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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL



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

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

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

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

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

Membership Department: Gemma Lee
Email: gemma@bigga.co.uk

Contact us

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

Post: BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark,
Aire, York, YO61 1UF

Email: reception@bigga.co.uk

Website: www.bigga.org.uk

Tel: 01347 833800

Fax: 01347 833801



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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Editorial

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

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

Design

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

Advertising

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

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

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

Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings,
Manor Lane, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH
Tel: 01778 391000 Fax: 01778 394269

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10 members of the BIGGA Delegation will be travelling to the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in Anaheim, thanks to Bernhard & Co. Melissa Toombs reveals the chosen ones.

Cover photograph by Melissa Toombs



Welcome

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Here we are - 2007. It doesn't seem so long ago that such a date seemed to belong to the realms of science fiction and not the real world. Indeed I'm old enough to remember when 1984 was some time in the future. Back then you'd have put money on us all owning personal jet packs in 2007 and thumbing through holiday brochures which included the delights of back packing in Mars; sailing down the spectacular canals of Venus or even an all inclusive, once in a lifetime, trip to Saturn's rings. That's all probably been pushed back to the 2030s by now.

So what will 2007 have in store for us?

Well, top of the agenda, as always, is Harrogate Week. If the Week goes as well as all the indicators we have had prior to it have shown, it is going to be a fabulous occasion. The range of training and education on offer supersedes anything we've ever had before at Harrogate, with career advancement opportunities for all levels of fine turf professional in whatever sphere of turf management they happen to work. Then there is the Show itself, with a guarantee of busy Halls, full of stands offering products and solutions designed to make your professional life that bit easier. Oh, and how can you forget the unique après show atmosphere of the grand old North Yorkshire spa town itself. Can there be a more convivial location in which to unwind after an action packed day?

It always provides a superb launch pad to the new year and the new season. But what will that season have in store for us?

Hopefully 2007 will be a little kinder on those areas which suffered drought last year. There can be few circumstances which render a turf professional more helpless than watching his parched sward die off when drought orders are in place preventing even the shortest of drinks.

It is something that is going to become more prevalent as the years roll on, and an issue which will tax everyone from Governments down to ourselves in the humble fine turf management business. We are all well aware of the problems but it would be nice if we didn't have to deal with the consequences every single year.

The push towards sustainable golf offers some answers but not for everyone, not in the short term anyway. Geographic location and soil structure make moves towards sustainable golf more difficult for some courses than others, while the not-to-be-underestimated inner workings of club politics is another factor which would make some Course Managers tread carefully if considering a back to fescue regime.

As ever, communication and education is the key to progress, but both require people to approach change with an open mind.

No doubt we'll still be talking about the same things in 2008, but in a few years I would like to be jet packing myself home for lunch and booking that trip to Saturn.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR GOLF?

This year's South West and South Wales Regional Seminar, held in association with the R&A, was a great success with near capacity attendance. The line up of speakers included Steve Isaacs, The R&A; Dr Keith Weatherhead, Cranfield University; Howard Swan, Golf Course Architect; Keith Adderley, Secretary Temple Golf Club; Richard Whyman, Chairman of BIGGA; Phil Weaver, PGA Chairman and Billy McMillan, Vice Chairman of BIGGA. Chairing the day was Michael Barratt, Advisory Member of the golf course committee at

the R&A. Each speaker gave a presentation on their view of sustainability and how they see the future for sustainability on the golf course. The day was enlightening and educational and it was good to see several Club Secretaries, Chairman of Greens and Club Captains in attendance, together with their Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers. The feedback from both members and club officials attending has been good with praise for the speaker's informative and interesting presentations.

EMERGENCY LANDING!

The pilot of a light aircraft on a flight over north east Fife was praised for his cool response to an emergency after he made a forced but perfect landing on Elmwood Golf Course, near Cupar.

The drama occurred when photographer David Cation, who had been flying the single-engined Cessna Skyhawk to Dundee, suffered a complete engine failure in the skies just west of the course.

After sending out a Mayday message which was picked up by air traffic controllers at RAF Leuchars, Mr Cation picked out a spot on the course and touched down on the seventeenth fairway before coming to rest on the edge of the green.

Mr Cation has an aerial photography business called Air Images.eu, and he usually operates from Kirknewton Airfield, near Edinburgh.

He had been flying to Dundee when he suffered complete engine failure, and after speaking to RAF Leuchars he realised that he would not have enough gliding height to reach the base.

He said that the first part of the golf course he thought about landing on had golfers playing, but he had then managed to pick out a clear fairway.

Mr Cation said that this sort of incident is what all pilots practice and train for, but what happened "certainly gets the blood pressure up."

"That was the first time I had experienced something like this for real, but you just do the best you can."

He added that he was sorry that he caused some damage to the course, but the staff there had been terrific, and he would be offering them some free aerial shots.

One of those on the ground was eyewitness Paul McAlister, a pro shop assistant, who said that he had been "gobsmacked" by what happened.

"I was on my lunch break and on my way to the practice range when I saw the small plane coming in really low.

"It started to go down as if to land, and disappeared behind the clubhouse, and I realised



Elmwood Golf Course Manager Andrew Mellon (centre) with greenkeeper Matt Baird (left) and Mechanic Hayden Chambers who helped to recover the plane from the course.

that it was totally silent and the engine was not working.

"The plane landed on the 17th fairway, bounced up and down a couple of times, and came to a stop up at the green. The ground was quite soft, but fortunately the wheels didn't dig in."

"No-one was hurt and there was only very limited damage to the course, but the landing was amazing."

This view was shared by Course Manager Andy Mellon, who said that he had spoken to Mr Cation after the incident and he said that his engine had cut out as he passed over nearby Ladybank.

Mr Mellon said that the landing had been perfect, and the plane had been brought to a halt within 100 yards.

Describing how the plane had been handled, Mr Mellon applied a highly appropriate description for a golf course. The Cessna, he said, had "landed, spun, then rolled on to the back of the green"

A spokesperson at RAF Leuchars said that Mr Cation had been taking the plane to Dundee, and had stopped at Glenrothes airfield on the way.

He had indicated that he was in difficulty after suffering engine failure at around 2500 feet, and air traffic controllers had helped as best they could before it was decided that the best plan was to head for Elmwood Golf Course.

The Cessna was recovered from the course by staff at the course, and was last night awaiting inspection.

Thanks to the Courier newspaper

AERATION SYSTEMS ELIMINATE POTENTIAL ALGAE PROBLEMS

It is widely understood that lakes and ponds require on-going attention to lessen the likelihood of algae growth and to maintain an active and healthy environment for living matter. Queenwood GC in Surrey were well aware that the process of aeration would be the best method of achieving this when developing the course's four strategically positioned lakes. They were also aware of the many options currently being offered to perform this function, varying from floating surface aerators with impressive fountain displays to bottom diffusers using an air compressor; neither approach being seen as totally ideal for installation at Queenwood as both needed a power source adjacent to the lakes. The aeration system offered by Kristal Klear appeared to provide a truly viable solution. This belief has now been

proved correct with eleven units currently installed across the four lakes. Course Manager, Cameron McMillan comments: "We commissioned Kristal Klear to install aerators in two of our lakes initially. After seeing them working we had no hesitation in installing further aerators in the remaining two lakes. Algae growth is being greatly controlled."



DRIVING INTERNATIONAL GOLF EDUCATION

Myerscough College, in association with the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN), has launched the International Institute for Golf Education, providing a range of specialist courses and research opportunities aimed at giving students a career pathway into the global golf industry through academic qualifications and work experience.

The institute provides opportunities for study in a range of related subjects, from golf course management through to golf technology, science and psychology. Qualifications available include

GNVQs, national diplomas, foundation degrees, bachelor degrees and post-graduate qualifications.

David Grecic, Section Leader for Golf at Myerscough College, comments: "With Golf becoming increasingly popular in the UK, there is a growing demand for qualified people to work in all aspects of the industry. The International Institute will equip people with the skills and qualifications required to take up these posts in both the UK and internationally. Never has there been a better opportunity for people to forge a successful career in something they love."

A CONTEMPORARY TWIST TO AN ANCIENT EDIFICE

David Harber Ltd, one of Britain's leading designers of sundials, has just installed a highly contemporary Pillar Dial as a centrepiece for the main Walled Garden at Loch Lomond GC.

Historically all major Scottish gardens contained a complex sundial, and evidence suggests that the main house at Loch Lomond GC had such a sundial in the 18th century. David Harber's Pillar Dial is a comprehensive time piece incorporating 20 different

sundials and was designed to embody the essence of the original dial and yet to stand as a striking modern focal point.



BALI NATIONAL LANDSCAPE AWARDS

Rolawn is celebrating being the first choice for some of the country's top landscapers at this year's BALI National Landscape Awards.

Rolawn's famous Medallion turf and Blended Loam (a premium topsoil) have been incorporated into a number of award winning entries at the 30th BALI National Landscape Awards 2006.

The award winning Landscapers who featured Rolawn are: Brambledown Landscape Services, Ground Control, Hambrook Landscapes, The Land Design Partnership and Tony Bengier Landscapes.

Cedric McMillan, Rolawn's Sales and Marketing Director commented: "The fact that so many leading landscapers choose Rolawn is an accolade in itself as we are very aware of the extraordinarily high standards expected by the judges. We feel very proud to have played our part and are delighted with their success".

NEW RECRUIT

Toro Irrigation distributor Lely UK, has appointed Robert Jackson as Field Sales Manager. Robert has overall responsibility for sales and new business development in both the golf and residential/commercial sides of the business.



Commenting on his appointment, Robert said: "I am very excited to be working with Lely and Toro. My aim is to move the irrigation business forward by supporting both the contractors and end-users to ensure continued confidence in the Toro brand."

Robert joins Lely from Toro Irrigation contractor LS Systems Limited, in Preston, Lancashire, and previously worked for TIS Sandbach. He has over 11 years experience in the irrigation business and has been involved in both contracting and creating design specifications for golf courses and other sports installations.

ANNUAL SCOTTISH REGION CONFERENCE

The 2007 BIGGA Scottish Region Conference will take place at the Business Learning Centre, Lauder College, Dunfermline on Tuesday, March 6.

This year's speakers include Kerran Daly, Course Manager, Gog Magog Golf Club; Ian Butcher, International Golf Development Officer, Elmwood College and Gordon Irvine, Consultant Master Greenkeeper. Other speakers include, from America Jim Turner, Brian Robinson of Rigby Taylor and finally Graeme Francis, Lakes & Greens Ltd.

Tickets cost £33, which includes Tea/Coffee on arrival, coffee/pastry at the mid morning break and buffet lunch.

Full details and booking forms will be posted to all members in Scotland and further forms can be obtained by contacting Peter J. Boyd, Regional Administrator on Tel/Fax: 0141 616 3440 or: pj.boyd@btinternet.com.

THE BUSINESS OF GOLF

Several diverse elements of golf were brought together to discuss the game and future initiatives designed to improve its popularity, at the annual Business of Golf conference organised and run by the Golf Consultants Association at Celtic Manor.

Among the issues discussed were restructuring golf club memberships to make them more attractive to potential customers; improving customer service; improving golf club management; on-line tee time booking schemes

as well as raising finance and maximising profits to increase the potential sale value to golf clubs.

An audience of around 70 attended the two-day Conference ably chaired by GCA Chairman Mike Shields, of Welby Golf Advisory Services, and featuring a dinner in the Celtic Manor clubhouse with guest speaker, John Stirling.

The opening session looked at the development of Cape Verde, one of the world's largest golf resort developments, through the eyes of Tom Sheehy, of Cape Verde Development, and Keith Haslam, of PGA Management, while Russell Bragg delivered a paper on optimising the returns on golf resorts through master planning.

Following a break Stephen Proctor, of Sports Marketing Surveys, looked at preparations for the 2010 Ryder Cup, to be held at Celtic Manor, and the research programmes behind it, and Roger Pride, of Visit Wales, looked at how a Ryder Cup can raise a regional and national profile.

The afternoon saw a talk from Norman Jackson and Gordon Miller, of Sunningdale Corporate Finance, on



the questions that must be answered when trying to raise finance for a golf project and the pair stressed the need for well presented proposals - 80% of business plans are rejected on the first read through - and employing professionals to assist with any project. They also said a common mistake is to wildly underestimate how much time is required to secure finance.

They were followed by surveyor, Mark Smith, who stressed the importance of maximising a golf club's EBITDAs - Earnings Before Interest Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation - to maximise a sale value on the open market. Mark explained that the average EBITDA at a proprietary club would be around £150,000 and that an average freehold golf club would be worth between six and nine times EBITDA and a leasehold between five and eight times. A prestige club like Wentworth sold for 25 times EBITDA and The Belfry for 15 times. He stressed that sales were market driven rather than product driven.

Following a break Howard Swan, of Swan Golf Design, gave a detailed description of the time spans and complications of dealing with European planning laws in countries where golf was still becoming established.

Howard was followed by Norman Jackson, who described Indoor Golf and outlined the benefits to the golfer and the golf operator.

The second day was launched by David Rhodes, of Rhodes Consulting, who entertained and informed the audience with his views on agronomy and course management. He expressed his reservations at blanket spraying and at clubs that didn't possess a scarifier. He also made known his own preference for hand cutting wherever possible and that good agronomy shouldn't cost a lot of money. "In fact you don't often see the

combination of high expenditure and good agronomics."

David was followed by Alan Prickett, of Ransomes Jacobsen, and Ian Henderson, of Golf Finance who between them outline the machinery that was now available to golf clubs and gave ways into which it could be funded.

Following another break Gill Wilson, of Rye Hill GC, described her unit based membership scheme where a golfer could purchase a certain number of units to be used at the club against rounds - differing numbers for weekends and weekdays and for 18 holes, 10 holes or five holes which she said was an option many of the lady members appreciated.

The scheme meant that people felt they weren't wasting money if they weren't playing and made them more inclined to both remain with the club and spend units or money at the club. A big advocate of relaxed, open to all, golf she is also introducing a Golf Parc for children complete with plastic trees and hazards to introduce them to the game.

Ian Bulleid, of Impetus Golf & Leisure, talked about "locking on" rather than "locking in" members that involved golf clubs becoming confident enough in their customer service to backing themselves against their competition. He talked about the 10% or peoe who hate you're the 10% who love you and the 80% floaters and suggested that they were the people to look after, as the others wouldn't change their opinions.

Peter Townson, of 360 Golf, looked at the seven virtues of golf club management, and gave examples of what can go wrong at golf clubs including poorly considered and designed clubhouses.

Paul Heeney, of On-Line Tee Times, had the best saying of the week. "You don't buy a drill because you want a drill. You buy one because you want a hole." He was referring to the software required for his new internet-based tee booking scheme which he had launched in Ireland and which he is bringing to the UK and the revenue that it generates. He explained that the tee times between 7.30am and 9.20am between April and September at a greenfee of 20 Euros were worth over 100,000 Euros to a golf club and that more could be made of them.

Adam Lawrence, Editor of Golf Course Architect, then gave some advice on dealing with the press.

The Conference was concluded by its Chairman, Mike Shields, posing the question your neighbour - Competitor or Partner and providing some interesting answers.

BROTHERS WIN BIG NAME BUSINESS

Brothers Wayne and Crispin Cole, of Cintec Machinery, based at Bisley in Gloucestershire, have recently been appointed to sell the long established and well known Massey Ferguson range of Professional Groundcare Machinery in Gloucestershire, North Wiltshire, Bristol and Bath areas. The enlarged range of Massey Ferguson products encompasses AgTV's (including the new MF700D Diesel) and Compact Tractors currently from 16.5 - 46hp.

Cintec Machinery was started in April 2004 utilising the brothers' background in agricultural machinery and has now grown in size to four employees.



LEADING THE WAY FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Broome Manor Golf Complex, part of Swindon Borough Council's leisure facilities, recently upgraded their equipment wash-off area by installing a Waste2Water Recycling Wash-Off System. "Along with the majority of golf courses our wash-off area was well overdue for improvement", commented David Buckingham, General Manager. "As a local authority owned golf course we feel it is very important to be taking a lead in environmental consideration and ensuring we are complying with the new Groundwater legislation."

The Waste2Water system was the perfect answer as the maintenance yard naturally slopes, enabling the system to be retro-fitted using the existing wash-off pad with minimal cost and disruption. Additional space was also allowed for installation of a new Diesel Fuel Station so that any refuelling spillages are treated by the Waste2Water system.



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CELEBRATION

Plumpton College is celebrating achieving full status as a Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) for Horticultural Technologies.

Plumpton College is the Collaborative Partner with leaders Chichester College, Brinsbury Campus and Writtle College. The award has brought with it substantial investment from the Learning and Skills Council to the colleges involved.

The college has invested in a training centre which enables the College to deliver bespoke and flexible courses and seminars tailored to Horticultural needs.

In response to research with rural businesses, most of the short courses and seminars offered are one-day or half-day sessions, which can also be held at the employers' own workplaces.

Des Lambert, Principal of Plumpton College said "This CoVE has been an important development in helping to move forward Horticultural Technologies at the College."

SEEDS OF CHANGE



Stephen Denton took on his new role, as Grass Seed Development Manager for leading seed agent Rigby Taylor, last month.

In the company's sales division for the past 11 years, Steve, 41, said: "My interest has always been in

the more technical aspects of turf, having been involved in greenkeeping and sports ground management, here and abroad, for more than 20 years."

Brian Robinson, Director of Seed Research, said: "I am extremely pleased to welcome Steve, as I feel his background and experience will make a very valuable contribution to the long-term development of our Mascot mixtures. Our objective is to help clubs set higher standards by providing advice on seed selection and best maintenance practices."

BRYAN BOSWORTH

It is with great sadness that we have to announce that Bryan Bosworth passed away after a long illness, bravely borne, aged 70 years.

Bryan joined Banks Amenity Products as a Sales Representative in 1986, covering the East Midlands, Home Counties and East Anglia, progressing to Sales Manager, a position he held until he retired from full time work in 2001. However, as he enjoyed working in the industry, he continued to work in a part-time capacity until 2004.

Bryan's cheerful, friendly disposition made him popular with customers and colleagues alike, and all who knew him.

We extend our condolences to his wife Joan, family and friends at this sad time.

SUSTAINABILITY FUND FOR GOLF LAUNCHED

Officials of Golf Environment Europe have announced the launch of a new Sustainability Fund for Golf in Europe.

The fund will assist the golf sector in Europe to address the increasingly important issues of environmental sustainability. It will enable Golf Environment Europe, an independent, non-profit body, to support and report on environmental achievements within European golf.

At a special reception to mark the occasion, Tom Garvey, Chairman of Golf Environment Europe said: "Golf Environment Europe was launched by the European Commission in Brussels in June 2005. Since then we have garnered considerable support from within and out-with golf. Our key mechanism, the European Forum for Golf and Environment, has been received with enthusiasm by the entire sector."

"Today we formally establish our sustainability fund - a fund that will enable GEE to work in partnership with many golf bodies, environmental organisations, government agencies and sponsors, towards the common goal of promoting environmental sustainability within European golf."

"We want to acknowledge the European Tour's support in the establishment of the fund, who today make a significant contribution and show genuine leadership on this matter. We also acknowledge our early sponsors - Volvo and Deutsche Bank; and Rolex and Ransomes Jacobsen who are the first official corporate partners."

"We also appreciate the considerable in kind support from other members of the Forum - the European Golf Association, The R&A, the Federation of Greenkeepers, the Institute of Golf Course Architects, the Association of Golf Course Owners, the PGAs of Europe, many national golf federations and research institutes."



Representatives, from left to right are: Alan Prickett, Ransomes Jacobsen; Tchie Kano, Alstom; Patrice Clerc, ASO; Thomas Godfrey, Spring Worldwide; Lodewijk Klootwijk, European Golf Course Owners Association; George O'Grady, European Tour; Jonathan Smith, Golf Environment Europe; Jaime Ortiz - Patino, Golf Environment Europe; Colin Wood, Golf Environment Europe; Maria Strandberg, Scandinavian Turfgrass Foundation / European Forum for Golf and Environment; Stig Persson, Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Association; Heinz Fehring, PGAs of Europe; Angel Gallardo, European Tour; Simon Cory-Wright, European Tour; Scott Kelly, European Tour; Mike Wood, European Institute of Golf Course Architects; Tom Garvey, Golf Environment Europe and Richard Hills, European Tour

BIGGEST EVER TURF CONFERENCE IN DENMARK

180 people crowded into the theatre at the historic Torvehallerne venue in the beautiful resort town of Vejle in Jutland, Denmark last October for an education-based two-day conference of the highest international standard - The Danish Greenkeepers Association's International Conference 2006. The DGA noted with satisfaction that no less than 30% of the association's total membership was in attendance. The education conference was preceded on the 24th by the association's AGM and a Greenkeeper Golf Championship.

The DGA started as a social get-together in 1963, but in the last decade it has been transformed into the focal point of the golf industry in Denmark. As others in Europe have discovered, the golf industry's customers expect more and more from greenkeepers and turf care standards have been raised.

It was felt that golf course design and people-management topics would be great themes to attract greenkeepers from Denmark and Norway.

The DGA wishes to record its sincere thanks to all the conference speakers, without whom, the conference would not have been the great success that it has been.

By Søren Nicholson



EGGHEADS OR FATHEADS?

Members of the Cleveland and North-East Sections recently took part in a quiz against a team of groundsmen at Mount Oswald GC, Durham City. Horns were well and truly locked in pursuit of winning the Turfcare quiz trophy.

Turfcare Specialists Ltd donated the trophy, now named the David Pearson Memorial Shield, in 1986. It has been played for annually ever since. David was Playing Fields Officer for County Durham Council and sadly died at an early age through cancer. Terry Charlton, Managing Director of TSL remembers Dave as "One of the nicest people I have ever met. He was a lovely man who always attended the annual quizzes until he became ill. We fondly remember him before the start of every quiz".

The quiz is now regarded by many greenkeepers and groundsmen as a tradition, making a fun night out enjoyed by all who make the effort to attend, some travelling from as far as Middlesbrough, Sunderland, Darlington and Consett.



Ian Pemberton of the Cleveland section (Bedale GC) can be seen here 'getting into the spirit'.

Ian enjoys the quiz night as you can see. "It's a fantastic night out with the TSL staff doing us proud. We

share a drink with good friends and colleagues, enjoy a delicious bowl of winter broth and try to answer some very tough questions too. It's not the taking part, it's the winning!"

Barry Walker of City of Newcastle GC, the Greenkeepers team captain for 2006, wasn't bitter. "Unfortunately the groundsmen had all the easy questions this year and gave us a bit of a battering but there's always next year. We'll have Super Kev back for 2007".

