton Wanderers striker Don Goodman.

Technical Surfaces were able to link up with TigerTurf, the UK's leading artificial grass manufacturer, who echoed the sentiment of the successful and interesting show.

A further Exhibition is planned for the summer of 2008 using the even bigger venue of the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham such has been the success of the show this year.

BIGGA SW & SOUTH WALES REGION

A Health and Safety Workshop will take place on Wednesday, September 26 at Bridgwater College, Cannington Centre.

This is a tried and tested workshop that proved to be extremely popular when held in other BIGGA regions. This will be a "hands on" and "interactive" approach to gaining H&S awareness with quality trainers, Frank Newbury, Jon Allbutt and Steve Hasell.

The day will be split into four parts: Dealing with Members Complaints on Health and Safety Issues; Health and Safety in the Maintenance Facilities; Compiling Risk Assessments for on the Golf Course and Emergency Action Plan and Accident Reporting.

Delegates fee per person: £25 BIGGA/GCMA/IOG Members and £35 Non Members.

To attend this workshop please send cheques payable to: BIGGA South West & South Wales Region and return to 8 Westmere Crescent Burnham on Sea Somerset TA8 EA.

GREENKEEPERS CLINCH CUP



Paul Dyter of Course Care presents the cup to Tony Gadd, Chairman South Coast Section. Can the Secretaries even things next year?

The annual Course Care Cup was held this year at Upavon Golf Club. The match, sponsored by Course Care is played between the BIGGA South Coast Section and Wessex Secretaries. Running for ten years with honours even, this year's match was a big one and was decided right at the last minute with a half on the 18th, the Greenkeepers winning.

GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY

This year's Golf Management Competition for the South West Section saw 17 teams take part and was held at Long Ashton GC. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all the participating teams and our thanks go to The Scotts Company (UK) Limited who sponsor this event.



The members of the Long Ashton winning team and Mark Rayner who presented the prizes on behalf of The Scotts Company

The winning team received £250 worth of Scott's products for their club together with individual prizes for team members. This year's winners were Long Ashton GC who retained the trophy, second was The Kendleshire and third place went to Taunton and Pickeridge GC.



GOBI DESERT ULTRA-MARATHON SUCCESS

Paul Dawson, Managing Director of Rolawn Limited, has successfully completed the 250km Gobi Desert (China) ultra-marathon in 38hrs 22mins 43secs - finishing in 21st place out of an international field of over 180 competitors from 23 different countries.

The Gobi March is a self-supported footrace across 250 kilometres of Gobi Desert in China, consisting of six stages, lasting seven days. Each competitor had to carry their own gear, food and clothing in a backpack. Competitors had to be fully self-supported throughout the event, the only assistance provided was water, tents and medical assistance. The average backpack carried by the runners weighed about 25 pounds.

“The Gobi March has been an epic experience of a lifetime, so many aspects of the race were unpredictable, the weather has been extreme. After months of dryness, a storm hit while we were going over a 3,800m mountain pass, instead of blazing desert heat we were hit by rain, sleet and even snow, followed the next day by stifling heat with no wind.



“The local culture has been fascinating and we have experienced incredible hospitality from the people, we stayed in the homes of many locals during the week. Another outstanding feature of the race has been the racers themselves, those you might have expected to make it dropped out, while others who you expected to give up stuck with it to the very end.

“An amazing amount of improvisation was also often needed during the race, at times even the most high tech equipment had to be replaced by local technology - the donkey cart, used to help everyone across swollen rivers and camels were used to bring competitors in trouble through altitude sickness down from the mountains. I can honestly say that the whole experience was unlike anything I’ve ever experienced before and I’m rather relieved to have finished in one piece and pleased to have been able to raise money for The Neuroblastoma Society while doing so” said Paul.



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SMOKING LEGISLATION

The new smoking legislation has now become law and, as a confirmed few or so fags a day man, I have a slant on how things are in Australia, as witnessed during a trip I had there last year. Because they have put a whole new interpretation on no smoking on a golf course debate and they sell food and beverages on the course, the law in Australia requires that the control of this smelly and unpopular activity has to be extended to the course as well as all buildings. Now it seems there is a grey area on how this should be applied and therefore each club has made up their own rules for how the law would be interpreted. The club I had the pleasure to play said that you were not allowed to smoke on the tee, fairway, in a bunker or on the green. However, you could smoke to your heart's content in the rough, what a result, the perfect rule to suit my game they must have had me in mind when they thought up that corker.

Now imagine the scene I was looking for my new found friend, Wayne's, ball, you guessed it, in the rough, so we thought we'd have a break and a wee fag at the same time. Well we were both puffing away when over the hill at a rate of knots came a buggy from the direction of the clubhouse. Wayne shouts at the top of his voice it's the bloody fag patrol and throws his fag down so's not to get caught. When the buggy turned up it was the smallest kid in the world ever allowed to drive on a jolly round the course. Anyway the fag had caught some tinder and was billowing clouds of smoke from around his feet, it looked so funny it made me wonder why they chose the rough as the best place really. Now another club had taken a different approach to the law and decided that you couldn't smoke on the even holes but it was perfectly ok to smoke on the odd holes. With the final club choosing the following method i.e. they drew an imaginary line through the hole and you could smoke on the left of that line but not on the right - what a nightmare I can see a few smoking rules being argued on that one. I suppose like the rules of golf if you were unsure you could take another fag and ask for a ruling when you got back to the clubhouse.

Billy McMillan, BIGGA Chairman

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY TURF PROGRAMME

Former Writtle College student, Daniel Weston, who studied NVQ Level 2 and 3 in Sports Turf, has been awarded a place on the Ohio State University Global Turf programme.

Daniel, aged 20 from North Weald, Essex, learnt about the programme while studying at the College. He will travel to Ohio State University in mid-June for an induction, he will then go on to start his internship at Pinehurst Resort located in North Carolina, which in 2005 played host to the US Open. Daniel will work as a Trainee Greenkeeper alongside Steve Wilson, a Superintendent at Pinehurst and also a former student of Writtle College.

The Pinehurst Resort has a total eight golf courses and although Daniel will be training mainly on Course No.5, he will also spend some time away from Course No. 5, this will include volunteering for maintenance duties at the Women's US Open which is being held at Pine Needles, one of the resorts neighbouring properties.

Daniel said: "I am dyslexic and through support from the College I was able to successfully



complete the NVQ Level 2 and 3. I was encouraged to apply for the programme at Ohio State while at the College, but wanted to gain experience in the UK first. I'm now ready to move on and taking part in the Ohio State programme will enable me to gain an international perspective of the sports turf industry. It will definitely enhance my career prospects."

The Programme brings 19-28 year old greenkeepers from 32 countries around the world. The trainees gain practical training and an opportunity to attend Ohio State for three months of classes related to the turf grass industry. Daniel will have his accommodation arranged for him when he gets there and be part of a team of seven trainees, from different countries, training at Pinehurst Resort this summer.

FLACKWELL HEATH GC'S LOCAL KNOWLEDGE PROVES DECISIVE

The Midland Region Golf Management Trophy day, sponsored for the 9th successive year by Scotts UK Professional, was held at Flackwell Heath Golf Club, High Wycombe on July 5.



The winning team, left to right: Ian Hulley (Manager/Secretary); Mick Fance (Scotts); Sandy McNichol (Captain); Dean Jones (Head Greenkeeper) and Tony Finch (Chairman of Green)

The Region's thanks are extended to the host club and to Mick Fance of Scotts for the continued sponsorship.

A full field played on a windy and testing course, which had been superbly prepared by the Head Greenkeeper, Dean Jones and his staff. The hospitality provided by Flackwell Heath Golf Club and all of the staff was excellent, and even the weather relented until mid afternoon.

The format, of four man teams comprising of a greenkeeper (who is a member of BIGGA) and three golf club officials playing a Stableford with the best two scores on each hole to count, has proved a popular event over the years. Local knowledge, particularly on the greens, enabled the host club to win with 82 points. Close runners up were Welwyn Garden City Golf Club with 80 points on count back from Tilsworth Golf Club. Nearest the pin on the 3rd hole was won by Brian Allonby from Letchworth Golf Club and the longest drive on the 13th hole was David Spring from Welwyn Garden City Golf Club.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

This years' Scottish National Tournament was something of a first. We crossed, albeit by only six miles, to Berwick-upon-Tweed (Goswick Golf Club) for our Scottish National Tournament on Thursday, June 21.

The Course Manager, George Thompson, has been a stalwart supporter of the East Section of BIGGA for many years and it is only fitting to follow the policy of the Scottish Board to move the Championships throughout the Country or, in this case, another country.

We were made most welcome at the club and with a Haar (sea mist) encroaching over the course, were slightly apprehensive about the playing conditions. However, we were assured that once the tide turned everything would be fine, and indeed this was the case.

Competitors were looking forward to playing Goswick as it has now been placed on the Regional qualifying list for the Open in 2008. The course was in fine condition, playing to its full length and with the usual breeze on a links course, provided a stern test for the competitors. Some fine scores were returned despite the difficult conditions and the eventual winner of the Championship was Kenny Stirling from Kingsbarns GC with a fine 73. The winner of the Handicap Championship was Douglas Barr from Caird Park, Dundee with 78-10=68.

Our thanks go to Captain, Brian Paton and the Board of Directors of Goswick Golf Club for allowing us the opportunity to play this fine course and to George Thompson, Course Manager and his staff who had Goswick in quite a magnificent condition. Thanks also to Ian Alsop, Secretary and Fiona Galbraith, Club Stewardess for their help in organising proceedings.



Scottish National Tournament prize winners

Prize Winners: SGGG Challenge Cup, a follows: Scratch Scottish Champion - Kenny Stirling, Kingsbarns, 73pts; Friendship Trophy. Handicap Champion - Douglas Barr, Caird Park, 68pts; Ransomes Trophy. First Class, Mark Pagan, Eyemouth, 72pts; 2. James McCormack, Kirriemuir, 74pts; 3. Stuart Greenwood, North Berwick, 75pts.

Pattison Trophy. Second Class, Robbie Murdoch, Dundas Parks, 69pts; 2. Douglas Greenshields, Eyemouth, 73pts; 3. Derek Wilson, Irvine, 75pts.

STRI Trophy. Third Class, John Wilson, Irvine, 75pts; 2. Colin Black, Blairbeth, 76pts; 3. Eddie McGee, Blairbeth, 93pts.

Dick Aitken Trophy: Best Head Greenkeeper - Archie Dunn, Auchterarder, 74(BIH); M & M Trophy: Best Assistant - Alan Russell, Archerfield, 73(BIH); SIGGA Trophy, Best Veteran - James Manuel, Goswick, 74pts.

St.Mungo Trophy, Team Trophy (Best 4 net scores) - Robbie Murdoch, Dundas Parks, 69pts; Mark Pagan, Eyemouth, 72pts; Douglas Greenshields, 73pts; Alan Russell, Archerfield, 73pts. Total: 287pts.

Patrons Trophy. Jim Smith, Rigby Taylor, 71pts; Qualifiers National Tournament; Kenny Stirling, Kingsbarns and Douglas Barr, Caird Park.

Peter J Boyd, Regional Administrator

STUDENTS END YEAR LONG JOURNEY

The first three students to graduate from the Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers' Association (FEGGA) Scholarship Programme for Golf Course Management visited Ransomes Jacobsen's Head Office and manufacturing plant in Ipswich recently at the end of their end year-long placement in Spain.

Petr Moucha from the Czech Republic, Tuukka Montinen from Finland and Elena Gonzalez Perez from Spain spent a day with the golf course machinery manufacturer prior to visiting Elmwood College to collect their diplomas following the successful completion of their educational programme.

FEGGA, in association with Polaris World and Ransomes Jacobsen, have devised the programme to provide aspiring young greenkeepers with the opportunity to gain further practical and theoretical experience, using the facilities at several of the Polaris World golf courses in Murcia.

Tuukka Montinen, speaking on behalf of all three students said, "This was tremendous opportunity and an experience that we will never forget. We are extremely grateful to Sylvain Duval, the Director of Golf at Polaris World, for his support and to Ransomes Jacobsen for their sponsorship of the lecture programme and numerous other items, which made this such a fantastic experience."



Left to right: Alan Prickett, RJ Sales Director; FEGGA students - Petr Moucha, Tuukka Montinen, Elena Gonzalez Perez, Sylvain Duval, Polaris World, Dean Cleaver, CEO of FEGGA and David Withers, RJ Managing Director

INCREDIBLE!

When 21 year old Llanwern Assistant, Rhys McDonnagh, holed-in-one in a friendly match with his fellow assistant Gary Humphries, at Newport Golf Club, eight months ago he nipped off the course before he got back to the clubhouse so he wouldn't be faced by a large bar bill.

Last month he wasn't so lucky.

Playing in a charity day at Parc Golf Club, in Newport, he repeated the feat on the 16th hole, then after a regulation par 4 at the 17th he did it again at the 18th. Two holes-in-one in the space of five shots!

"It was a team event, two scores counting and everyone was on the green at the 106 yard 16th so I decided to go straight at it with a sandwedge and it bounced once and went straight in. We went absolutely crazy," said Rhys, who has seen his handicap cut to 4.

"At the 18th the group in front had already played and said we should play too, to speed things along. Gary hit a 6-iron and was just short so I hit a 5-iron to the 175 yard hole. I didn't see it go in as there was the shadow of a tree covering the hole but apparently it bounced once and went straight in again. Gary thought it was in and dropped his back and sprinted up to the green pulled out the pin and the ball jumped out.

"I was so glad the other team was watching as they witnessed it as no-one would have believed me otherwise. I was speechless, my head all over the place," he said.

Back at the bar where he was greeted by everyone, including 20 members of Llanwern, he was overwhelmed. This time he had to put his hand in his pocket and he bought two bottles of whisky to celebrate while everyone bought him a drink.

"We won the team event and I got some balls for nearest the pin," he added.

Since then he's appeared on Radio 5 Live, in the local paper, the Sunday Mirror while Golf Punk magazine also got in touch.

"The guy from the local paper contacted a company who deal in statistics and they said the odds on it happening were 67 million to one while I will have to play for 137,842 years to repeat the feat."

And that doesn't include his other hole-in-one on the 135 yards 2nd at Newport, one he made with a 9-iron.

CUSTOMER SERVICES EXPAND

Rolawn have announced three key appointments in their Customer Services department.

Kath Atkin has been promoted to the new position of Customer Services Manager. Reporting to her are Vicky Flanagan and Kate Blake who have been promoted to the positions of Sales Office Supervisor and Customer Services Supervisor respectively.

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REFLECTING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

"It was 20 years ago to-day" as the famous Beatles song goes but it truly was when BIGGA was born and David Golding, GTC Education Director takes time out to reflect on the momentous day and how greenkeeping, and in particular how greenkeeper education, has changed

1st August 1987, the day BIGGA commenced with full time staff (2), a landmark day and one that many people should be proud of. Too many to mention by name and sadly some no longer with us to celebrate the progress the association has made.

Progress was rapid in the early years, mainly due to the support from the Home Unions, the R&A with funding, but also a number of dedicated greenkeepers.

From 1912 there have been greenkeeping associations striving to gain credibility with employers and from the 111 members who formed the Golf Greenkeepers Association (GGA) to the approximate 5,500 greenkeeping members of BIGGA today, we must never lose sight of what brought those 111 together back in 1912 - education!

The Scottish Golf Greenkeepers Association, later to be renamed Scottish & International Golf Greenkeepers Association (SIGGA), the British Golf Greenkeepers Association (BGGA) and the English & International Golf Greenkeepers Association (EIGGA), all played an incredible role in the education of greenkeepers. Then many of the movers and shakers for the sector got together in the mid-80s and the formation of BIGGA came about in 1987.

The first formal greenkeeping course was offered by Langside College only because members of SIGGA persisted in wanting a specific sports turf course and qualification. This doesn't seem all that long ago and when I read that there are too many qualifications in sports turf I reflect on the battles we have had to gain national recognition for our specialist sector! A certain GTC was also plugging away in the background with the Home Unions and other bodies meeting to discuss golf course development including greenkeeper training.

On the appointment of Neil Thomas, the GTC also started to develop into an employer led body, and more importantly a voice at national meetings where the content and structure of greenkeeping qualifications were being discussed and developed. The influence of the media and the demand for quality playing surfaces has certainly helped the development of the sport.

So what has really changed since the formation of BIGGA and the reformed GTC in 1993?

Communication: The R&A document circulated in 1998 to all Golf Clubs identified communication as a priority area for the GTC and BIGGA to address and I have seen huge improvement. Specialist courses organised by BIGGA and the GTC approved training providers has seen competent greenkeepers being transformed into excellent professional communicators. Our colleges were very good at delivering the turf theory however, it was only when HG's started to demand better communication training that things started to improve. In fact many Head Greenkeepers then became involved in the training sessions themselves.

Employer body support: I am possibly best placed to comment on this area having worked for BIGGA from 1989-1993 and with the reformed GTC administrating a Board and technical committee funded by golfers through a per-capita levy, currently 11.15p.

The R&A have been great supporters of the work of BIGGA and the GTC but a recent decision stopped their match funding of the per-capita levy, preferring to consider special projects, has focused the remaining funding bodies on the aims and objectives of the GTC.

The fact that the English, Scottish and Welsh golf Unions collect the levy from the golfers and BIGGA contributes the same from its members, shows a commitment from both the employers and employees at golf clubs.

In simple terms, the Government want industries to take the lead on qualifications content and structure, health & safety guidance, apprenticeship frameworks and the GTC does all of these and more!

This work is carried out much in the same way as it has since 1912 with specialists and representatives giving their time working to ensure quality standards, information and the sharing of best practices are available to both employers and employees. The government challenge the education and training providers to meet industry requirements and provide courses to suit learner and employer needs.

The GTC has tried to promote a partnership approach with Awarding Bodies and its Approved Training Provider network and this continues to be a great strength for our sector. The sector has a small range of sports turf qualifications ranging from vocational (work based) to a Degree and a respected apprenticeship scheme. All of these formal qualifications are supported by short courses, certificates of competence, workshops and seminars.

The suppliers: If you want to aerate deeper, faster and with no disturbance to the surface, the machine is on the market and this analogy is true in so many areas of turf maintenance. Credit to the companies who have courted the views of the operators. True, we have seen some gimmicks along the way but in the main the equipment, machinery and suppliers of turf care products have really come up with the goods.

In summary, I truly believe greenkeeping and golf has come an incredibly long way in a relatively short space of time and the GTC, including BIGGA, must look forward to the challenges ahead just as those 111 members back in 1912 must have done.

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Another busy month in the Education and Training Department followed the reorganisation of the office, the introduction of a new database, the installation of a new telephone system and the introduction of a new member of staff. Rachael Duffy joined the department in June and has been busy learning her new role and fitting in a week working at The Open. Sami has been working on the Environment Competition and preparing the Continue to Learn brochure. I have been concentrating on the SMS and starting my handover to Sami. Yes, it's really happening, I'm taking early retirement from the end of September.



TORO Student of the Year Competition

I joined George McDonald, Trevor Chard, John Pike and Robert Jackson, from Toro, and Archie Dunn, Tony Smith, Jeff Mills and Gavin Robson from the BIGGA Board to judge this year's competition - travelling over 1000 miles and interviewing candidates from around the UK and Ireland. The standard of this competition gets better each year and we had a very difficult job selecting the eight candidates to progress to the Final at BIGGA HOUSE on September 17.

The finalists are: Neil Plenderleith from Oatridge College; Jamie Duncan from GOSTA; Lewis Birch from Askham Bryan College; Stuart Ross from Pencoed College; Richard Oakley from Bridgwater College; Avon Bridges from Oaklands College; Greg Knight from Writtle College; Simon Lambert from Plumpton College. Congratulations to all eight finalists and commiserations to those not selected.



BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

With entries up on previous years, the 2007 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition looks to be one of the most successful competitions for some time as many more golf clubs want to show how much work they have done to become "greener". The judges at STRI have been busy sifting the applications and clubs should be hearing shortly if they have progressed to the next stage and been selected for a visit. Final judging will take place in late Sept/early Oct and prizes will be presented on Tuesday, January 22 during Harrogate Week.



BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System

After a long wait, the BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System has finally gone live on the Internet. I have noticed that an increasing number of golf clubs have logged onto the SMS

website and I hope that it is proving to be useful. BIGGA members can access the SMS through the BIGGA members' area and GCMA members can access the SMS through their library area. Non-members need to join one of the Associations to gain access.

The SMS contains a massive amount of information that can help you to produce a Safety management System for your golf club. Moreover, it contains a range of links that allow you to search the 'net' and find additional information on golf course risks. The SMS also links other BIGGA resources such as the Training and Development Manual and the Machinery and Work Equipment Training and Assessment Manual.



Continue to Learn 2008

The preparations for the Continue to Learn 2008 programme, supported once again by the GTC, are almost complete. Copies will be distributed in the October edition of GI when you will see a varied and challenging week of Workshops and Seminars has been designed. The programme will also be available on the Harrogate Week website www.harrogateweek.co.uk

STRI Training Courses

The STRI has released their programme of training courses for the autumn. Of special interest to greenkeepers are:

Understanding the Science and Management of Your Golf Course, November 5 – 8, 2007 at STRI, Bingley - Module One: Greens Construction and Irrigation; Module Two: Grasses for Golf Courses; Module Three: Nutrition – How to feed your golf course; Module Four: Turfgrass Pests, Weeds and Diseases. Each Module lasts for one day and costs £150 + VAT per person per day. STRI subscribers £135 per person per day. Book all four modules and receive 20% discount

November 21 – 22, 2007 at STRI, Bingley - Integrating Ecology into Golf Course Management – A Practical Approach; Introducing Rough; Scrub Control; Woodland Management; Heathland Management; Water Feature Management; Waste Management and Energy Efficiency. The course lasts for one and a half days and costs £195 + VAT per person (£175 + VAT for STRI subscribers).

More information can be found on the STRI website www.stri.co.uk



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New Approvals System

At BIGGA Headquarters we have decided to speed up the approval of new BIGGA members by approving them in house. Normally it would take up to 28 days for new members to be approved. Now we are aiming to approve new members in five days.

The rest of this month's members will be included in September's GI



SCOTTISH REGION

Jim	Christison	East
Stuart	Diamond	Ayrshire
Scott	Dunbar	West
Douglas	Greenshields	East
Scott	Macfarlane	Central
Neil	McClean	North
Jose	Morales	East
Michael	Murray	Ayrshire
Graham	O'connor	West
Joseph	Smith	Central
Ryan	Stott	North
Ross	Taylor	East
Joe	Thomas	East
John	Thorburn	West
Greg	Springthorpe	East

NORTHERN REGION

James	Beattie	North West
Adam	Britchford	North West
Paul	Brownbill	North West
Tim	Collins	North West
Steven	Cunliffe	North West
Neil	Davey	North West
Grant	Dougherty	North West
Daniel	Gale	North Wales
Graeme	Mutch	Sheffield
James	Parker	North East
Neil	Peters	Sheffield

MIDLAND

James	Hampson	Midland
Iain	Hardaker	Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Neil	Harris	Midland



MEMBERSHIP

GRANULAR AND FOLIAR FERTILISERS IN TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT

By Tim Butler

Golf course greens are an extreme example of a stressed setting. It is important to remember that about 75 per cent of shots are made on the green, yet a green takes up about two per cent of the landmass of a golf course (Rogers, 2006, Pers., Comm.).

On a green, the grass blade is severely reduced by regular mowing. In addition, when the blades are cut and removed, the ability to recycle the valuable minerals contained therein is eliminated. Thus understanding the nutritional requirements of turfgrass is among the most important factors in their successful culture. Correct nutrition is essential for the plant to carry out physiological processes and for maintaining high quality.

The aim of fertiliser application, along with other maintenance practices, is to produce an adequately dense and vigorous turf, which is tolerant to wear, withstands adverse weather conditions, is not prone to diseases, contains few weeds and is aesthetically pleasing.

For highly maintained turfgrass areas, there is an ever-growing selection of products available in both granular and liquid forms and it is easy to become over-loaded with information regarding the various formulations. In the past, granular fertilisers were the main option available to greenkeepers and course managers, as limited liquid formulations were available.

GRANULAR FERTILISERS

Solid fertilisers are dry particles that generally range in size from 0.85 to 4.75mm. The fertiliser material may be crushed, granular, prilled or crystalline and usually, to ensure uniformity, the largest-sized particles are not greater than four times the sieve size in processing that holds about 90 per cent of the product (Crum, 2006, Pers., Comm.).

The granular size is usually quantified using the size guide number (SGN). Generally a SGN under 100 is used on greens, and a size guide number between 125 and 150 on fairways.

Granular fertilisers can be homogenous or non-homogenous. A blended fertiliser, containing mechanically mixed fertiliser products, is an example of non-homogenous. Such products could include a fertiliser that had, for instance, a nitrogen source mechanically mixed with phosphorus and potassium sources to give a complete fertiliser. Such fertilisers often have different colour prills, which vary in size, and problems with segregation of the various prill sizes can occur. When different nutrient sources are combined to give a single granular prill containing all of the nutrients, then a granular homogenous product is produced.



Several forms of granular fertilisers exist, including cold water-soluble, hot water-soluble, and coated materials. Common examples of water-soluble fertilisers include ammonium sulphate, ammonium nitrate and urea. Such liquid fertilisers should not be confused with true foliar fertilisers, which are chelated with amino acids (Vargas, 2006, Pers., Comm.).

Water-soluble fertilisers are very commonly used in turfgrass nutrition. The 'little and often' policy is often used with these sources, since the nutrient content will only last a short length of time. Probably one of the main problems with these fertiliser types is their leaching potential, particularly under heavy rainfall. Slower release products include IBDU, sulphur-coated ureas, polyon and polys products. These products have gained momentum in their use, and many golf course managers use such products particularly during spring and early autumn as a means of ensuring a constant controlled supply of nutrients to the sward. Quick release or foliar products at low rates frequently complement these products.

FOLIAR FERTILISERS

Although turf managers have been practising foliar feeding for some years, there has been a dramatic increase in foliar fertilisation on greens, tees and fairways in recent times, with many managers integrating foliar feeding with granular nutrient programmes. In foliar fertilisation, the fertiliser elements applied to turfgrass leaves are absorbed through tiny cracks or pores in the leaf surface in the wax layer. These pores are very small tubes, and are lined with water. They are called transcuticular pores.

Foliar fertiliser does not penetrate the stomates of leaves. The inner walls of the stomates (water control valves for leaf cooling) are covered with globs of wax, to repel outside water from entering the stomates themselves. Kopec (2001) reported that as the number of stomates increases so too may uptake of larger size chelates such as iron. This is due to the fact that more micro-pores are present between the stomates, as their numbers increase and permeability increases (Kopec, 2001).

Two primary forces regulate the movement of nutrient ions in solution; one is chemical and the other is electrical. Ions move down the chemical gradient from a higher to a lower concentration to reach equilibrium. Ions also tend to be transported most easily against an electrical gradient, when their electronegative potential is low.

Some turfgrass professionals feel that they have more control over their grass growth when using foliar fertilisation and the use of fertigation as a means of applying foliar fertiliser has gained publicity. Other potential benefits of foliar feeding include:

- Rapid greening
- Reduction in leaching potential
- Low cost per unit of nutrient
- Ability to spoon-feed the turf
- More-even grass growth
- Useful when plant is under stress, such as from heat

Probably the two main drawbacks to the use of foliar fertilisation are the cost of the specialized equipment needed and the amount of labour required. Unlike granular fertilisers, in particular slow-release products, foliar fertilisers need to be applied on a frequent basis, since applying large amounts of N, P, and K in a foliar feed will likely burn the foliage.



Common practice among managers when using foliar feeding is 'little and often', with rates as low as one-tenth of a pound of nitrogen being applied every couple of weeks in some situations.

RESEARCH

A lot of confusion currently exists regarding the amount and speed of foliar nutrient adsorption after application. Some turfgrass managers believe that they should irrigate the turf shortly after spraying the nutrients to prevent burning. However, the question remains: Are you actually washing off some of the applied nutrient that has not yet been absorbed? Work at Clemson University has shown that 55 per cent of 15N-urea applied was absorbed by tall fescue and Penncross creeping bentgrass.

Research into foliar absorption rates of macro- and micro-nutrients over time on both bentgrass and annual bluegrass swards is being carried out by Michigan State University, in conjunction with the University of Nebraska and Clemson University. I have been involved in this research under the direction of Professor Kevin Frank at Michigan State University. The study involves using products containing nitrogen sources including ammoniacal nitrogen, nitrate nitrogen and urea. It is being carried out over a prolonged period and so far shows that a high proportion of nutrients applied are absorbed within the first six hours. Further research will hopefully give a better indicator of exactly when the majority of applied nutrients are absorbed.

Many conflicting reports have been released on the topic of foliar versus granular fertilisation. Research carried out by Bigelow et al (2003) at Purdue University in a trial evaluating nutralene (slow-release fertiliser) versus urea applications showed on numerous occasions that the granular product gave better colour and quality compared to the urea. In this experiment nutralene was applied monthly at 0.5lbs N per 1000sq ft and urea was applied every 7-10 days at 0.125lbs N per 1000sq ft to a mature Pennlinks creeping bentgrass green. Liu et al (2006), in an experiment at Clemson University, reported better turf quality in a sward treated with foliar fertilisers compared to granular fertilisers, with the same N input for each.

In my opinion, foliar fertilisation is a very useful tool to turfgrass managers, particularly for applying iron, urea and ammonium nitrogen

as well as magnesium and potassium. Foliar feeding will yield excellent turfgrass quality, however complete replacement of conventional fertiliser programmes (water-soluble and controlled-release products) with complete foliar programmes may be questionable.

It is true to say that the use of granular fertilisers, in particular quick-release products, can be wasteful, as shown by a report suggesting that foliar feeding urea accounted for 95 per cent of plant use compared to about 10 per cent plant use from applications to the soil. Complete removal of granular products from a management programme may reduce nutrient concentrations contained with the turfgrass rootzone dramatically over time and leave a very low reserve for the plant to use if needs be. Thus, at present, the use of foliar feeding with some strategic use of granular fertilisers appears to be best.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tim Butler is currently studying for a PhD in Sportsturf Science at both University College Dublin, Ireland, and Michigan State University, USA.

Pictures: Courtesy of Professor Kevin Frank, Michigan State University

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HOW TO TURN YOUR WORST HOLE INTO YOUR BEST

By Simon Gidman

If members at a golf club were asked which was the worst hole on their course, most would come up with a different one and most would probably base their views on the hole they played the poorest, and who can blame them.

As an architect my views are perhaps slightly different.

But firstly, what constitutes a poor hole in the first place? Is it one laid out in dull surroundings, one on flat land, one without bunkers or other features. It could be all of these but it doesn't have to be. I know of many golf courses set among dreary surrounds, others laid out on featureless terrain, and others with no bunkers at all; and many of these are fine courses.

No, what constitutes a bad hole is one that sets no challenges for the golfer, one that requires no thought as to how it is played, in other words, one poorly designed. Anybody who has attended the Golf Course Design workshop at Harrogate knows the emphasis that we lecturers place on the three philosophies of golf course architecture, penal, strategic and heroic – probably to the slight bewilderment of our audience! But these philosophies are the main ingredients of our business.

The beauty of golf, at least from the architect's point of view, is that through the use of these philosophies, we set the challenges for the golfer. Without them you have a poor golf hole, one that will lack challenge and interest. It will be bereft of hazards, artificial or otherwise, and if you include limited visual interest, poor detailing and poor maintenance in the brew, then you have a bad golf hole.

The process of change comes first with a complete reassessment, not only of the hole in question, but of the whole course in its entirety. It is a gross mistake when redesigning an individual hole, to take that hole in isolation and not to review the remaining golf holes on the course. Ideally no two challenges should be repeated on a golf course and hence it is vital to know and understand the rest of the course. Repeat the same challenges as on other holes and frankly any improvements are fairly superficial.

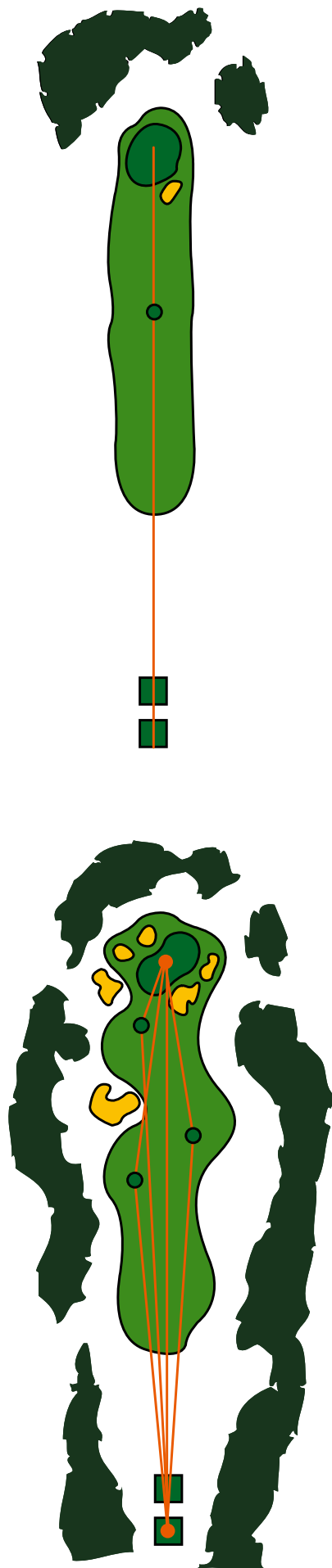
As an example of change, review the plan of above (fig.1). The hole is one of barely 290 yards but as can be seen both from the plan and the photo there is very little else of interest. The tee shot only requires a straightforward drive and a chip to a rather dull looking green – not much decision there! The green itself is barely 300m² but at least in its favour it is fairly flat and there are a decent number of pin positions on the green – even if the putt itself is not that interesting. So, a fairly innocuous challenge. Furthermore the green as one would expect was of the “push up” type using local clay topsoil and is thus closed for large parts of the winter.

A hole with few recommendations!

However the hole has potential.

Short par 4 holes can be great holes. They can create so many options, both for the high as well as the low handicap golfer and distance off the tee is not a prerequisite to success. They give the golfer the opportunity of either playing short and chipping up to the green or, for the more adventurous, an opportunity to go the for the green for a birdie or eagle. Strategic golf!

In the revised design (fig.2) I have suggested a number of alterations. To start with I have placed a bunker at about 230 - 245 yards, just to the left of the fairway. This bunker is a real nuisance as it asks the longer hitter to decide whether to play over the bunker and reach the green or to play short and be conservative. The “soft” drive is the one to the right but the revised angle of the green makes a shot into the green difficult – and it doesn't need another bunker at this point to challenge the golfer any further! For the average golfer the angle of the green determines that the drive be played to the left of the fairway in front of the fairway bunker. But if you play short of the fairway bunker then obviously you have a longer second shot into the green – albeit not significantly longer. I considered the possibility of water but frankly water set half way up a slope rarely looks good and it certainly wouldn't have done in this instance.



The green has been raised by about 0.6 metre partly to emphasise the pitch shot into the green but also to allow greenside bunkers to be set into the slope of the green – and for them to be visible from the fairway. Around the green, the bunkers are sited, 1) to emphasise the best angle into the green, 2) to defend the right side of the green and 3) to improve the overall visual setting of the hole. One cannot completely change the aspect of any hole but you can at least improve it and mounding and good bunkering provides the hole with visual interest and dynamism.

At this particular golf club all the greens are being reconstructed in phases, to USGA specification and to appropriate dimensions. 300m² is far too small for modern day play and while the general flatness of the green maximises pin positions, nevertheless the green presents few challenges. For a short par 4 to retain the interest of the golfer throughout it must have a putting surface to match. I am not a great believer in the extreme gradients and slopes that one sees occasionally on new greens. Tiering is fine and even tiers that might fall from front to back are perfectly acceptable on a short par – particularly if the architect is trying to encourage more of a chip and run shot to the flag. For this particular green I wanted the option of both a pitch shot if the pin was placed at the front half of the green, and a pitch and run shot if the pin was placed to the rear. I eventually settled on a green of about 480m² which rose from the front to the middle (for the pitch shot) and then fell away from the middle to the back (to encourage a pitch and run shot). Furthermore I wanted to discourage still further the shot from the right, so in addition to the bunkers guarding the right of the green, I graded the back of the green both tilting away from the approach but also with a slight right to left slope. Nasty eh! These gradients also provide good competition pin positions. All these design intricacies are illustrated on a detailed scaled plan, usually 1:200 and it takes experience and a considerable amount of skill to replicate what is on the plan, onto site, and anybody who has witnessed quality shapers at work will marvel at the accuracy that can be achieved by skilled drivers with tilt buckets. These people can comb your hair with their buckets if you ask them to – not that I would advise it – and every inch of detail shown on the plan can be reproduced on site. To some extent it doesn't matter how good the architect is or the plan is, if the shaper is not up to scratch then the green will never work – good shapers bring a green to life!

So, we've redesigned the hole, prepared detailed designs and reconstructed the green to a decent specification but it's still only partly complete. As you can see from fig.1 tree planting is fairly limited and a hole like this needs trees – however small they are when they first go in. We have increased the planting considerably and also included for carefully placed individual trees (planted as extra heavy standards) at about 230 yds to the right and 260 yds to the left.

And now comes final part of the jigsaw – the maintenance regime. Whatever potential a golf hole may have on plan or even during its construction, the full promise of a golf hole only materialises during maintenance. As most of the readers of this article will know bringing on a green from seeded, bare earth, to a finely polished surface requires great care with new diseases to confront and new maintenance regimes to incorporate. I have not met a greenkeeper yet who has not enjoyed the experience of bringing on a new green from construction and equally haven't thoroughly enjoyed the challenge.

So, after about two months of discussion and planning, a month or so of construction and six months of maintenance the new hole is ready. The hole has been redesigned with a new green and construction, additional mounding, five new bunkers, reshaping of the fairway and extra tree planting. No longer is the challenge rather uninspiring fayre. Now the golfer has to stand on the tee, make a decision of how best to play the hole and hit it accordingly. It also looks a lot better too. All this and no water!

Simon Gidman is an internationally renowned Golf Course Architect, www.gidmangolf.co.uk



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Manufacturers, including Stihl and Husqvarna, will always recommend their own brand two-stroke oils. In the past, it could be argued that any 'quality' alternative could be used, but these days it can pay to stick with the oil recommended by the manufacturer, particularly with Stihl 4-Mix and Husqvarna E-tech power units. Why? Simply because the power units are tested with these oils, different additive packages within modern oils helping to meet certain engine features

DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS

By James de Havilland

The engines that power brushcutters, and increasingly other items of kit like hedge trimmers and blowers, continuously evolve. Modern two-strokes seem to get quieter, smoother and more fuel-efficient almost year on year, and there is also a choice of true four-stroke and 'hybrid' two/four-stroke power to consider.

True four-stroke engines in this category are no longer big news, but there is still reluctance to buy into these engines among professionals. The reasons why can include power delivery and costs; four-stroke power doesn't come cheap, with a brushcutter of say £400 competing with a two-stroke equivalent that could be perhaps £100 or more cheaper for the same power and performance.

That said, a four-stroke powered brushcutters tends to be cheaper to fuel with the added advantage of doing away with the need to pre-mix the fuel. Having the lubricating oil in a sump, however, poses its own set of problems. Forget to check the oil or neglect change intervals and the engines longevity is compromised. Some engines also need to be stored horizontal to avoid the problem of oil filling up the cylinder; this can lead to some frustration when the machine refuses to turn over, let alone start.

It is also clear that a significant proportion of professionally operated four-stroke brushcutters are fuelled with a two-stroke petrol mix. It is too risky to have different fuels in use when the brush cutter fleet is made up of two- and four-stroke powered machines. This may be at odds with the aim of cutting down emissions as oil in the mix will increase a four-strokes emissions, but practicalities take priority. In fact many dealers suggest running a four-stroke brushcutter on a two-stroke mix is a good idea as it helps keep the engine lubricated if the sump oil level drops below optimum levels.

A useful compromise are 'hybrid' engines that run like a four-stroke but are lubricated like a two-stroke. Now well established in the market, pre-mix four-stroke motors, such as the Stihl 4-Mix offer the fuel economy of a four-stroke with the ease of care associated with a two-stroke. For many they are a happy compromise between the two.

Emissions and the future

Emission wise, two-strokes struggle to match both conventional and pre-mix four-strokes because even the best engines are unable to have as clean a combustion cycle. It is just a factor of their design. Pre-mix

four-strokes are cleaner running, but as they rely on oil in the fuel for lubrication it follows that they too will not match a 'pure' four-stroke for cleanliness.

Emissions are important as these determine how modern engines are designed. In some instances, modern clean running units are actually more fuel-efficient and powerful than the 'dirty' designs they have replaced; a case in point are modern automotive diesel engines. But this is not quite the case in all engines, particularly small petrol power units where carburettors have to be used.