Barry was referring to the absence of Kevin Heslop of Brancepeth Castle GC. Kevin, a seasoned quiz goer, missed the quiz as he was attending a special party celebrating his 50th birthday.



Barry is seen here with the winning captain of the groundsmen team, Dick Carter, and Santa aka Terry Charlton, MD of TSL.

Many thanks go to all the TSL staff for organising the night and to Mount Oswald GC for great food and hospitality. We'll be trying harder next year. See you on Wednesday, December 5, 2007!

RETIREMENT

Mike Dodd, Deputy Course Manager at Burnham and Berrow GC Somerset has retired after 44 years dedicated service to the club.

Mick started work at Burnham and Berrow in 1962 after a short spell working with his father.

Mick had two stints totaling about 10 years as Head Greenkeeper but his love of the course outweighed the administrative and political element of the Head Greenkeepers job, he was happy to hand the reigns over so he could concentrate on tending to his beloved links. In 44 years he has seen many major changes to Burnham's layout, from new holes being built on the championship course to the development of the nine-hole course back in 1976, not to mention the development in machinery over this period from push hand mowers to state of the art fairway mowers to name but a few.



Mick (third from right) with Past Chairman Richard Whyman and his fellow greenstaff

NEW COURSE MANAGER



Huw Morgan has been appointed Course Manager at Ashburnham GC.

In his new role Huw will bring a wealth of experience in golf course maintenance. Starting in February, 2007, Huw will be working on projects aimed at both long

and short term improvements and looks forward to liaising with the council and members to make Ashburnham Wales's finest links private members club. Originally from Swansea, Huw studied at college in Pencoed before securing positions at Fairwood Park and Southerdown golf clubs.

In 1993 he moved to The Wilderness Club in Sevenoaks, Kent to improve the course for the return of The "Open" qualifiers. Having had six successful tournaments the club has been awarded the honour of hosting the 2007 English Seniors Amateur Championship.

Huw achieved "Master Greenkeeper" status from BIGGA in 2002 after winning the UK Toro Greenkeeper of the year award in 2001.

Huw and his wife have three boys and lived in Gorseinon for seven years up until 1993. In his spare time Huw enjoys watching rugby, football and playing golf to a handicap of eight.

MULTI-MILLION EURO CYPRUS PROJECT

Irrigation Control Ltd has successfully installed a new 1.1 million Euro automated tee-to-green watering system at Tsada GC, which started the golf boom in Cyprus when it opened in 1994.

The Cheshire-based company was called in to provide blanket irrigation to greens, approaches, surrounds, carries, fairways, semi-rough, tees, driving range and practice greens at the club - which features an 18-hole Championship course near Paphos.

The project required a complete renewal of the existing irrigation system as part of a major modification of the Donald Steel and Company-designed layout - the oldest of Cyprus's three championship courses - by golf course architects Mackenzie and Ebert.

Irrigation consultants Irriplan Ltd designed a system that incorporated more than 22,000 metres of pipe and cable, 800 sprinklers, a brand new state-of-the-art pumping station, a PC control system, a weather station, a lightning warning and protection system, and a remote control facility. Irrigation Control installed all during the five-month long project.

Irrigation Control Ltd Managing Director, Phil Breakey, said: "Water is a precious commodity in Cyprus and we had to install a system which provides blanket irrigation for the course while

conserving water at the same time.

"Added to that, our team had to ensure the existing system - which was in urgent need of replacement - continued to operate right up until we were able to switch over.

Tom Mackenzie of Mackenzie & Ebert said: "This was a highly complex project where the old irrigation system had to be kept working throughout the installation of the new system during the height of the Cyprus summer. Phil and his team performed well and worked closely with the greenstaff and the golf course contractor, John Greasley Ltd, to hit project deadlines. Cooperation between contractors is vital for the success of every project, especially one as challenging as this."





NEW ERA?

As we move into a new year it can be argued that greenkeeping and golf clubs are moving into a new era! Says David Golding, GTC's Education Director.

The GTC, for its part, will endeavour to ensure that training and qualifications keep learners and employers well served, as there are many issues on the horizon, which must be addressed.

We will work with all the specialist experts to ensure the training courses are available through our approved training provider network but we also need employers and greenkeepers to address the issues, rather than hoping they might go away.

I will mention a few of the issues which have been brought to my attention and so, recently, the GTC's Technical Committee and working groups have been looking to ensure they are covered in all the turf qualifications and courses offered to complement both vocational and higher education awards.

Climate change - drought orders - drainage - water storage and use - course presentation - the sustainable golf course - pesticide use et al.

You might say there is nothing new there and you may well be saying that there are more urgent issues we need to address, fine, but as I mentioned in the GTC article in the December GI magazine, I honestly feel we as a specialist sector are at last working together to address many of the issues facing the sport.

Certainly all the British Home Unions as part of the GTC, the R&A and BIGGA are committed to ensuring greenkeeper training is not found wanting when it comes to having competent qualified staff available to maintain and manage golf courses.

There is so much support available to golf clubs and greenkeepers but there does seem to be a very difficult period ahead for some clubs.

The GTC, having lobbied the Government for years to ensure funding is available to support its apprenticeship and qualifications framework, has some good news for employers and learners.

A more common sense approach to funding is currently being discussed and a pilot programme will soon be offered by training providers where bite-size learning (formally called the Qualifications and Credit Framework) will be tested to see if this is the right approach to improve employer and learner uptake in training.

I for one believe that this must be the way forward rather than assuming all staff need full qualifications and the GTC also will be involved in the development and evaluation of this programme.

In simple terms training courses will be offered on a unit/module basis as well as full qualifications and funding support should make these short courses attractive to employers.

While the new framework above is currently for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) are also involved in the

pilot programme development meetings.

The programme could see an increase in the popularity of the NPTC's Certificates of Competence, which the GTC has promoted as ideal awards and while often specific, can also be appropriate to meet employers staff development needs.

There are many short courses offered by professional bodies including BIGGA, BTLIA (irrigation), STRI, which should, following this pilot scheme attract Government funding.

We are very aware of the level of Government funding directed to further and higher education and these establishments will also welcome the latest test and trial programme for bite size learning so we can all look forward to working together to provide our sector with quality courses and qualifications it requires.

While the Government are looking to direct funding to industries supporting the Skills Agenda we should not expect all courses to be free and this is a very thorny subject when greenkeepers are looking at their personal development.

As this is a subject of debate all on its own, I would suggest that any enlightened employer could have all their greenkeeping staff on continued professional development (CPD) programmes without it costing thousands of pounds.

Course Managers, as part of their day to day work, should know their staff development needs and a programme designed and presented to the committee or owner should be seen as beneficial to both the business and staff moral especially when linked to salary negotiations.

Trained staff has to be the way forward if we are going to address all the issues facing our sport and the GTC will ensure greenkeeping training courses and qualifications look to address all of these issues.

For all up to date information on the GTC visit: www.the-gtc.co.uk or contact David direct on: 01347 838640 or email: david@the-gtc.co.uk.

GTC is supported by:





Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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Education Update

A Happy New Year to all our readers. What will 2007 bring for BIGGA, for greenkeepers, Sami and for me?

Following on from the Internet based Training and Development Manual, that is proving to be a useful management tool for members of BIGGA and the AGCS, we are producing a best practice Safety Management System (SMS) for golf clubs, again jointly with the AGCS. The SMS will be launched on Wednesday 24 January at 5pm just before the BIGGA AGM. We are also working on a Management Training Scheme for greenkeepers that we hope to launch in the autumn of 2007.

Environment Competition

If you attend the presentation of Awards on Tuesday 23 January in the Queen's Suite of Harrogate International Centre, you will see Brighthouse Bay Golf Club awarded the winners prize for the 2006 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, with Reay Golf Club, St Anne's Old Links, Notts (Hollinwell), Royal St Davids, Rookwood, Guildford and the Grove Golf Clubs winning the other prizes.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from Course Care, Ransomes Jacobsen, Scotts Professional Products and Syngenta Professional, the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition will run again in 2007. David Withers MD of Ransomes Jacobsen said "Ransomes Jacobsen is delighted to sponsor the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition. As leading turf equipment manufacturer committed to environmental best practice and sustainability, sponsoring the competition enables us to highlight the importance of green issues. Our commitment is tangible, as demonstrated by our three-year Lead Partner agreement signed with Golf Environment Europe (GEE) earlier this year.

"Golf Environment Europe is a pan European initiative working to promote environmental sustainability in golf. Developed from the Committed to Green Foundation's principles, it is supported by a wide range of golfing organisations and is committed to the promotion of environmental responsibility across all areas of the golf industry.

"We are also the only turf equipment manufacturer to have ISO 14001, the international standard for environmental management. This is a voluntary standard defining the elements of an environmental management system for us to effectively manage our impact on the environment. Employee participation and commitment has been crucial and our team at Ipswich has been magnificent with their support for the project.

"The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition sits very comfortably with our environmental ethos and with golf courses across the UK becoming increasingly aware of their environmental responsibilities; the standard of entries will undoubtedly be high. It really does give golf clubs the opportunity to display their environmental excellence. At the same time it provides others in the industry with an insight into the standards which are being set, emphasising the high standards of stewardship that are being achieved."

BIGGA Golf Environment Competition entry forms will be sent to all golf clubs in Britain, early in the New Year.



The booking deadline for the 2007 Continue to Learn Programme is fast approaching. You have until 10 January to book your place on a Workshop, however, many workshops are now full and you may not be able to attend your first choice. Contact Sami on 01347 833833 to check what is still available. We still have spaces available on the Seminar Programme but again; you should book as soon as possible to be sure of a place. For those who cannot decide or want to leave bookings to the last possible minute, Seminars can be booked on the day at the BIGGA Registration Desk, that will be situated outside the Queen's Suite.

Please note that the R&A will be launching their World Climate Map Website and their The Open Road to Sustainability DVD on Tuesday 23 January at 9.30am in the Queen's Suite.

Safety Management System

The AGCS/BIGGA Safety Management System (SMS) will be launched at 5pm on Wednesday 24 January in the Queen's Suite. Please note that the BIGGA AGM will now take place at 6pm.

Presentation of Awards

The Presentation of BIGGA Awards will take place at 10.30am on Tuesday 23 January in the Queen's Suite. These will include the presentation of prizes for the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, the presentation of Master Greenkeeper jackets and plaques to Bob Ehler, Ken Siems, Chis Lomas and Gavin Kinsella, followed by the presentations of 10 CPD Diplomas and the prize to the winner of the BIGGA Photographic Competition.

Gemma would like to welcome 49 new members to the Association and this month talks about the new BIGGA Member Badge and Harrogate Week.

Membership Update

REMINDER

The time of the Annual General Meeting at Harrogate Week has changed to 6.00pm on Wednesday 24 January 2007, Queen's Suite, Harrogate International Centre.



Harrogate Week has come round for another year. As usual the BIGGA staff will be on hand to help you with all your queries. Samples from our clothing range will be on the stand, along with copies of the books and DVDs that we stock which will be available to purchase. The new clip on blazer badges normally retail at £26 but will be available for the special price of £24 during the show. You will also be able to access the full range of membership services:



- Hand in renewal forms
- Hand in new membership application forms
- Change your personal details
- Collect field guides

The location of the BIGGA stand has changed and this year we are in HALL B Stand 47 alongside the Careers Clinic, Job Shop and Banquet Voucher Exchange.

BIGGA welcomes...

SCOTTISH REGION

Chris Findlay, East
Martin Turna, East

NORTHERN REGION

Robert Gilfoyle, North West
Jeffrey Strickland, North West
Martyn Taylor, North West

MIDLAND REGION

Andrew Baxter, East of England
Brian Griggs, East of England
Tim Harris, East of England
Ian Lloyd, Midland
Ashley Merry, Midland
Nicholas Orchard, Mid Anglia
David Taylor, Mid Anglia
Daniel Totney, Midland
Adam Wood, Midland

SOUTH EAST REGION

Scott Copard, Surrey

Richard Covey, Surrey

Keith Golding, Kent
Gary Jessop, Kent
Ross Jones, Surrey

Tom Relf, Surrey
Graeme Roberts, Surrey

STH WEST & WALES REGION

Robert Bailey, South Coast
Peter Brooks, Devon & Cornwall
Sam Eddolls, South West
Adrian Fisher, South West
Chris Fisher, South West
Nick Fox, South West
Ian Hatch, South Coast
Mathew Lawrence, South West
Rhys Norville, South Wales
Alan Pooley, South Wales
James Pritchard, South West
David Roberts, South West
Colin Shutt, South West
Kenneth Smith, South West

Jake Waites

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Neil Fergie, Other America

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Marya-Leena Lahdenpera, Finland

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Paul Cook, Central Scotland
Alan Lindsay, Ayrshire
Mark Rhind, Ayrshire
Michael Wannell, West Scotland
Robin Kriwitzki, Sussex

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Baden Turney, East Anglia
Damian Monaghan, Midland
Stuart Green, Northern
Ronald Skinner, Devon & Cornwall
James Lane, East Anglia

THE BIGGA LEGAL HELPLINE NUMBER HAS CHANGED TO:

0800 177 7891

For any incidents occurring before 31 December 2006 please call: 0800 019 2569

STAND B47

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To be in with a chance to win one of 4 phones all you need to do is join or refer a new member to join BIGGA at the Show. Visit the BIGGA stand B47 to collect an application form and hand it in before the end of the show on Thursday 25 January 2007.

Bluetooth enabled phone with 2 mega pixel camera, large high quality screen with stereo speakers also boasts MP3 player and video ringtones. This phone takes a memory card for additional storage.



JANUARY'S MEMBERSHIP DRAW WINNER

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a monthly draw to win a £10 Music Voucher. Our congratulations go to Phil Harman from Pike Fold Golf Club.



The secret is revealed...

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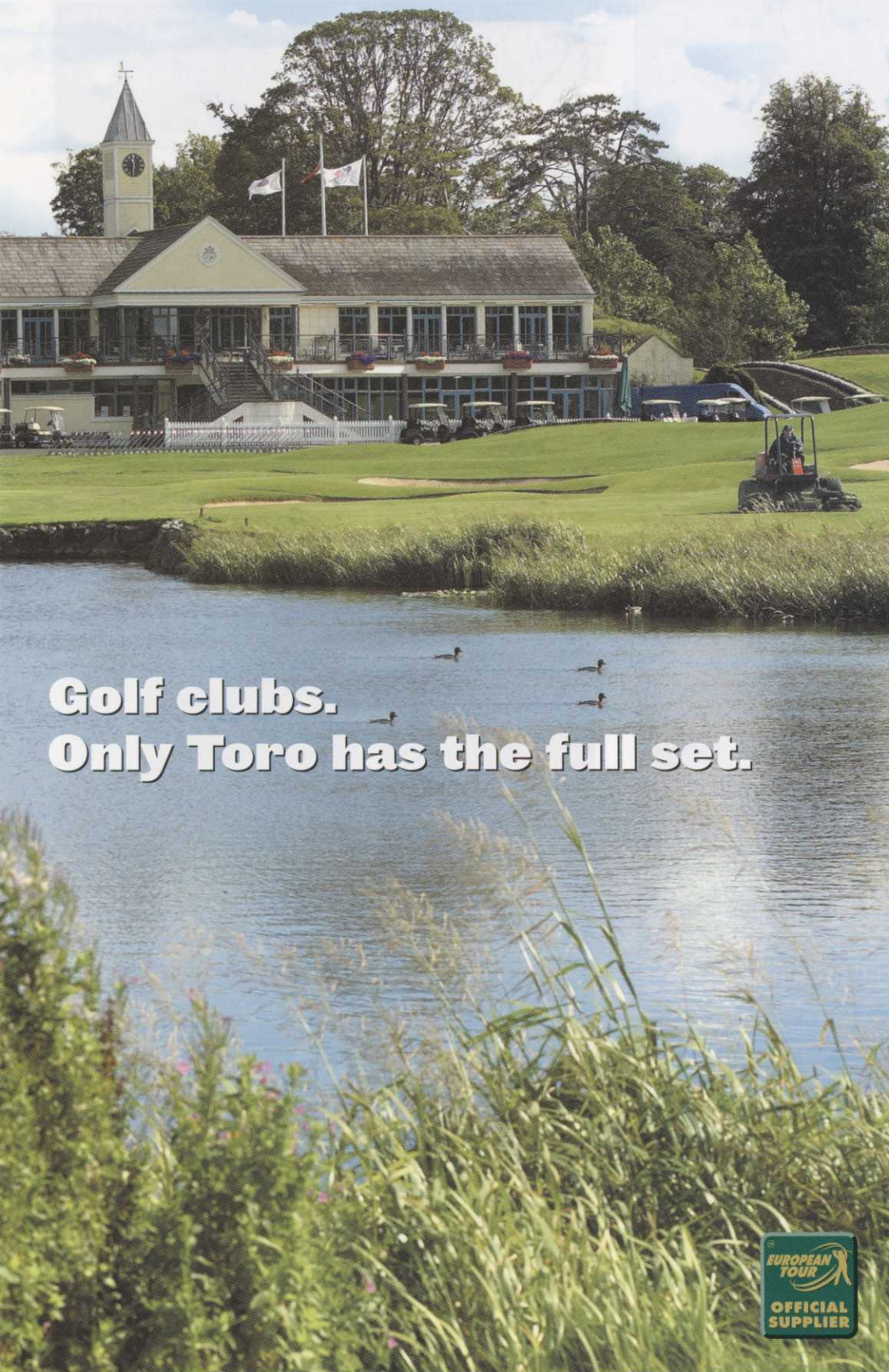
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Count on it.



The law concerning fire safety in all golf clubs is undergoing a major review.

The new legislation, which came into effect in October 2006, is basically a re-working of the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997.

Responsibility for complying with the new legislation will rest with the "Responsible Person" - In a golf club this will normally be the Captain or any other person who has been delegated the control of the premises.

FIRE SAFETY DUTIES

The "Responsible Person" must where necessary put general fire precautions in place to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety of any employees and others e.g. members, visitors, or contractors. The Responsible Person must appoint one or more competent persons to assist in undertaking any control measures to reduce the level of risk from fire.

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

The basis for deciding what fire precautions are required is a fire risk assessment. This risk assessment must consider those persons who are on the premises or anyone in the immediate vicinity of those premises who would be at risk from a fire. Excluded from this are fire-fighters carrying out their duties. The risk assessment should identify the combustible materials present, potential sources of ignition and the control measures required to reduce the risk of fire to a minimum.

Where more than five people are employed the risk assessment must be documented.

DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

Where there are dangerous substances present e.g. highly flammable liquids and gases, large volumes of volatile liquids e.g. butane gas cylinders, large stocks of acetone, alcohol based liquids and aerosols etc, the risk assessment must consider the risks from these substances and they must either be eliminated or reduced so far as is reasonably practicable.

In deciding upon control measures to reduce the level of risk, there are certain fundamental principles of prevention.

- (a) Avoid the risks, i.e. can you stop doing the activity that may cause a fire?
- (b) Evaluate the risks which cannot be avoided. Are they likely to happen and what would be their outcome?
- (c) Combat the risks at source. Install control measures to prevent fire.
- (d) Replace the dangerous substance if possible by a non-dangerous or less dangerous substance e.g. water based materials rather than solvent based.
- (e) Develop a coherent overall fire prevention policy that covers the personnel, activities and organisation of working environment.
- (f) Give collective protective measures priority over individual protective measures.
- (g) Provide appropriate instructions to employees on how to raise the alarm, evacuation of the premises, use of fire extinguishers etc.

The responsible person must make fire safety arrangements, depending on the size and nature of the undertaking which will plan, organise, control, monitor and review the preventative and protective measures decided upon from the risk assessment.

FIRE SAFETY PREVENTIVE AND PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Where necessary to safeguard relevant persons, the responsible person must:

- Provide appropriate fire fighting equipment
- Provide fire/smoke detectors and alarms as appropriate
- Nominate competent persons to implement these measures
- Arrange necessary contacts with external emergency services
- Ensure that routes to emergency exits are kept clear
- Emergency exits are able to be opened during the working day
- Establish appropriate evacuation procedures, including drills, in the event of serious and imminent danger and nominate competent persons to implement these.

For further advice on the new regulations and on any aspect of your fire risk assessment, please call the Xact Technical Team on: 0845 665 3006.

HOBBIES

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

Name: Sean McDade

Age: 39

Club: Sandwell Park

Hobby: Is it Angling, Fishing, or Poaching?

How and when did you get introduced to fishing?

I don't really remember when, as apparently the first time I went fishing was at six months old, four months after leaving hospital. (I was two months premature, 40 years ago). Fishing was, and still is the reason for the locations of my holidays.

Father taught me to fish the upstream worm method as soon as I was old enough to ride a bike to the local streams. Then came the day the local Bobby felt my collar while poaching the rich American's estate, and took me home to face father's wrath. As father served dinner he fixed me with the evil eye and scowled across the table "Sean that was very stupid of you. Don't you DARE get caught next time" - I know he was content if I was doing no greater harm with my idle hours than giving an absentee American's neglected trout a touch of toothache.

What is it about fishing that appeals to you?

The wonder of the natural world and its diversity and the way such is interacted and combined. Without a type of soil there are no plants, thus no insects, no fish, no birds or my favourite, wild otters. Until five years ago I'd never seen a wild fresh water otter. I have now been privileged to experience such twice. On both occasions I was fishing for wild trout or sea trout/salmon. I shall now sight the last time I experienced such. I was returning from a sea trout fishing holiday in North Wales and while returning home crossed over a river bridge on the upper R. Severn, had to stop and look, all true/sad anglers do this, and it is part of the religion. There's no one about and I will put them back anyway. I now gain greater satisfaction from helping trout in whatever guise recover and be there to spawn. While fishing this river very quietly I became aware of something above me moving downstream towards me - an otter, it stopped 10 yards from me on the same bank, looked at me as if to say "we are no threat to each other, we are both at the same thing" and we were. I enjoyed watching the otter for 10 minute's right in front of me. You cannot buy that mutual understanding from a wild animal. I stopped fishing and lay back in the bank and enjoyed a very rare sight indeed.

Have you entered any competitions or do you intend to do so?

I have for the last five years I've organised an annual angling event for the BIGGA Midland Section. Which has, on the whole, been a success. Sponsorship has provided prizes of £50 and a fine buffet. I have never been a match angler, fishing to me is more about escapism, and the contest is between me, the fish, the river, and the interaction of the truly wild and wonderful within our beautiful country. Miss it at your loss.