Manufacturers have cleaned up smaller engines by refining combustion chamber and port designs plus fitting tamper proof, precision engineered carburettors. But this can only go so far. Although there are those who suggest two-strokes are likely to be phased out because they will never be clean enough, talk of their demise is misleading.

'traditional' mineral based 25:1 oils. Modern two-stroke oil formulations mix well with unleaded petrol and will clean, lubricate and cool an engine that may be running at speeds in excess of 14,000 rpm. Older mineral oils could separate out of the petrol mix if not agitated and it would not be suitable for use in a modern close tolerance, high speed two-stroke power unit.

The problem is that there are some low purchase cost oils on offer that claim to offer modern 50:1 oil advances but are inferior to branded alternatives recommended by engine manufacturers. In some cases, these low cost oils are pretty similar in specification to the 40:1 oil developed as an alternative to 25:1 mineral oils commonly used into the early 1980's.

In a 'low-tech' two-stroke, these 'cheaper' oils may well be acceptable. Use them to lubricate a modern professional brushcutter or chainsaw, and the oil will not be up to the job. The engine may not seize and it



Honda have long championed four-stroke power, the company offering this type of power unit in traditional two-stroke sectors, such as outboard motors, long before anyone else. The company was among the first to put a four-stroke engine on a brushcutter too, the company's current UMK 435 model featuring a 1.6hp power unit that is a true four-stroke designed to operate on straight petrol. It is priced around £420 inclusive

Certain applications may see the gradual phasing out of two-strokes, as is already tending to be the case with pedestrian mowers. But two-stroke chainsaws and professional brushcutters are a long way from being confined to the history books. Legislators may well set out the emission rules and targets but they cannot ban a certain type of power unit if there are not alternatives to viably replace them.

Two-stroke engine exhaust catalytic convertors, incidentally, can make working with this type of power unit less unpleasant. They are not really aimed at cutting emissions in the same manner as automotive systems.

The right oil

Two-stroke oil is one of those subjects that is often discussed but frequently ignored. Quality 50:1 two-stroke oil is far removed from

could appear that all is well right up until the engine starts to misbehave. But signs of poor oil performance can include smoke in the exhaust emissions, residues forming around the silencer outlet, uneven idling, hot running leading to fuel vapour lock and poor starting from hot.

When buying two-stroke oil, it is important to check its specification meets the demands of the engine it is to lubricate. Where possible, stick with the same brand for the life of the engine. Although there are those who argue otherwise, it also pays to buy 'quality' petrol. The additives present in brands like Shell and Texaco do differ to those used by some supermarkets. Although these are designed to improve a car engine performance and particularly keep fuel injection systems clean, a decent petrol may improve hot starting performance and engine idling because it is less liable to 'go off'. On the flip side, using higher-octane super unleaded petrol with a will not bring any benefits.

Pre-mix four-strokes – how they operate

In outline, a pre-mix four-stroke engine operates on a conventional four-stroke cycle but does away with the oil sump. Lubrication is provided by using a conventional two-stroke petrol oil mix. Instead of this mix entering the engine directly via the inlet valve, it is drawn from the carburettor into the crankcase where it lubricates the crank and valve gear. The mix then passes via a port up to the intake valve, which opens to let it into the engine.

This simplifies what is a somewhat more complex process; there are subtle differences between the Shidaiwa and Stihl designs too. But the basics are the same, and from the end users standpoint the engines can be operated pretty much like a conventional two-stroke. This means they can be run, and equally importantly, stored at extreme angles without problem.

Why legislation has helped boost dependability

The need to both clean the emissions and noise generated by small air-cooled two- and four-stroke petrol engines may have cost manufacturers a great deal of money, but for the end user the results have led to more than just cleaner and quieter powerplants. Modern units are more reliable and fuel-efficient too.

Although it would be wrong to suggest the small petrol engines that power everything from clearance mowers and brushcutters through to generators and small ride-on mowers are perfect, most users would agree that these engines are typically reliable and, as a result, almost taken for granted.

Interestingly legislation can, in a way, be thanked for this. Modern power units run on a lean fuel mixture to ensure emissions are kept to a minimum; by burning less fuel, fewer pollutants are produced and consumption is also cut. To achieve this, modern carburettors are produced to exacting tolerances and, in most cases, are also 'tamper proof'. This, in itself, can boost reliability as it reduces the chances of the carburettor being set-up incorrectly.

Add the almost complete disappearance of contact breaker ignition systems, which need routine attention to ensure reliable sparking and perfect timing, and it is little wonder a modern small petrol engine is less likely to give trouble. In most cases, clean oil and filters, plus the odd sparking plug, are all that are needed to keep an engine running sweetly.

When modern carburettors do need attention, however, they can be more difficult to service. Small drillings and jets will always be liable to block or gum up with deposits from the fuel. With an old style carb, a blast of compressed air could be used to clean it out and not do any damage. Doing this on a small and delicate modern carburettor may still work, but it can be ineffective and actually damage the fine drillings and jets now in use.

Ultrasonic equipment, such as the Ultrawave system, is now accepted as the best way to clean a modern carb. The carburettor is immersed in a cleaning solution, with ultrasonic waves creating millions of bubbles within the fluid that 'explode' within the fine drillings and jets of the carburettor. Because they are minute, the bubbles can reach every nook and cranny of the carb and really clean it thoroughly.

There is no 'physical' abrasion with these systems either, so the carburettor is not subjected to any wear that can enlarge any of the apertures. In most cases, a carb cleaned by this type of system will perform 'as new' on replacement. Where it does not, a new unit will typically need to be fitted. Apart from fitting new diaphragms, repairing a faulty carb is increasingly no longer viable or possible.



Stihl offers its 4-Mix power unit on brushcutters with power outputs from 1.3 to 1.9hp, with prices starting at around £320 for its entry level FS 87 and topping out with the FS 310 at £550. The pictured KM 100 R power unit is part of the Stihl CombiEngine line-up. It can be used to power brushcutter, hedge trimmer and brush attachments. Prices from £300 plus attachment



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BIGGA Open Support Team 2007

CARNOUSTIE 2007

While there were 55 greenkeepers working at The Open as part of the BIGGA Open Support Team there was one greenkeeper who was actually playing in the Championship itself.

David Coupland, who has recently left Boston Golf Club, to play full time amateur golf was the leading qualifier from Monifieth Golf Club and played the opening two rounds in the company of US Ryder Cup player, Vaughn Taylor, and Australian veteran, Peter Fowler.

A 21 year-old +2 player David was in the fourth match on the opening day and with a birdie at the 1st may well have been leading the Championship for a few minutes – he certainly featured on the leaderboard. It was never going to last, but he acquitted himself very well shooting rounds of 79 and 74 – matching Tiger Woods’ score in the second round.

“I really didn’t expect to be here. I entered this year for the first time just to give it a go and qualified with a 71 at the Regional Qualifying at Gog Magog,” he explained while sitting the BIGGA Marquee after his second round.

He then shot 69 in the opening round at Monifieth to lie tied 8th in the chase for three Open places and followed that up with a 65 to win the qualifier outright by one shot.

“I holed a 20 footer on the last and thought that might have done it for me but I had to wait for six hours to see if anyone beat me. It was a nightmare.”

After it was confirmed he headed home and returned to Carnoustie the Sunday before it started to prepare.

“I bumped into most of the players in the locker room, apart from Tiger, obviously, and played a practice round with former Open Champion, Justin Leonard. Australian, Robert Allenby, also give me some advice,

which was very good of him. I did my best not to be in awe of the other players and to play my own game and I was pleased with the way I struck the ball.”

David made seven or eight birdies over the two rounds and brought the galleries to their feet with a monster putt on the 11th in the first round and an approach to two feet on the 13th during the second.

“The crowd enjoyed that,” he said, while admitting that the birdie on the 1st may have been the worst thing he could have done.

“It pumped me up even more than I was and I immediately drove into a fairway bunker at the next and doubled bogeyed.”

Players are well looked after during The Open. David took advantage of the Lexus courtesy car service on one occasion but, in an attempt to keep things as normal as possible, drove himself to the course on the other days.

“I drove my Corsa into the competitors’ car park,” he laughed.

He also received a new Titelist golf bag, two pairs of Footjoy shoes, Nike clothing and some Oakley sunglasses while he was most impressed with the food and refreshments available in the Players’ marquee.

David, who was supported by Bruce Hicks his former Course Manager and the Boston Secretary on the opening round, is determined to give amateur golf his full time attention with the English national squad and perhaps Walker Cup the ambition but he is pleased that being a qualified greenkeeper will give him some insurances for the future.

“I hope to be back playing in The Open again for many years to come,” said David.

BIGGA Bunker Stats – The Story Continues...

	1995 St. A's	1996 Ly'm	1997 Troon	1998 B'dale	1999 C'stie	2000 St. A's	2001 Ly'm	2002 M'field	2003 St. G's	2004 Troon	2005 St. A's	2006 H'lake	2007 C'stie
Bunkers	112	185	84	117	115	112	197	148	106	93	112	96	113
Rd 1	214	501	344	355	539	148	557	359	388	393	252	352	442
Rd 2	201	577	272	406	468	164	547	372	405	371	203	353	482
Rd 3	130	269	107	226	202	65	224	175	149	148	100	183	189
Rd 4	156	271	136	153	265	71	257	169	181	185	121	204	198
Total	701	1618	859	1140	1474	448	1585	1078	1123	1097	676	1092	1311

Golden Nuggets supplied by BIGGA Support Team

Justin Rose was distracted on day one on his 2nd shot to the par-5 6th, when a golf buggy crashed off the side of the road. Information supplied by Scott Corrigan, Greenburn GC.

Geoff Ogilvy smashed a sign on day one on the 13th hole in a temper. Information supplied by George Stephens, Exeter Golf & Country Club.

Jonathon Byrd asked a marshal on day one on the 16th tee to turn the heating on. Information supplied by Stuart Hogg, St Annes Old Links GC.

Day one on the 18th hole, a disagreement between two of the players in the second to last match had to be calmed by officials. Seung-Ho Lee had a drop on one side of the fairway and prepared to play. Meanwhile Holtman, on the other side of the fairway also got ready to play and both played virtually at the same time. Holtman, playing a split second after Seung-Ho hit the ball out of bounds and then played a 2nd ball into the RH Stand. Holtman's caddie went mad and the air turned blue. Information supplied by Gary Cunningham from Trentham Park GC.

While backing out of the gorse bush looking for Andersson Hed's ball, the end of the rake caught Rich Beem right between the legs. He joked that he was glad he wasn't trying for children. Information supplied by Neil Woolfrey from Great Lever & Farnworth GC.

Spencer Levin stopped a female spectator on the 9th, had a mouthful of her beer then gave her a kiss – it was his girlfriend! Information supplied by Asa English from Charnwood Forest GC.

The Duke of York accompanied Shaun Micheel and Sandy Lyle's game on day three of the Championship. Apparently he would like his lawn like the fairways of Carnoustie! Information supplied by Richard Beacham from Wrekin GC.

Tiger Woods 2nd shot on the 6th on day three, struck a lady spectator on the head and bounced out into the rough. Tiger checked she was ok and gave her a signed glove. After completing the hole he asked the rules official, Andy McFee, to give her the ball as well. Information supplied by Richard Saunders from St Neots GC.



Tiger Woods on the Putting Green

FEATURE



John Pemberton, BIGGA Chief Executive, David Coupland, Ex-Greenkeeper at Boston GC and Billy McMillan, BIGGA National Chairman



Practice Ground



Martin Haywood from Bawtry Golf & Country Club and David Leatherland from Kedleston Park GC



David Byrne (right) from St. Helen's Bay Golf Resort, Ireland

News from the Open...

The BIGGA Cabin where Support Team members register before making their way to the 1st tee is not always found in the heat of the action but this year it was in the corner of the Carnoustie Hotel car park close to the pavement and a little bit easier to find. Peter Alliss popped his head round the door to congratulate the team on the work they were doing, while Radio 2 DJ, Chris Evans, was also spotted outside and signed some autographs for the team.

Team member, Neil Woolfrey, hit the back pages of his local paper after the first round. He was assigned the match which included a friend and local pro, Steve Parry, and bet £100 at 3-1 that he'd outscore his two playing partners. The bet duly came good and Neil was £300 richer. While delighted, the publicity in his local Bolton paper meant he was left with a nagging doubt that his wife might find out about the bet!

A greenkeeper never forgets. In 1992 BIGGA Board Member, Gavin Robson, leant Justin Rose a pound coin to act as a ball marker. At the end of the round Justin marched off with Gavin's hard earned. Five years on Gavin spotted Justin at Edinburgh Airport as they both travelled to their respective homes after this year's Championship. "Can I have my pound back?" Gavin demanded. It's not known whether Justin recognised the Burton GC Course Manager but he did cough up, adding 10p to cover interest payments over the period.



BIGGA National Chairman, Billy McMillan and Carnoustie Course Manager, John Philp

Plonker of the Week Award

Three candidates. There was the man who was waiting outside the University of Abertay at 5.25am ready to go bunker preparing only to realise that the pick-up time was 4.30am. A quick taxi ride and £20 lighter in his pocket he arrived in time to prepared the last hole and a half! Candidate number two had his phone on silent and slept in on the Saturday missing his mini bus and, consequently, his match. Winner, however, was the BIGGA official who carefully made sure that the minibus was wide enough to fit through a tight railway bridge but forgot about the fact that the minibus was a foot taller than the height of the bridge. Ouch!

John Philp and his team received universal praise for the condition of Carnoustie. The players were lining up to express their delight to R&A officials at what they found when they arrived in Angus and the course delivered an amazing Open Championship.

It is all the more praiseworthy as the weather conditions in the lead up to and during the Championship were not what would be considered ideal. High rainfall in the months preceding the Championship meant a course much greener than would have been hoped - certainly not close to the straw coloured course 12 months before at Hoylake - but given that the conditions by the team were as perfect as they could possibly have been. During the week the heavy rainfall continued but Carnoustie continued to soak it up and it was only on the final morning when some bunkers had to be emptied and some greens squeegeed. Most other courses would have succumbed under such a deluge.



John Philp, Carnoustie Course Manager, Billy McMillan, BIGGA National Chairman and Grant Moir of the R&A, at on-course briefing



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A SWISS ROLE

Think of Switzerland and what comes to mind? Well, skiing and the Alps, obviously; then there're banks, watches and cuckoo clocks; not forgetting, chocolate, Swiss rolls and Swiss Army knives. Oh there is the country's famous neutrality and the bizarre fact that, as a land-locked nation, they've won yachting's America's Cup twice!

Golf doesn't exactly figure on many lists. Tennis is up there with Roger Federer and Martina Hingis, but can you name a Swiss golfer?... No, didn't think so.

However, golf is thriving in Switzerland and one British Course Manager, Steven Tierney, who has spent 20 years in Switzerland certainly wouldn't want to ply his trade anywhere else.

And it's hard to argue as you sit on the Golfpark Nuolen clubhouse balcony gazing at Lake Zurich in one direction and the Alps in the other – the course is just a kilometre from the foothills.

Those of you who entered the inaugural BIGGA Golf Photographic Competition may now be feeling a little bit cheated. Steven won with a superb picture of hills reflecting off a lake – not the Alps nor Lake Zurich incidentally, but another view of the course – but let's face it, it wasn't just run of the mill scenery he had to choose from.

A Lancastrian, originally from Bolton, Steven first moved to Switzerland as an 19 year-old with a wanderlust, having written to a number of golf course architects asking for work and then handing in his notice at Fulford, in York.

"Donald Harradine replied and put me in touch with a little nine hole project in Switzerland. Ian Tomlinson, who was then working in Switzerland, came to Fulford and talked to me about the job. The Secretary at Fulford was a super guy who was impressed that I was planning to work abroad, and said he would hold my job open for me for a few months if it didn't work out. That gave me a real feeling of not burning my bridges," recalled Steven, who has a photograph sitting on his desk of his footballer father getting the better of Sir Stanley Matthews in front of 80,000 fans at the old Bolton Wanderers ground.

That feeling of security was all the more important when he arrived in Switzerland to be told by the owner that the original Head Greenkeeper

wasn't now coming and that he would be Head Greenkeeper. It was the original Jacques Cousteau or Mark Spitz (sink or swim) situation and it turned out to be the making of him. He did return to Fulford but only as a visitor, happy to let people know that his move was working out well. So 20 years on and with ten years under his belt at Golfpark Nuolen what is working life like 690 metres above sea level?

Well one thing is for sure, commitment and hard work are prerequisites of working in Switzerland, but the rewards are there.

"The guys work an average of 450-500 hours overtime from Easter until the end of October, our regular working season," explained Steven.

Incidentally, as a non EU country the Working Hours Directive doesn't apply to Switzerland.

"Our regular day starts at around 5.30am when we go through the day's programme. We normally have the machines out by 6am. There is a half hour break at 9am where the team meets up at the clubhouse for coffee and then work until noon when we stop for lunch for an hour. Then we work from 1pm through to our regular finishing time of 6pm but there are many occasions, yesterday being one of them, when one of the team has said he wanted to work on 'til 8pm to finish off some rough cutting.

"We also do double shifts on the weekend, depending on tournaments when you will perhaps do a Saturday morning and a Sunday morning while others do Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon. You get one weekend off a month," said Steve.

However, there are compensations for such an intense and demanding working schedule.

Because snow and skiing replaces golf from around November until around February or March, Steve and his team take three months off over the period. They complete their machinery servicing and seasonal jobs in November and the first part of December and are officially off from December 15. The good part is that they are retained on the pay roll over this extended break. The even better part is that they generally get, not one but two month's bonus pay. The unbelievable bit is that the tax rate where Steve and the team works is 2.5%. Oh yes, the club's

parent company, concrete producer, Kibag, owns its own little stretch of beach on Lake Zurich and employees can pop along and make use of their own barbecue and beach hut.

“It is quite standard in Switzerland for people to get paid 13 months of the year and often there is a bonus month on top of that, so we are generally working nine and a half, ten months at the absolute maximum, and getting paid 14 months,” said Steve, who paid a higher rate of tax for the first three years he was in Switzerland.

Switzerland is home to many high earning sports and show biz stars because of the favourable taxation policies. Among those living around Lake Zurich are Jackie Stewart, Kimi Raikkonen, Nick Heidfeld and Felipe Massa from Formula 1; Roger Federer and Martina Hingis; while Tina Turner, David Bowie, Shania Twain and Michael Schumacher live on Lake Geneva.

Despite not being recognised for its golfing heritage there is a very high expectation level from Swiss golfers.

“They expect high standards because so many of them are cosmopolitan, very well travelled and have played top courses in other parts of the world and they expect the same at home. Our course is pay and play but a lot of our members come from the Zurich banking community and play a lot in the US. We also have a regular who is a member at Alwoodley, in Leeds, while there are often groups who take golfing holidays to Scotland and the like.”

Each year Steve’s target is to have the course ready for play two weeks after the official snow melt.

“We generally know when that is because the temperature can rise from -20 to +15 in three days and while it can snow again it generally doesn’t stay long and the snow melt is usually in late February or early March.”

Snow mould is the main problem – a nasty disease with many similarities to fusarium.

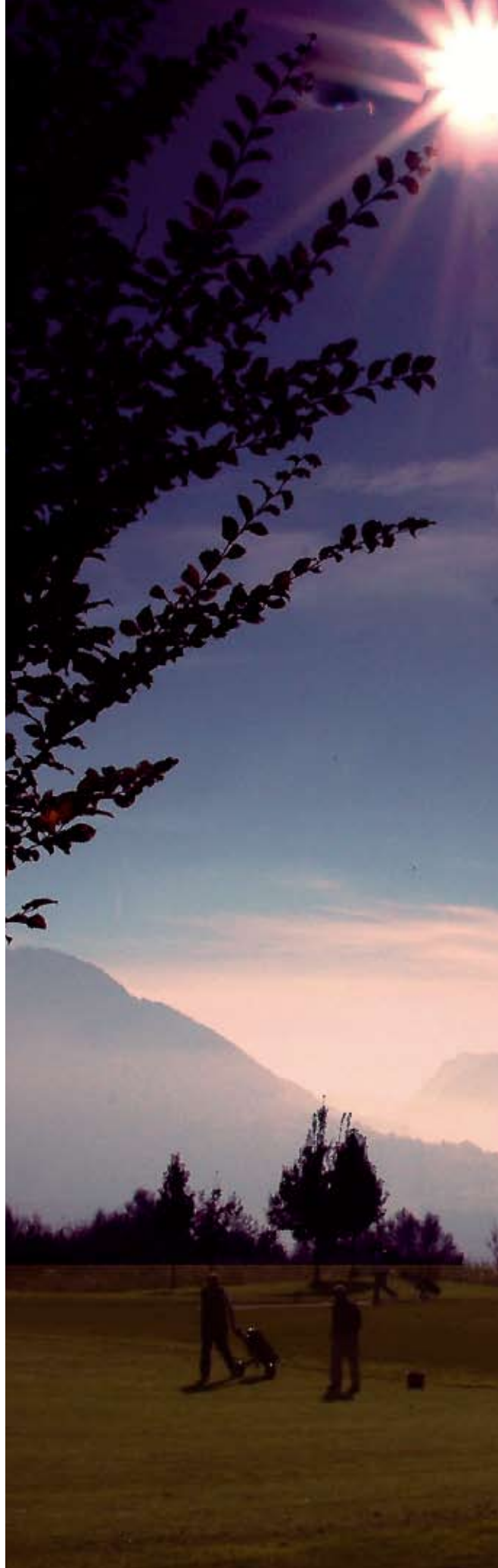
“It is always a problem if the snow, and it can be up to two metres deep, comes before the ground has frozen. If the ground has frozen you can be pretty sure you are not going to have a problem but we often take a shovel to remove some snow just to see how it is.

“If you have snow mould and you can get 80% infection the first thing we’ll do it double verticut everything to rip the old stuff out then, and I know it goes against basic greenkeeping principles, we fertiliser the whole course. You’ve got to give it a wake up with a bit of quick release to get a bit of colour.”

Another major difference between course management in Switzerland and the UK is the level of Governmental input and inspection on the country’s 84 golf courses.

“Every golf club in the country has a designated Government-appointed Environmental Officer and we have to provide an annual report to the Government and local council. Last year we produced a 300 page inventory of all plants and insects on the golf course,” explained Steven, who added that one of the regulations in place meant that they weren’t allowed to cut their flower meadows each year until after June 15.

The regular twice yearly meetings are not something that Steven worries about particularly as he works closely with his environmental officer, a local man who works for the World Wildlife Fund, ensuring that there is no chance of incurring the wrath of the Government, although he knows of one golf development which was closed down for five years because of a breach of a law.





One of the initiatives which have been put in place at the behest of the official can be seen alongside the road on the top side of the course. A fence runs alongside the road and there are buckets sunk into the ground just inside the boundary.

“We have to check them daily for frogs and then take them across the road and release them. The same goes on the other side, for frogs wishing to come in our direction. It’s to stop them being hit by cars,” he explained, with studies demonstrating a two way passage for the frogs wishing to lay eggs in the golf course lake.

“We keep records and we will probably transport over 2700 frogs and salamanders in the course of a season.”

One of the problems of a country with only 84 courses is that there is only one dealer per manufacturer to cover the whole country and rep visits are fairly intermittent. With that in mind Steve and his team retain an extensive workshop of spares and utilise the manufacturer websites for advice wherever possible.

The golf course is built on an old gravel pit for which the option was given for it to be a rubbish dump or a recreational area.

“There was zero chance of getting planning approval for a rubbish dump and one of our Directors, who played golf in Florida, suggested a public pay-and-play golf course and this won approval from the planners.”

Designed by Peter Harradine, the course was built in-house using the vast array of earth moving machines owned by Kibag, with Conor Nolan, now of the STRI, as Construction Supervisor. Steven arrived towards the end of the construction process.

What was produced was an excellent 9 with another 9 in the early stage of construction - another 9 will follow later - and a superb nine hole pitch and putt course. The quarry, which ironically doesn’t produce any sand usable for golf courses, sits at the top of the site and a conveyor belt runs the entire length of the golf course down to a store, either above or below ground, and Steve is particularly proud of the six tunnels he helped to build to enable golfers to play over the belt.

“That was a great experience and they are six years old now and no-one has fallen down one yet!”

So what advice would he give anyone wishing to follow him down the route of working abroad?

“I think it is very difficult to bring out an established family. When you are a greenkeeper it is very easy, you are at work all day and have a job to do. Your partner is at home, probably not speaking the language, and that can be very difficult in a foreign place with the days so long. You’ve already heard about the work ethic and commitment in time which is required,” said Steve, whose wife, Claudia, is Swiss while their two sons, Patrick and Jan, were born in Switzerland.

“You must also learn the language. I’ve never had a language lesson in my life, just help from my wife. My German is still laughable at times but people understand me and they do appreciate people making the effort,” said Steve, who actually speaks four languages and admits to thinking in German.

You might be tempted to work abroad but there are sacrifices to be made and work to be done if you are to become a successful ex-pat.

Oh, I can help you with a Swiss golfer if the question were to come up at an interview. Andre Bossert, who won the Cannes Open on the European Tour in 1995.

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Dermatitis and eczema are debilitating, painful diseases. Those affected need time off work to allow their skin to heal after every bout. Dermatitis caused by work activities is known as Work Related Dermatitis, WRD.

WRD is one of the major occupational skin diseases, caused by a person coming into contact with a hazardous agent(s), sensitisers or substances that de-fat the skin. The terms dermatitis and eczema are often used interchangeably but are caused by different reasons: Dermatitis: an inflammatory condition of the skin caused by outside agents - Often resulting in irritation, redness, cracking and blistering; Eczema: a common itchy skin disease characterised by reddening and blister formation, which may lead to weeping and crusting - Outside agents do not usually play a primary role. Eczema is due to ones' genetic make-up.

The treatment for both conditions may therefore be different. WRD is caused by the skin coming into contact with: chemicals; (e.g. wet cement); frequent contact with water for long periods of time; biological agents (e.g. plants); physical agents (e.g. vibration); and mechanical abrasion (e.g. abrasive substances). It can occur in two different forms: Irritant Contact Dermatitis (ICD) and Allergic Contact Dermatitis (ACD).

ICD - a local inflammation of the skin. It can develop after a short heavy single exposure (acute) or be due to repeated and prolonged exposure (chronic) to hazardous agents, including chemicals. In some cases, more than one agent will be involved, e.g. water and detergents. Once the exposure is controlled and the skin allowed to heal the dermatitis should not recur.

ACD - develops in stages. The reaction begins with a process called sensitisation. Sensitisation starts when an allergic substance (e.g. chromium in cement) penetrates the skin. The process can last from days to weeks. When a sensitised person is re-exposed to the substance it will trigger an allergic reaction causing itching, pain, redness, swelling and blisters on the skin. Once sensitised, the allergic reaction is likely to remain with the individual for life. The severity of the reaction may increase with decreasing amounts of the allergic substance which may require people to change occupation if too severe. If further contact is prevented, the level of sensitivity may gradually decline.

Practical action is the key to preventing WRD:

Find out the H&S hazards associated with each of the substance/product used in the Club. Identify whether these carry warnings signs/hazard information. You can find this information on product labels and/or in Safety Data Sheets. Frequent contact with water (wet working) is a major cause, also some substances (e.g. oil water emulsions) may be generated during work and can cause WRD.

- Introduce control actions to reduce contact between the substances and those using them. These can range from stopping using the substance to the last resort of protective clothing (PPE).
- Selecting gloves is a complicated process. Seek the help of a reputable PPE supplier.
- Make sure employees: are instructed in safe working practices; use controls provided; are trained to correctly use equipment/the use of protective equipment.
- Employees should know how to check their skin for signs of dermatitis and understand the benefits and limitations of skin care creams.

New Products



WASP

The latest formulation for all Turf seeds developed and applied in Germany - WASP (Water Absorbent Seed Process.)

This innovative new technology provides the complete supply of water and nutritious elements to the seedling. A water reservoir, which is created all around the seedling, ensures permanent humidity and thus will not become dry! Moreover this coat contains an initial start up amenity fertiliser, humic acid and an activator for the roots of the plant.

i Hurrells Seeds (Hurrell & McLean Seeds Ltd) on: 01377 271400.



High quality even germination levels

SKID-STEER LOADER

The new S100 skid-steer loader from Bobcat meets a market need for a compact, limited weight skid-steer loader that can work in tight spaces and is easy to transport.

i www.bobcat.com



DITCH WITCH SKID STEER

The Charles Machine Works, Inc, manufacturer of Ditch Witch® underground construction equipment, has released its most powerful and productive mini skid steer to date. The Ditch Witch SK650 is designed to be more efficient and accomplish more tasks than any mini skid steer in its class.

i 01792 895906
or visit: www.ditchwitchuk.com



A CLEAN SWEEP

Turfmech has launched a pedestrian greens sweeper, designed for fast, effective collection and removal of hollow cores and scarified material from golf greens and other fine turf surfaces.

Known as the SQRL, the greens sweeper was designed and developed at Turfmech's Hixon, Staffordshire manufacturing centre.

i 01889 271503
or Email: sales@turfmech.co.uk



EXPANDING RANGE

A new range of mid-sized Kioti compact tractors with engines from 35 hp to 45hp and either hydrostatic or mechanical transmissions are now available in the UK from Rustons Engineering.

i 01480 455151



COMPREHENSIVE NEW GUIDE

Vitax introduce their new, quick reference pocket guide to line marking, covering everything from five-a-side football to discus and hammer.

The new guide has been designed to be used with the company's Topline System of advanced marking machines and concentrated marking liquids. It includes information regarding the three sizes of football pitches, featuring dilution rates at three different walking speeds and the amount of line marking liquid required. Also included are detailed scaled diagrams of sports pitches, running tracks and other athletic events.

The Line Marking Guide is free, anyone wanting page copies should log on to:

i www.vitax.co.uk/downloads.asp



NEW ATTACHMENTS

A new range of accessories are now available for use with Etesia's latest Hydro 100 Diesel ride-on rotary. Specially produced for Etesia by Buckinghamshire-based R T Machinery Ltd, these additions provide some highly cost effective turf care options (patents pending). Once the universal carrier (RTM Fitting Kit) has been workshop-fitted on the rear of the tractor, any of the interchangeable rear-mounted attachments can be removed or added in minutes via a simple two-pin fixing. No special tools are required. The new range includes: RTM Stripe-It; RTM Drag-Brush; RTM Rear-Rake and Front Bull Bar.

i 01926 403319
or Email: sales@etesia.co.uk.



ADD A TOUCH OF GARLIC!

Manufacturers of the Garlic Barrier range of products, have launched the Aston® Garlic Turf product. This is suitable for golf course greens, tees, fairways and also amenity grass areas. Aston Horticulture's products are made from food grade natural aqueous extracts of garlic, which are both bio-degradeable and safe to use. Harmless to the environment, the public need not be excluded from treated areas and there are no harmful effects on wildlife. Treated areas become odourless within minutes.

Regular use throughout the course stimulates growth, vigor and tillering, helping to resist the adverse effects of stresses due to drought and unbalanced nutrition.

i Aston Horticulture Ltd
on Tel: 0870 350 6250

HEATH MAINTENANCE

Helping heather to flourish and look its very best has long been an expensive and time consuming challenge for turf managers on golf courses and heritage sites.

A pioneering system devised by Wiedenmann UK in consultation with grounds managers and Wiedenmann dealer Ernest Doe and Sons now ensures the beauty of heathlands can be restored and enhanced.

i 0141 8143366
or visit: www.wiedenmann.co.uk



A Wiedenmann Super Pro TXL 1.8m side discharge rotary mower seen here linked to a Wiedenmann MCS XP 1500 collector

RANGE EXTENDED

Joining the extensive range of STIHL Protective Equipment (PPE) this year: new boots, trousers and amenity wear promote comfort, safety and style for the outdoor professional.

i 01276 20202
or visit: www.stihl.co.uk



FLEXIBILITY IN TIGHT SITUATIONS

The new Avant 500 side arm flail from Ryetec has been designed to operate in situations where space is limited.

i 01944 768232
or Email: info@ryetec.co.uk

Letters

LOST WEEKEND

It is a sad time for me, as I draw into my 80s and see my old greenkeeping friends like Willie Ritchie pass on to, we hope, The Happy Golfing Ground.

I was Secretary of the BIGGA West Section for 12 years in the 60s. Willie, if I remember rightly, was Secretary of the North, which in those days did not stretch beyond Dundee.

I am remembering the North Section's Annual Dinner and Whist Drive. I was invited on many occasions but I only managed one year. It was a change from the dinner speeches all the other Sections held in those days. I have to say, Willie had done his homework to make all of these occasions a great success and a boost to the Section's funds. BIGGA held its Annual Golfing Outing all over Scotland. This year I refer to 'The Scottish', which was held at Royal Burgess Golfing Society of Edinburgh.

I had been in Willie's company most of the day. As James McCormack said in Willie's obituary - May issue of Greenkeeper International - Willie, like myself, liked a dram or two or three – need I go on? Willie got his train to Dundee from Waverley Station, as I did for Lenzie. We got a taxi to the station as Edinburgh is a foreign city when one has had a 'few'. I saw Willie on his train – anyway he said it was his train, the next day I got a telephone call. The voice said 'That you, Cecil?' I recognised Willie's broad North East accent, 'Aye, it's me – that you Willie?' 'Aye it is. You put me on the wrong bloody train.' 'No I did not. You said it was your train.' 'Ah, well I'm in Aberdeen, Cecil. Have you got ma clubs?' 'No Willie, you had them when you got on the train.' 'Well, av nae got them noo.' 'Perhaps you left them on the train.' 'Ah, well we will have to wait an see.'

The next Monday I got another telephone call – 'That you Cecil?' 'Yes' – 'It's me, Willie. Ah thought I'd let you know I've got ma clubs. I put them in the left luggage in Aberdeen.'

There must be a moral to these telephone calls. Knowing Willie and being a kindred spirit, who was caring, I only hope wherever Willie is he hasn't lost his clubs.

Cecil N George

DERRICK 'ALF' BURKIN

9 August 1924 to 19 June 2007

In the early 1970's Alf worked at Pease Cottage Golf Club, helping to build one of the first courses to use creeping bent. He then went on to Sandy Lodge in Middlesex where he worked closely with Jim Arthur. From there he moved to Farnham Park until 1978 and then to Bishop's Stortford in Hertfordshire. He ended his greenkeeping career at Ely City in 1985.

Alf is survived by his wife, Irene and his two sons, one of whom – Bob – maintains the greenkeeping tradition at Chippenham Golf Club.

Yours faithfully

Bob Burkin

CARNOUSTIE 2007

Just a quick thank you for all your hard work prior to and during the Open.

The team from HQ were fantastic, all the bases covered and running like clockwork, fantastic!

As for the support team, everyone was in good spirits and relaxed throughout the event, which again is down to the superb organisation.

*Yours Sincerely
Gary Cunningham
Course Manager
Trentham Park Golf Club*

SOMEBODY UP THERE LOVES HIM!

It is difficult to predict weather. It is even more difficult to predict Scottish weather. Whoever is in charge of the Celestial Heavens' weather must like Harry Diamond.

On Sunday, July 8, we had another perfect golfing day at the Belleisle GC for the Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich. As usual, golfers were falling over themselves to play in this Stableford Competition. I was told a week before that 117 persons had submitted their names, including a number of greenkeepers. Even with these high numbers wishing to play, no one was turned away. On many of the tees, eight golfers were standing at 9am awaiting two loud blasts on the klaxon horn. Golfers with an A on their number played off on the first blast of the horn, then everyone joined in to enjoy this now ever popular family event. Even with the good number of golfers out in every part of the course, there were no hold ups. The course was presented to the highest standard by Kevin Johnson and his greenkeeping staff. I was told that the club members were jubilant with the transformation of the course since Kevin took it in hand just over a year ago. Before the presentation of the Quaich and prizes, we had all the usual niceties of free pints of beer etc. and raffle tickets were given free to let everyone have a chance of winning a prize.

Harry's family were involved in the organisation of the event. "Les Girls" – Harry's daughters and grand-daughters – were to the forefront in assisting with raffle tickets and the distribution of prizes. Two of Harry's brother, Neil and Hugh, were helping with final details before the presentation.

This year, the Quaich was won by K Gimson, J Dewry, Elaine Webster and D Dunlop. Harry's wife, Jessie, presented the Quaich to the winners. They got a small replica each to keep. The trophy stays with the Diamond family, whom I am sure will keep it in excellent order until July '08.

Harry's family wish to thank all the sponsors and those who donated prizes, also those who assisted in organising and running this ever-successful tournament.

Cecil N George



Turf so good they'll all want to play.

Treatment with Primo MAXX® will create course conditions that are sure to impress the players and turf professionals who really know the difference between good turf ... and superior turf. Primo MAXX increases root and lateral growth creating a high quality surface of increased density which looks good, plays superbly and is more able to withstand stress.

Primo MAXX is a new liquid formulation that is easy to use and comes with a simple to follow season-long programme tailored for specific areas around the course and is compatible and easily mixable with other products.

To learn more about Primo MAXX please go to www.primomaxx.co.uk or telephone Scotts Professional on 0871 2205353.





OH YOU LUCKY LOT!

Boy! Are you a lucky bunch. The prospect of playing over either Dundonald Links or Kilmarnock Barassie would be enough for most people, but this year's BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Kubota, means you playing on both of these superb links courses.

With Dundonald Links – Loch Lomond's younger sister – hosting the opening round on Monday, October 8, and Barassie welcoming us for the second and final round the next day, competitors are in for an absolute treat.

Dundonald was designed by Kyle Philips, who also has Kingsbarns and The Grove on his CV, and is regarded as one of the finest new courses, not just in the UK, but worldwide. Barassie is a final Open Qualifier and holds a prominent position in the list of the UK's top 100 courses.

Known initially as Southern Gables, Dundonald Links' the change of name came along when Loch Lomond purchased the course four years ago and it takes the name back to that of the original 18th century nine hole course that sat on the site and which was turned over to farmland as part of the Second World War effort.

It features Kyle Philips' trademark rolling greens with serious run-off areas to punish the wayward approach and at 7300 yards off the back tees it is a formidable test of golf.

"My desire was to create a championship Ayrshire-style links course that felt and played as though it was an old rediscovered course, by integrating newly constructed features with existing site features," explains Kyle, whose affinity with Scottish golf is widely known and admired.

The par-3s are particularly impressive. Tough, interesting and each completely different from the others.

Course Manager is Frank Clarkson who has been at the course since Loch Lomond's purchase of it.

"The entire team is really looking forward to BIGGA coming for the National Championships. They are really pumped up for it," said Frank.

"Since I arrived we've worked hard to develop the finer grasses and establish it and we feel that we are now at the point where we can show it off. There is so much potential here but we feel we have a lot to live up to as we are surrounded by so many wonderful golf courses in this part of Scotland.

"We can't wait to show our course off to the BIGGA members," he added, with real relish.

Once you have pitted yourselves against Dundonald the Championship Banquet will be held in the traditional Barassie clubhouse where you will catch a glimpse of the task that will await you the following morning. Barassie is tough and typical of what Scottish links golf is all about – large undulating greens, deep bunkers and doglegs but for a course that sits on the outskirts of Troon what else would you expect?

The club is 120 years old but hasn't stood still in that time with nine new holes built in recent years, including the superb par-3 4th and the double dogleg par-5 8th.





The Club, which was joint host of the 2001 Amateur Championship with Prestwick, will again be a final qualifier for The Open in two year's time when the Championship returns to Turnberry for the first time since 1994.

Course Manager Brian Finlayson is delighted that he will be welcoming so many fellow greenkeepers to his club.

"It'll be a nice change to have 80 greenkeepers commenting on the course rather than the 500 I normally have!" he joked.

"After the June we've had we've got a very green links at the moment but we have been known to have good weather in September and October so hopefully we'll have more of a true links feel by the time the Championship comes around.

"We are a really good test of golf," he added

Brian was also delighted that Kubota had become the title sponsor of the event

"We're a Kubota course with four pieces of their kit," he revealed.

"Kubota are delighted to be sponsoring this year's BIGGA National Championship," said Sales & Marketing Manager Dave Roberts.

"The golf course industry has been very good to us over the past 30 years, and we have always enjoyed an excellent relationship with BIGGA as a Golden Key member, so the opportunity to sponsor this prestigious event was too good to pass up and an easy decision to make. We look forward to meeting up with friends old and new in October at these fabulous host courses, and of course, to a highly competitive tournament," said Dave.

Look out for the application form in this month's magazine and hopefully we'll see you in Ayrshire!