I have enjoyed fishing throughout all of Britain, Germany, Austria and Iceland, but my favourite is without doubt the north east of Cumbria.



GOLF BY DESIGN

The game may well have started in the 12th century, going by some of the ancient images I have seen from China.

But surely not?

Or in Holland, playing that game on the ice - KOLF was the name - or is that too much of a coincidence?

Or in France, as Jeu de Maille?

Or even by the Indians in America, before any Europeans found it - there is some evidence to say that a stick hit a round object in one direction or another all those years ago.

No! No! No!



Bundoran 11th approach

Let's stick to the east coast of Scotland, to the land behind the sea, alongside the river estuaries, and the great depositions of sand.

Let's stick to the dunes, no holes, just rabbit scrapes; no greens, just sheltered areas amongst them; no tees, just a short length from the previous hole; no fairways, just valleys in the dune slacks; no bunkers, just eroded areas where sheep may well have huddled to shelter from the elements.

Simple, rudimentary...natural.

Natural land, the links, natural designs, these golf courses.

No golf course architects, just Mother Nature and God...how well they did! How we have striven to follow them!

The spread of the game, to the coastlines of other parts of Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland, to the poor soils of the inland links on the heaths, eventually to the grasslands, the parklands, the arable lands - heavier soils, less than exciting topography and so unlike the links - meant more adjustment, more formalisation, more design.

So the profession was born...

Allan Robertson, Golfer from Dornoch; Old Tom Morris, Golfer from St. Andrews and custodian of the links: The Parks, The Dunns, Young Tom - all professional men in the game, all lent their hand to designing golf courses.

And as the game spread throughout the world - France, India, Portugal, and to USA - with the British, so we saw the skills of the home architect exported to those foreign shores before the nationals, particularly in America, copied us and developed their own profession, and how they developed the game, and its architecture in that next 100 years.

A game apart, a world apart, one might say, from those earliest of natural designs.

Through the great British architects:

- BRAID
- TAYLOR
- VARDON

*Continue
to learn*

The triumvirate - all Open Champions, all golf course architects, Braid incredibly prolific in this time - a time with no cars, planes, just the railways...

To the non-professionals:

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- FOWLER
- SIMPSON

...Laying out the most classic of courses at home and abroad

...And their American counterparts:

- TILLINGHAST
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- BLAIR MACDONALD
- FLYNN
- TOOMEY
- THOMAS
- WILSON
- CRUMP

The list goes on and on...

What a great heritage my profession has!

And from simplicity, changing the use of the land for the game to the modern day...the complexity of it all, the artificiality of it all, the expense of it all, changing the form of the land for the game.

Do we? Yes!

Must we? No!

Should we? No!

From human hands, to horse and cart, to rudimentary machinery...to bulldozers, excavators, and more bulldozers and excavators, and even more bulldozers and excavators...modelling and shaping for the game.

Do we really need all this?

Have we lost our way?

Have we forgotten about how it all started, on those most natural of links?

Golf courses designed to fit into the natural environment, couched in nature, imperceptibly, must be what we need to pursue as both philosophy and practice.

Such is the responsibility of my profession.

Not always easy on some sites where nature doesn't give you too much help...the greater the challenge, sure, but the principle should not change.

"The essence of the game is its simplicity." So said Tom Simpson in 1929.

Apply that to today's golf course architecture, I say, some 75 years later!

Since that golden age, life in the design world has undoubtedly become more complex, more expensive - over elaborate, one might say.

So what does the modern golf course architect do?

He or she follows three philosophies of design:

- PENAL
- STRATEGIC
- HEROIC

By Howard Swan

The earliest adopted or recognised - PENAL - is simply punishing, wagging the finger at the player, saying: "Don't dare stray from the straight and narrow, and if you risk anything you'll pay a heavy penalty". Square greens, rectangular fairways crossed and sidelined with fearsome bunkers.

The likes of the 14th at The Old Course - LONG - was considered at the beginning to be utterly penal, but - as the profession developed and with the likes of Colt and, particularly MacKenzie, this hole was considered to have some strategy. A course from tee to green could be plotted, options for routing of play identified by the player, and taken.

The strategic approach is one of risk and reward, thought provoking, favouring the brave, rewarded to the risk-taker but giving the less mortal a chance at his or her own level.

Heroism in design may be considered to have come across the big pond. Bite off as much as you can chew, and a good bit more. Carry water bravely, cut corners to the pin and become a hero by doing so.

Death or glory!

Typically American, if I may say so.

Based on these philosophies or best a mix of them to stir the emotions in playing the fame, we golf course architects ply our trade.

He or she - yes, we have a few women in our midst, not enough, in my view, but some - has to be many, many things to encompass, around that creative flair that he or she should have, an understanding of soil science, agronomy, engineering, construction, drainage, irrigation; surveying, mathematics, computer science; greenkeeping, economics, finance and accounting, project management and planning - the list goes on and on.

And yes...an understanding of the game, playing it at some level, not necessarily the highest, although just like all those years ago, many professional players, current or past, label themselves as golf course architects...rather designers, perhaps, I might say.

There is a fundamental difference.

Conceptualising design is the first stage, creating the masterplan, taking that piece of land and laying out a golf course on it, as naturally, with as little impact - environmentally, economically - as possible.

It may be 18 holes or more, or less, and it is pertinent these days in maximising usage of land, expensive and scarce it may be in 60 hectare blocks, to consider less - three, six, nine, 12 holes, compact layouts, practice facilities, little courses for beginners, of all ages, and give a maximum return for the developer's investment.

Once the masterplan is in place, just the golf course or with other infrastructures - an hotel, real estate, whatever - a technical project needs to be developed. This might run to a hundred drawings for an 18 hole course - staking, site preparation, earthworks and grading, field drainage, greens, tees, bunkering detail, irrigation, lake construction, grassing, landscape planting, habitat creation, traffic (golfers' and greenkeepers') routing, and presentation management with standard profiling of all the new course's components.

All this accompanied by a Specification, which sets out the quality of the golf course, and Bills of Quantities, which details clearly in an orderly fashion exactly what is to be done, how much is to be done, and, after a bidding process, how much it may cost.

Quite a substantial set of documents but, in my view, essential in order to structure any project properly from the outset, a framework in which all the team can work, a framework not restrictive in stifling that essential creative flair, that exciting and spectacular end result, but enough to make the development controllable in financial and other terms.



Goodwood 17th

During construction and establishment, the modern, professional golf course architect needs to be on the site, overseeing the implementation of the design. He or she needs to do that regularly, not just once in a blue moon as some might, not just a couple of times, but at a meaningful frequency so that the project team - contractor, irrigation installer, greenkeeper, client and the consultants - are all pulling in the same direction and a quality result is achieved.

Such management may also be effected, if the budget allows - yes, golf course projects need, and sometimes do get realistic budgeting which is maintained - by having the eyes and

ears of the architect on site all the time; or relying on the greenkeeper of the client, appointed in a project as early as possible, to watch over the development process as the golf course takes shape.

Such a stage in any project, new course or renovation of an existing one, is quite vital and cannot be underestimated if the best interests of the client are to be protected, which is, after all, the ultimate responsibility of the architect.

This is what today's architect does, or should do. A far cry from those earliest of days of Robertson, Morris, even Braid, Taylor and Vardon.

But hopefully in this complex of modern worlds, simplicity might prevail.

Appreciation of the land, its natural feature, its value and its character, environmentally, is the essence.

Changing its use sympathetically is the challenge.

To do this the modern golf course architect needs what? - education and training, experience in the field, with a basis of technical and commercial understanding, and the opportunity to practise and develop those skills.

Learning about golf course design is available through a number of avenues - masterclasses like BIGGA's own at Harrogate, the postgraduate Diploma programme of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects - my professional body - a two-year part-time course, a Masters Degree run by Edinburgh College of Art.

The Diploma gives the chance to get out and practise through a mentoring and work placement programme, albeit not yet extensive enough, but developing every day.

The programme is turning out some talented, young golf course architects from all over the world, where the game continues to grow, or is just beginning to be established - teaching us old guys a thing or two.

So what of the way forward?

Learning, appreciating, applying those professional skills sympathetically and sensitively is what the members of my profession need to do. And to do so in the framework of the team in any project, working alongside specialists in allied fields and particularly the greenkeeping profession, an immeasurably valuable relationship, alongside the administrators of the game worldwide.

To push out the frontiers of the game, wherever, to create golf courses to encourage people to join the game and expand its base; encourage players to have their skills, develop their playing prowess, to reach their golfing zenith.

And, above all, to do so...naturally.

Howard Swan has been involved in designing and building golf courses for almost 35 years. After founding his own architectural practice, Swan Golf Designs, in 1987, he has become one of the most respected golf course architects in Europe. Today, SGD's portfolio includes 30 countries from the USA to China, as well as Iceland, West Africa and, now, the new golf markets in Eastern Europe. A leading member of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects, in 2004 he received the British Turfgrass Industry's Life Time Achievement Award.

Course Feature

Chance of a Lifetime

The Ohio State University Turfgrass Intern Programme, has brought together seven interns from the UK for hands-on training at The Pinehurst Resort, North Carolina.

Robert Lucas - Course 3, Niall MacDonal & Tom Freeman - Course 4, Craig Hay - Course 5, Jaime Smith - Course 6, Stephen Brogan - Course 7, Neil Kennedy - Course 8 give you an idea of what life is like on an internship at Pinehurst.



Left to right. Back: Thomas Freeman, James Smith, Neil Kennedy, Stephen Brogan. Front: Niall Macdonald, Craig Hay, Robert Lucas

The aim is to equip the interns with the skills, experience and knowledge they need to succeed in the Turfgrass Maintenance Industry worldwide. The programme is also a great opportunity to have fun, learn, and make contacts with people who can extend your support network, both professionally and personally, from around the world.

Our visa allows us to undertake work based practical training for 12 months with the option of extending for another six months.

Accommodation is arranged by Pinehurst Resort and we live together in the same apartment complex, only five miles from the golf courses. There's lots to do when not at the course. We are all really keen golfers and spend most of our spare time playing. As Pinehurst employees, we get free use of the golf courses and practice facilities - the only cost is \$5 for a golf cart.

The hours we do and the amount of overtime varies throughout the year. During spring, summer and autumn we start at 6am and finish at 3pm, Monday - Friday. During winter we start at 7am. Weekend duty is compulsory and, although you are only asked to be on duty every other weekend, most interns go in every weekend for the experience. We do a lot of overtime during the summer months, it's not physical work but it is very responsible and an important duty - "wilt watching" and syringing greens (more later).

Interns are trusted with a lot of responsibility because we have all been to college and have a qualification. We also use machinery and equipment that we had never used before and carry out topdressing, aeration,

irrigation, spraying fungicide, herbicides, to insecticides and fertiliser.

The Pinehurst Resort is the largest golf resort in the US, with eight golf courses and three hotels. In 1900 Donald Ross came to Pinehurst and stayed for 48 years, during which time he re-designed course 1; was the architect for the world famous course 2, which opened in 1907, and Course 3 which opened in 1910. Course 5 was designed by Ellis Maples in 1961. Courses 4, 6 & 8 were the work of Tom Fazio. Course 7 was designed by Reese Jones in 1986.

Pinehurst has mild winters, allowing for a long golfing season so golfers from the northeastern states use it as a winter retreat. It is on sandy soil which provides great drainage all year round.

In 2005 it hosted the US Open Championship won by Michael Campbell with a score of even par.

The climate of North Carolina is mild winters and very hot summers which means Pinehurst is in a transition zone. They use warm season turfgrass during the summer months and cool season turfgrass during the winter months, which is a great experience for us to be exposed to from a management perspective.

PINEHURST THROUGH THE SEASONS

SUMMER

Summer temperatures frequently hit 40°C so bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*) is used as the warm season turfgrass. A hybrid bermudagrass called Tifway 419 is used because it has a finer leaf blade, produces a tight sward and is more drought and shade tolerant than common bermudagrass, it grows on the tees, fairways, roughs, collars, and approaches.

We started to notice "green-up" and recovery of bermudagrass in late February when night temperatures remain above 15°C for several days, soil temperature also needs to reach 18°C at the 10cm depth. By the last week in June 99% of the ryegrass had wilted out of the golf courses.

The greens are cut everyday during the summer, the other areas such as fairways, rough, tees, collars and approaches are cut every other day.

The greens at Pinehurst are seeded with Penn G-2 creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*) because it provides a high quality putting surface and year round colour. We cut the greens very low - 3.1mm is the usual cut height.

G-2 is a very heat tolerant cool season turfgrass so is able to tolerate the high summer temperatures, but only if a lot of effort is made to cool the greens by syringing to replace lost water from the leaf and reduce the temperature of the canopy.

We are given the responsibility of syringing the greens, which involves hand watering areas of the greens that begin to wilt. These areas are called 'hot spots' and are syringed over and over all afternoon usually from

12 noon to 5pm. A very small amount of water is applied each time, just enough to replace moisture lost from the leaf. The idea is not to water the soil as this forces oxygen out of the soil creating anaerobic soil, root loss and, eventually, algae problems. We are sent out to syringe most afternoons during summer.

The warmest month is July, the average high temperature is 32°C, and the average low temperature is 21°C

July is also the wettest month average rainfall is 129mm.

AUTUMN

The courses are aerated in September, the greens are hollow cored and top-dressed. Fairways, tees, collars, rough and approaches are heavily verticut which removes thatch and creates a seed bed for the ryegrass overseeding.

During autumn the temperatures start to cool down so the growth of the bermudagrass slows down, as the temperatures get colder and frosts it will eventually go dormant. Dormant bermudagrass has lost all its chlorophyll from its leaves so is brown in colour; it requires warm air and soil temperatures and strong sunlight for its photosynthetic processes.



The Proshop at Pinehurst

Before the bermudagrass goes dormant the turf is overseeded with perennial ryegrass (*Lolium Perenne*). This happens the first week of October so by the time it is dormant the ryegrass will have germinated and the plants will be mature enough to provide a quality playing surface. All areas are overseeded, apart from the greens which are kept creeping bent grass (*Agrostis stolonifera*) year round. The growth of the grass slows down at this time of year, the greens are cut daily, fairways, collars, tees and approaches are cut three times per week and the rough is cut twice per week. The average high temperature in October is 22°C The average low temperature in October is 10°C The average rainfall in October is 95mm - ideal weather for golf but just remember, during aeration and overseeding the courses are closed for 2-3 days so we can get the work done as fast as possible. Closing eight courses for 2-3 days for both processes, leads to a big loss of greens fees so this is where you learn about efficiency and scheduling and organisation in a grand scale, because "time is money!"

WINTER

During winter temperatures can still reach 20°C, so irrigation is still used to prevent ryegrass wilt. It does get really cold at times if the wind is coming from the North or East it brings some really cold temperatures.

We noticed a big difference in morning and afternoon temperatures at Pinehurst, it's something we've never experienced in the UK, there was days when we would start at 7am and the temperature was -1°C with a hard frost on the ground but by lunchtime the temperature would be 18°C.

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The coldest month is January, average high is 10°C; average low temperature is -1°C and average rainfall is 117mm.

The grass grows more during the winter than it does in the UK, sometimes it's mild and sometimes it's freezing. If it is mild, the greens are cut every day, fairways, tees, collars, approaches and rough 1-2 times per week.

During the winter we are on a shorter schedule, therefore, most interns take the opportunity to spend some hard earned money on vacation; Mexico, Florida, California and New York are places we have visited.

SPRING

The ryegrass is growing fast so fairways, roughs, collars, tees and approaches are cut every other day. Greens are cut everyday.

The average high temperature is 22°C; the average low temperature is 9°C and the average rainfall is 81mm.

During May the courses are aerated, the greens, tees and collars are hollow cored and topdressed, the fairways and rough are aerated with spoon tines.

Spring is a time when the bermudagrass breaks its dormancy and starts growing again, at this time the two grasses are competing against each other for root space, water, nutrients and sunlight. The objective is to remove the ryegrass to allow full bermudagrass recovery.

The ideal situation is for the ryegrass to wilt and die as the two grasses don't blend well with each other as bentgrass and fescue do, ryegrass is a lot darker green than bermudagrass so stands out like a sore thumb.

Optimum daytime temperatures for ryegrass growth is 15 - 24°C, temperatures which are warm enough for bermudagrass, these temperatures can be experienced until the end of May at Pinehurst, therefore at this time the bermudagrass can't out compete the ryegrass without help.

STEPS TO ENSURE DESIRABLE SPRING TRANSITION:

1. Overseeding Rate

High seeding rates are used at Pinehurst, which is expensive but tends to keep the overseeded grass more juvenile due to competition so makes transition easier in spring.

Lower seeding rates often result in more mature plants, which are less susceptible to heat and moisture stress so remain into summer.

Fairways - 625kg/hectare; Roughs - 225kg/hectare;
Tees - 850kg/hectare; Collars - 625kg/hectare;
Approaches - 625kg/hectare.

If your wondering about how much seed this takes, picture 15 Artic trucks full of seed!

2. Fertilisation

Nitrogen, Potassium and Phosphorous are applied in early Spring, for conditioning of ryegrass, the first fertiliser application is after any danger of a severe frost has passed but before complete recovery of bermudagrass. Nitrogen is applied after 20 to 30% green up of bermudagrass. Rates of Nitrogen are kept to a minimum while temperature still favors the ryegrass. When temperatures rise to favor Bermudagrass, Nitrogen is applied in May and June or until bermudagrass has completely recovered, for its conditioning. Potassium is applied to increase carbohydrate storage in stolons and rhizomes, and promotes root development in spring and autumn. Iron is applied as deficiencies are noticed in early spring when soil temperatures are low.

3. Mowing Heights

Low heights of cut are used to weaken the ryegrass, which reduces the shading and competition effect on the bermudagrass. Fairways - 12mm; Roughs - 25mm; Tees - 10mm; Collars - 7.6mm; Approaches - 12mm.

4. Herbicides

Selective herbicides which kill cool season grasses but don't harm warm season grasses are sprayed. Bermudagrass needs at least 100 days of growth in the absence of ryegrass competition, failure to do this will cause loss of Bermudagrass and the sward will become thin over time. If it looks like bermudagrass will not get its 100 days before overseeding in autumn, the Superintendent will decide to remove the ryegrass with a herbicide, using Monument (trifloxysulfuron) from the sulfonylurea herbicide family.

NAME	AGE	COLLEGE & QUALIFICATION	PREVIOUS GOLF COURSE
ROBERT LUCAS	25	REASEHEATH COLLEGE NATIONAL DIPLOMA HORTICULTURE & SPORTSTURF	STOCKPORT GOLF CLUB CHESHIRE ENGLAND
CRAIG HAY	20	ELMWOOD COLLEGE SVQ LEVEL 2	ST ANDREWS BAY FIFE SCOTLAND
TOM FREEMAN	22	LACKHAM COLLEGE NVQ LEVEL 2&3	BOWOOD GOLF CLUB, WILTSHIRE ENGLAND
JAIME SMITH	20	HARTPURY COLLEGE NVQ LEVEL 2	HILTON PUCKRUP HALL GOLF CLUB ENGLAND
NEILL KENNEDY	23	OATRIDGE COLLEGE SVQ LEVEL 2&3	ARCHERFIELD GOLF CLUB EAST LOTHIAN SCOTLAND
NAILL MACDONALD	25	GOSTA TRAINING AGENCY SVQ LEVEL 2&3	DRUMPELIER GOLF CLUB, NORTH LANARKSHIRE SCOTLAND
STEPHEN BROGAN	22	GOSTA TRAINING AGENCY SVQ LEVEL 2&3	HAYSTON GOLF CLUB KIRKINTILLOCH, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

5. Skipping Overseeding

This allows an early green up and a strong sward in summer, no competition between ryegrass and bermudagrass. Course 2 skipped overseeding in autumn 2004 so the condition of the bermudagrass would be excellent for the US Open in 2005.

Being part of the programme has influenced our lives and careers in a very positive way.

It feels like a big change, but also a challenge and we found that it's important to stay enthusiastic, Pinehurst has an influence on our ability to react positively to change and challenge, which has made us better greenkeepers, better golfers and better people.

It's great being part of a programme and part of a team of British interns, we all chose to participate for similar reasons so have lots in common but it has brought out the best in each of us and made us better team players. While we are thousands of miles from home on a safe, legal and organised programme, it's important to have a sense of adventure and an adventurous spirit.

As a result, it builds our confidence to go anywhere. We now know what to expect and we are not afraid to apply to top courses anywhere in the world - number one because, they are very familiar with The Ohio Programme and number two, they know that we will have learned a lot by the time we finish the course. Therefore, young people who do the American programme tend to be more in demand.

We would like to thank our lecturers back in the UK for supporting us in our endeavours, we will take away many great memories of Pinehurst, lots of contacts and life long friends in this great profession. It has been a great learning experience. Thanks also to our Superintendents and the team at The Ohio State University.

WHAT IS THE OHIO PROGRAMME

Run by The Ohio State University since 1979, the programme brings 19-29 -year -old single guys and girls for 12 to 18 months to train/gain experience on some of the most exclusive golf courses in the United States. You have to be drug free with no criminal record, have a clean drivers licence and most importantly a willingness to learn and ability to endure long hours of on-the-job training. Irishman Mike O'Keeffe manages the programme and brings in over 100 turf trainees a year from all over the world.

For more details on The Ohio Programme (www.top.osu.edu) contact Mike O'Keeffe on: okeeffe.1@osu.edu or your local SVQ or NVQ training authority.

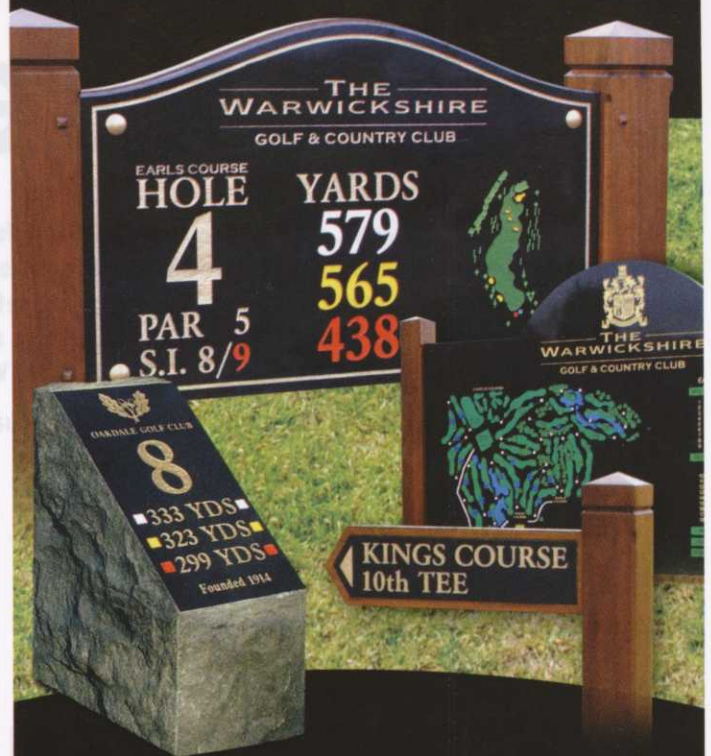


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Harrogate week

It's Arrived!