TALKING HEADS

FEATURE

	WHAT IS YOUR PHILOSOPHY ON OVERSEEDING?	AT WHAT TIMES OF YEAR AND WHAT FREQUENCY DO YOU TEND TO SEED?
 <p>Name: Robert Bayliss Club: Weymouth GC, South West Position: Head Greenkeeper</p>	<p>I have always believed overseeding to be worthwhile. If weed seeds can germinate and establish even in a tight sward then it's fair to assume that desirable seed will do well also. Close examination of the turf a couple of weeks after overseeding will show that germination is invariably successful. The problem is how many of the seedlings become established and make it to maturity, especially on golf courses that are subject to so much wear these days. As your readers are well aware that depends on a number of factors but as a general rule the size of green and number of available hole positions play a big part. The more you are able to spread the wear the better the success rate.</p>	<p>We generally overseed in the autumn as part of the end of summer renovations. A light scattering of seed mixed in with the top dressing aids germination. Some heavily worn areas may require further attention if we have a particularly bad year.</p>
 <p>Name: Andrew Fillery Club: Alesund GC, Norway Position: Course Manager</p>	<p>I agree whole-heartedly with overseeding and try to seed two or three times a year.</p>	<p>I seed in early May and mid-July depending on the weather. Dormant overseeding takes place in September/early October.</p>
 <p>Name: Charles Edgar Club: Castlerock GC, Northern Ireland Position: Course Manager</p>	<p>Overseeding is an important part in any greens maintenance programme. A lot of research and testing has been carried out to provide finer, disease tolerant grass species which can be introduced into golf greens. The more we can reduce the dependency on chemicals and fertilisers to produce fine putting surfaces, the better. If we can successfully introduce new species through overseeding into our sward, we are on the right track.</p>	<p>I tend to favour September - the earlier the better. It gives the new seedlings a better chance to establish before Autumn. The seasons seem to be mixed up so who knows what October or November might bring. Frequency would depend on weather conditions throughout the growing season - being a links course, a very dry summer coupled with an increase in play, the greens can be in need of rejuvenating. Generally I would hollow-tine and seed every two years with direct seeding in between.</p>
 <p>Name: Stuart Hogg Club: St Annes Old Links, North Position: Course Manager</p>	<p>I overseed to enhance the quality of the sward composition.</p>	<p>Usually I overseed in August/September time, depending on the weather and tournaments.</p>
 <p>Name: Stuart Greenwood Club: North Berwick, Scotland Position: Course Superintendent</p>	<p>Regular overseeding is important to keep improving grass quality which, in the long term, will lead to better and more consistent surfaces.</p>	<p>I tend to overseed from early August through to late September. I find I have more success as the ground temperature and moisture levels are better for germination.</p>
 <p>Name: Simon Forshaw Club: Jack's Point, New Zealand Position: Course Manager</p>	<p>We overseed in order to dense up our plant cover, help aid the fight against poa invasion and other weeds (as we are a newly seeded course). It also helps in our management in high traffic areas, while hopefully speeding up the recovery.</p>	<p>Our main aim this coming growing season, will be to do maybe two overseeding operations. We will do our first overseeding once our soil temperatures reach double digits, which for us is around mid-October. We have found in the past when we were in the construction/sow, that it was better to hold off and wait to gain a far better result. And again, overseed in autumn depending on our traffic damage. We have found in our case that our browntops have a far better strike rate in autumn than spring, if it is in non-irrigated areas.</p>
 <p>Name: Sean McDade Club: Sandwell Park, Midlands Position: Dep Head Greenkeeper</p>	<p>The necessity to over-seed falls into two factors, 1. Renovation, or, 2. Change of species. The first should be considered as an indicator that there is an underlying problem. That said, over-seeding is very useful in renovation of scarring from disease, what ever the time of year or causing pathogen. Secondly, the change to Agrostis in Poa dominant swards is nigh-on impossible, treat Poa well and it will serve you admirably. However, with multi-cultured swards over-seeding can prove very fruitful in preventing the invasion of Poa annua.</p>	<p>Such is now, due to climate change, dependant upon the prevailing conditions. I have sown seed in January with great success, and yet in May have failed! I am of the philosophy that even if conditions are not perfect, that the seed will remain within the sward and germinate when good and ready.</p>

OVERSEEDING

WHAT SEED MIX DO YOU USE?	DO YOU USE ANY TRICKS IN THE PROCESS OF OVERSEEDING TO MAXMISE SUCCESS?	WHAT DO YOU DO IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND WEEKS TO ASSIST SUCCESS?
<p>Mainly bent for greens in the past which over the years has shown a slow improvement in the make up of the sward.</p>	<p>Bulking the seed up with seaweed helps to give a nice even spread immediately prior to top dressing.</p>	<p>Apart from ordering in supplies in good time not much really. I think the after care once the seed has germinated is the crucial factor.</p>
<p>I use Pan A4.</p>	<p>No tricks, I just use an overseeder.</p>	<p>I use some sustain – 464 and 400.</p>
<p>80 % Fescue 20% Bent. I tend to work on the top five varieties from the STR1 seed guide.</p>	<p>Not really. I try to be as accurate as possible with distribution, get as much seed as possible into hollow-tine hole through brushing in various directions. I would put on a light application of lawnseed approximately one week after so there is nutrient available for the new seedlings when germinating - and then of course Pray!</p>	<p>Raise height of cut to 6mm, after top dressing I would use vibrating rollers to ensure good contact between seed and top dressing. Ensure that mower reels are kept sharp to lessen any damage to new leaf shoots.</p>
<p>I use pure fescue mixes.</p>	<p>I solid tine with 8mm tines down to 25mm, then use the cyclone spreader to apply the seed. It is then dragged in two ways then finally I apply a topdressing to hold the seed within the holes.</p>	<p>Pray for favourable weather conditions! Seriously, we tend to roll for a few days then apply a liquid seaweed once germination has been seen.</p>
<p>I use only fescue mix on all playing surfaces, but also some dwarf rye on heavy traffic areas.</p>	<p>Trying to get seed into existing sward is important - Use of sarel rollers and giving as many passes as possible as well as a light top dressing afterwards.</p>	<p>I try to lift the height of cut a little to give the seed a good chance of germination, and rolling a bit more instead of cutting causes less disturbance.</p>
<p>We use 50 % creeping red fescue and 50% chewing fescue on our fairways, and New Zealand brown tops on our greens/tees and roughs. In roughs we are slowly increasing our fescues with the brown tops over time. In our case we find if we don't get any bare areas filled in we find poa invading very fast.</p>	<p>Not really, just work towards preparing seeding conditions if required, monitor soil temperatures and moisture levels, and maybe a little help from some goodies.</p>	<p>Ensure worked areas are protected, monitored and traffic is kept to a minimum. Use a light started fertiliser depending on the situation, adjust cutting heights accordingly, make an effort to try not to have any sharp turns from wheels on maintenance equipment and golf carts. Daily tyre pressure checks. Moving hole cups around for spreading the wear. Tees: keeping divots/traffic confined to one area. Fairways: monitor cutting equipment. Our situation is different, we are a newly developed course that will be going into the wait and see period.</p>
<p>On greens: Agrostis ssp. The germination rate I have found to be superb if treated well. On other areas a general mix of Agrostis, Festuca, and P. pratensis works well, but traffic must be kept off during establishment.</p>	<p>There are only 3 tricks: 1. Prepare the ground well by aeration/slitting/spiking. If the seed is not in contact with the soil then put it in the bin. 2. Consolidate the surface with a top-dressing/ root zone.</p>	<p>Apply a light dressing of 8/8/8 after germination and mow with a sharp rotary mower for the first few weeks, such mowing prevents plucking-out of seedlings. On greens/scapes, lightly dress such to protect the emerging seedlings. Such will also help to re-tire any discrepancies in the putting surface.</p>



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The key to first-class greens without paying a king's ransom is AberRoyal Browntop Bent.



Bred for traditional UK soil-based greens, AberRoyal is one of the highest-rated cultivars in its class for shoot density and leaf fineness according to the STRI listings. You'll see the difference, due to its superb all year round colour and ability to out compete Poa annua.

Because every course is different, our technical advisors are on hand to help you select the best mixtures for your course.

Visit www.bshamenity.com to download our 2007 seed catalogue, or call 01522 868714 to contact your regional advisor.

The ABER® prefix is a registered trade mark of Germinal Holdings Limited, the parent company of British Seed Houses Limited.

The quest carries on



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ON COURSE FOR SAFETY

Nia Frost looks at the improvements in chemical safety on the golf course

Has chemical safety on the golf course improved in recent years? The answer is, without a doubt, yes. For many years chemicals have been used without adequate information about their hazardous properties or what risks are involved in their short- and long-term use. But that is not the case now that improved information about chemicals creates greater transparency and helps identify chemicals of concern.

The EU Review of control products is probably the single most influential factor affecting the access to control product for turf and amenity managers. The review is actually officially known as – EC Directive 91/414/EEC and its aim is to ensure that all pesticides on the market before 1991 meet present day safety standards.

The review has been initiated to:

- Harmonise national arrangements for authorisation of PPP within EU.
- Ensure that all countries operate to a high standard be implemented in UK by Plant Protection Product Regulations (PPPR) 1995.
- Use European data for national registrations.

The management and maintenance of golf courses relies on a wide range of tasks, each of which may present associated hazards or risks to the health, safety or welfare of employees and visitors.

The HSE (Health & Safety Executive) has published guidance on this subject in 'Health and Safety in Golf Course Management and Maintenance' (HS(G)79. This involves setting a clear health and safety policy; risk assessment and control; training; monitoring and review of working practices; effective communication; accident recording, reporting and investigation.

Certain hazardous substances used on golf courses (e.g. pesticides) may require an assessment of risks under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1999 (COSHH). Deciding what precautions are required, and then preventing or controlling any risks follows this.

Only approved pesticides should be used and labels should include a MAFF or HSE number. The 'conditions of use' should always be followed and anyone working with pesticides must be competent and has obtained their PA qualifications. Ongoing training for the spray operators is essential.

New Product Development

New chemical control products entering the market have to meet stringent new guidelines laid down by the EU, so it is fair to say that any new products brought onto the market will be the most efficient and safest products ever seen in the turf and amenity industry.

Most new chemical actives now tend to be of a much lower rate and have a more efficient formulation resulting in fast uptake, low residues and less active ingredient needed for control. This greatly reduces the amount of active ingredient released into the environment during application and therefore the risk of mammalian toxicity.

Heritage and the new fungicide Banner MAXX both have one of the lowest use-rate ranges in the turf grass fungicide market. They offer several significant advantages to the spray operator:

- Low acute toxicity
- Non-sensitising
- Low use rates, which reduce the amount of product handling
- Non-neurotoxin, non-carcinogenic and non-oncogenic
- Not readily absorbed through the skin
- No buffer (no spray) zone required

Local Environmental Risk Assessment for Pesticides

Certain pesticides have an aquatic buffer zone requirement when applied by horizontal boom or broadcast air-assisted sprayers, as some are very toxic to aquatic life. If you want to reduce this aquatic buffer zone, there is a legal obligation to carry out and record a Local Environment Risk Assessment for Pesticides (LERAP). It is important to remember that without effective buffer zones many sprays may not remain on sale. LERAPs provide greater flexibility in the application of buffer zones without additional restrictions.

Follow these six steps to produce a LERAP:

- Map out and categorise streams/ponds/rivers
- Display the map where spray operators can see it
- Establish whether any products used are LERAP category A or B
- If A leave a 5m buffer zone. If B refer to LERAP website for recommendations depending on type of spraying equipment being used
- Inform spray operator of required buffer zone
- Record your decision and relevant factors



There are new products coming through, although probably not as fast as we have been losing them. Therefore the industry does have to look at alternative methods for controlling pests and diseases. IPM (Integrated Plant/Pest Management) has been around for a long time, especially in the horticultural industry. The definition is: 'Attempt to control pests using various different proactive management strategies, considering everything that may affect pest development'.

After considering and adopting all cultural and preventative treatments it may still be necessary to use a 'control' treatment, with the most appropriate control product. Control products are still very much part of IPM! Scotts is committed to helping turf and amenity managers to manage their turf and amenity areas in a proactive and environmentally friendly way. This means providing advice and information to help prevent attacks in the first place.

If attacks do occur, try to find out why they are occurring and work on a plan to prevent it happening again. The idea is to have a specific plan for all areas that are managed.

The basic plan components include:

- Site assessment – Understanding conditions that favour the pest – unique to your turf area (map of area needed)
- Monitoring – accurate identification needed of more unusual diseases/include training in the plan
- Setting thresholds – how little/much is acceptable
- Identifying management options – e.g. cultural
- Building pest profiles – for each disease – now and for the future
- Proactive turf management – what is actually being done to manage disease
- Evaluation – is the plan working.

Application technology and equipment

Application and equipment has played a huge part in improving the efficacy of chemical usage and in protecting the operator and the environment.

The efficacy of a chemical application is clearly dependant on the chemical itself as well as its formulation, as already mentioned, but most importantly it's the delivery to the target site.

Here are some examples of efficient application technologies:

- Low drift nozzles
- Better boom suspension
- Re-circulating systems
- Pre-mix tanks, less handling of AI
- Shrouded (covered) booms
- Computerized calibration systems

Conclusion

Despite the major developments throughout the years, the ultimate safety of chemical usage is dependant on the operator. Therefore regular ongoing training is essential for the safety of not only the operator but for the general public and the environment.

For further details about Scotts' products, contact the company at Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich IP8 4BZ. Telephone: 0871 220 5353, fax: 01473 830386, email: prof.sales@scotts.com website: www.scottspromotional.co.uk

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL. USE PESTICIDES SAFELY.

Category A products: Alpha Chlorpyrifos 48 EC; Mavrik.

Category B products: Alpha Atrazine 50 SC; Alpha Briotril Plus 19/19; Alpha Bromotril P; Alpha Linuron 50 SC; Alpha Protugan Plus; Alpha Simazine 50 SC; Harlequin.

Nia Frost is Scotts Technical Manager, plant protection products.



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WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?



Name: Clive Nottingham

Company: Lloyds & Co Letchworth Ltd

Position: Managing Director

How long have you been in the industry?

"I've been working for Lloyds for 32 years."

How did you get into it?

"My father was on the parish council and a driving force in keeping the village rec and football teams going. As an engineer he acquired an old set of Lloyds Pennsylvania Gang mowers and we visited the factory in Letchworth to acquire spares. Much of my youth spent on a tractor trailing a set of Lloyds gangs, when my father said, "Sit here and drive this around the field." My weekends were spent cutting the sports ground. After leaving school I wanted to go into engineering and Lloyds were taking on staff."

What others jobs have you done?

"Initially I worked part time. I started work at Lloyds as a Trainee Engineer, then at 21 I was promoted to Shop Floor Supervisor, then Production Manager in '88 and Production Director in '92, followed by the role of Managing Director a year later - a role I still carryout along with my main role as Sale Director."

What do you like about your current job?

"I have used Lloyd's equipment, worked and now run the company for so many years it has become a big part of my life. I thrive on the daily chase for business and carrying out demonstrations. I still

get a kick out of the hard work that's required and receiving praise about the traditional values that we still offer.

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

"Most notably the compulsory complete tendering in local authorities made major changes to our customer base, many customers in this sector are now contractors. GC's have grown and the standards required have increased. H&S has become a big issue and machines have been modified to make working practices easier/quicker."

What do you like to do in your spare time?

"Socialise with friends at our local. I enjoy live music and travelling."

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

"Still running Lloyds but hopefully travelling more for pleasure than work I hope."

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

"You can't help but make friends in this industry. It's not unusual to be sharing a drink/meal with another MD or sales team."

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

"7 seems to have some meaning to me and it used to be my clock number."

Pick a number "40."

Clive has picked John Oldfield from Optimize Golf



SALTEX 2007

Like BTME & ClubHouse, held every January in Harrogate, all Saltex displays focus on labour and money saving products for the effective maintenance and management of turf and sports surfaces.

More than 15,000 visitors attend the annual three-day event at Windsor Racecourse, Berkshire, where approximately 400 exhibitors display the latest developments in fine turf and sports surfaces; turf maintenance equipment; landscaping; contractors; commercial vehicles; outdoor leisure and facilities and estate management, as well as software and security equipment.

Launched in 1938 as a grounds care show, IOG Saltex has grown in size and stature to cover every aspect of open space management. The show covers every open space profession from groundsmen and greenkeepers to play officers, architects, designers and surveyors.

The Greenkeepers' Training Committee (GTC) will again occupy a joint stand with the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), reinforcing a link that has served the fine turf profession well for many years. The strong relationship between the GTC, BIGGA and the key education and training stakeholders, coupled with the progress in the professional development of greenkeepers and greenkeeping, is the envy of many.

The GTC represents golf clubs and greenkeepers with regard to qualifications, training standards and all associated matters including assessor and management training. Visit the stand and view the latest materials that are used by the GTC Approved Training Providers. You can now purchase these together with the internationally acclaimed Training Manual.

With over 6,500 members BIGGA is the UK's leading professional organisation for greenkeepers and all those persons involved in the management of turf. In addition to providing a wide range of member benefits the Association also acts as training provider, supporting in particular the work of the GTC.

Website information
www.bigga.org.uk and www.the-gtc.co.uk

The show is open from 9am until 5pm (Tuesday and Wednesday September 4 and 5) and 9am until 4.15pm on Thursday, September 6.

Visitors to IOG Saltex can register now for their free entry badge at: www.iogsaltex.co.uk or call the Visitor Hotline on: 0870 429 4524 to order free visitor tickets.



HOW TO GET TO SALTEX

VENUE:

Windsor Racecourse is set in 165 acres of beautiful Berkshire countryside, on the banks of the River Thames and overlooked by Windsor Castle. The Racecourse is well located, with easy access of the M4, M25, M3 and M40 motorways, and has a railway station close by with a FREE water taxi running throughout the three days of IOG SALTEX from Windsor town centre to the exhibition. Heathrow Airport is just a few miles away from Windsor Racecourse.

BY ROAD:

From the M25:

Leave the motorway at Junction 15, where you'll join the M4, heading West.

From the M4:

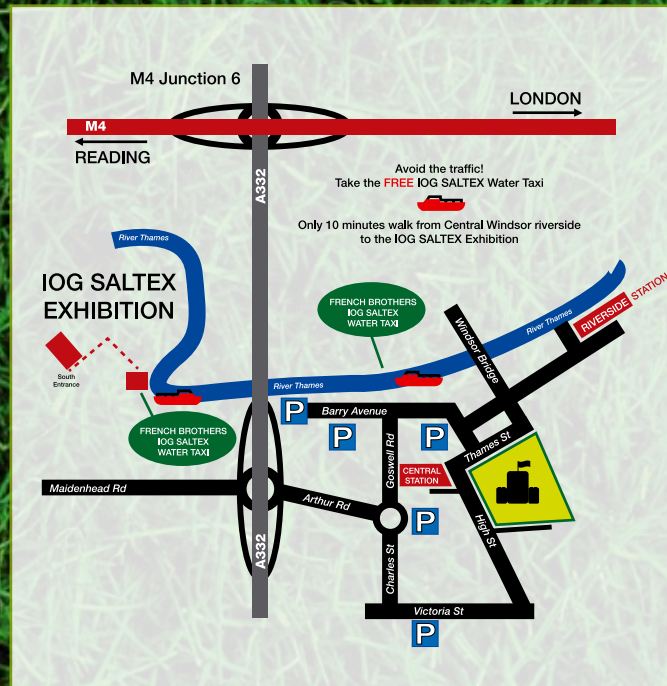
From the West - leave the M4 at junction 8/9, follow the brown signs for Windsor Racecourse or yellow AA signs for IOG SALTEX.

From the M4:

From the East - leave the M4 at junction 6, follow the brown signs for Windsor Racecourse or yellow AA signs for IOG SALTEX.

BY BUS:

Windsor Express bus number 700 connects London with Windsor. They depart from London Victoria Green Line Coach Station and you alight at Maidenhead Road, a short walk from the Racecourse. For more information call: +44 (0)870 608 7261.



BY RAIL:

You can travel by rail to Slough station from Paddington or the South West, or to Windsor Riverside & Eton station from London Waterloo. Then pick up the FREE water taxi service at French Brothers Pier beside the River Thames.

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To register, book education or find accommodation, visit www.harrogateweek.org.uk



HARROGATE NEWS...

Planning is well under way for Harrogate Week with the world's major players showcasing the latest equipment, technology and innovations all in one place, you can't afford to miss out. This is the perfect opportunity to build a stronger, more profitable business and keep up with a fast-moving industry.

EDUCATION

The Continue to Learn education programme is, once again, supported by The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC). Aimed at all those working within the turf industry, it leads the world in quality and content. The comprehensive workshop and seminar programme is again, supported by The Greenkeepers Training Committee.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The keynote speech will inspire you by giving you an exciting insight from an experienced fighter pilot, delivered by a recent former Red Arrow, about what high performance teamwork actually means in practice. You will be given a unique perspective and approach to achieving excellence in subjects such as performance under pressure, teamwork and leadership.

PARK & RIDE

The Park and Ride proved a huge success at Harrogate Week 2007 and is due to take place again at the Yorkshire Showground in 2008.

Alongside the exhibition will be the tried and trusted, Careers Clinic, Job Shop and Internet Café.

Keep an eye on the website for up to date information. www.harrogateweek.org.uk

FEATURE



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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.

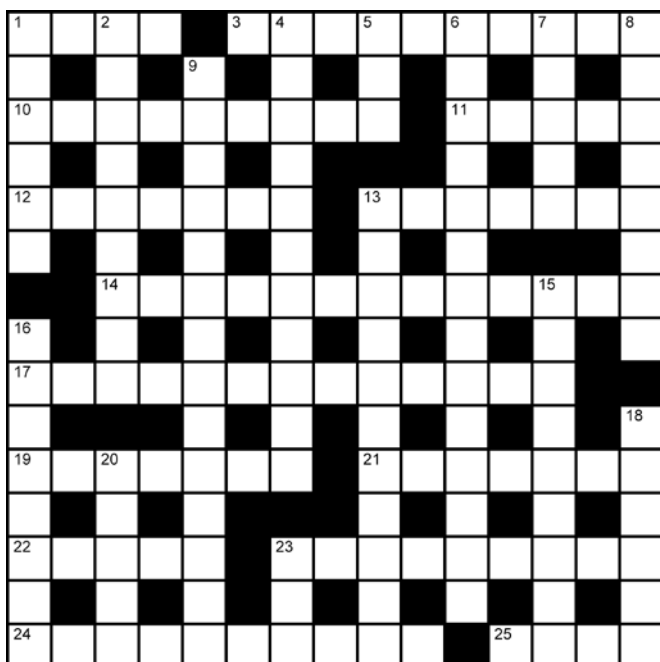
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Printed matter of little worth (4)
- 3 Piece of furniture alongside a bed (10)
- 10 Position of man whose wife is unfaithful (9)
- 11 Reasoned judgment (5)
- 12 Mythical Arabian bird which renewed itself in fire every 500 years (7)
- 13 Major fishing port near the mouth of the Humber (7)
- 14 Christmas carol sometimes attributed to Martin Luther (4,2,1,6)
- 17 Name given to the period of Egyptian history spanning the 11th to 13th dynasties (6,7)
- 19 Siberian dog breed with cream or white fur (7)
- 21 1973 Al Pacino film based on true story of police corruption (7)
- 22 Texan mission, site of military siege in 1836 (5)
- 23 Yacht's triangular headsail (9)
- 24 In conversation, a person not mentioned by name (3-4-3)
- 25 US naval officer and explorer of the Antarctic (4)

DOWN

- 1 Typically the muscle that flexes the forearm, any muscle with two origins (6)
- 2 Britain's first Labour prime minister (9)
- 4 Scaled in proportion to changes in the cost of living (5-6)
- 5 Dried grass used as fodder (3)
- 6 Lewis Carroll novel split between Fairyland and the real world (6,3,5)
- 7 Hornless breed of Scottish cattle (5)
- 8 Waterfront area where ships are built or maintained (8)
- 9 Type of alcoholic drink which is distilled rather than fermented (4,10)
- 13 Type of green eating apple (6,5)
- 15 The use of original but unnecessary devices (9)
- 16 Envoy, representative (8)
- 18 Car modified for acceleration and speed (3,3)
- 20 Feline sound (5)
- 23 Hand tool with toothed blade (3)



QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

- 1 Who invented the hot air balloon?
- 2 In 1744, which British golf course established the first golf club?
- 3 What do you get if you multiply the number of hoops used in a game of croquet by the number of shots under par an albatross is in golf?
- 4 Which golfer is nicknamed the 'Great White Shark'?
- 5 What sport would you be playing if competing for the Harry Vardon trophy?
- 6 In which year was the Ryder Cup golf tournament launched?
- 7 What is the amateur equivalent of the Ryder Cup golf tournament called?
- 8 In which year was the first women's golf tournament held?
- 9 In which year was the first British Open Golf Championship held?

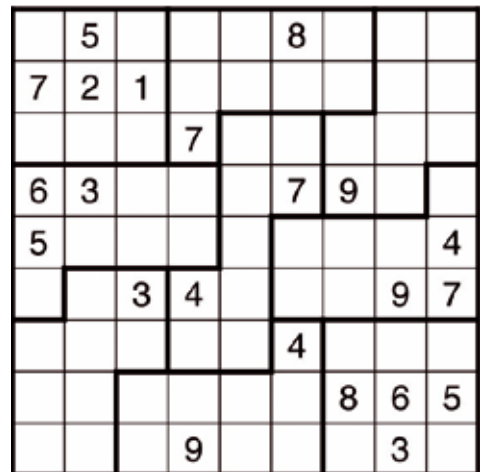
MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 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.



IN THE SHED ANSWERS ON PAGE 59



IN THE SHED



News from the Chief Executive

Regrettably the meeting with the IOG scheduled for July has had to be postponed until the middle of August due to Wimbledon commitments of two IOG representatives. This will inevitably put pressure on the original timescale and I will report to members on the outcome via the Association's website and in the September edition of GI.

We have once again witnessed a remarkable Open Championship. The course was in excellent condition and congratulations are well deserved to John Philp and his staff. The course was tough but fair - a true test of ability. Once again BIGGA had a marquee in the tented village, it was heartening to meet members and their guests. The BIGGA Support Team operated in a very professional manner and their work is valued by the R&A. Congratulations also go to David Coupland who, until as recently as April, was a greenkeeper at Boston GC. David battled his way through qualifying (actually winning his final qualifier at Monifieth GC) to compete in his first Open. I understand he has only been playing eight years and currently plays off +2. Time is on his side and this won't be his last Open.

Inside this copy of GI you should find details of the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota (UK) Ltd. The venues are excellent and we are due some better weather! If you wish to play please ensure that you return your entry form promptly as places are limited. There is a 'Trade' category and it would be encouraging to see some support from within our Trade and Associate membership. In July the launch of the long awaited Safety Management System (SMS) was completed. I would like to express my thanks to Exact and Ken Richardson who have worked extremely hard on this project. We are already receiving accolades for the comprehensiveness of the SMS and I believe that this demonstrates once again that BIGGA continues to work in the best interests of its members. Some greenkeeper members continue to question why the Association needs to get involved in commercial business matters. The reality of life is that BIGGA needs the income to provide benefits such as this. Were it not for the sponsorship of Ransomes Jacobsen then the SMS project would still be at the conceptual stage. Sponsorship is getting harder and harder to source and I take the opportunity to point out that in the case of the SMS the sponsorship covered the production cost however Exact were paid nothing and there was no recompense for staff costs in respect of either BIGGA or GCMA nor the members who assisted the development process. While on the subject of commercialism I can report that arrangements for Harrogate Week are progressing well. There is a full education programme planned with a particularly interesting event being organised for Monday night. You will have to wait for the programme to discover more details however I think that the evening will be highly entertaining, very educational and demand for seats will be high. Demand for exhibition space remains buoyant and with some careful planning it has been possible to reincorporate the major machinery manufacturers into Halls A,B,C and M. Having listened to members' comment regarding the BIGGA website I can confirm that programming has been started on a spell check and edit facility for the Bulletin Board.

Finally, I hope that none of you have been badly affected by the severe weather. I sympathise with those that have seen their homes and lives ruined by the flooding. While the Association does not have a formal benevolent fund it is never-the-less always prepared to consider help in cases of genuine hardship. Any contact should be with myself, in writing.

John Pemberton



SCOTLAND - AYRSHIRE

Hello all, just a few things to let y'all know about. Firstly to congratulate John Wilson (Irvine GC) on winning the third class division at the Scottish National Tournament last month.

A reminder to get Tuesday, September 25 highlighted in the calendar as that's the day I lift the Harry Diamond Jug over in Arran and I'd like as many of you there to celebrate with me as possible, unless of course you've got something you'd rather be doing?

Our trip to Northern Ireland will be fast approaching as you read this so those looking for a nice relaxing break across the water need not apply! We need fearless warriors and lad's who aren't afraid of getting a round in! Seriously though I 'm looking for names. We will be sailing the morning of Friday, October 5 and returning Sunday, 8. Two nights B&B is £50 pp while Big Brian will be sussing out a deal on the ferry for us. Any questions call me on: 07939 104701 or email: denis.t@hotmail.co.uk. Ta Ra for now then.

Denis Tweddell



SCOTLAND - CENTRAL

At this time of year the summer should be well underway and the monsoon season hopefully behind us. This spring has been one of the wettest I remember and I'm sure that it has created many challenges for us all. The hard work of the club competitions and Opens should be over and we may be starting to plan the winter programs for this year. If you have any projects or pictures you would like to share with others let us know and we'll post them on the website.

Welcome to the following new members: Thomas Adams, Kieran Coll, Graham Copland, Barry Currie, Gary Kilday, Scott MacFarlane, Raymond Perrins, Joseph Smith, and Craig Sword. I hope to meet you sometime this year at one of our golf outings or educational events.

By the time you read this John Philp and the team at Carnoustie will have hosted The Open Championship. I'm sure it will be a great event and that the players will have faced a stern test of their skills to find the Champion Golfer of 2007.

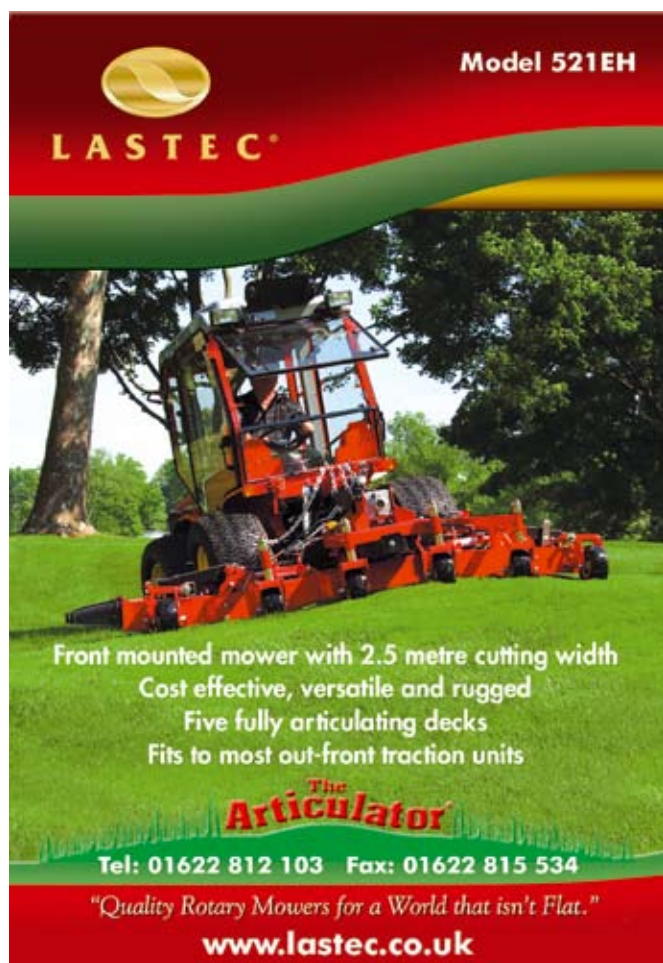
I have just returned from attending the Scottish Tournament which this year was held over the border in Northumberland for the first time and was played at Goswick golf course. It was a great day. Geordie Thompson and his team had the course looking great and playing great, a real test of golf for everyone. Many thanks on behalf of the Central Section to the golf club for their first class hospitality on the day, and also to Peter Boyd, our Regional Administrator, who once again organised a fantastic event for us all. I know from experience how much work it takes to organise these events, but Peter makes it all seem so easy. The Section was proud to have scratch winner, Kenny Stirling and the handicap winner, Dougie Barr, both playing on form. Well played guys.

Around the Green

The Section's next outing will be at the Dukes. Andy Campbell, Derek Robson and their team have done a great job growing in all the improvements and many new bunkers. We are in for a treat on September 20, so when you receive your application form return it quickly to make sure of a place.

I had the opportunity to play over in Ireland, on some great courses. The one that stands out for me is Castle Rock one of the best links courses I have played on. Tough, but enjoyable. They have some great competitions over there - certainly worth a visit. My next visit will be Wentworth and Royal Burgess, two more great courses. I do still work for a living, honest.

Finally, just to remind you that the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota is being held in Scotland this year on October 8 and 9 at Dundonald and Barrassie, two fantastic courses you don't want to miss. The Section is always well represented at BIGGA events and I'm confident we will have a good field entered on this occasion. If you need any information please get in touch. If there is enough interest from our Section it may be possible that transport could be arranged. There is plenty of accommodation in the area which is close to both courses. Please let the Section know if you're interested.



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The committee are working on a winter programme of courses and talks. Any areas you feel need attention then let us know.

www.biggacentralsection.org.uk 01334 658914

Chairman: Derek Scott

Secretary: Andy Mellon



SCOTLAND - EAST

As I write this report in early July the weather is appalling and the forecast for the week is predicting more rain. We have had a huge run on roller squeegees recently, proving there is always light at the end of the tunnel. Here's hoping a late summer heatwave is just round the corner.

On June 21 all roads led to Goswick for the Scottish National Tournament. As was to be expected, George and his team presented the course in excellent condition and drew fulsome praise from all in attendance. The East Section members who played had a very successful day and picked up a few trophies into the bargain. They were as follows: 1st class winner – Mark Pagan, Eyemouth; 2nd Class winner – Robbie Murdoch, Dundas Park; Best Assistant – Alan Russell, Archerfield; Retired Trophy – Jim Manuel, formerly Goswick.

All this good play resulted in the East Section picking up the St. Mungo's Cup (Team Award), a trophy they have not won for many years. Finally George would like to thank everyone for their kind comments on the day. NB For a full report on the national see Peter Boyd's report in the news.

The Section has recently been challenged to a football match by the West, which would probably be played on a home and away basis. With this in mind I would be grateful if all interested parties would contact Chris Yeaman on: 07919090526 for further information,

For the second year running Musselburgh GC hosted a pre-qualifier (open) event on Wednesday, July 4. Considering the course was closed on the Tuesday due to a tremendous thunderstorm, it was in excellent condition at commencement of play and was a credit to Tom Shepherd and his team. In the main, the weather was fair with play being suspended only for a short period. At the close of play 19 out of a field of 120 went forward to the final qualifier with two golfers scoring 66 on the day.

Finally Roz and I recently spent a few days visiting friends in Berlin. With the temperature hitting 32 degrees, sightseeing was a tiring business. A curious mixture of the old and new, we certainly found it well worth the trip. Until next month.

Mike Dooner



SCOTLAND - NORTH

Hello everybody, some weather we have had through June and early July. We are certainly getting our share of rain after that dry spell in April. Has anybody had any disasters with flooding on their course during the last few weeks?

Around the Green

Two of our members, Raymond Warrender and Kevin Strachan are going to put on a bus from Aberdeen to the Autumn Meeting at Fortrose. The bus will leave Aberdeen on Wednesday, September 19 at approximately 4pm and will head towards Inverness for an overnight stay. We would like to get as many as possible on the bus and can collect on route between Aberdeen and Inverness if needed. This is a kind gesture by Raymond and Kevin and one that should be supported as much as possible. If you wish to go on the bus get in touch with Raymond (07876441159) or Kevin (07801297070) or get in touch with me on: 07931 639548 to leave your name. I am sure we could have a good laugh and a few drams on the way.

Euan Rankin, from Murcar Links, and his girlfriend Dawn had a baby girl on July 3. She weighed in at a hefty 9lbs 6oz. Her name is Ellie Jane. Well done Euan hope everything goes well with the new addition to your family.

I don't have much more this month, except that already the days are getting shorter, where has the summer gone.

Robert Patterson



SCOTLAND - WEST

Well another great summer - just waiting for it to start. On the job front we have some movement, Steven Wilson, my Assistant at Renfrew, has moved to the Dukes Course in St Andrews. Gordon Kerr has moved to a new development, Marr Hall down on the shores of Erskine Beech, Gordon has been at Gledoch GC for the last 17 years, and Bryce Houston has moved from Lochgiolhead to Blair Athol GC in Perthshire, also Steven Fraser has moved from Prestwick St Cuthbert's to Erskine GC. I would like to wish all great success in their new employment.

I attended this year's Scottish National Tournament at Goswick GC in Berwick upon Tweed; it was good to see a good turn out from the West Section.

Congratulations to George and his team for the preparation of the course, everyone had a first class day. I played with one of George's Assistants on the day, so it was good to get some first class knowledge of the course, it didn't help as I had my usual NR.

Many thanks to Peter Boyd for arranging the day with help from Archie Dunn and Stuart Greenwood, our Scottish Chairman, well done it was another first class day.

Also congratulations to all the prize winners. It was a nice change to play our Scottish Championship in England.

Remember this year's annual night out is a change of venue, we will be going to the Glasgow Comedy Club. Tickets will be on sale over the next couple of months. Contact myself or Gavin Jarvis for information on the night.

We plan to have an educational seminar at the back end of the year as soon as we have dates, members will be notified by letter. Also the

Autumn outing is being held over the Vale of Leven GC September 20. I hope to see a good turn out as Davy McBride, the Course Manager, always has the course in first class condition.

Our Football Manager, Brian Hillan, would like to put a challenge out to any Section wishing to play us in a match. Brian has had some of the boys in training over the past month or two. Congratulations to Andy Peace, Greenkeeper at Port Glasgow GC, for winning the Club Championship at my own club Renfrew.

Well that's all for now, I hope the weather improves over the next month to add a bit more enjoyment to our jobs.

Fraser Ross karen.ross@tesco.net
07970 3660 355



NORTHERN - NORTH WEST

July 4 and the course is closed due to flooding, What is going on with the weather? I hope it's improved by the time you read this. The summer tournament took place at Denton GC with the winner being Peter Hogan, the guest prize went to Mark Prosser the owner of the Beacon GC. Well done to you both. As I said before the weather has been awful and for Denton GC to be in such excellent condition says a lot about the Head Greenkeeper and his team, so well done Alec Davies and all the lads. Many thanks to Bathgates for providing the Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive, and also to Danny Tomkins and Blade Amenity for the refreshments at the ninth hole, thanks also to all of the trade for the prize table, it was very much appreciated.

The Autumn Tournament at Silloth GC on October 2 raised a few eyebrows when it was announced, lots of people were saying they would love to play but it was too far to drive, despair not as Danny Thomkins from Blade Amenity has come up with a possible answer, he has suggested putting a coach on with a pick up point at say Haydock, if anyone is interested in this, please get in touch with me, not Billy or Bert as they have enough to do. If the numbers are sufficient we will put one on. I will need all the names by September 1, so please contact me if you wish to go. Please remember that this will be on a first come first served basis so be quick as this venue will be very popular.

The annual Stewards Match will be played at Disley GC in October and we will need a team to represent the North West Section, it's a sponsored day so it will not cost you a penny, if you fancy it please contact Bert Cross. Well that's all for now, if anyone needs any help or advice please contact the Secretary, Bert Cross on: 01517245412 or myself, Chris Sheehan on: 01512894625, my email is: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan



NORTHERN

As I start this month's report the rain is just starting to come down again which only means more misery for greenkeepers across the country. In what has been the wettest June since records began, the forecast for



the start of July promising much of the same, it looks like more floods, course closures and more sitting around inside with cups of tea, I'm sorry I mean more being out in the driving rain pumping bunkers out in preparation of Ladies Captains Day!

Luckily the bad weather held off for most of June 28, which was the date of this years Presidents Day at Ripon City Golf Club. A massive thank you must go to Ripon Golf Club for hosting us this year and to Head Greenkeeper, Richard and his staff for producing a fantastic course in what has been testing times for us all. Thank you also to Adrian Holroyde and Bob Wild Grass Machinery for their sponsorship of the day.

The results on the day are as follows: Bill Mountain Trophy - Dennis Cockburn. 1.1 A Baxter; 1.2 D Collins; 1.3 T Gerrard. 2.1 A Speight; 2.2 F Stewart; 2.3 J Watts. 3.1 D Cockburn; 3.2. K Christie; 3.3 S Heaton. Trade - 1. E Carter; 2. T Arana.

While on the subject of golf days I have received a couple of complaints about the state some of the trophies are being brought back in. Please guys in future can you make sure if you do win a trophy you return it the year after in a clean condition!

Please don't forget this year's Invitation Day is on Tuesday, August 14 at Howley Hall Golf Club and the Autumn Tournament is on Thursday, September 27 at Fulford Golf club. I'm fairly certain that both days will be very popular so please get your names and payment in early to avoid disappointment due to the fact we have got limited availability at both events.

Please also try and get your names down early for the seminar at Moortown Golf club on Wednesday, September 5. This is a free seminar which is being sponsored by Rigby Taylor as is based upon the latest findings from the STRI with regard to their disturbance theory. The day will start around 9 to 9.30am and will include a buffet lunch.