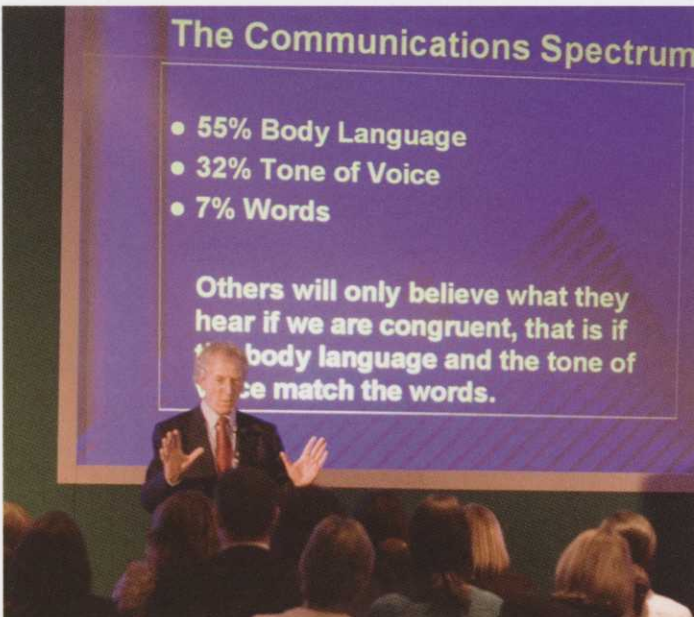
January can be viewed in two ways. A disappointing month - the festive season is over, the Christmas decorations have been taken down and packed away back up into the loft, you're more than likely on a diet after overindulging in December and all you have to look forward to in the immediate future is cold, wet, dreary weather. Or, a brand spanking New Year! - A time for new beginnings, time to make New Year's Resolutions, take up a new hobby, get fit - join the gym, enrol on a part time course, and most importantly, attend the event of the year - Harrogate Week!

GI provides a glimpse of what the most important week in January has to offer.

WOMEN'S FORUM

Tuesday, January 23, 16.30 - 17.30

Aiming to keep the few women there are in the fine turf industries in contact, the Women's Forum enables women and men alike to join in lively debate on relevant topics and allows them to spend time networking.



AMERICANS TO ATTEND HARROGATE WEEK



Bernhard and Company have given individuals in the greenkeeping industry the chance of a lifetime after sending out a press release in the states, announcing that GCSAA Class A members could apply to be flown over to the UK for Harrogate Week 2007.

Members who were interested had to go to the Bernhard and Company website and fill-out an application form. In just two weeks over 370 GCSAA members had filled out the application.

The response was tremendous (more than Bernhard and Co had bargained for!) and with applicants being of such a high standard, it was a very tough decision for the company.

Members who did not make it on 2007 trip have remarked how they will be applying again in 2008, so there is a definite interest from the GCSAA members to see BTME.

The selected delegation is as follows:

Roger Stewart - Golf Course Superintendent at the TPC Jasna Polana, a GCSAA member for 31 years:

"It is important that the strong relationship between BIGGA and GCSAA continues to grow in the future and BIGGA is an important link to other international associations so we all benefit from our collective knowledge and experience. I would be pleased to have the opportunity to pass on the experience."

Bob Farren, CGCS - Manager of Golf Courses and Grounds at Pinehurst, a GCSAA member for 27 years:

"I have a great deal of interest and passion for all aspects of the golf industry. I feel I could represent the GCSAA, The Bernhard Company, and Pinehurst Resort in good fashion. I feel very fortunate to have worked so many years at Pinehurst, the "Birthplace of American golf", and I love to share those experiences."

Bob Becker - Golf Course Superintendent at Scioto Country Club, a GCSAA member for nine years:

"I believe this would be a great experience to interact with not only the delegates, but also the superintendents and students, which we will be in contact with, during our trip. As my trip to Australia taught me there is much to be learned by travelling outside the United States. It gives you a different perspective on how tasks can be accomplished."

C. Todd Pippin - Golf Course Superintendent at The Club at Longview, a GCSAA member for six years:

"In being a delegate to Harrogate it will allow me the opportunity to share those experiences with others and gain insight into those issues that are faced within the European market. In the near future I foresee all turfgrass managers worldwide will be faced with similar problems, I hope to make my introduction to my peers at Harrogate and begin the discussion of solving our common problems in the future."

Michael Morris, CGCS - Golf Course Superintendent at Crystal Downs Country Club, a GCSAA member for 21 years:

"Gaining a new, different perspective on golf course maintenance from my British and European counterparts would be invaluable to me. The membership of Crystal Down Country Club and the club itself is truly connected to the international world of golf. Having first-hand, educational experience with golf course maintenance in the UK and Europe would benefit me in my role as superintendent at Crystal Downs."

David Phipps - Golf Course Superintendent at Stone Creek Golf Club, a GCSAA member for seven years:

"I know that the best way to learn new ideas is to share knowledge that works. Having the opportunity to meet and share information with UK and European superintendents would be a chance of a lifetime for me."

Kerry Satterwhite, CGCS - Director of Golf Course Maintenance City of Bloomington, a GCSAA member for 23 years:

"I have always been an advocate of trying to maintain our golf courses with fewer pesticides and preserving natural resources like water. I believe that in a decade water will become as an expensive commodity as oil is today. I would be very interested in learning firsthand about the management strategies that are implemented by our European peers."

Kenneth D. Williams, CGCS - Golf Course Superintendent at Stanford University Golf Course, a GCSAA member for 21 years:

"I'm what would be considered a low input superintendent, always striving to be as efficient as possible and let nature take its own course. Having the opportunity to meet my peers in BIGGA would no doubt help me in my efforts. It would be a great honour to share experiences with people who have a very different perspective."

Gregg Blew, CGCS - Golf Course Superintendent at Wellshire Golf Club, a GCSAA member for 22 years:

"Being able to see golf courses in England, will give me the opportunity to talk with superintendents there about their challenges with turf, insects, diseases, weeds, weather and of course, the golfers."

Thom Charters - Golf Course Superintendent at Bayview Golf and Country Club, a GCSAA member for 30 years:

"One of the most important factors in my success as a Golf Course Manager has been networking with my peers. Whether it has been at the local, national or international level, the friends I have made, the knowledge they have shared and knowing that I can pick up the phone to seek their input on any subject has made my job easier and more rewarding. I would welcome the opportunity to do so again in Great Britain."

THE R&A AT HARROGATE WEEK

Queen's Suite, Harrogate International Centre (Springfield House entrance),

Tuesday, January 23 from 9.30am until 10am

R&A



Hoyle hosted the 2006 Open

TURFGRASS CLIMATE MAP

The R&A Golf Course Committee is launching a worldwide climate map, to inform on grass species selection, which will be available on their best practice website, www.bestcourseforgolf. The interactive map shows where warm or cool season grasses are most appropriate and the Transition Zone where, often difficult choices have to be made with regard to the most sustainable turfgrass selection. The map is linked to text on the site that describes the turfgrass species in detail and this new addition to www.bestcourseforgolf.org will be of great value to course developers, architects and turf managers.

THE OPEN ROAD TO SUSTAINABILITY

The Open Championship at Hoyle last July was considered to be a great success, with the condition and set up of the golf course receiving plaudits from those playing and watching alike. A DVD, produced by The R&A Golf Course Committee, will be shown that highlights the sustainable nature of the course. With footage taken both from The Open itself and again nine weeks after Tiger Woods picked up the Claret Jug for the third time, this DVD considers the recovery achieved after hosting a major golf event.

SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Approximately 500 people are killed at work each year and many more are injured and suffer ill health. Many of these accidents occur because of a lack of knowledge or understanding of good practices and safe working procedures.

Golf courses can be hazardous places to work at and play on but if a sensible, common sense safety management system (SMS) is put in place risks can be kept to a minimum.

The AGCS and BIGGA have both been giving Health and Safety advice and guidance to their members for some time. However, the two organisations felt that there was a need for standardisation and they have cooperated to produce a 'best practice' SMS for golf clubs.

The AGCS/BIGGA Safety Management System (SMS) will be launched at 5pm on Wednesday, January 24 in the Queen's Suite. Please note that the BIGGA AGM will now take place at 6pm.

STAND
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To be in with a chance to win one of 4 phones all you need to do is join or refer a new member to join BIGGA at the Show. Visit the BIGGA stand B47 to collect an application form and hand it in before the end of the show on Thursday 25 January 2007.

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BMW PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

THE WENTWORTH CLUB, MAY 24-27 2007

BIGGA are to provide a Greenkeeping Support Team for the BMW PGA Championship at The Wentworth Club, May 24-27.

As a team member you will be involved in walking with a match and raking any bunkers found by the players, as well as aiding Chris Kennedy and his staff, should adverse weather occur.

You will be responsible for your own transport arrangements to the course, while there is no overnight accommodation provided.

Being a member of this team will not be detrimental to your chances of making The Open Championship team.

Applications should be sent to: Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator, 34 Howard Close, Walton-on-the-Hill, Tadworth, Surrey, KT20 7QF.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR BIGGA SUPPORT TEAM

THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP, CARNOUSTIE, JULY 19-22

This is your opportunity to work at Carnoustie - probably the toughest test of all the Open venues - to assist Links Superintendent, John Philp, and his team with the preparation of the famous old course and be a part of the on-course team which accompanies each match ensuring bunkers are raked in a correct and professional manner.

It will be your responsibility to get to the team's base for the week - Abertay University in central Dundee, but after that transport to and from the golf course, accommodation and meals will be provided for the duration of the Championship. You will be expected to report for duty by 5pm on Wednesday, July 18, and be available until the close of play on Sunday - a meal and bed and breakfast will be supplied for the Sunday evening and Monday morning if required.

This opportunity is open to full BIGGA members only.

To apply complete and photocopy this application form and send to: Scott MacCallum, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF.

For further information contact Scott on 01347 833800 or email scott@bigga.co.uk

Closing Date for applications for The Open Team February 1, 2007, and you will be notified later in the month.

Full Name: _____

Golf Club: _____ Position: _____ Age: _____

Please tick all boxes that apply below:

I have applied for/appeared on the team at:	Applied	Successful
Hoylake, 2006		
St Andrews, 2005		
Royal Troon, 2004		
Royal St Georges, 2003		
Muirfield, 2002		

	Yes	No
I have been a BIGGA member for more than three years		
I serve, or have served in the last three years, on a Section/Region Committee		
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Grass Selection for Drought Affected Sites

A precious resource - will water become more difficult to access in the future.

By Megan Hood.

At home and abroad, Britain is perceived as being a water-rich nation. It is not surprising then that the severe water restrictions of 2006 in South East England caught many people napping. While some parts of England and Wales have relatively reliable rainfall, we also have high population density. This means that there is relatively little water available per person, particularly in the South East of England, where rainfall is low in a high population area.

In 2006, two dry winters and a dry early summer diminished available water supplies in the South East of England and severe water restrictions were imposed. The consequences for some turf facilities were disastrous in both agronomic and financial terms. As we look toward the future, greenkeepers will need grasses on their courses that are sustainable under low irrigation regimes, without compromising on turf quality.

So, do you need to consider changing the grass species on your site?

MINIMISE ANNUAL MEADOWGRASS

Most greenkeepers are aware of the push toward providing sustainable golf courses in the UK. While much of the focus of sustainability has been on minimising fertiliser and chemical inputs, the judicious use of water is likely to become a major issue in the near future (in some areas it is already a major issue). Overseas experience shows that maintaining annual meadowgrass on golf courses with limited water supplies is extremely difficult. While annual meadowgrass can provide an excellent putting surface, golf clubs located within drought-prone areas with high annual meadowgrass populations on their course need to investigate a change to a more suitable grass over time.



Poa Annua green under severe drought stress

TURFGRASS SELECTION

Basically, turfgrass selection is about knowing what you want from your grass. Once you know what you want from your grass, you can utilise the widely available industry information to select the grass that is right for you. So, what do golf greenkeepers need from their grasses?

The plant selected must be able to adapt to:

- Climate
- Growing conditions (soils, drainage, wear etc)
- The intended use (green, tee, fairway, rough)

An inappropriate selection can result in an inferior playing surface or a surface that is more difficult and/or expensive to maintain. The persistence and quality of a turf and the severity of weeds, diseases, insects and other pest problems often reflects known characteristics of specific turfgrass types.

The following should be considered when selecting a turf species to use:

- How will the grass perform under local conditions such as climate and water availability?
- How suitable is the grass for a golf surface?

ADAPTABILITY OF TURF SPECIES TO REGIONAL FACTORS

The grass selected must be suitable for use with the region in which it is grown. From time to time we see warm-season grasses marketed that are completely unsuitable for the British market. It is essential that the grass selected can tolerate other stress factors related to the site. Factors to consider include:

- Resistance to pests and diseases common in the area
- Soil type (sand, soil, nutrient status)
- Soil conditions (e.g. degree of compaction, poor drainage etc)
- Wear (low level, high level)
- Water type (potable, non-potable, recycled)
- Water availability (unlimited, limited)
- Club expectations

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Grass Selection for Drought Affected Sites

The level of turf quality desired and the available maintenance inputs also strongly affect the grass selection decision. Density, texture and colour are the primary aesthetic (visual) considerations.

Carefully evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of a cultivar before deciding to use it.

Unlike many drought-affected areas in the world, warm season grasses are not a viable option in the South East of England. Realistically, options available to golf clubs in the United Kingdom are limited by climate to the following grasses:

- Fine fescues (*Festuca* spp.)
- Browntop bentgrass (*Agrostis capillaris* L.)
- Creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera* L.)
- Perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne* L.)
- Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis* L.)
- Tall fescue (*Lolium arundinaceum*, formerly *Festuca arundinacea*)
- Annual meadowgrass (*Poa annua*)

HOW SUITABLE IS THE GRASS FOR A GOLF SURFACE?

This will vary depending on the type of area, i.e. green, surround, rough, fairway, tees. Factors to consider include:

- Leaf texture
- Mowing height tolerance
- Wear tolerance and recovery from wear
- Long-term growth habit (e.g. clumpy growth)

For example, bentgrasses are better suited for use on golf greens than perennial ryegrass due to their finer leaf and tolerance of low mowing. Perennial ryegrass on the other hand is better suited for use on pathways than fine fescues because of its tolerance to abrasive wear.

It is vital that the playing characteristics of the grass selected are suited to the particular golf surface you are dealing with. For example, tall fescue is being installed on dry areas of some golf courses. While great advances have been made in the breeding of tall fescues in recent years, questions need to be asked regarding their suitability for golf courses in terms of long-term playability and blending in to the surrounding landscape.

So considering the growth type of each grass and their adaptability to the UK climate, the following grasses are options for golf course use:

Golf Greens

- Fine fescues (*Festuca* spp.)
- Browntop bentgrass (*Agrostis capillaris* L.)
- Creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera* L.)
- Annual meadowgrass (*Poa annua*)

Tees and Fairways

- Fine fescues (*Festuca* spp.)
- Browntop bentgrass (*Agrostis capillaris* L.)
- Perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne* L.)



Tall fescue on bunker faces can become clumpy and look unsightly

SELECTING GRASSES FOR DROUGHT-AFFECTED SITES

There is considerable variation in the water use requirements of different turfgrass species and cultivars of the same species. A number of characteristics are important including:

- Water use rate
- Drought resistance
- Drought survival
- Drought recovery

The combination of a turfgrass' water use rate and drought resistance mechanisms determine its ability to provide an acceptable turf quality under a specific soil moisture regime.

WATER USE RATE

This is the total amount of water used by a turfgrass surface or sward through evaporation and transpiration. It is usually expressed as ET (evapotranspiration) in millimetres per day (see table 1).

There is considerable variation in the relative drought tolerances of different grass species (see table 2) and there can also be a significant difference in the drought tolerance of different cultivars.

Relative ranking	ET rate (mm/day)	Turfgrass	
		Cool season	Warm season
Very low	6 - 7		Cynodon sp.
Medium	7 - 8.5	Hard fescue Chewing's fescue Red fescue	Buffalograss
High	8.5 - 10	Perennial ryegrass	
Very high	> 10	Tall fescue Bentgrasses Kentucky bluegrass Annual meadowgrass	

Table 1: Relative ranking of evapotranspiration rates (ET) for common turfgrasses (adapted from Beard & Kim, 1988).

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Grass Selection for Drought Affected Sites

DROUGHT RESISTANCE

Drought resistance is the plant's ability to avoid tissue damage when subjected to water stress. Plant characteristics that affect plant drought resistance are:

- Depth of the root system
- Whether the leaf blades are rolled or not
- Thickness of the leaf cuticle
- Size of the leaf area
- Rate of leaf extension
- Leaf orientation and densities that increase canopy resistance to loss of water.

So, how do the grasses available to the British greenkeepers compare?

EXCELLENT	Common Bermudagrass Kikuyu
VERY GOOD	Fine fescue Tall fescue
GOOD	Hybrid Bermudagrass Kentucky bluegrass
FAIR	Perennial ryegrass
POOR	Annual ryegrass Browntop bentgrass Creeping bentgrass Annual meadowgrass

Table 2: Drought resistance characteristics of some common turfgrass species (adapted from Emmons, 1995).

DROUGHT SURVIVAL

Drought survival is the ability of plants to endure low tissue water levels caused by drought. Survival is achieved either through dormancy or tolerance of low tissue water levels.

Bentgrasses and fine fescues are able to survive drought through dormancy mechanisms even if they do not always provide an acceptable turf quality for most situations in this state.

DROUGHT RECOVERY

Drought recovery is the ability of plants to recover from prolonged drought. Tall fescue and fine fescues can recover rapidly following prolonged drought. Bentgrass will be slower to recover, and species such as ryegrass and annual meadowgrass are unlikely to recover at all. The 2006 Open Championship illustrated simply how effective fine fescues can be in a drought situation. The parched fairways that were screened globally recovered within weeks of the conclusion of the tournament after the welcome August rains arrived.



Fine fescue fairway at the 2006 Open Championship

DECISION TIME

So how do the grasses available to British Greenkeepers compare?

If you are managing a golf course on a drought-affected site it is highly likely that you have already done some research on which grasses to select. For each given situation (greens, tees, fairway, rough etc) select the suitable species with the best drought resistance characteristics. In some regions this will require a move away from traditional species to utilise species with better water use characteristics and drought tolerance, e.g. using fine fescue in place of ryegrass. In other areas, the decision may simply revolve around selecting the most drought tolerant cultivar available within a certain quality grouping or using high-endophyte seed lines.

For assistance in selecting the right grass for you the local starting point is the Turfgrass Seed 2006 Booklet (Published by the British Society of Plant Breeders Limited in conjunction with the STRI).

Be aware of the water use rate, drought resistance and survival characteristics of the turf species managed and irrigate accordingly. Carefully manage the grass to ensure that its drought resistance characteristics are fully utilised. There is no point in planting a low-water use plant, if it is over-irrigated.

There is little doubt that the fine fescues are the superior grass for drought-affected sites in the UK. Most clubs struggle to provide a pure sward of fine fescue in their greens and we tend to see a blend of the fescues with bentgrass or annual meadowgrass. Maximising the fine fescue content in the sward will help to reduce the water requirements of your course without compromising turf quality. The R&A have embarked on a three year study to assess the ideal method of converting annual meadowgrass greens to the finer, more drought-tolerant grasses. Further information can be found at: www.bestcourseforgolf.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

There is a high probability that some golf courses will be using recycled effluent water or non-potable water for irrigation purposes within the next decade. General water availability is likely to reduce. If you are located in a drought-prone area and are managing a grass that has a high water requirement, chances are that it is going to become more difficult to access water in the future. Grass selection has long-lasting consequences on all golf courses and it is important to plan ahead, so start thinking about tomorrow, today.

Megan Hood is Turfgrass Agronomist for STRI Ltd.

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Think Ergonomically

Manufacturers have really started to take operator comfort seriously. Improved seats, reduced noise levels, lower vibration and even power steering combine to make long hours on repetitive jobs less tiring. Often overlooked, however, are advances made in ergonomics. The way controls are positioned can make a huge difference to how any item of equipment feels to operate. James de Havilland reports.

Nostalgia has a funny habit of coming with a box of ready to wear rose tinted spectacles. How often have you heard someone describe a given tractor or mower as the best machine a company has ever made? Spend a few hours behind the wheel of one of these almost mythical bits of kit today and the chances are the experience will initially seem somewhat less than expected. Surely the seat was not really that hard and the steering so heavy? Was it really necessary to lift your foot up that high to operate the clutch?

Machinery evolution is certainly a lot faster than in the natural World and it is this relentless pace that has seen each new generation improve upon what went before. Although the differences between each new model generation can sometimes be slight, those upgrading from older tractors to a new one often notice just how much the designs have evolved.

All pretty obvious stuff so far. Less clear is the subtle differences made during a machine's production life. Although manufacturers are often 'guilty' of calling something new when in fact all that is changed are the model's numbers to accommodate a new Tier II engine, some more subtle developments go unnoticed simply because listing the detail changes takes too much effort. A good example is the move from a manual to electronically controlled PTO.

It's a small change such as this that can make all the difference. So when it next comes to looking at a new tractor, do not rule out a given model because it essentially seems pretty much the same as the 10 year old example you are seeking to replace. The chances are the odd ergonomic nip and tuck will make the latest version more pleasant to operate.