If any body has any news regarding the Section and its members then please get in touch.

Adam Speight adam@speight1156.fslife.co.uk
07739 319060



CLEVELAND

Some members of the greenkeeping and groundsman fraternity visited Newcastle United's training centre in June. It was a very interesting night, with Head Groundsman, Michael Curran, giving an informative tour of the complex. The machinery shed was filled with excellent machinery and first class maintenance equipment. The pitches were in superb condition – these top footballers don't know they're born! Many thanks go to Micky for a great night.

Another summer social event is due to take place on Thursday, August 16, when the Annual Friendly Bowls Competition will be held at Durham City Bowling Club. Greenkeepers and Groundsmen along with friends and family are invited. A 6.30pm start is planned as the nights will be putting in a little by then. I urge you to attend, as the outlook is fantastic with the Cathedral and the Castle in the backdrop and a wonderful buffet

to look forward to. Please come along. In order to assist the club with numbers for catering, please book a place by ringing T.C. on: 07831 214879. There will be a small charge to cover the costs. Directions are available from me on the above mobile.

The Autumn Tournament will be held at City of Newcastle GC, Great North Road, Gosforth on Tuesday, October 2. The tee is booked from 10 – 11am. Please send your 'non-refundable' £5 deposit to Ian Pemberton, 6 Rosewood Court, Marton, Middlesbrough, TS7 8QR.

Any news to Terry "El Prez" Charlton on: 07831 214879



SHEFFIELD

On July 9, we held our summer Golf Day at Wortley GC. After the weather we had had the previous few weeks we were very lucky to be playing golf at all! Hope everybody is dry again now?

Our thanks go to Wortley GC for giving us courtesy of their golf course it was very much appreciated. Big thanks go to John Francis and his greenkeeping team for the excellent condition Wortley was in after all the adverse weather we had been getting, well done John! Our main sponsors for the day were Mansfield Sand who provided an excellent prize table once again. They are very good supporters of our Section and it is very much appreciated - our thanks go to Dave Smith and Russ Latham. Thanks also to all the other trade members who provided prizes. Finally on the thank you section, a very big one goes to the catering staff for providing a fantastic meal which was enjoyed by everyone and the feedback I got was that people thought it was the best meal we had for some time, thank you!

Their was some good golf played (apart from by myself!) and the eventual winner was Darren Coop who shot a gross 72, well done Darren. I would like to thank the Captain of Wortley GC, Gerry Brennan for presenting the prizes.

The results were as follows: 1. D Coop, 72pts (best gross); 2. R Atchison, 69pts (best nett); 3. D Turner, 70pts; 4. S Brown, 71pts; 5. J Shaw, 72pts. Guest prize winner was Gerry Brennan and Nearest the Pin was won by Stuart Clayton. Our next golf day is at Brough GC on September, 17 - 1pm tee off.

Before that we have a lecture at Rotherham GC on September 6 given by Henry Bechelet and Richard Windows from the STRI on The Disturbance Theory. This will be a very interesting lecture and hopefully it will be a good turn out from you all. It starts at 12, with a buffet provided before the lecture. Our Secretary, Chris Astle, has told us he wishes to resign as Secretary but he still wants to stay on the committee, Chris is staying in his position until the AGM in December so we will need to find a new Secretary by then so if anyone is interested in the position please let any of the committee know.

The Wembley trip is being finalised and we should know the date soon, then you will receive details in the post shortly afterwards.

Finally, on behalf of the Sheffield Section I would like to pass on our condolences to Dave Smith, who recently lost his wife Diane after a long

Around the Green

illness, all our thoughts are with you and your family Dave.

As usual, if you have any news please feel free to contact me on: 07793111845 or: jv.lax@tesco.net

John Lax



MIDLAND

Well what's going on then! Dry hot spring then cool wet summer (understatement or what). At least I've been able to practice my fly-fishing, on the greens no less. Talking of fishing, our annual angling event is to be held at our usual venue in Alvechurch/Hopwood by the grace of my father/Capability Landscapes and Mr R.Perks/Rubery Building Supplies. The dates for such have yet to be confirmed but will be either: 22, 29, or 30 of September, at 9am. I can assure you that the fishing is very good, and if numbers allow sponsorship will provide a good prize table. If interested in attending please let me know which date you prefer on: 07908 421 015.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome our new President Mr J.Hammond as our figure head. John has been an advocate of the Section for many years via his involvement as our very genuine Mr Starter. He is indeed a man whom wishes to take on the roll with passion and dedication. Looking forward to your learned council John.

Our summer tournament was held at Coventry GC and I am informed (I got lost, no not get) that the course was in excellent condition as prepared by C.M. K.Tregartha and his fine team, the Section's thanks to you all. Also thanks to Coventry GC for their very kind welcome and generous use of its lovely facilities. The results of the day were: Best gross, S.Scott 34pts; Nett: 1. A.Moss, 37pts; 2. S.Scott, 36pts; 3. N.Couchman, 34pts; 4. E.Stant; 5. M.Hughes, 33pts. Our thanks to Bathgate Leisure/J.Hamond for the main prize table. Longest drive: E.Stant. There were two Nearest the pins: S.Scott & A.Moss, sponsored by N.Tyler/Alpha Amenity. Drinks at halfway sponsored by K.Pugh/Turner Groundcare.

Our autumn event is to be played at Walsall GC on September 12, don't forget to get your entries to Gary ASAP. Also our AGM is to be held there at 6:30pm before the evening meal. Please attend the AGM, we really do need you thoughts and comments, good ones nice bad ones far more useful.

Education and Training: Two day 360 Excavator course, October 5 and 6, Fulford Heath GC, £360 Inc VAT. Irrigation Servicing, Repair and Fault Finding Workshop on October 30, The Belfry, price to be confirmed. Vibration and Noise Management Seminar, October 24, Gay Hill GC - price to be confirmed. For booking details or information contact Paul on: 07880 734 197. Further details are also on our website www.biggamidlandsection.com there is also information regarding our new criteria for handicaps. Such has been formulated to favour us infrequent plays, there is also a forum for comments, the progress of the Scotts Doubles, start times for event and a wealth of further information. Visit it and register - it will keep Leigh happy.

Just time to thank this month's calendar sponsor: Advanta/Matt Gresty-

amenity seed specialist. I see that my shoes and trousers had had a falling out. Soon be time to produce next year's calendar, so we need photos. Get clicking.

Sean McDade



BERKS/BUCKS AND OXON

The Summer Tournament, sponsored this year by Gem Professional, was held at a truly magnificent course near Reading in Berkshire. Sonning GC was designed and opened for play in 1911 by J.H.Taylor. He, of course, was the famous triumvirate of The Open winners - Braid, Taylor and Vardon. Also famously Max Faulkner was assistant professional at Sonning and won The Open in 1951 at Royal Portrush with a score of 285. So this parkland course had a great deal to offer with its holes of changing character which entice you through wooden belts and provided a great challenge to play.

A record turnout competed for the Gem Rosebowl and the results were as follows: 1. J Howard, Lambourne; 2. J Lee, Southfield; 3. G Glen Deanwood; 4. D Lyons Deanwood; Trade Prize - R Catlin; Nearest the Pin - M Weatherstone Lambourne; Straightest Drive - D Parrish Henley.

A big thank you to Matt Smith and his staff for preparing the course to a first class standard and to Secretary, Andrew Tanner, for arranging courtesy prior to the game and on the day. Sonning GC provided us all with excellent facilities and catering staff Amanda and Clive ensured that we got very well fed and watered.

To the sponsors for the day Clive Parnell and Gary Tait from Gem, thank you for all your support on a great 4th of July day.

The next event this year is The Autumn Invitational and this is to be held at Newbury & Cookham GC on September 26, later this year. Don't forget to pencil it in. Information can always be gleaned from the www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk website where you will be able to download your entry form and tee times when they are published.

With all this in mind our Section Secretary, Dean Jones, looks forward to your entries which, if on time, makes for a more organised and enjoyable day, so please try to get your entry forms in by the closing date.

News from around the green this month welcomes Neil Carter, from Kent, who has just started as the new Course Manager at Chipping Norton GC in Oxfordshire. We look forward to seeing you at our Section events throughout the year.

Perry Harvey, from Oakland Park GC, is uprooting and immigrating to a new life in Australia as, after many years in the Bucks area, the Harvey family have decided to start afresh on the other side of the world. We wish them the best of luck and good wishes for the future.

I am ending the Section report on a sad note after hearing about the death of Alex Millar at the age of 66. Alex started his career in 1959 at Erskine GC in the Glasgow area of Scotland where his father was the club professional and greenkeeper. In 1965 the keen Chelsea and Rangers supporter moved the family south to Moor Park GC in Hertfordshire and



four years later in 1969 took control of Denham GC in Buckinghamshire, where he remained until his retirement in 2002. Alex was an extraordinary individual and played an active part in greenkeeping circles and represented Hertfordshire and the BB&O at golf, winning the BB&O championship and was five times National Artisan Champion - Such were but a few of the golfing accolades that he achieved. Alex also played scratch golf for 27 years and his handicap never went above five even after his retirement. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and a testament to a man who always left a sparkle wherever he went throughout the region.

Mark Day
mark.day@tacitgolf.com



SOUTH EAST - SURREY

*Grass, grass it's glorious and green
It's growing like crazy and greenstaff are seen
Cutting and trimming in sun and the rain
No sooner they've finished they're cutting again
The rough's getting rougher the captains perturbed
The club's losing members in the rough on the third
But don't worry chaps the answer is clearly
Work all weekends for the club you love dearly.*

This little ditty was sent in by a member who wishes to remain anonymous and who can blame him or her.

Cuddington GC, the venue for the National Qualifier, was in fantastic condition and with glorious views over London it was the ideal setting for this stroke play competition. Many thanks to Simon Osbourne and his team for preparing the course to such a high quality. Unfortunately the rain, thunder, lightning and hailstones did not appreciate the importance of Surrey Section's qualifier and most players abandoned play after 9 holes. The qualifier will now take place at our next event at Sunningdale GC on Monday, July 3. The winner of the shorter than expected Cuddington competition, sponsored by Seoul Nassau and presented by Ian Sellers, was Tony Bremer followed by Kevin Boxall, Paul Bacon, David Gibbs and Sean Whipp.

You will all know by now that our beloved Chairman, Anthony (Kojak) Freeman, has decided to resign from the committee. I know you will all want to join me in thanking Anthony for the many years of hard work he put into the job. It was only after the first month as Chairman that he realised it was an unpaid position not like being Chairman at a bank or a large company. This, however, did not deter him and like all men of vision, commitment and greed he put the disappointment behind him and got on with the job of shaping the Surrey Section into a shining example of a modern day dictatorship, one that has only been surpassed by the like of Tony Blair. All good things must come to an end and Anthony, unlike Blair, has not passed leadership to a foreigner, he has installed a good and gentle Dorking man to take the reins until the AGM in December. Tony Bremer is not only Secretary but is now also Sir. Tony would like to hear from members who would like the job of Sir to get their psychotherapist to contact him with proof of their insanity, for only someone who is not the full shilling would surely want to apply.

Derek Cunliffe, Course Manager at Old Thorns GC, is now fully experienced in the art of delivering babies. On June 9, his wife Lynda, decided not to wait until they got to hospital and at 3.10am gave birth, with only Derek's help, to their daughter Isabel (7lb 11ozs).

Tom Spurgeon, an Assistant Greenkeeper at Croham Hurst GC, is leaving in August to work in New Zealand for eight months. Roger Tydeman, Course Manager at Croham, wishes him bon voyage but advises him to leave his scissors at home or else he'll get kicked off the plane and his job at Croham has already been filled.

Now, on a more serious note, it has come to my attention via a very reliable source that one of our Course Managers has taken his responsibilities to his club and his course far beyond the call of duty. I have been asked not to name him but only to report his heroic story for you all to wander at. After having had vandals damage a green on his course a few weeks ago. John, I'll call him John for expediency, decided to keep watch one night and try to catch them red handed. Having erected his tent a short distance from the aforementioned green, out of view in a small copse of trees, he settled down to his lonely vigil. He carefully made his campfire and used his cooking skills, remembered from a previous career, to fry his sausage supper to perfection. After a few pints and a much needed visit to some convenient bushes, John decided that it was probably too early for his expected visitors to arrive, so a short nap in his one man tent was a sensible idea. It was at this stage his plans went wrong, who knows why, did he forget to remove his ear defenders? Was the tent material too thick? We may never know, for when he awoke his visitors had been and instead of being greeted by an outraged greenkeeper they were left in peace to perform their wheelies and handbrake turns. It may be for the better that John did not wake up for who knows how many vandals there may have been and that this brave hero is still here to tell the tale. Next time John, have a few friends with you, it might mean buying a BIGGA tent but the snoring is bound to keep you awake. Volunteers, please phone me and I will put you in touch with the man of mystery. Only those who live near Laleham should apply.

Brian Willmott



KENT

Hi guys. We had a great day at the delightfully quirky Westgate and Birchington GC a couple of weeks ago. If you weren't there, you missed a cracker, for those of us who were privileged enough to enjoy the course and the scenic views I would like to speak for all and thank everyone at the club for their hospitality. Thanks also to Avoncrop, Collier, Gem and Scotts for providing raffle prizes on the day. The results were as follows: 1. Sam Burton, 42pts; 2. Gary Sidders, 41pts; 3. Sam Fromage 40pts; Nearest the Pin was Michael Wigstone; Longest Drive was Ben Adams.

Our next event is a much-anticipated trip to the Wildernesse Club on September 27. The format on the day will be a three ball fun Texaco Scramble Team event. Entries for this popular venue are sure to be quick off the mark so watch out on the webpage for the entry forms and get them in quick! Teams will be drawn from all paid up entrants on the list prior to the event. Usual prices of £25 for Course Managers and £15 for assistants.

Around the Green



EAST ANGLIA

We are planning to organise a paintballing event in the very near future in the North Kent Region, this will probably be in October, please let us know via the webpage if you are interested in participating in this event.

One other thing, congratulations to my old mate Dan Waghorn and his long suffering girlfriend Kimberly, who have recently tied the knot. Not sure what happened to my invitation mate but good luck to you both for the future.

That's all for this month guys. Keep smiling and keep up with all the latest goings on at www.kentgreenkeepers.co.uk

Rob Holland



SUSSEX

Hello again, I hope everyone's enjoying this strange weather we are having. Not quite sure how much longer it will go on. It seems as soon as you have finished cutting the course you have to start again. Oh well it keeps us in a job!

On to the golf, we have just had our summer fixture at Cophorne GC. We got lucky with the weather and the course was in exceptional condition. A big thank you must go to the Course Manager, Mike Gould and his staff for all their hard work.

Also thanks go to Palmers and Andy Page for sponsoring the day. They also put up a hole in one prize, which was a gator but no one got near it. The competition was teams of three and the best two scores on every hole, the results are as follows: Nearest the Pin on the 7th - Adam Hartley; Longest Drive on the 18th - Peter Tarvey Jones. (I say drive, I think he may have used a rocket launcher.) 1st - Brian Wilmot, Rory Bremer, Ant Freeman, 79 pts; 2nd - Kieran Laverly, Peter T-Jones, Ian Evans, 75pts; 3rd - Dave Allen, Chris Ahier, Dan Beard, 74pts; 4th - P Bell, M Hind, R Webber, 70pts; 5th - Ian Beale (Gary O), Chris Allen, Peter Wines, 69pts; 6th - Mike Gould, AJ Pyne, J Stevens, 67pts; 7th - Glynn Pollard, Eric Green, Peter Saunders, 66pts; 8th - Tony Wooley, David Wellfare, John Shepherd, 64pts; 9th - Matt Crossley, Glen Scott, Paul Scott, 63pts; 10th - Andy Naismith, Joe Dorner, Gordon Bell, 63pts; 11th - Andy Paige, Martin Coles, Darren Mitchell, 62pts; 12th - John Hill, Richard May, Carl Whyborne, 59pts; 13th - Paul Dunbar, Simon Mccarthy, Rob Hudson, 58pts.

As you can see there was a great turn out for the event, it was great to see so many new faces. A big thankyou to everyone who attended and made the day a big success.

The next event is Sussex v Surrey some time in august, and the following event will be the autumn fixture at Cooden Beach on September, 13.

Again, any news that you would like me to include, any ideas on the running of the golf days, or if you would like to host a golf day, please let me know on: 07776223234 or email me: robert.hudson77@btinternet.com

Rob Hudson

Well, here we go again then, our second venue for our round East Anglia Tour. Stowmarket – What a lovely place. Unfortunately, it shares the same postcode as a nearby girls school, and, with the wonders of modern technology, namely the 'satellite navigational system' guess where we ended up! Coincidentally, the 'sat nav' belonged to my up and going young apprentice – well, he's only 20.

I digress (must be the 'sat nav'). Seriously, Stowmarket GC was in super condition thanks to Mat Gill and his team. There was not a blade out of place, even my Chairman was impressed, and so he should be. Nice one mate.

There must have been 60-70 of us playing. These are the few that actually practice: 0-9 – 1. Norman Fenwick, 39pts on countback; 2. Chris O'Dowd, 39pts; 3. Graham Hurren, 37pts. 10-18 – 1. Ian Willet, 37pts; 2. Niel Worger, 34pts; 3. Asa Barber, 33pts. 19-28 – 1. David Driver, 40pts, Overall winner; 2. Nevill Rowlandson, 30pts; 3. Ivan Hare, 27pts. Trade Prize was won by Mick Fance, 34pts; 2. Mark Keysell, 33pts. Guest Prize was won by Richard Hurn, 42pts (he got the sat nav going in the end!); 2. Club Captain, Vic French, 35pts. Longest Drive was Graham Hurren. Nearest the Pin was Mick Fance and the loo seat – now here is a story:

As you all know, Peter Howard and Steve Millard do a first rate job selling raffle tickets and to help them out they asked a Mr Niel Worger and others, to tear up the strips and put them in a box. You guessed it! Niel put his own tickets in as well! Every now and then we find one, don't we?

The day was sponsored by Tomlinson Groundcare and I don't think any of us left that course hungry. Brilliant hot dogs I must say.

Our other friends that helped make the day were: Tacit, Consultant Clarkson, Vitax, Aitkens, Sisis, Rigby Taylor, Bartram Mowers, Earnest Doe, Headland, Scotts and Textron.

Our thanks once again to Stowmarket GC for letting us play. The catering was excellent and so was the hospitality. Hopefully some of it will spread to Norfolk!

I must say a personal thank you to Vic French, the Captain for letting me in without a jacket and tie – I knew where it was (indoors). I don't usually go around looking like a Swan Vesta – do I?

Mick Lathrope



ESSEX

The summer medal tournament went off well with a fantastic day at Theydon Bois GC played on a fine day for golf although a bit on the windy side. The 51 starters enjoyed good playing conditions and a fine course, laid out by Course Manager John Barnard, and his team, our thanks go to him and the club for a very enjoyable day.



The day was sponsored by Tacit and our thanks go to Mark Day and Tim Webb of Tacit for the prizes.

Winners were as follows: Overall. Adam Millward, Orsett Golf Club, 67pts; Scratch. Nick Gates, Theydon Bois Golf Club. 73pts; Nearest the Pin. Steve Crossdale, Lords Rayleigh; Straightest Drive, Andy Toomey. The next event is the Autumn Stableford Tournament, at Colchester GC on August 5.

The entry is limited to 60 so make sure you get your entry in early. For those of you that have not received an entry form these can be downloaded from our website, www.essexbigga.co.uk and starting times will be posted on the web, two or three days prior to the event.

On the move front, Steve Crossdale has changed his position at Lords, although staying as Course Director he now has the title of Executive/ Course Director this because he has the General Manager's position as well as clubhouse responsibilities and looking after both Rayleigh and Notley GC's.

Paul Brown has joined Steve at Lords Rayleigh as Course Manager from Ballard's Gore, and Paul Millard is the new Course Manager at Five Lakes, we hope they all do well in their new positions and will know doubt see them at Colchester in the next event.

Sorry this month's news is a very light on the ground but information is a bit short in supply at the moment.