Massey Ferguson is a name many will associate with yellow MF135 based highway tractors, a good number of these once ubiquitous tractors being pressed into service with a set of gangs for fairway mowing. The company now offers a broad range of kit targeting the ride-on mowing market, with a comprehensive range of small tractors to suit golf users. Although its ride-on mowers includes models manufactured by US based MTD, Massey is a stickler for good operator comfort, with an eye for ergonomic detailing. Take this hydrostatic control pedal on its MF 22-28GC. A long pedal like this allows heel and toe operation, a design some prefer to side by side pedals. Again, details like this are easily overlooked when buying



Seating remains something of a hot topic among operators; manufacturers sometimes offer a choice of seat but not necessarily with attractive enough pricing to tempt buyers to select the 'deluxe' option. Ransomes began to offer an air suspended seat as an option on its Highway models early this year. The value of this type of springing is not so much in added comfort but in the way the suspension automatically compensates for different operator weights. This is a real bonus on machines that may be operated by several different people. Fairway mowers will not really benefit from advanced suspension systems, but a seat that offers a good range of adjustment and support for the lower back is important. Larger tractors are offered with heated seats, an option that many would appreciate when mowing on a chilly morning

Think Ergonomically



Golf courses were early adopters of compact tractors, but over the years the size of machine has started to creep up again. From a manufacturer's standpoint, a larger tractor is easier to make operator friendly, there being more space to fit a reasonably roomy cab. The bigger the cab, the easier to place controls ergonomically. The pictured John Deere 4520 is a good example of modern tractor design, the cab having fully glazed doors with good visibility to the sides. Although an older generation tractor will probably do just as much work in the hands of the same operator, the more current design should be quieter and easier to use. This is a definite plus when it comes to getting more done in a day. Of equal importance, good kit helps to attract and, of equal importance, retain quality personnel



What on earth does a telescopic handler have to do with the ergonomics of equipment used on a golf course? Frankly, not a great deal. But the reason why this control layout of the current JCB 531 loader is interesting is that shows how this British built machine combines good ergonomics with some style. Operators feel they are operating something a bit special, the chrome rimmed dials with their white faces lending an air of GTI to machine destined to handle muck and big bales. Although it is all too easy to get sidetracked by added 'glitz', good looks and good ergonomics can go hand in hand. A JCB 531 is an absolute doddle to operate



A modern fairway mower, such as the Toro Reelmaster 540, is a product of evolution. Go back ten years to sit on this model's predecessor, and the Toro family genes will show the mowers have much in common. But if it were possible to work the two machines side by side, the new machine will be quieter, smoother, easier to operate and more comfortable. The arm rest controls are now simpler and easier to operate. An experienced operator would get used to this new machine within a morning. Older machines would take longer to really get to grips with

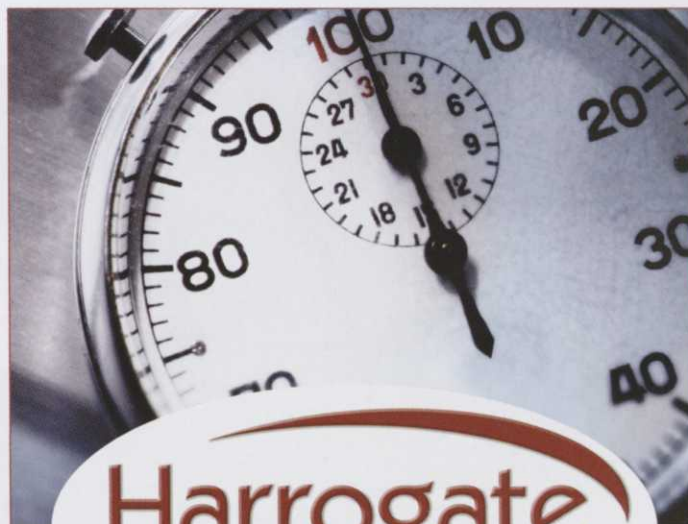


Kubota knows a thing or two about small tractor design. Although some would say certain models seem have 'old fashioned' looking controls, the company is one that gently improves its ergonomics, a fact that many operators of a fleet of machines appreciate. So although the simple levers of this STV40 model may look pretty ordinary they actually operate with 'well oiled' precision. Why change to a flashy design when the existing system is liked by operators? Take a closer look and note the PTO is engaged electronically. It is really important to try a given tractor model before assuming a flashier looking alternative is easier to operate

Good ergonomics encompass all aspects of a tractors control and operating environment. A good test is to see how quickly all the main controls identify themselves. Modern tractors should make it easy for an experienced operator to just jump on the machine and operate it without resorting to the instruction manual. That is not to say the latter can be ignored, but more that operating a forward reverse shuttle or engaging the PTO should be obvious. Notice how the view from this John Deere cab extends down to floor level. Good visibility is a critical point, and important as more kit will come with cabs in the future



Hydrostatic drive has become the default transmission choice on many compact tractors, this allowing the designers to do away with floor mounted gear levers. A small detail, maybe, but a clear floor really does make working a small tractor more comfortable. Of equal importance tractors, such as the New Holland TZ21 pictured, benefit from much improved ergonomics. The levers to the side of the operator are laid out so they fall 'readily to hand'. Even the shape of the levers are hand friendly, the simple round knob on the end of a shaft still having its place but typically on infrequently used controls



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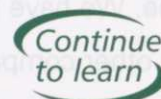
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Petrol Storage and Dispensing - are you complying?

Training is the key to ensure greenkeepers do not unwittingly break the law.

By David Mears.

Petrol is a highly flammable liquid and, because it can emit flammable vapour even at low temperatures, should be treated with the utmost respect! There is always the risk of fire or explosion if it is close to a source of ignition.

The storage and carriage of petrol is a concern for us all and the risks involved should be assessed. Many greenkeepers and groundsmen are often, unwittingly, breaking the law and risking prosecution by storing and collecting petrol from local garages in unauthorised containers and/or in too great a quantity. Apart from this being a dangerous practice, flouting Health and Safety rules, insurance cover would probably be negated too.

It is very difficult to obtain clear advice on the storage and carriage of petrol as it applies to greenkeeping and grounds maintenance, as there are a number of different pieces of relevant legislation. On storage alone there is:

- The Petrol (Consolidation) Act 1928 (PCA)
- The Petroleum-Spirit (Motor Vehicles etc.) Regulations 1929
- The Petroleum-Spirit (Plastic Containers) Regulations 1982

To make matters more difficult, local fire authorities and other official agencies often interpret regulations in different ways and insist on special arrangements for your particular conditions. An example is that, although The Petroleum-Spirit (Motor Vehicles etc.) Regulations 1929, allows up to 275 litres of petrol to be kept in any one storage place without a licence, this can be considerably reduced, particularly if there are perceived hazards (and this is often the case!). The amount of fuel stored in the fuel tanks of all vehicles is included in the total allowed to be stored. An acceptable amount of petrol, in purpose-designed storage, at greenkeeping/turf maintenance premises in "normal" circumstances, would probably be below 100 litres (not including that in vehicle tanks), unless a dedicated and approved tank was installed.

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Petrol Storage and Dispensing - are you complying?

Plastic containers can be used as well as metal (The Petroleum-Spirit (Plastic Containers) Regulations 1982). For storage in plastic containers without a licence, the containers must:

- Be constructed of suitable materials
- Have a maximum capacity of five litres
- Be designed and constructed properly
- Have appropriate markings or labels

And the quantities that can be stored are:

- Two x five litre containers on any motor vehicle
- Plus two further containers in a safe place
- Plus two more containers in another safe place at least six metres from the first

These quantities are in addition to any petrol kept in metal containers.

The HSE however, in their Carriage of Dangerous Goods manual, under Small Load Exemptions, states that: a typical case would be the carriage of two or three jerrycans in a van. Providing those cans are UN approved, marked UN 1203 and labelled with the flammable diamond, then the only requirements are: Driver awareness training, to carry a 2kg fire extinguisher and stow jerrycans correctly to avoid damage or loss from the vehicle.

All this can lead to confusion to say the least, so what should a responsible club/organisation do?

The following advice is offered:

- Do not allow staff to collect petrol from local garages in anything other than two x five litre purpose designed containers, unless they are taking a special Transit Box, which can hold four x 20 litre jerrycans and should be carried in the back of an open back pick-up or on a trailer.
- Check that your insurance cover allows such collections.
- Ensure that you store petrol responsibly on site. Local authority officers require a Petroleum Licence, which is easily obtained if the Petrol Station is specified. Filled jerrycans should be stored in an appropriate safe container too, e.g. transit box or a Site Safe. Should you need to store and dispense vast quantities of petrol then you should consider installing a special above ground tank such as the Supervault MH.
- Implement driver awareness training and fire drills.
- Place a suitable fire extinguisher adjacent to every petrol storage and refuelling area.
- Place an appropriate spill kit in the same areas. The best spill kits are those produced from sphagnum moss, such as Cansorb, that will reduce the level of harmful vapours from 100% to 10% immediately and are "oil only".
- Place conspicuous notices - "Petroleum Spirit", "Highly Inflammable", "No Smoking" and "Switch Off Engine" - in the above areas.
- Always use a funnel or a proper dispensing spout for refuelling and in a well-ventilated area.
- Staff should be protected from splashes and spills. Gloves should be worn and, ideally, goggles.
- Clean up any spillage immediately, using a spill kit and dispose of all petrol soaked product safely and as hazardous waste.
- Keep ignition sources such as: cigarettes, mobile phones, hand lamps, heaters, welding apparatus etc, away from petrol.

For details of The Petrol Station, transit boxes, petrol storage, spill kits, fire extinguishers, protective clothing, jerrycans and waste services contact your local supplier.

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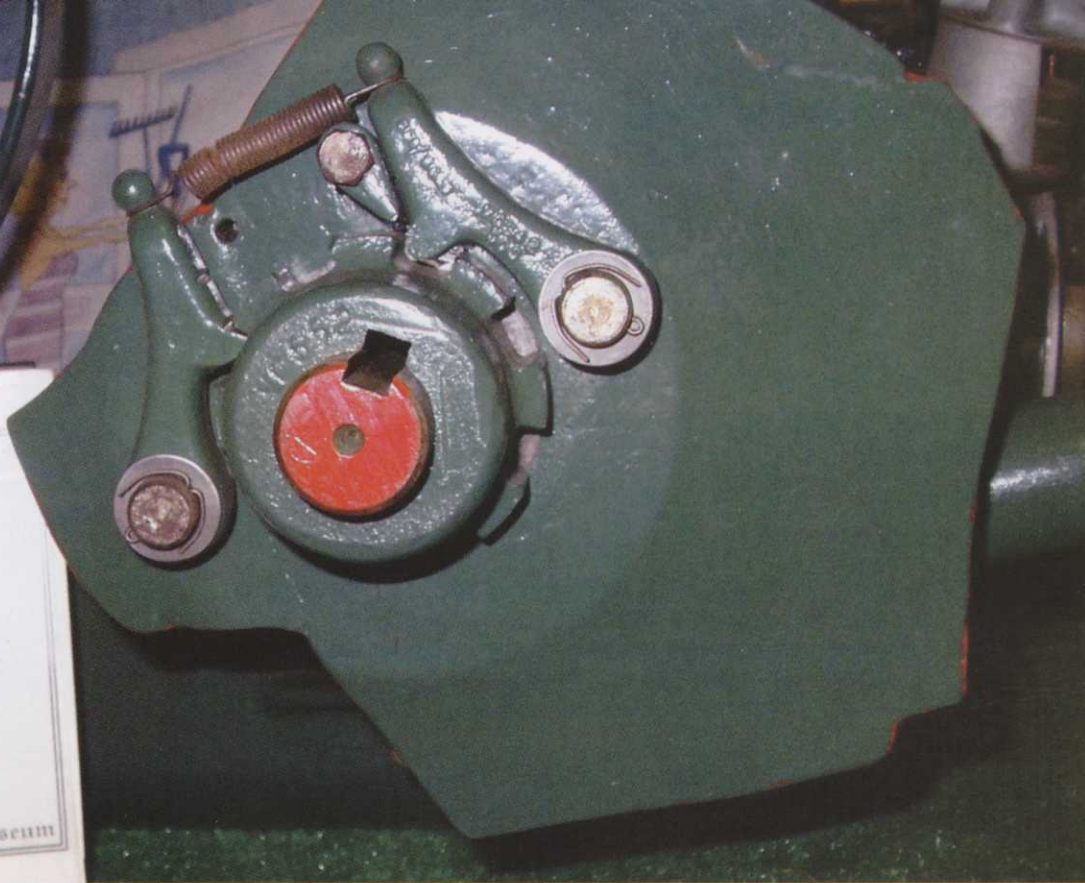
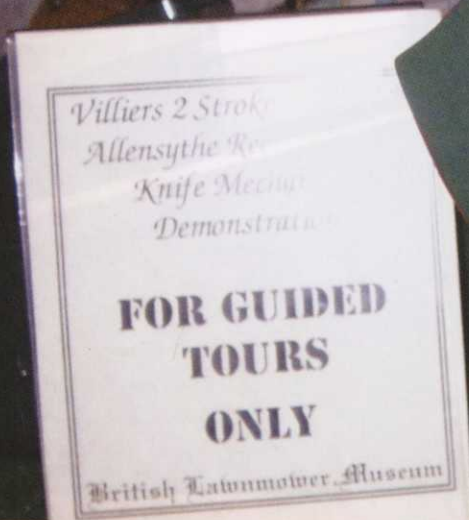
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Villiers 2 Stroke Engine and Allensythe Reciprocating Knife Mechanism demonstration. Brian took this machine on the television programme Scrapheap Challenge. He has slowed the mechanism down to show how it works



Marvellous Mowers

Southport. Considered England's Golfing Capital with seven championship courses, including Royal Birkdale - which will host The Open in 2008 - Famous for its annual Flower Show, International Jazz Festival and Military Displays; Southport also holds claim to a museum unique in its field - The British Lawnmower Museum. Melissa Toombs reports.

One of the world's leading authorities on vintage mowers and the largest specialist in antique garden machinery, The British Lawnmower Museum houses a private collection of over 200 pristine exhibits, built up over a period of 50 years.

Included in this unique national collection are manufacturers not normally associated with the garden industry, such as Rolls Royce, Royal Enfield, Dennis and British Leyland.

Adding some variety to the vast array of mowers that the museum holds, solar powered and robot machines also make an appearance.



Brian Radam, The British Lawnmower Museum curator, aged 55

Situated above The Discount Garden Machinery Warehouse, this bijou museum is the only one of its kind in the world and understandably it attracts visitors from all over the globe, even celebrities and popstars such as Status Quo who visited the museum while on tour.

Brian Radam is the curator of this wonderfully unique museum, which opened in 1990. "It came about from a shop my father started in 1945 repairing lawnmowers. He ended up with an array of machines destined for the scrap yard, as they were beyond repair. Rather than throwing them out, we began restoring them," explained Brian.



Brian May from Queen donated his lawnmower to the museum

"We now get people from all over the country donating machines and we have some very rare lawnmowers of the rich and famous, such as Princess Diana and Prince Charles' machine, and also Brian May's," continued Brian, "They just phone up and ask if we would like them."

Greens Silens Messor - Latin for Silent Cutter - boasts a chain - the first time one had been invented. It made the machines much quieter



Marvellous Mowers

ATCO's wedding present to Princess Diana and Prince Charles



Paul O'Grady's rather fluffy lawnmower



The Unique British Anzani, ride-on mower made of aluminium. It had one or two faults; one being if you went around a corner too fast, you'd tip and fall off!

THE HISTORY OF THE LAWNMOWER

Edwin Budding of Gloucester invented the lawnmower in 1830. He worked in a woollen mill and was asked to design a machine to trim the nap from cloth. He was thought of as a madman for testing his invention at night and stated, "gentleman will find this an amusing and healthy exercise," when he unveiled it. It struck Budding that the same machine could be used to mow lawns and the cylinder machine he devised has not changed in principle since that date and has been the traditional lawnmower for formal lawns used throughout Britain.

ATCO built the first mass produced lawnmower out of wrought iron with a hand crank start and propeller for cooling, and priced it at 21 guineas, which was a lot of money at that time - about half the price of a car. This may seem expensive but you could aerate the lawn and cut it at the same time and as Brian explained "Lots of machines pre 1940's, when British engineering was the best in the world, were made to last a lifetime, nowadays people go out to buy a new lawnmower but come back with a grass cutter. We've pretty much lost all our British lawnmower manufacturers which is a shame as lawnmowing is a very British thing and with that in effect, we're losing all our lawns as well, which is sad."

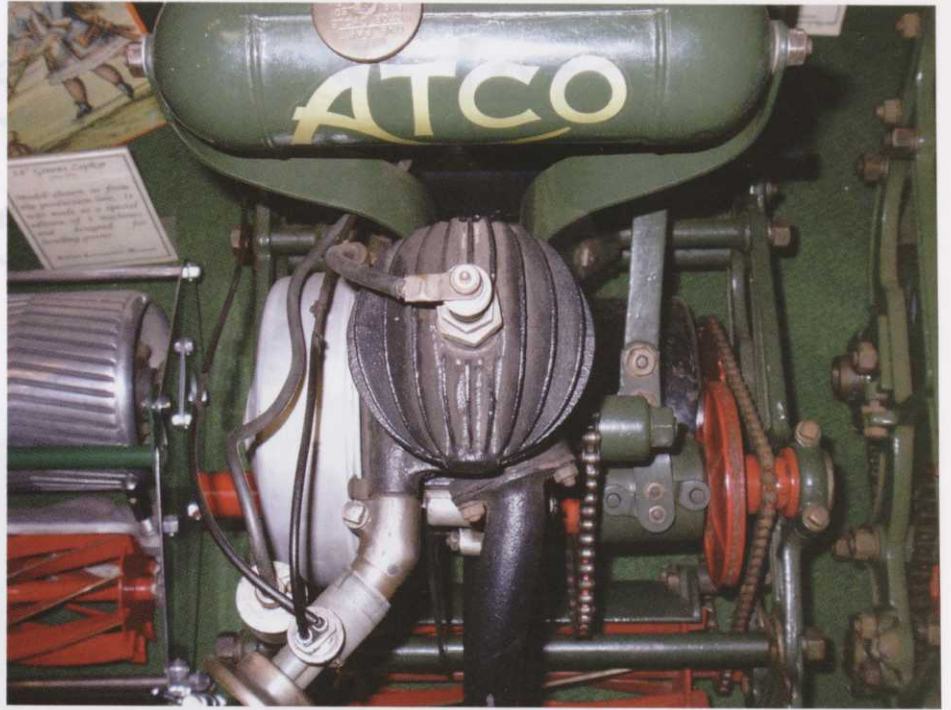
Materials were limited when lawnmowers first began to be built and a lot of machines were made out of cast iron or wood, whereas today plastic, aluminium and steel are generally used.

Ransomes produced the first electric mower in 1926, a time when not everyone had electricity in their homes and although classed as a lightweight model, the mower was still very hefty. It had a wood and copper switch which was considered a new gismo in '20s.

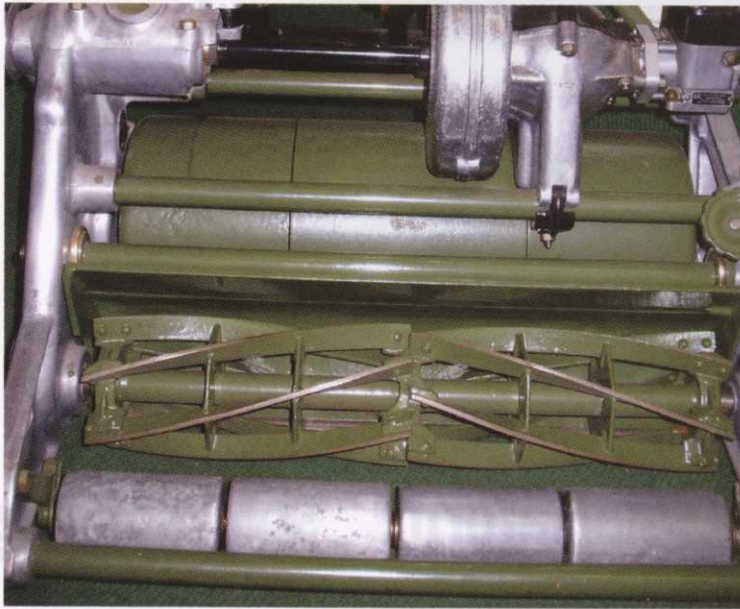
1965 saw the invention of the hovercraft lawnmower by Flymo. The mower is still orange to this day as a consequence of surveying 5000 housewives on their desired colour. At first these mowers would not sell as plastic was deemed cheap and not very strong in the 60s, so reps went to door to door to ask potential customers if they would like to try them out and the company grew and grew from there.



tius lliw
bnworg



ATCO's first wrought iron lawnmower



Jerram and Pearson, a precision engineering company, set out to make the best lawnmowers in the world and were considered the Rolls Royce of lawnmowers when they first came out. Rolls Royce then went on to buy the company out and continue to produce lawnmowers. This particular model, the 24in Water Cooled, was made in 1926, has a water-cooled engine and is made from cast aluminium side frame. The special cutters are designed to send the grass to the centre of the grass box. This mower would have cost the price of two cars or even a small house. It's one of Brian's favourites as "the engineering quality is so good, a lot of their mowers are handmade and therefore have a lot of character."



Shanks' Pony. The Scottish company Shanks built the pony drawn lawnmower - a similar model to this picture



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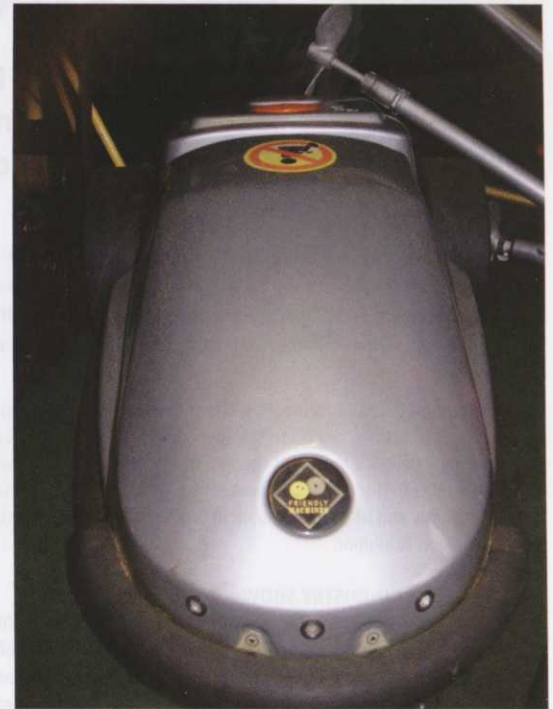


The first ever robot mower cost £1m to make and retailed for £2000. The mower is powered by daylight. The top is covered in solar panels - the same panels used on space shuttles - and you don't even need to touch the machine, it just wanders around the grass like a sheep cutting it!

*Husqvarna Solar Mower
1995 Husqvarna Sweden*

Automatic robot lawnmower, uses solar panels and integral computer as on the Space Shuttle, and only requires daylight to work. Environmentally friendly, no pollution, no fuel, no noise unless stolen, then emits alarm. The mower will cut your grass for you when you are not there. This was the first type of robot mower produced, and like the first calculator, quite expensive at £2,000. £ CUSTOMER £1,000,000 TO PRODUCE

British Lawnmower Museum



Made by Friendly Robotics, this machine will cut in straight lines and is run by a battery. When it senses the battery is running low, it goes back to its docking station to charge itself up and then continues to cut the lawn

Why cut the lawn yourself when you can get a robot to do it for you?!

RACING

It seems lawnmowers are somewhat multi-purpose!

The modern sport of lawn mower racing has its origins in a meeting of enthusiastic beer drinkers at the Cricketers Arms, Wisborough Green, West Sussex, one evening in 1973. At the time, motor sport consultant Jim Gavin had just returned from a rally reconnaissance in the Sahara, and talk naturally turned to other forms of motor and motorcycle sport. The main point of discussion turned around the horrendously escalating costs involved in all branches of motor sport, whether it be rallying, racing, scrambling or whatever. So a few beers later, minds began to explore thoughts of an alternative form of motor sport with the main criteria since it is competitive, lots of fun and above all cheap. But what could we race? Motorised barstools and wheelbarrows were soon passed as being passé and so we were left with Lawn Mowers.

The British Lawnmower Racing Association race mowers all over the country and it's quite a hit with celebrities. The late Oliver Reed used to

compete and Noel Edmunds and Stirling Moss are both participants of the sport. The lawnmowers can reach about 65/70mph and although this sounds like a crazy, unruly sport, it's quite the opposite as Brian explained "It's good fun but there are quite strict rules - the mowers must have been originally bought to cut grass and you are not allowed to go bigger than what the manufacturer intended for its engine.

"The museum used to have a team and we held the Championship for two years," explained a smiling Brian.

The museum holds a display of racing mowers and equipment.

A team of five look after the museum and Brian's shop - The Discount Garden Machinery Warehouse - which Brian opened in 1969 and displays over 150 new models, and caters for all aspect of sales, spares and service.

The museum have just made a film about lawnmowers - the only one in the world - which is currently available on dvd for £12.99 + p&p.

BIGGA readers can get free entry to the museum and an audio tour on presentation of this article. Please visit: www.lawnmowerworld.co.uk for more information.



Museum Manager Brian Radam, is an ex-lawnmower-racing champion.





BIGGA in the USA

10 members of the BIGGA Delegation will be travelling to the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in Anaheim, thanks to Bernhard & Co. Melissa Toombs reveals the chosen ones.

Anaheim, home to the world famous Disneyland. Located just 20 miles east of Los Angeles, it seems there's more to this sunny Southern California City than just mouse ears and teacup rides. Anaheim is just minutes from the coast and some of California's best beaches, the area is home to some spectacular golf courses including: Anaheim Dad Miller Golf Course, Anaheim Hills Golf Course and Eagle Glen GC; continue a few miles further northwest and there's more family fun to be had at Knott's Theme Park and, if this wasn't enough, this vibrant city is to play host to the GIS Conference and Exhibition next month.

Once again 10 BIGGA members will be flown to the United States for the experience of a lifetime, thanks to the sponsorship of Bernhard & Co. While in Anaheim, they will visit local golf courses, attend seminars, meet with superintendents to discuss how greenkeepers do things the other side of the pond, attend functions and of course be able to enjoy the GIS (Golf Industry Show) Conference and Exhibition.

ABOUT THE GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW

The Golf Industry Show is an innovative trade show designed for the owners/operators of golf facilities, and the professional members of the golf course and club management industries. Like our very own Harrogate Week, the event combines education, networking and solutions for golf course superintendents, owners/operators, general managers, chief operating officers, architects and builders.

GIS is presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA) and the Club Managers Association of America (CMAA), along with other supporting organisations.

The 2007 event will take place from February 22-24 and is to be held at The Anaheim Convention Center. More than 25,000 golf industry professionals are expected to attend this year's show, which will feature around 1,200 exhibitors.

THE DELEGATION



Name: Mark Henderson
Club: Thorpeness Hotel and Golf Club, Suffolk
Position: Deputy Course Manager
Age: 36

Mark has been greenkeeping for 19 and a half years. He applied for a job as a trainee greenkeeper at Hartsbourne Golf and Country Club, Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire and started work there in June 1987. The job was advertised on the notice board of Burntisland GC, Fife, Scotland where his father was a member and has just recently retired, after working as a greenkeeper there for 20 years. Hartsbourne had successfully employed two other greenkeepers in 1982, which were from Burntisland so decided to continue recruiting greenkeepers from Scotland. Mark left Hartsbourne in April 2004 when he was Deputy Course Manager to take on the same position at Thorpeness.

Mark is currently working on a distance learning HNC in golf course management with Elmwood College. He regularly attends seminars and demonstrations and is also enrolled on workshops and seminars at the forthcoming Harrogate week.

"I have been greenkeeping for almost 20 years, and am still passionate about the challenges it presents each day. The enthusiasm I have for the job will be further fuelled by being part of the delegation to the USA, experiencing and learning more about the industry at the biggest greenkeeping show in the world. By spending time with like-minded greenkeeping enthusiasts and gaining an insight and knowledge into the different working methods and disciplines in America, that would certainly give me fresh ideas to help me take my club, Thorpeness, to the next level. To also be able to see at first hand the technology, materials, machinery and equipment used and compare working practices with my American counterparts, will help me to further inspire my colleagues, perhaps change working methods and procedures currently upheld, and help improve the golf course on my return," said Mark.



Name: Ian Somerville MSc
Club: Brocton Hall GC, Staffordshire
Position: Course Manager
Age: 43

Ian has an MSc in Sports Surface Technology - his highest qualification within the industry at present, although he is considering a Phd - and has been greenkeeping for over 25 years. He started as an apprentice at Heswall GC (Wirral) but first became interested while at school. During the holidays he would help switch greens with his uncle, Bob Goodwin - he was Head Greenkeeper at a course in Lichfield.

"I'm looking forward to seeing and speaking to American Superintendents about the way they do things and how they perceive the future of greenkeeping with global warming and reduced chemical use etc. I would like to thank BIGGA and sponsors Bernhard & Co in advance for choosing me as one of the delegation. I feel it is a great privilege to represent BIGGA at such an event," said Ian.



Name: Stephen Privett
Club: Alresford GC, Hampshire
Position: Course Manager
Age: 41

Steve ran his own landscaping business for seven years - redesigning and building gardens across the South of England - before taking a job as an Assistant Greenkeeper at South Winchester Golf Course in 1994.

Steve's highest qualification to date is his NVQ Level 3, although he has completed various NVQ's and spraying courses. While studying Steve was nominated by Sparsholt College for Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year. He won the Regional Final managing to reach the last eight for the National Final, held at BIGGA HQ.

"I feel the chance to gain knowledge of the American industry would help me in the future to possibly work in the states for a while. I would hope to bring some ideas back from the states that I could use on my course in Hampshire. I will be looking for any educational opportunities for myself and my staff," said Stephen.



Name: Glenn Kirby
Club: The London GC, Kent
Position: Assistant Course Manager
Age: 30

Glenn's first greenkeeping job was in 1994 at Corhampton GC. Glenn studied turf to work on cricket pitches but after doing a placement year on a golf course he knew that was what he wanted to do.

Glenn has a National Diploma In Horticulture (Greenkeeping and Sports turf) from Sparsholt College, Hants and has also studied at Ohio State University through the Ohio State intern program.

"This trip will provide me with the opportunity to meet new people both from the UK and USA. It will also help me to keep up to date with the latest developments and give me an opportunity to learn. I'm really looking forward to visiting Anaheim," said Glenn.



Name: Rob Welford
Club: Cleethorpes GC, Lincolnshire
Position: Course Manager
Age: 27

Rob has been in the greenkeeping industry for nine years and got into it by playing golf as a junior member at Cooden Beach GC in Sussex.

"After obtaining good GCSE and A level results I decided that I would never be good enough to play golf professionally, but wanted to work within the golf industry. After speaking to the Head Greenkeeper, which at the time was Stefan Antolik, I decided to embark on a three year HND in Golf Course Management at Reaseheath College. During the course I spent 12 months on placement at East Sussex National who offered me a full time position upon completion of the course. I spent 18 months there before moving to Cleethorpes as First Assistant. After 18 months at Cleethorpes I took over as Head Greenkeeper at Immingham GC for two years until I applied for the vacant Course Managers position at Cleethorpes in November 2005, which I now hold," explained Rob.

At present Rob has a HND in Golf Course Management and a PA1, 2, 6a-spraying certificates. He is currently working towards NVQ level 4 in Sportsturf Management and an A1 Assessors award.

Rob hopes that by going on this trip, he can gain an insight into the 'American Way' of greenkeeping and hopefully cement his opinion that British and traditional greenkeeping and greenkeepers, are the way forward.



Name: Paul O'Kane
Club: Colne Valley GC, Essex
Position: Acting Deputy Head Greenkeeper
Age: 45

After 25 years working in the city Paul decided he wanted a career break and after taking nine months out to travel, he decided he wanted to get into an outdoor career - having had an interest in golf since he was a youngster, he decided to try and get into greenkeeping.

"I was lucky enough to find a job advert for summer greenkeeping at Five Lakes Resort and started there in May 2004," explained Paul.

After three months there he was offered a permanent post as trainee greenkeeper. He soon wanted to gain qualifications in the industry and studied up to NVQ 3 level while there. He then moved to Colne Valley GC in June this year and again has looked to further qualify himself while gaining more greenkeeping experience.

Mark completed his NVQ 3 while working at Five Lakes Resort and has also passed his PA1, PA2 and PA6.

"In September this year I started studying for a Foundation Degree in Sportsturf Science through Myerscough College and just last month I started training for my A1 and A2 assessor awards through Otley College," said Paul.

"I feel this trip will further educate myself. I will be able to view new products and will enjoy finding out about them. I will also be looking at the differences between greenkeeping operations here in the UK and those found in the USA and other parts of the world."



Name: Andrew de Wet
Club: Staverton Park GC, Daventry
Position: Deputy Head Greenkeeper
Age: 25

Andrew got into the greenkeeping industry 10 years ago when he got a part time job at his local golf club during the school holidays.

"I am qualified to HND level in Golf Course Management and have an NVQ 2 as well as A1 and L12 assessor and trainer awards, and all spraying and chainsaw certificates," explained Andrew.

"I am looking forward to representing British Greenkeeping in America, building new contacts with our American counterparts and seeing how greenkeeping differs in America from Britain," said Andrew.



Name: Barry Crawford
Club: The Carrick on Loch Lomond, Scotland
Position: First Assistant
Age: 26

Barry has been in the greenkeeping industry for 10 years and started his career at Prestwick GC. After five years there he moved to work for Loch Lomond GC for two years, before moving to America to work on the construction of Bayonne GC in New York and then to Augusta National GC for eight try months through the 2006 Masters.

"Going into the industry was a natural progression as I have always been interested in golf for as long as I can remember. I studied at Elmwood College and obtained an HND in Golf Course Management graduating 2000. I am currently working towards increasing my knowledge of managerial skills. I feel the trip will broaden my horizons throughout the industry - meeting greenkeepers of different Nationalities - and I will learn of the most advanced, up to date methods and technology," explained Barry.

"Since my current golf handicap is +2 I am also looking forward to hearing of golf courses throughout America."



Name: Roger Neale
Club: Taunton & Pickeridge, Taunton
Position: Assistant Greenkeeper
Age: 25

Roger has been in the greenkeeping industry for 10 years. He was a keen golfer but realistic about his golfing ability and greenkeeping was the career that allowed me to work closely with the golf industry.

Roger is set to start his NVQ III this September and has already completed his CHE Golf Course Management and NVQ II Golf Greenkeeping, G3 Golf Management, A1 Assessor and various spraying certificates.

"Going to Anaheim will give me an insight into how the industry is run in the states while representing the Association. It will also enable me to share my gained knowledge and experiences with colleagues and fellow greenkeepers," said Roger.



Name: John Gubb
Club: Bedfordshire GC
Position: Course Manager
Age: 31

John has been greenkeeping for 13 years. He started as a trainee at Ilfracombe GC when he left school at 18. John has also worked at East Sussex National GC in East Sussex and East Lake GC in the USA, before starting work at the Bedfordshire GC in 2000.

"I have a number of qualifications including NVQ levels 2 & 3, a National Diploma in Sports Turf Management. I also have PA1, PA2 & PA6, D32 & D33 qualifications.

"The trip will benefit me by meeting new people involved in our industry, also I hope to gain new ideas and techniques, including seeing all the new equipment at the show as well as learning something from the seminars," said John.

EDUCATION CONFERENCES

Along with the show, GCSAA, NGCOA and CMAA will be presenting their annual Education Conferences. GCSAA's conference will take place from February 19-24.





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What's your Number?

Name: David Mears
Company: Course Care
Position: Joint Managing Director



How long have you been in the industry?
"Around 15 years in this particular one."

How did you get into it?

"I met the previous owner of the company on holiday in Spain and he persuaded me to join the company."

What other jobs have you done?

"I was trained as a Marine Engineer and served in the Merchant Navy as an Engineer Officer - The most hairy moments probably being taking aviation fuel on a tanker into a war zone in Vietnam in the late 60's."

What do you like about your current job?

"As joint MD, there's never a dull moment as I'm kept pretty busy. The variety of work and the different contacts I make each day are rewarding, as too is being able to be a part in driving the company forward."

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

"Quite a lot of modernisation, an awareness of the need to meet demands of legislation and taking environmental responsibilities seriously. There is also a much more professional approach and, education and training are seen as key matters. Much has been done to support this by BIGGA and other professional bodies."

What do you like to do in your spare time?

"Mountain biking, walking, meals with friends (which includes barbecues as often as the weather permits!)"

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

"As I'm 60 next birthday, retired should be the answer, but who knows!"

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

"That's a tough one! I have met such a lot of good folk, making friends with a number that it would be difficult to name all. They fall into three categories though, as they come from customers, suppliers and trade journals."

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

"Something I've not really thought about or been asked but 2, I suppose. Now I expect you want to know why? No. 2 has been on two of the three houses we have owned and there's two of us running the company and we get along well."

Pick a number.

"Well, I'm picking 2 of course!"

You've picked Colin Gregory from Massey Ferguson, do you know him?

"I met Colin for the first time during the Harrogate Week Steering Committee meeting on 7th June 2006. We introduced ourselves, exchanged business cards and had a pleasant chat. I think he was new to the team, as I was and I do recall his input during the meeting. But, I can't say that I really "know" him. I'm sure our paths will cross from time to time from now on!"

STAND
B47

Harrogate week



The new clip on blazer badges normally retail at £26 but will be available for the special price of £24 during the show

In the Shed

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

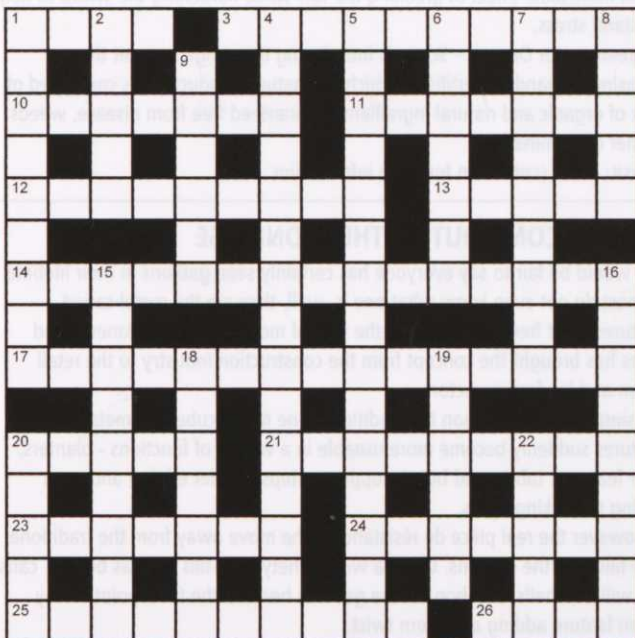
CROSSWORD - Compiled by Anax

ACROSS

- 1 Form a bowed shape (4)
- 3 Maverick, breaking with tradition (10)
- 10 Flat region of highland (7)
- 11 Boss (7)
- 12 Informal military command to resume previous activity (2,3,4)
- 13 Wherewithal (5)
- 14 Phrase meaning that one should experience beauty at every opportunity (3,6,3,3)
- 17 1956 John Osborne play (4,4,2,5)
- 20 Flight support? (5)
- 21 Elaborateness (9)
- 23 Japanese paper-folding art (7)
- 24 Most important reincarnation of Hindu deity Vishnu (7)
- 25 Source of chocolate (5,5)
- 26 Fifth book of the New Testament (4)

DOWN

- 1 Assessment (9)
- 2 Song by Seal, reached No. 2 in 1990 (5)
- 4 School of French cookery using light sauces (8,7)
- 5 Fairy tale dwarf who destroys himself when his name is correctly guessed (15)
- 6 Word game based on guessing letters (7)
- 7 Ruthless (3-3-3)
- 8 Original name of Spanish town where sherry was invented (5)
- 9 In Greek mythology, woman who was transformed into a Gorgon (6)
- 15 Abnormally self-interested person (9)
- 16 Initial stages of, e.g., a project (5,4)
- 18 Female name which means strange, foreign (7)
- 19 Sour-tasting (6)
- 20 Unemotional, indifferent (5)
- 22 Concerned with a specific purpose (2,3)



ANSWERS TO ALL THE PUZZLES ARE SHOWN ON PAGE 60

ANAGRAM

I wonder if you've made one of these?

LOONY TRUE WEARINESS

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. Who won the first ever Grand Prix in Britain in 1950?
2. Which two drivers won a non-championship race at Reims in 1952 but would never win a proper World Championship Grand Prix?
3. Who had a 1993 album called 'Diva'?
4. On which record label was The Beatles 'Hey Jude' released?
5. What is Bono's (of U2) real name?
6. Which band did Ronnie Wood leave to join the Rolling Stones?
7. What is a Gopak?
8. How many races did Jim Clark win to wrap up the 1963 World Drivers Championship?
9. Which three drivers were tragically killed during the 1970 Grand Prix season?

SUDOKU

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

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

Supplied by www.dailysudoku.com

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

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



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EROSION CONTROL OF FOOTPATHS, CART PATHS AND BUGGY PATHS

By the nature of their terrain, many golf clubs have slopes and embankments that have footpaths, cart paths and buggy tracks running down them. Unfortunately the inclement British weather can play havoc with the surface of these and any material laid down to prevent erosion is often washed to the bottom during heavy rainfall. Maintenance of these can be, therefore, very labour intensive.

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WINTRY WEATHER

To accommodate changing spring weather patterns, Symbio has specifically developed ColdStart, a new low-volume concentrate total foliar nutrient package.

Freezing spring nights mean cold soil temperatures just as the playing season is getting started. Warmer daytime temperatures bring out golfers in numbers, leading to early heavy turf wear, on winter swards, conflicting with golfers expectations of quality playing surfaces.

Based on low soil temperature plant metabolism research, Symbio addresses this climatic problem by blending a full complement of major and micronutrients.

For more information contact: Kevin Munt or David Ward on: 01372 456101.



THE NEXT GENERATION OF FAST AERATORS HAS ARRIVED

Wiedenmann UK is launching the next generation of fast aerators and are unveiling three new i-series machines at Harrogate Week.

The new GXi is a dedicated greens and tees aerator incorporating Wiedenmann's revolutionary ATC technology, enabling it to work considerably faster than competitor machines without compromising quality.

The new XDi can aerate to a depth of 275mm (11") and is available with working widths of 1.6 and 2.1 metres.

Also featured is the XFi, which incorporates many of the new features of the GXi including less moving parts and less pivot points. This latest development of the machine that moved the goalposts in deep aeration is available with 1.6 and 2.1 metre working widths.

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

LATEST HI-TECH SOLUTIONS UNVEILED

Scotts is unveiling three new, high-tech turf products that deliver optimum nourishment, protection against stress, and ensure a beautiful-looking sward all year round.

Sierraform GT - This new product range contains both slow-release nitrogen and slow-release potassium, which create a unique dual effect, because nitrogen is delivered slowly, there are no growth spurts after application and the plant matures more evenly. The potassium ensures a stronger plant that is more resilient to external stresses such as cold, heat, drought and wear.

EffEffect - A new iron liquid containing seaweed that uses Scotts' slow-release technology to ensure a gradual release for up to eight weeks. It also gives an almost immediate effect of greening the turf while hardening the sward to help withstand stress.

Greenmaster Organic - Scotts is introducing this range to meet the increasing demand for fertilisers which use natural products. It is composed of a mix of organic and natural ingredients guaranteed free from disease, weeds or other contamination.

Visit: www.scotts.com for more information.



GABIONS COME OUT OF THE STONE AGE

It would be fair to say everyone has certainly seen gabions in their lifetime but most do not even know what one is, well, they are the metal caged structures most frequently seen at the side of motorway embankments and Stones has brought the concept from the construction industry to the retail garden and landscape sectors.

Using smaller sizes than the traditional one metre cube, the metal gabion structures suddenly become more useable in a variety of functions - planters, water features, tables and bench supports, steps, border edging and even housing to decking lights.

However the real pièce de résistance is the move away from the traditional stone filling of the gabions. Using a wide variety of in-fills such as bottles, cans, logs, willow, shells, bamboo etc the gabions become the focal point of any garden feature adding a modern twist.

For more information call Stones on Tel: 0845 230 0013 or visit: www.stones3.co.uk

HI-TIP 50 HITS THE GOLF COURSE



The Hi-Tip 50, new to the Terra-Vac range this winter, has been especially developed for golf courses and other large open spaces, for use all year round.

Powerful suction through a 1.2m scoop will directly suck up leaves, grass cuttings, cores and scarifying debris. For those awkward, inaccessible areas i.e. bunkers, drainage ditches etc, the 5m X 20cm wanderhose gets the job done, quickly and efficiently.

For more information call: 01440 712171 or visit: www.terra-vac.com

NEW MID-RANGE MINI-EXCAVATOR

Bobcat has expanded the company's excavator range with the launch of the new 329 mid-range mini-excavator model. The 329 combines exceptional performance, including a maximum digging depth of 3102 mm, with the unmatched operational reliability that is the hallmark of Bobcat excavators.

Powered by a 20.6 kW (27.6 HP) Kubota D1703 diesel engine operating at 2400 rpm, the 329 provides a breakout force over the bucket cylinder of 3064 daN and a breakout force over the dipperstick cylinder of 1716 daN.