Anyone who has any news for inclusion in the ATG can email me at: highwoods.photographic@virgin.net or call me on: 01206852353

Arnold Phipps-Jones www.essexbigga.co.uk



SOUTH WEST & WALES

At Minchinhampton we bid a final tearful farewell to the Open Championship Regional Qualifying round. We were fortunate enough to be selected to stage this important event from 2002–2007. Marcus Fraser, who has had some success on the European Tour, won the first one back in 2002 with a gross 66. This score was bettered only once in the next five years. This year, the low score was 68 which was the only round under 70 all day. This was mainly due to a four-club breeze, which later turned into an all-out gale (and not helped by some fiendish pin positions from the R&A!) Ferndown GC in Dorset now take up the mantle for the next six years and we wish them all the very best. We certainly wish them some half-decent weather, and not thunderstorms, hailstones, and torrential rain. What was that about putting in 36 holes, irrigation and a lake last winter? We've needed the fire brigade on site almost constantly to prevent run-off from the lake headwaters from sweeping away local villages. Nevermind – there'll be enough water in stock if we ever do get around to irrigating ever again.

I've heard several horror stories about bunkers being completely swept away, clubhouses flooded, and Waynes rain-gauge breaking down. Oh no! I'm heading off to Italy now for a much needed break – so it'll probably start tanking down there as well. The real fun at Minch starts when I get

back from Italy, with a Constant Rate Pump Test on our two boreholes. This is to obtain a licence to abstract more water. The process started last Autumn with a Vulnerable Sources Survey during September when a specialist Surveyor Consultant came in and identified all the springs, wells, boreholes etc in the area, to deduce which ones were at risk from any increased abstraction. Two major springs and one well have been identified as at potential risk so the flows and levels have to be monitored while the boreholes are pumped. The monitoring starts off at five minute intervals, and backs off to four times a day, and finally twice a day for a month. The consultant wanted 20 grand to do the monitoring – so guess who's up for it now?! I can hardly wait – blundering around the district in the middle of the night measuring two boreholes, the well and the springs.

Congratulations to my elder son, Matt, who has graduated from Reading University with a first in Soil Science. Matt is joining the Minchinhampton greenstaff as Ecology Advisor, and one of his first jobs is going to be coordinating the pump test. Good Luck!

The next Section event is the match against the South Coast on September 13 at Farrington Gurney. This superb 27 hole complex, south of Bath, is managed by Nigel Pring, and this is the first ever visit of the Section. Wayne "McClaren" Vincent is desperate for a first point so please give him a call on: 07958630590 if you wish to be considered for the team. The AGM at Minchinhampton New Courses follows on Thursday, October 11.

Lets have some news for next month.

Paul Worster paul@mgcnew.co.uk



SOUTH COAST

I keep saying that we always seem to be very lucky with the weather at our Golf Days and our Summer Tournament, held at Andover GC on July 3, was no exception - bar one torrential downpour on Tony Gadd's tee shot at midday on the first tee and that was all we saw of the rain. We were made very welcome by Andover GC who celebrate their centenary this year. Graham Few, Amanda Cliffe and their staff catered for us extremely well (special thanks also to Wendy Rennison for drinks on the course). High recognition to Chris Sturgess, the Head Greenkeeper at Andover, and to his Assistant, Dave, for presenting the course in absolute superb condition. The general comment from players throughout the day was the high quality of the greens – well done Chris. Our sponsors for the day were Tacit, who we thank very much for their continued support and for providing, as usual, an excellent prize table. Thanks very much Tim Webb. Results for the day were: 4th – Chris Sturgess and Duncan Ginn, 43pts; 3rd on countback – David King and Andy Gogan, 44pts; 2nd – Peter Hamford and Colin Pardy, 44 pts; 1st – Nick Reynolds and R Miller, 46pts; Nearest the Pin – Gordon Payne; Longest Drive – Nick Reynolds. There were no winners of the Two's which means it's a rollover to North Hants GC in the autumn.

Nick Reynolds has played some great golf in our Section and is very dedicated travelling up from Weymouth. This Golf Tournament is to be his last with us, for now anyway, as he and his family are emigrating to Perth in Oz. Nick will be continuing greenkeeping in Australia and

Around the Green



maybe he arrange a Golf Day for our Section in Oz (do the Australian Golf Clubs give us courtesy of the course?!) We all wish Nick, his wife and his two children all the very best for the future.

The annual golf meeting of the South Coast v Wessex Secretaries was played at Upavon GC on June 14. A win for the greenkeepers. The format was match play with a 3:2 win to us. This event is now equal pegging with five wins a piece. The food and catering was excellent. Thank you to Neil King for the presentation of the course and to Christine and June for the catering. The sponsors were Coursecare who have sponsored this event from the start – thank you Paul Dyter.

Our next Golf Day is the Autumn Tournament to be held at North Hants GC on October 23. If you want to attend this or any of our Golf Days please contact Chris Sturgess on: 0777 313 8409 or send a cheque to Chris direct at: 31 Bay Rd, Sholing, Southampton, SO19 8EZ. Have a good month and I'll speak to you again in September.

Joe Crawley
07721 389200



DEVON/CORNWALL

Our summer meeting was held at Trethorne GC in Cornwall on June 14. The course was an absolute picture and a credit to Course Manager, Justin Austin and his team. Justin has only been at Trethorne for 12 months but he has made a massive impact since his arrival. The winner of the golf was local cornish comedian " Whacko Jacko James", Head Greenkeeper at Killiow GC, with a zillion points, nevermind Jack your off scratch in the next competition. We were treated to a lovely BBQ to finish off the day, a big thank you to John Grainger for the use of the excellent facilities at Trethorne, to the catering team, to all of you who took time out to support the Section and last but not least our sponsors Martin and David Ward, of Symbio, who also sponsored the mini bus to BTME this year enabling the section to have a strong representation at the show.

Congratulations to Steve Harris, Course Manager at Ashbury Golf Courses, and his Deputy, Pete Gross, on winning the National Skills Award. Steve employs more than 40 greenkeepers maintaining five golf courses and still growing! All building work is carried out "in house" as is all greenkeeper training with the support of the Duchy College in Cornwall. No fewer than 12 greenkeepers achieved their NVQ level 2 this year.

A little birdie told me Pete Standen, Course Manager at Sidmouth GC, got married recently. Congratulations Pete, look forward to seeing you at our next meeting if you're allowed!

Your committee is working hard organising the fixtures and speakers for 2007/8 and as soon as the fixture cards are printed they will be sent out along with our annual newsletter.

Please let me have any relevant info for this monthly column. I can be contacted on: 01822 617671 or: stevenevans184@btinternet.com

Steve Evans

SOUTH WALES

Greetings Grasschoppers! I am back. Apologies for missing the last few months but I had a slight accident. Anyway on with the report. On June 27, 27 of Wales finest gathered at the Gower GC to do battle for the Tacit Summer Cup. The weather was kind to us after the down pours we had had earlier, our thanks must go to Mr Adrian Richards, owner of the Gower GC, for courtesy of the course and for the superb welcome we received. Thanks also to Mr Steve Mills, Course Manager and his team for all their hard work to get the course in such superb condition - well done lads. Thanks to our sponsors for the day, Tacit, for supplying us with such fantastic prizes - your support is very much appreciated by the Section. Thanks also to the catering staff for rounding off a great day with a truly great meal thank you one and all.

Now down to the lucky prize winners and in top spot was Mr Daryl Jones, Glynneath GC, 38pts. Daryl won the Tacit Cup plus a flat screen TV and is the first name to go on the new cup. 2nd place on count back over the last 3 holes was 36pts was Jamy (sorry) Jamie Probert, Pontardawe GC. Jamie won a drinks cooler (get the beer in), in 3rd place also on 36pts was our Chairman, Kerry Jones. Longest drive on the 5th winning a crate off beer was Kerry Jones (may I suggest you get together with Mr Probert and invite the Prez for a drink). Nearest the Pin on the 11th was Daryl Bray Morriston GC he won a bottle of J.D. Best Guest/trade Jim Openshaw (Greensman) he also wins a bottle off J.D.

Now to a member of my crew Dai .T (Dai Thomas) who won the Best Walk, well done Dai you can only get better! Well done to all the prize winners and thank you all for turning up. The more of you that turn up the better. A news flash from Garry Humphreys (Llanishan), a young man, name of Rhys Mcdonagh did an incredible thing while playing in a Charity Day at Parc GC. He hit a hole in one at the 16th and if that was not enough he did it again on the 18th – unbelievable. Congratulations! Did it cost you a lot of money? Well grasschoppers, that's it for now. I look forward to seeing you at the golf days. Always look on the bright side off life. If you wish to contact me, my new mob is: 07889792190 or email: henry@henrystead.wanadoo.co.uk

Henry Stead

BIGGA's Regional Administrators



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Section Notes -

Can all notes be emailed to: melissa@bigga.co.uk
by the 5th of the month prior to publication please.
Suggested word guide: 500



In the Shed

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B	U	M	F	N	I	G	H	T	S	T	A	N	D	
I	A	J	N	A	Y	N	O							
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R	O	R	A	T	O	R	O							
Y	O	U	K	N	O	W	W	H	O		B	Y	R	D

QUICK NINE HOLE QUIZ

- 1 The Montgolfier brothers
- 2 Muirfield
- 3 18
- 4 Greg Norman
- 5 Golf
- 6 1927
- 7 The Walker Cup
- 8 1811
- 9 1860

MONSTER SUDOKU

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

SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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

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The Captain, Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club,
Waun y Mer, Kenfig, Bridgend, CF33 4PU

Closing date: 24 August 2007



Thorpe Hall Golf Club require a Head Green-keeper

Thorpe Hall Golf Club is a prestigious members club who are celebrating their Centenary this year. The Club has over 1,000 members including Cadets and Social Members.

The well established parkland course experiences very high member utilisation with approximately 29,000 rounds of golf played each year.

This is an exiting opportunity for an experienced Head Green-keeper or a Deputy Head green-keeper looking for their first appointment. With a team of seven you will report to the Secretary and have experience in all aspects of green-keeping including, health & safety, procurement, mechanical breakdown, training, work scheduling, renovation and irrigation.

The successful applicant will initially work alongside the existing Head Green Keeper with a view to taking full control of the department in January 08. A competitive salary, accommodation is available if required and bonuses are paid twice yearly based on performance.

Applicants should apply in writing enclosing a full Curriculum Vitae and references to;

The Secretary, Thorpe Hall Golf Club, Thorpe Hall Avenue, Thorpe Bay Essex. SS1 3AT

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an

Estate Manager

The Selsdon Park Hotel & Golf Club has recently re-launched the golf course and golfing facilities.

During the past few months a significant amount of investment has taken place including a new fleet of Toro machinery and course development work.

We are currently preparing to host the most important event on the PGA Euro Pro Tour Schedule The Ladbrokescasino.com Masters in September 2007.

The ideal candidate must have the ability to work with a motivated team, you will be able to organise and develop a team of green keepers, you will have the ability to adapt to unforeseen circumstances and work along side a dedicated hotel management team. You will be part of a focused golf management team to set up and develop the future of Selsdon Park Golf Course ensuring the completion of each project is achieved on time. You will have previous experience in tournament preparation, setting up our golf course to the highest quality expected year round and maintain our grand estate gardens. Experience in a Hotel environment is an advantage but not essential.

Please forward your CV to Katrina Ellis, Human Resources, Selsdon Park Hotel & Golf Club, Addington Road, Sanderstead, South Croydon, Surrey, CR2 8YA or katrina.ellis@principal-hotels.com

RECRUITMENT



THE ROYAL AUTOMOBILE CLUB

Set in 250 acres of beautiful countryside near Epsom Downs, this private members club provides the highest standard of facilities, including two 18-hole golf courses, one of which is a championship course.

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

39 hours per week, weekend work included

Applications are invited from enthusiastic and hard working Greenkeepers to join our existing team. Qualified to NVQ Level 2 with PA1, PA2 and PA6 qualifications, candidates must have knowledge and training in all modern greenkeeping machinery and golf course maintenance procedures.

We offer a competitive salary and benefits package including uniform, meals on duty, contributory pension scheme and life and sickness assurance schemes.

Please send your CV or call for an application form:
Pat Kenny, Human Resources Department,
Royal Automobile Club, Woodcote Park, Epsom,
Surrey, KT18 7EW. Tel: 01372 229282,
Email: patk@royalautomobileclub.co.uk

LEIGH GOLF CLUB LIMITED FULL TIME HEAD GREENKEEPER REQUIRED

Applicants should be technically qualified in all aspects of Greenkeeping and have the necessary management skills to direct existing staff, to manage resources effectively, to apply budgetary controls and also have a sound knowledge of Health & Safety Regulations.

Salary by negotiation according to qualifications, knowledge and experience.

Applications in writing including full CV sent to:
**THE SECRETARY, LEIGH GOLF CLUB LIMITED,
KENYON LANE, CULCHETH, WARRINGTON, WA3 4BG**
www.leighgolf.co.uk



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To learn more about the division please visit the Grasscare pages of our website www.thwhite.co.uk or contact Division Manager Tim Lane on 01527 597770, or mobile 07770 856936. E-mail: tjl@thwhite.co.uk



Lubker Golf Resort

Position:

Deputy Head Greenkeeper/Senior Golf Course Assistant

Lubker Golf Resort will be a 36 hole complex with 3 loops of 9 and a 9 hole short course and three tiered driving tee located near Aarhus, Denmark. The course is designed by RTJ2 and is presently in the construction stage.

Very competitive salary based on experience & education. Standard benefits possibly including housing & transport.

Applications either by email: djg@lubker.com, or in writing with CV to:

Derek Grendowicz
Golf Course Superintendent
Lubker Golf Resort
Ramtenvej 51
8581 Nimitofte
Denmark



KAURI CLIFFS



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Kauri Cliffs Golf Course was selected 58th best golf course in the world 2005 by Golf Digest Magazine and is situated in the beautiful Bay of Islands, Northland, New Zealand.

We are seeking experienced golf course maintenance staff for the 2007 – 2008 season, beginning September 2007 and ending May 2008. Kauri Cliffs offers a modern work facility with a full range of the latest equipment comparable to top courses worldwide. Applicants would be responsible for their own work visas, travel arrangements and accommodation.

Think you may like to spend the summer with us and would be able to start in September? Check out the possibilities of this unique opportunity www.kauricliffs.com and www.bayofislands.co.nz

Please email enquiries to Sue@kauricliffs.com enclosing your C.V. details, including two referees.



DATCHET GOLF CLUB HEAD GREENKEEPER



Founded in 1890, Datchet is a private members club with an established 9 hole, par 70, parkland golf course.

Applicants will be required to manage all aspects of the Course and have the necessary management skills to train, motivate and direct staff and manage resources efficiently.

Qualifications required to NVQ Level 3, with full spraying and chainsaw certificates and a sound knowledge of Health and Safety. Remuneration package is negotiable

Please apply by e-mail or in writing with a full CV and salary expectations by 31st August 2007 to:

Secretary / Manager, Datchet Golf Club, Buccleuch Road, Datchet, Berkshire, SL3 9BP. E-mail: secretary@datchetgolfclub.co.uk



Fraserburgh Golf Club



Fraserburgh Golf Club, founded in 1777 is the 7th oldest club in the world. We are a traditional 18-hole natural links course. We also have a 9-hole beginner's course alongside. The course was redesigned in 1922 by the five times British Open Champion and golf designer, James Braid. We are situated approx. 40 miles north of Aberdeen.

We require a highly motivated Head Greenkeeper

We would prefer the applicant to have experience in links management and be qualified to N/SVQ Level 3 or equivalent. Must have a minimum of 5 years experience.

The following experience skills are required:

- Proven man management
- Ability to manage resources efficiently, exercise strict budgetary control and monitor work programmes
- Ability to formulate and execute a five year course policy plan
- A sound knowledge of irrigation and machinery maintenance
- Good communication skills and IT aptitude
- A sound knowledge of Health & Safety Regulations / Coshh
- Should have spraying certificates PA1, PA2 & PA3

Salary negotiable according to experience and qualifications.

Closing Date Friday 24th August, 2007

Applications should be made in writing with CV should be made to:

**The Captain, Fraserburgh Golf Club,
Philorth Links, Fraserburgh,
Aberdeenshire, AB43 9LY, Tel: (01346) 516616**



We require an ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER



Full time – Salary up to £12,372.00 per annum
To join our team based at Brandon Wood Golf Course.

The successful candidate will be hardworking and enthusiastic.

You will have basic knowledge in the maintenance of GreenKeeping and Land Management.

You will have excellent Customer Service skills and be able to ensure that all Health and Safety legislation is complied with.

Ideally the candidate will possess an NVQ Level 2 in Sports Turf Maintenance or be willing to undertake the qualification.

It is essential that the candidate has access to their own transport.

To request an application form please contact Coventry Sports Trust, Human Resources Team on 02476 252552 or 02476 252553.

Closing date: 13th August 2007

HEAD GREENKEEPER Burnham-on-Crouch Golf Club, Essex

Burnham-on-Crouch Golf Club is an 18 hole, members' owned club situated in a pleasant riverside location.

We are looking for an experienced and qualified person to lead a team and work within a budget to deliver high standards of course presentation.

Assistant Greenkeeper is also required to work within the team.



Please apply with full cv to:
Greens Committee Chairman, Burnham-on-Crouch Golf Club, Ferry Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex CM0 8PQ.

OLD FOLD MANOR GOLF CLUB

Require a DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

Qualified to NVQ3 or equivalent
PA 1, PA 2 and PA 6 necessary
Salary to CGS Scale

Applications in writing or by email with C.V by 27th August to:
Ian Semple, Old Fold Manor Golf Club, Hadley Green, Barnet EN5 4QN

or Email: ianmilbysemple@hotmail.co.uk

RECRUITMENT

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SUMMER!

As I'm sure you will remember I mentioned that we in the south east were having a tough time during the spring with little or no rain. Well the rain came and as I'm sure those flooded in the North and the Midlands will be more than aware, it has forgotten to stop during June and it's another record-breaking month with the wettest months rain for over 100 years.

The impact of either dry or too wet weather conditions does in fact have a major impact on day to day business at the golf club with the financial losses taking their toll on everyone's income stream. This could have a knock on effect on all investment lines available to us entrusted to maintain and develop our own golf courses during the coming years. The first to react to these conditions will, of course, be the more commercial developments among us, dependent on high ratio green fee business for peak cash flow to sustain their business both in the short and long term at this time of year.

There seems to be a trend here in the UK for reducing amounts of members associating to a club and, in fact, taking their normal membership fees and spending them more on green fees during the course of the year at many different venues rather than commit to any one club. So it's not that the business is being totally removed from the members clubs it's just being moved around a wee bit more today than in the past. Frankly I'm not sure if this is a trend, fad or fashion, but this I am sure of, it will have an impact of major proportions in the future of golf over the coming years or so.

These decisions made by the golfing public are being made for the following reasons in my opinion. Firstly the time taken to play golf is becoming too long and socially unacceptable to the family unit, then mix in the fact that most venues except that very few have made golf more available to the green fee player more now than ever before in our history. The cost of membership with all its associated costs is becoming prohibitive and coupled with less disposable income for most people, it is



becoming unfashionable to commit to such a large outgoing every year. All of this linked to the fact that the market is flush with golfing venues after the golfing boom of the late 80s and early 90s, it's no wonder that things will become even tighter to secure a sustainable and sound business into the future at the golf club.

So when you're General Manager and the club Committee ask you to be careful with the cash, they do ask for a reason and furnished with the full receipts of the business have sometimes a valued argument for controlling the costs of the operation. It's a fact that a lost or cancelled tee time can never be recovered and will have an effect on how we ply our trade day to day with a reduction in available cash to spend on the course. So another myth blown out of the water that a cancelled day or tee time is a good thing and will give the course a rest, is, I'm afraid, a luxury we can no longer afford in golf.

"So what's your point, Billy?" You might be asking. Well it's really quiet simple, if we are to survive the shake out of change and be successful in the coming years we will have to react to market forces and be sufficiently malleable to change. Stop being reactive and become more pro active about the future and become involved at greenkeeper level with the holistic decisions made at your golf club. They can't do it without us on board and pulling in the same direction. You all have a contribution to make to the well being of the future at your club. Another thing you should know is that nothing stays the same forever and, with or without you, change will take place and if you mistakenly assume that your business is secure then you might be in for a shock over the coming years, as times are a changing.

Now on a lighter note. The new smoking legislation has now become law and, as a confirmed few or so fags a day man, I have a slant on how things are in Australia, as witnessed during a trip I had there last year. Because they have put a whole new interpretation on no smoking on a golf course debate and they sell food and beverages on the course, the law in Australia requires that the control of this smelly and unpopular activity has to be extended to the course as well as all buildings. Now it seems there is a grey area on how this should be applied and therefore each club has made up their own rules for how the law would be interpreted. The club I had the pleasure to play said that you were not allowed to smoke on the tee, fairway, in a bunker or on the green. However, you could smoke to your heart's content in the rough, what a result, the perfect rule to suit my game they must have had me in mind when they thought up that corker.

Billy McMillan

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. McMillan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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