For more information visit: www.bobcat.com



VIBRATION-ACTIVATED HOUR METER

Staffordshire engineering firm, Turfmech Machinery, has launched a vibration-activated hour meter that will help machinery owners, operators and managers ensure that regular servicing schedules are carried out on time and in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

The instrument, known as Viba-Timer, is ideal also as a retro-fit addition to all equipment that has never previously had a regular servicing schedule, enabling such a schedule to be quickly and easily set-up for the machine by its manufacturer, supplying dealer, manager or user.

For more details and a downloadable Viba-Timer brochure, customers should visit: www.turfmech.co.uk



IS GREEN THE NEW BLACK?



A garden recently transformed from natural to artificial grass

Technical Surfaces, who have over 25 years experience within the synthetic surfaces industry have launched a brand new product called 'SowGreen' to the leisure market. It uses not just one colour but a blend of tones to replicate the natural look of grass and once laid gives a swirling effect associated with natural turf.

For further information call Tel: 08702 400700 or visit www.sow-green.co.uk

FOOTBALL PITCH IN KNOCK, ISLE OF LEWIS

Duncan MacKay and Sons Ltd, have recently laid Rolawn Medallion turf on a football pitch in the Isle of Lewis as part of an ongoing project by the Point Sports & Recreation Association to improve sports facilities.

Cedric McMillan, Rolawn's Sales and Marketing Director commented: "The turf, which is grown in the Vale of York was transported 700 kilometres to the Isle of Lewis; the latter part of the journey being by ferry. Rolawn's 13m2 Turfmaster™ rolls were used enabling rapid installation once its final destination was reached."



READY FOR WINTER?

Many grounds maintenance tasks are seasonal activities, which often results in costly dedicated equipment lying idle during long periods of the year. With these less frequent jobs, it makes sense where possible to purchase an attachment that can be driven off an existing power source.

A good example of this is snow clearance. In Scotland, more salt and sand spreaders are sold than in any other part of the UK to cope with the prevailing cold northern winter climate. For these inclement conditions, Etesia has the solution with their snow blade, cab and salt/sand spreader attachments for their Hydro 124D ride-on rotary mower. These, plus other accessories, transform Etesia's 124cm machine into a versatile all-year-round piece of kit.

Visit: www.etesia.com for more information.

The hydraulically operated 135cm snow plough's blade can be angled to the right or left and lifted for transportation between sites. It is easily attached without the use of special tools. Wheel chains provide grip for quick and safe snow clearance on icy paths, roadways, car parks, play areas and other hard surfaces





News from the Chief Executive

Welcome to 2007 and I wish all members of the Association a healthy and stress free year. The unsung heroes of 2006 were the volunteers who served on National, Region and Section committees and without whose devotion to duty the Association could not have functioned. The membership owe them a vote of thanks and I hope that as we move into a new year that they will receive the support they deserve and that others will come forward to help. At the AGM later this month there will also be changes to the Board structure. Bert Cross (Northern Region) and Iain Macloed (Scottish Region) will retire and will be replaced by Tony Smith and Archie Dunn. Bert and Iain have represented their Regions admirably and have each contributed to the ongoing success of BIGGA. The other changes include Kerran Daly who retires as Immediate Past Chairman and Kenny Mackay who becomes Vice Chairman elect. Last, but by no means least, I am sorry to learn that Walter Woods has decided not to seek re-election as a Guardian. Walter has been a stalwart supporter of BIGGA and its predecessor for more years than some can remember and his vision, wisdom and enthusiasm at meetings will be sadly missed. I wish Walter well for the future and would like to record my personal thanks to him for his support.

Harrogate Week will soon be upon us all and bookings for education are at record levels. The exhibition halls are fully sold and all we need now are the visitors. Remember that although golf is the central theme it's more than a golf show.

Here are some of the reasons why greenkeepers, groundsmen, golf club officials and buyers should attend:

- Specialist education programme, delivered by acknowledged leaders in their chosen field of expertise and covering a wide variety of topics
- Europe's leading turf and facility management exhibition
- Technical presentations and seminars by exhibitors
- Network with peers from all around the world
- Product launches by exhibitors, the R&A, the AGCS and BIGGA

Everyone should be well aware by now that some well known suppliers will be absent from Harrogate having chosen to realign their marketing strategy. We must not however, overlook the financial support that some of these have given to the Association's projects over the past year. Without their funds then we would not have had an Education and Development Fund, a Scholarship Scheme, an Environmental Competition, a competition for students, a chance for 10 greenkeepers each year to attend the GCSAA show, and so the list goes on. None of these help the Profit & Loss Account bottom line however it does mean that members enjoy benefits that the Association would otherwise not be able to afford.

Opportunities will arise in 2007 for the Association to broaden its horizons and I hope that members will carefully consider initiatives that may from time to time be put forward by the Board of Management. If the Association is to continue to develop the education and recognition for greenkeepers that is deserved then we must all look forward whilst building on the foundations laid down over the years.

Finally I look forward to welcoming Vanessa Depre to BIGGA House on January 15. Vanessa will take over the running of the membership office from Rachael Palmer who left just before Christmas.

John Pemberton

SCOTTISH REGION

CENTRAL

As I sit and write these notes, I'm getting ready for a Christmas night out with the lads. I'm looking forward to it, and dreading it at the same time. I hope when I read this in the January magazine it's with fond memories and not regrets. The good old Christmas Nights out are famous for our follies. I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas break, and on behalf of your committee, I wish you all the best for 2007.

I would like to welcome Nicholas Horsefield, Assistant Head Greenkeeper at Crail Golfing Society to the Section. I look forward to meeting you, Nicholas, at a future event.

The evening event with Richard Windows, the local STRI agronomist, saw 18 local members attending - a great turn out on such a very wet and dreary night. It was a very informative evening and we had the opportunity to discuss many topical issues, from sustainability, to frost policies. A good chat in the bar after also. There are many forthcoming events in the diary. Please check the website for further details. We would especially like to hear from greenkeepers who are new to the profession, to discuss what type of training or assistance you would like us to provide for you.

The AGM was the best attended for quite a few years, (28 members) and it was good to see so many taking an interest in the running of the Section.

The new committee is as follows: Derek Scott - Chairman, Euan Grant - Vice-Chairman, Andy O'Hara - Past Chairman, Andrew Mellon - Secretary/Treasurer, Archie Dunn - Board Member; Brian Heggie, Gordon McKie, and Alan Sharp - Greenkeeper Members, Kevin Brunton - Patron Member, and Jim Finlayson - Associate Member. I know that all of these guys will work to represent your best interests and are only too keen to hear from you with any matter you wish the committee to consider.

We have made arrangements for this year's spring and autumn tournaments.

Panmure GC will host the spring, and The Duke's, St Andrews the autumn. I have not played these courses myself yet, but have heard rave reviews from colleagues, and having looked at their splendid websites, I am really looking forward to what I'm sure will be very enjoyable events. We are very fortunate in the Section to have such wonderful courses who are willing to offer us courtesy of them.

Remember, the Association is here to help you, but also needs you to contribute, especially the seasoned experienced members, to enable us to help each other. We all face the same challenges, and I'm sure our combined experiences can help us deal with all of them.

All the best,
Andrew Mellon
Secretary

www.biggacentralsection.org.uk

EAST

I am writing this report at home, on Sunday, December 3. With conditions outside being horrendous I am prevented from getting my weekend fix of gardening. Oh well, roll on next weekend!

After many years loyal service Paul Black, Headman at Gogarburn is moving to the Elgin area. His wife Georgina is an English Teacher and Assistant Housemistress at Gordonstoun School, hence the move to pastures new. He commenced his greenkeeping career at the age of 19 at Murrayfield GC under the expert tutelage of Jimmy Neilson. In 1988 he

moved to Gogarburn to work for Headman Chris Yeaman before taking charge in 1990 on Chris's departure to Swanston GC. A keen cyclist, Paul has raced for many years for Edinburgh Racing Club, and in fact has been Edinburgh champion for the past 10 years. During this time he has also won five Scottish medals, and 8 East of Scotland gold medals. On behalf of the Section I would like to wish Paul and his wife best wishes for the future. I for one will miss his ready smile.

The new Headman at Gogarburn is Robert Marshall, who has worked for the last 10 years as Deputy to Stuart Cruikshank at Deer Park.

Approximately two months ago I had a meeting with David Swarbrick who is the General Manager at Blairgowrie GC. During our discussion he told me about a project he had been involved with at his previous club, Haddington GC in East Lothian. The following report on these works has been prepared by Head greenkeeper Norman Wood.

Haddington Golf Course is situated on the south shore of the River Tyne. A significant portion of the course is low lying and flooded regularly. This frequently closed the course for long periods, affecting revenue and management of the club. An environmental management plan for the club recommended the creation of ponds to provide wildlife habitat and alleviate flooding.

A specialist company, Watergems, was brought in by the club to design the ponds and lay out the levels, so that they blended into the three effected golf holes.

Johnny Rutherford Contractors who are based in Berwick-upon-Tweed dug out the ponds, and they did a first class job. In all three ponds were constructed each linked by an open ditch. A habitat of rough linked the ponds to the riverbank. Wildlife grassland was created around the ponds. There is now about one hectare of pond and wetland with grassland extending beyond this. Appropriate wetland plants were planted around the shallow edges of the ponds.

After two years swans and moorhens that are nesting in the ponds and wetland plants are colonising well. The ponds will provide a suitable habitat for water vole and great crested newt and a feeding ground for Pipistrelle bats.

Despite extremely heavy rain at times, the ponds have prevented the fairways flooding and the course has not had to close.

In all the total cost of the ponds was £10,000 most of which was sourced from funding given by East Lothian Council. The Council's Bio Diversity Officer, Stuart McPherson, was keen to see ponds close to the river to encourage the water vole, which is in decline. Throughout the project the greenstaff were heavily involved and derived a great deal of satisfaction from the end result.

The winners of the Patrons' Award were Keith Burgon of Berwick GC and Stuart Ferguson of Dundas Park GC. Their prize is a free trip to Harrogate.

The recent Stewarts Match between the East of Scotland and the North East Section was held on November 16 at Bamburgh Castle GC. This event is now sponsored by Richard Aitken Seedsman. The course was in excellent condition and a credit to George Milliken and his team. The winners on the day were the East Section with a Score of 5 - 1.

It is hard to believe Harrogate 2007 is just around the corner with the week beginning Monday, January 22 being the key date for your diaries. This year we have our own stand (Thorntrees) 14D in Hall M, so my time is currently being spent planning for this. During the days of the show I would be delighted to speak to anybody who may have information, which can be used in this column.

Finally on behalf of the committee may I wish you all the compliments of the season.

Until next month

Don't work too hard

Mike Dooner

NORTH

I start the report for this month on a sad note. Tragically, Mark Main, apprentice Greenkeeper at Moray GC was killed in a road accident in Aberdeenshire in late November.

Mark was an up coming young Greenkeeper who would have gone on to do very well in the profession. He was a staunch supporter of the North Section of BIGGA and our thoughts are with his family at this very sad time. This has also come as a big shock to George Paterson and his team at Moray GC with whom Mark worked closely.

Paul Sharp has moved from Deeside GC to take up the Head Greenkeeper's position at Peterculter GC. We wish you well, Paul, and I'm sure you will make a success of the job. Also on the move is Neil Sadler, from Inchmarlo GC, who has taken up the Course Manager's position at Portlethen GC and we wish him well for the future.

One new member this month is William Forsyth, from Insc HC.

Dale Robertson, Hugh McClatchie and John Geddes attended the Patrons' Dinner in Stirling recently. Ben Brookes and Steve Sullivan were the Patron winners this year so they also attended the dinner and also won a trip to Harrogate in January for BTME.

There are some alterations being made at Cruden Bay GC on the 14th hole where the approach to the green is being lowered and the bunkering re-done to give a better perspective to the 2nd shot and the appearance of the hole in general. Hamish and his staff are doing most of the work with only the major earth moving work done by contractor. Mind you Hamish I'm surprised you've employed someone from the other side of town to keep the work GREEN. (Just joking in case I offend anyone)

Harrogate will be the main topic on the agenda for most greenkeepers this month. I'm sure it will be a good show as always but it will be interesting to see if there is any difference in the numbers without J/Deere and Toro being present.

The weather continues to be very mild for this time of year although the west coast and central belt are getting hit by a lot of heavy rain. Gleneagles got 180mm in November; in Aberdeen we only got 57mm as a comparison.

Not much more from me so enjoy Harrogate and all that comes with it.
R N Patterson, Royal Aberdeen Golf Club

WEST

Welcome to another Wet West Section report - I wonder when the rain is going to stop. I had said in my last report matters brought up at our AGM, one being handicapping at golf tournaments will be looked at our spring outing and changes will be made if necessary.

The other point was input in the magazine and now that I'm finished as West Section Chairman I will have more time to do the report but as I've said in the past it's not easy writing a report with little input from the members.

If anyone has information and wants to use the magazine to get their point across then please get in touch and I'll do my best to include it.

Information on trainees attending college in the Section: Langside College have 16 NC students, 3 HNC students, SVQ levels 1/2/3 - 32 students; Gosta Training has 67 SVQ level 2 students, 62 level 3 students, no level 4.

If anyone is interested in finding out more information on education you can contact the colleges direct or the GTC.

There is also funding from the association for many training courses, you can contact Gavin Jarvis for further information.

On other fronts we played the Clubmasters in our annual match at the start of November. It was an extremely close match with the Clubmasters winning 4-2, and was a very enjoyable day. I must congratulate Brain Bolan and his team for the condition of the course - it was first class, especially for the time of year. I would like to thank Gary Smith, from

Scotts, for sponsoring the day's event and for their continued support to the Section.

Hopefully Dougie can lead his team out next year to a glorious victory.

Golf outings - our autumn outing next year will be at the Vale of Leven, which will be a great day as it's their centenary year.

We also have a few courses lined up but if there are any Greenkeepers willing to propose their course for future outings we will gladly accept.

New member this month is Ian Craig, Elderslie GC. Welcome to the Section.

Our annual night out was held at the studio on Saturday, November 25, and it turned out to be a very good night with good entertainment and good food.

It was very disappointing on the turnout as there were only 24 tickets sold, I would like to thank Gordon Howat for the hard work he put in trying to sell the tickets and hopefully next year more members will attend.

By the time you have read this report Harrogate will be on the horizon, hopefully it will be a big success as usual.

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2007. If you have any information or stories please get in contact: 07970366355
Fraser Ross

NORTHERN REGION

NORTH WEST

Well, the start of another year and time to lose a bit of the spare tyre. It has been a quiet month so far, not much to report except that this year one of the North West Section events will take place at Silloth GC, I have heard so much about this course and hope to play - It will be nice to meet some of the lads from the area and I hope we get a good turnout.

Now to bang the drum, Harrogate is fast approaching and the Section committee would encourage you to attend especially this year, so let's make it a great show. By the way there is a Park and Ride scheme in operation this year and it will not cost you a penny - Details are in the magazine or you can get more information from the BIGGA website so please take advantage of it. I keep saying this in the hope that someone will contact me besides my roving reporter but here goes, if anyone has any news or just needs a little bit of advice, please contact the secretary Bert Cross on: 0151 7245412 or myself on: 0151 2894625. If you are on the World Wide Web my email address is: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk.

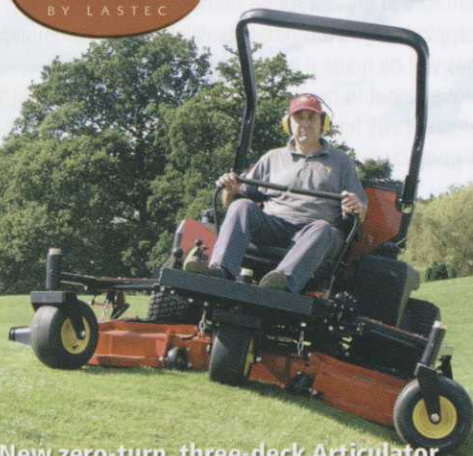
Chris Sheehan

CLEVELAND

Well done to the Section's 7-a-side football team who were runners-up in the TSL tournament. Pembo's boys lost in the final to the Boro Groundstaff. The side was Ian Pemberton, Bedale GC; Barry Walker, City of

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Newcastle GC; Martin Woods, Bedlington GC; Anthony McGeough, Richmond GC; Ian Dunnabie, Dinsdale Spa GC, and Phil Hargrave and Colin Spence, both of Crook GC. A good day was had by all and the lads would like to thank Allan Morton for arranging the day and the food. Also, many thanks to Tony Bell (MVP winner) and Middlesbrough Football Club for organising this great indoor venue for the competition.

Quite a few of the Section members attended the annual Greenkeepers v Groundsman Quiz at Mount Oswald GC on December 6. Again we were runners-up losing by 10 points. If only good OLD Kevin Heslop, of Brancepeth Castle GC, could have made it, we might have nicked it. MENSA member Kev was attending his 50th birthday party instead. His First Assistant, Andrew Welsh, informed me that there were plenty of banners and posters displayed around the course and the clubhouse just to remind Kevin that he is now, officially an 'OLD GIT'. His brains and wit were sorely missed. Happy Birthday Kev!

The Section AGM held at Dinsdale Spa GC in November was very poorly attended with only eight members there. Needless to say, the main topic under discussion was how to get better turnouts at all types of functions. The committee certainly has a job on their hands to try and get members interested. This is your Section and your Association. If everyone showed this lack of interest we wouldn't have BIGGA, then the free golf would cease! Please put in some effort to support all aspects of the Section events.

I hope the festive season was kind to you and yours - I hope your waistlines haven't increased too much.

I look forward to meeting many of you at BTME. The TSL bus will be going on the Wednesday as usual. If you would like to go, please book your places with Karen in the Turfcare office on: 01207 505837. Pick up points are, as usual Morpeth GC, City of Newcastle GC, Chester-le-Street GC and finally the old 'Cock of the North' site on the A 167.

All the best

Any news to TC on; 07831 214879

Terry El Prez Charlton

MIDLAND REGION

EAST MIDLAND

Our Section AGM took place on November 1 at Scraftoft GC and Nigel White and his staff presented the course in immaculate condition. The format of the day was a Texas Scramble consisting of teams of three and the results were 1st - A De Wet, R McCarthy, G Thurman - 61.8 Nett; 2nd - P Frith, T Allard, S Raybould 62.8 Nett; 3rd - D Leatherland, D Smith, R Duval 62.8 Nett. The Section AGM took place after the golf and the following were elected, T. Allard (Chairman), S. Raybould (Vice Chairman), D. J. Rodgers (Secretary) N. White (Treasurer) also, the following were elected as committee members - A. Marsh, C. Watt, N. Miles, A. English, D. Leatherland and S. Donoghue. The Christmas tournament took place on December 7 at Charnwood Forest GC and was played in high winds and bursts of heavy rain, the course was presented in excellent condition for the time of year and Tim Allard and his staff deserve great credit for presenting a playable course after a night of heavy rain. The format for the day was a Pairs Betterball and was won by S. Raybould and A. Bindley with 43 points, followed by S. Donoghue & I. Abrahams, 41 points, and 3rd was A. English and R. Barker 40 points. The Longest Drive was won by N. Couey and Nearest the Pin by I. Abrahams. Our main sponsor for the day was Rigby Taylor and we would like to thank Steve Dickinson for attending in place of Carl Chamberlain, who unfortunately was unavailable, and helping to present the winners prizes.

Dan Rodgers

MIDLAND

Firstly may I wish all a Happy New Year on behalf of the Section's Committee. Hopefully by the time you read these notes you will have received our Section's Calendar. If you have not please be patient, due to the high cost of postage we are going to hand deliver as many as possible to your work place, obviously utilising our ever suffering Reps. If you haven't received yours by January, please let me know via the Section's email address: sean.mcdade@homecall.co.uk or the bat phone: 07908421015. When using this phone number, please leave a short message. I receive many cold calls to which, if I do not recognise the number I generally will not answer. However, I certainly do not wish to shun you fine Members. Your call is of great importance to me and I shall ring you back (no cost to you!), when I have a coffee and can hear you clearly. Honest, I also work for a living. You can stop laughing now! I would like to thank our postage sponsor Mr P. McCrannor and this month's calendar page sponsor, Osprey Irrigation. Thanks to Jon Jinks and everybody at Osprey for their continued and valued support. I am hopeful that we shall be able to produce a calendar for 2008 by the grace of our fine sponsors. So, fair warning, we need photos of your track, get those cameras clicking folks and email me with your pictures.

Since my appointment as Secretary I have tried to introduce other events rather than golf orientated, such has generally been well supported and a great success. Perhaps of greater importance has been the wonderful education seminars hosted at Gay Hill GC as per our Education Coordinator, Mr P. Woodham. Paul is not a fan of self-gratification and he will kill me for such lines. However, his efforts must be recognised and thanked for. Sorry mate, but you deserve such. From the Section as a whole, our gratitude for your fine works, and of course to Gay Hill GC for their kind use of its wonderful facilities is most defiantly in order. Further more, thanks to all of the delegates who supported our training crusades during 2006. The Regional Seminar was a fantastic event and we have had nothing but positive feedback. I think we have proved that we can access great training and host events that are both original and productive. Please let me know if you have any training requirements that we can assist with. They're maybe others out there who share your needs. There are still places available for Lantra sit-in ATV training at Gay Hill GC on February 20, 2007, please give me a call or Sami at HQ to reserve your place.

Sean McDade

BB&O

Another year is over - Happy New Year to you all. The jolly season of 2006 has passed and the nativity plays and panto's are now just a faded memory. Father Christmas has put on another stone - eating mince pie after mince pie with a Turkey sandwich and Sudoku puzzle to keep him occupied during tea break and a glass of homemade sherry in the evenings to soothe memories of last year's resolutions which bit the dust. Welcome to 2007.

The Christmas Turkey Trot got off to a good start! On a mild winter's morning in November the BB&O Section had the pleasure of visiting Royal Ascot GC, which was founded in 1887 and, for 117 years, was situated in the centre of Royal Ascot Racecourse and surrounded by Ascot Heath. Due to the expansion and development of Royal Ascot Race Course, construction of a new golf course and clubhouse was started in January 2004 approximately half a mile from the old course and within the ancient confines of Windsor Forest.

Course Manager, Alistair Holehouse, gave a warm welcome to the Section members who were delighted to take part in the day's events and relished the challenge to play this new 18 hole championship course beautifully carved into Crown land where deer and wild boar had once roamed freely only challenged by the Royal gamekeeper of the day.

A record turnout of 83 was recorded to battle it out for The Avoncrop



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



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
 Tel: 01476 550115

Cup in Texas scramble format, followed by a roast dinner and AGM. Joe Crawley from Avoncrop presented the prizes and the results were as follows: Steve Gardner from Flackwell Heath GC bludgeoned The Long Drive and Lucky Mick from Calcott Park GC jammed Nearest the Pin.

1st Place went to Gazza Tait and Clive the Gem, 2nd place to the Newcastle Nights from Calcott Park GC and 3rd to The Magic Pencil and his team from Southfield GC.

A big thank you goes to Sheila Thompson and catering staff for co-ordinating this excellent venue and to Royal Ascot GC for the courtesy of the course and for providing the Section with fantastic facilities.

A big thank you to Alistair Holehouse and his team of staff for preparing the course to a first class standard and ensuring we all had a great day out.

Thank you to all our sponsors throughout 2006. We have had great support from the trade, which has included Scotts, Sheriff, Avoncrop, Tacit, Vitax, Rigby Taylor, Turner Groundcare, Golf & Turf, Ely, Browns, Gem Professional, Headland and Banks Amenity.

The Annual General Meeting followed and Sid Arrowsmith was re-elected as Chairman for the Section followed by Dean Jones (Secretary), Frank Booth (Treasurer), Alistair Higgs (Handicap Secretary) Alec MacEndoe (Education) and Gareth Acteson, Matt Smith and Dan Lightfoot as committee helpers with yours truly as the scribe for another year.

If any member has any news or views they would like to share, or would like more information about the Section and forthcoming events in 2007 you only have to log your cyberspace details and email address with the new Secretary Dean Jones, who will only be pleased to keep you informed and up to date. Dean can be contacted at:

d.jones51@tiscali.co.uk

See you all at BTME in a few weeks time and wishing you all a great start to the New Year!

Mark Day
 mark@day.fm

A message from your BB&O Chairman!

Dear Member, I trust that you all had a pleasant Christmas and a wonderful New Year- Good Luck to you during 2007 on your Golf Courses.

As you are all well aware during 2006 we had some wonderful Golf days for our Section members resulting in a record turnout for the November Turkey Trot at Royal Ascot GC, thanks must therefore go to your committee for their planning and organisation, a very big thanks to all our sponsors for their generous contributions.

During 2006 we saw some important committee changes take place when Frank Booth became treasurer and Dean Jones became Section Secretary, I am sure that they are well prepared for the challenges ahead and I wish them every success.

John Scoones who held the post of Secretary for several years decided to step down prior to the AGM in November and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him on behalf of the Section for all his dedicated work that he has accomplished for the Section during his term of office.

Mitch Stewart who was the previous treasurer stepped down earlier in the year and once again a well-deserved vote of thanks to him from the Section for all his work during his term of office.

As with all new personnel taking up such important roles comes new enthusiasm and creative ideas. Dean and Frank are demonstrating these qualities already and we can therefore all look forward to continued success throughout the section, building further upon the solid foundation that has been laid down before them.

Sid Arrowsmith MG

MID ANGLIA

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and are all looking forward to the coming year.

My first port of call is the autumn competition at Northants County GC, where after a foggy start, we had an excellent day. Thanks go to David Low and his team for their work on the course, the caterers for the fine fare and not forgetting the Golf Club for allowing us courtesy for the day.

The main sponsor for the day was Seoul Nassau, thanks to Dave Murphy and Rob Catlin for the prizes.

The results were as follows, 1st G. Boulton, 37pts; 2nd M. Turbayn, 36pts and 3rd S. Cherry 34pts; Nearest the Pin, F. Whittle and Longest Drive, K. Armstrong.

The AGM was also held and there was no change in the committee, but we are going to be looking for one more person to join us, so if you would like to do your bit for the Section, give us a call.

Moving on to the Christmas competition at Brocket Hall and thanks to John Wells for accommodating us at such short notice. Thanks also to John Moorhouse and his team for all the hard work they put in to the course in such difficult conditions. The caterers did a splendid job with the turkey dinner and we were escaped very lightly with the weather, it could've been a lot worse.

Thanks to Avoncrop, and Barry McCloskey, for sponsoring the day and despite the conditions there were some good scores that came in.

In 1st Buckingham GC, 58.1; 2nd Brickendon Grange 58.4 and 3rd Seoul Nassau/Banks 58.5. Nearest the pin was M. Rees and Longest Drive, which earned quite a few air miles on its way down the 10th, was won by D. Housden.

G. Boulton won the Player of the Year Trophy and he receives £250 worth of vouchers for his troubles. Well done Gooner and thanks to Turner Groundscare for sponsoring the trophy.

This year's events will be as follows, spring - East Herts, summer - Welwyn Garden City, autumn - Berkhamsted and Christmas - South Beds. Dates are still to be finalised but you will know in good time.

In the coming months John Deere would like to hold an informative day at their Nottingham factory. Anyone interested should contact the committee.

Health and Safety advisor John Albutt will be giving an update at Dunstable Downs on February 6 at 2pm. These forums are very informative so please try to make the effort to attend.

Congratulations to Vice-Chairman, John Gubb, and his wife for the arrival of their baby boy, all the best for the future and finally congratulations go to Richard Saunders who has been promoted to Head Greenkeeper at Mowsbury GC in Bedford.

Steve Mason



SURREY

Friday, December 1. It's dull and miserable outside and the rain seems to have fallen heavily on most days making the ground on many courses waterlogged and difficult to maintain. But nevermind, Christmas is only a few weeks away but by the time you read this Christmas and New Year will have come and gone. So, Happy New Year to all my readers and as we have said goodbye to the shortest day, spring must just be around the corner.

My New Year's resolution is to try and keep my monthly meanderings gay and entertaining, so I'm not going to mention John Ross or his whistle ever again. I am going to rely solely on you Surrey members to keep me



Clive Osgood
SOUTH EAST
Tel: 01737 819343



Jane Jones
SOUTH WEST AND WALES
Tel: 01454 270850

informed of interesting and repeatable happenings in your lives in and out of working hours. I would especially like to hear about how you have spent your time at Harrogate and how you have benefited from the excellent educational seminars and workshops available at BTME. Any reminiscences about that place up the hill can only be reported on if they can be verified with photographic evidence.

Tuesday, November 14. Hankley Common GC was the venue for the Surrey England vs Scotland golf match. A warm sunny autumnal day welcomed the 12 a side teams for this annual cultural get together. England, having been the last winners followed by some four years of the match being halved, were anxious, the determined Scots had picked a very strong side that did not include John Ross. Blast! There goes my New Year's resolution. Most games were close except for one English team, myself and Gary Rowe who were up against an in form Shaun (Pancho) Sturret and Ian McMillan. We were beaten 5&4 with Pancho, sorry Shaun, playing to par after 14 holes. Fortunately, after five games, Scotland three England two, the final English pair were victorious and once again the match was halved and the trophy remains in English hands.

Addington Court GC was the venue for the AGM and Winter Tournament sponsored by Avoncrop. Although we had had heavy rain during the night and just before the start, the course was well presented and a credit to Neil Carter and his greenkeepers. The results were: 1. Tony Brennan, 42pts; 2. David Guy, 39pts; 3. Andy Gatland, 37pts; 4. Jason Hunt, 35pts. Longest drive was Billy McMillan and Nearest the Pin, Ian Beale. The longest walk went to Brian (I can't believe it) Willmott.

The AGM followed the golf and with no written issues being raised and the existing committee being re-elected the meeting was concluded very efficiently by our able Chairman, Anthony (Kojak) Freeman.

Congratulations to Jon Day and his wife Abby on the birth of their daughter, Anya - 8lbs 3ozs, on October 26. By the time they read this Anya will be already playing with the train set daddy bought her for Christmas.

Brian Willmott.

KENT

Happy New Year!

A bumper edition of your favourite column this month to start the year off in style!

Firstly our Turkey Trot event held at Birchwood Park. Many months of intense preparation for this prestigious tournament were very nearly totally wiped out by a violent thunderstorm at four o'clock on the very morning of the event. The course held up extremely well, however, and 30 of us proceeded to the 1st tee. We were greeted by a member of the local press who took photos and tried to gain some tips for his readers. Unfortunately for him though we were also greeted on the tee by Rob Hayward, from Ernest Doe's, who was dispensing some warming scotch from his refreshment wagon causing some very erratic opening drives!

The sun broke through after the first couple of holes and we were all able to enjoy the course that much more as a result. A second visit to Rob's whisky wagon at the 10th tee, however, became the undoing of many a fine score on the opening nine, causing many a card-wrecking score on the tricky Birchwood closing stretch. Scores on the day were very close with a countback being necessary to separate the leaders at the end.

Results were as follows: 1st place and winner of The Scotts Shield - Adam Marrable, from Chislehurst, 41 pts; 2nd Place, also on 41 pts was Joseph Horlock, from Lullingstone GC; 3rd Place on 37 pts was Michael Wigstone, from Tenterden, and Trade prize went to Brian Willmott on 37 pts.

The prize giving followed a great Christmas dinner served up by the lovely Birchwood girls which everyone enjoyed. After dinner, Kent Section had its AGM and despite relatively few attendees, a lively debate on how best to serve our members in the future ensued. More details on that in

future editions of this column. One thing I can tell you about now is our website is currently being upgraded and should be up and running soon in all its glory. Your current committee members are remaining as we are with two additions, Glenn Kirby, of the London Club, and Andrew Wood, of Avoncrop Amenity, have both joined the ranks to help us do our best for everyone in the county.

A few thank yous to round off what was a great day at Birchwood. Thanks again to Rob Hayward and Ernest Doe & Sons for the on-course refreshments, thanks also to the Scott's company and Gem Professional for providing prizes in the evening and last but not least, to Birchwood Park management for allowing us courtesy of the course and to my staff for working so hard to produce such a great course all year round. Unfortunately, this was the last big event one of my guys will be helping us out with, Dan Waghorn is moving down the road to The London Club. Best of luck mate, just don't forget to set your alarm!

Onto our next event. Kent Section football team took on their Sussex counterparts in a hotly contested re-match after the Sussex boys narrow 4-3 victory last year at Brighton. Set deep in the heart of deliverance country, Corinthians club played host to what was billed to be the game of the century. Unfortunately, the Kentish defensive line must have got confused because although the directive to maintain a line against Sussex seems straightforward enough, they decided to hold their line somewhere in Sussex leaving the brave goalkeeper at the mercy of the whole of the Sussex team. Things went from bad to worse in the second half when our midfield seemed to get lost in some kind of Bermuda Triangle, again, leaving the poor keeper absolutely helpless. The referee took pity on Kent though and blew the whistle on this largely one-sided affair a tad early before the visitors could reach double figures!

For future fixtures I am aiming to introduce a handicap system similar to what we would have, were this a golfing event. All opposition team members team wishing to play us from now on must wear two left boots and a Millwall strip to even things up!

Seriously though, thanks to Kev Morris for organising the evening, to Collier Turf Care for providing a few footballs and to the Sussex team for the humiliation!

That's all for now.

Happy New Year one and all

Rob Holland

SUSSEX

Our football team played Kent on November 29 at the Corinthians Club. I would like to thank Kevin Morris and Andrew Wood for arranging the game and also thank Kent for their hospitality. The game ended 9-0 to us, which I felt was a bit flattering to us, but stands us in good stead for our next game against Surrey on December 21. Anyone interested in representing Sussex in the future, please contact me on the below number.

Moving on to golf. Our Xmas golf day was held at Littlehampton GC. It was a very wet start to the day but did brighten up quickly. I would like to thank Littlehampton GC for entertaining us for the day and looking after us. Thanks to Dave Wood and his greenstaff team for getting the course ready and playable for us.

The results from the Turkey Trot are as follows: Nearest the Pin on the 3rd - Jon Sollwood, 6th - Tony Stone, 8th - Iain McLeod (hole-in-one), 11th - Peter Day, 16th - Simon (talk a good game) McCarthy, Longest Drive - Ian Semple and quickest exit from a golf club - Iain McLeod (can't think why, and they say the Scots are tight?)

The final positions of the Turkey Trot were: Mark Reid, Kevin, Jon Budd - 13th, 49pts; Dave Haskell, Mark Wilton, Jeff Yelland, Peter Ray - 12th, 52pts; Paul Bell, Russell Eales, Steven Eales - 11th, 52pts; Ian Semple, Derek Farrington, Tony Engelfield, Dave Ansell - 10th, 53; Rob Hudson, Si McCarthy, Paul Dunbar, Mike Ring - 9th, 54; George Barr, Nigel Baillie, Ian

Evans, Eddie Docherty - 8th, 55pts; John Hill, Jim Russell, John Payne, Les Shrub - 7th, 55pts; Gary Ogilvie, Chris Allen, John Sellwood, David Hinks - 6th, 57pts; Andy Paynter, Rob Sabbage, Chuck Sutton, Damian Roberts - 5th, 58pts; Iain McLeod, Chris Watters, Bob Watters, Tony Stone - 4th, 60pts; Brian Wilmot, Anthony Freeman, Gary Rowe - 3rd, 61pts; Dave Allen, Chris Ahier, Dan Beard, Sam Lake - 2nd, 62pts and Matt Crossley, Peter Crossley, Glen Scott, Paul Scott (best back) - 1st, 62pts.

Congratulations to the winning father and son side and a big thank you to the sponsors of the day, which were Avoncrop. Thanks to Gary for sorting the prizes out.

Harrogate is coming up soon. There are 10 places available for one free nights accommodation at Harrogate to the value of £50. This offer is open to first time attendants from Deputy Course Managers to Assistants, so if you have not been and would like to please contact me on: 07776223234 or email: robert.hudson77@btinternet.com

We did have our AGM in early November and I am embarrassed to say that only eight attended. This Section exists to provide for you guys and some time you have to put a bit back. I don't think it would be too much to ask to give an hour of your time so we can keep this Section going.

Good luck to Matt Crossley and his wife who are expecting their first baby very soon.

I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a great new year.

All the best,
Rob Hudson

LONDON

The London Section of BIGGA is going from strength to strength, with the December Texas Scramble attracting 53 players. The number may not sound much compared with some of the other Sections that I support but this Section was on its knees three years ago. The winners were the Northwood GC team for the second year running - David Leach, Wesley Walker and Paul Simpson. The day also saw Sam Brennan of Old Fold Manor GC achieve a hole-in-one on the 9th.

Michael Fance



SOUTH WEST

A very Happy New Year and very best wishes to all. My apologies for not being very active at the meetings last year; my New Year's resolution is to try much harder. Our lake and irrigation should be up and running soon and I'll have next to nothing to do after that. So plenty of time to play golf and relax in the sun! No, probably not. Shoulder might even be 100% by then as well.

There is another addition to the fixture list - Match vs the Secretaries is at Henbury GC on June 14. Other fixtures are as below, and as reported last month. Thanks very much to all the clubs who are hosting fixtures this year, and thanks to all those who helped arrange them. If you're interested in representing the Section Team - (three out of three in 2006) give Wayne "no pressure" Vincent a ring. I'll also look forward to the first meeting at Stockwood with Roger Davey's lecture on Water Use.

Stockwood Vale - February 22. Winter comp + Roger Davey lecture on Water Use; Cotswold Hills - April 25 - Spring Tournament; Enmore Park - May 17 - Greenkeeper Amateur; Race Night - June - (date from Jon Jarvis); Henbury - June 14 - Match vs Secretaries; Cumberwell Park - July 25 - Summer Tournament + Marc Haring quiz night; Farrington Gurney - September 13 - Match vs South Coast; Minchinhampton New - October 11

- AGM.

The Regional Seminar at Cannington was a great success with good attendance. Environment and sustainability issues are never far from the public mind these days, so many thanks and congratulations to Jane Jones, Chris Sealey, and the Regional Board for putting so much into it. Chris, I always think is a very un-sung hero. Apart from his full time job as Course Manager at Chippenham GC, he is Chairman of the Section Committee, and also Chairman of the Regional Board. He has recently been helping Nobby through his career change, by running all the invites for the Section events last year. Chris, modest as ever, wanted me to thank Bob Cook in the Chippenham office for his assistance. He also asked me to thank the Devon & Cornwall Section for the kind invitations to send delegates to their recent meeting at Lyme Regis.

The rain of November/December caused more than a few problems, certainly with any construction work. Our lake is obviously the self-filling variety, as the guys who tried to line it discovered. Just one night's rain put six inches of water into the lower end so now they're staggering about trying to put the secondary layers of material down without drowning in the process. I'll try and put a full article together when the work is finished, as it really is a most interesting subject.

Talking about weather, today December 7 has seen terrific thunderstorms, hailstorms, gale force winds. We had a beech tree struck by lightning (about 50 seniors came scuttling out from under the next one and ran for their lives), and a poor elderly gentleman was literally blown off his feet in the car park and ended up in the box hedge. Roll on Spring.

And finally, I bought a new car the other day. Well, for my wife actually. A Citroen C1 - a little upturned corrugated pram on wheels - (only the French could build a car like that - and sell it to us). Still, only £40 road tax, group one insurance, and 65 miles to the gallon. Not too shabby, although there was a little problem with one of the hubcaps. Obviously well loose, it fell off before we had a chance to drive off the garage forecourt. "Not to worry" cried the sales-lady (still with one eye on my cheque book) "just take a seat, one of our specially Citroen-trained technicians will take it round to the workshop and repair it." With that, a greasy, disinterested looking youth came slouching round and roared (well chugged) off round the back with our new car. Mooching around the showroom, surrounded by gleaming new cars, plush armchairs, the latest in interactive sales equipment, I was somewhat amused to notice a CCTV screen showing what could best be described as a wooden shack round the back with Francois or whatever his name was, using a sledgehammer and a scaffolding pole to tap my hub-cap back on. However, we drove home and it didn't fall off again - not until we got back to Cirencester that is. A couple of weeks later, the after-sales experience started with an annoying phone call just as I'd nodded off after tea one evening. Here's how the conversation went with me getting progressively more irritated. "Just a couple of quick questions M'sieur - how was your overall sales experience?" - Not bad, although there was a small problem with one of the hubcaps. Was the car perfectly clean inside and out when you collected it? "Yes, apart from one of the hubcaps." Would you like our enhanced exterior and interior paint protection package? "No, only for the hubcaps." Were you offered our standard extras and upgrades? "Yes, but not a new hubcap." Were you tempted to take out our additional insurance package? "No, not even on the hubcaps." The final question, having been totally oblivious to my previous responses - were there any problems with the car, and would you recommend us to a friend? "Yes, but only one with his own hubcaps."

Never mind.

Look forward to meeting up at Harrogate, and I could do with some proper news material. The Patronage Partner-sponsored places for the accommodation and seminars will have been awarded, so may I, on your behalf, thank all our Patronage Partners for their continued support and

generosity.

Paul Worster

01453 837355 or: paulw@mgcnew.co.uk

SOUTH COAST

Last year our Section was so blessed with good weather for our golf days and our trip to Weybrook Park for our Turkey Trot on Wednesday, December 6 was no exception. When having breakfast that morning, like most of you, I watched with anticipation the weather forecast for the day. The summary was that the conditions for our tournament would be the calm before the storm! As I write this outside is rain and lightening.

Richard Dalmas, the Course Manager, and his team, did an exceptional job with the presentation of the golf course, well done lads. It was very pleasing to see that so many were able to travel from far corners of our Section - from Poole and Bournemouth, and in particular to Nick Reynolds travelling from Weymouth. This journey was worth the effort as Nick won 1st prize in division one with 41 points. Other scores were as follows: 1.2 Stephen Finlay, 37 pts; 2.1 Alan Ridout, 38 pts; 2.2 Spencer Haines, 38 pts; 3.1 Chris Pink, 38 pts (well done Chris on your first outing with us, hope you continue to play in the Section); 3.2 Trevor Blyth, 30 pts. Longest Drive - Rob Patrick, Nearest The Pin - Mark Davies and The Veterans Cup - technically won by Alan Ridout but Alan already had a handful of prizes, so congratulations to Joe Newman with 34 pts.

Our sincere thanks to our sponsors for the day Seoul Nassau (Sheerwater) & New Forest Farm Machinery. Our gratitude also goes to all the staff at Weybrook Park GC, in particular the catering and bar staff for providing very friendly, excellent service and a wonderful Christmas dinner and pud!

Also in attendance was Peter Marsh. As many of you know, Peter retired recently from Stoneham GC. Peter started work at Stoneham on April 19, 1959. What a tremendous innings! We wish Peter and his wife Muriel all the very best for the future and hope to continue to see him at our future events.

The planning and organisation for the South Coast Seminar is well under way. Chris Bitten is doing a tremendous job constructing the day. The Seminar will take place at Canford Magna GC sometime in March, 2007. As soon as the exact details are known we will contact you with more information. This event in the last few years has been very popular and this year's seems to be no exception as Chris has enlisted some very high profile speakers including Peter Craig, from the Hurlingham Club, and Eddie Seawood, from the All England Tennis Club (Wimbledon).

For future payments for golf days you can send your cheques prior to the event date directly to Chris Sturgess at his home address: 31 Bay Road, Sholing, Southampton, SO19 8EZ. This will be most helpful to Chris and the Section and will make the event run more smoothly on the day.

Finally, I hope you all got what you wanted for Christmas and on behalf of the South Coast Section, I would like to wish you all a very happy and successful year.

Joe Crawley

DEVON & CORNWALL

On Tuesday, November 14, 2006, our Section held its second meeting of the season at Lyme Regis GC, Dorset - kindly sponsored by Alan Dommatt, of Devon Garden Machinery. The reason for choosing the venue was because of the support that Head Greenkeeper, Dave Everett, has given us in the past, so we thought, although not in our area, it would be appropriate to support David.

An invitation was sent to Chris Sealey from the South West Section, who brought along some of his members. The day turned out to be a great success, so much so that we will endeavour to have more inter-section activity in the future.

Unfortunately the weather was not very kind - thick fog and very damp with a heavy drizzle. Dave was never very far from the klaxon to call the golf off but thank heavens the fog did eventually clear so we could all see the hard work Dave and his staff had put in to present the course in excellent condition.

The non-golfers went on a course walk led by David, to see some of the problems that have occurred over the past years, re: Coastal erosion, after a two hour hike around the course, the members arrived back at the clubhouse rather wet and thirsty.

The morning's golf competition was a Greensomes and the winners were as follows: 1. J. Mills and S. Saunders, 37pts; 2. C. Sealey and W. Vincent, 36pts; 3. A. Crosswood and A. Dunstan, 34pts.

After a superb lunch Alan Dommatt presented some excellent prizes to the competition winners.

The afternoon educational speaker was given by Martyn T. Jones and what an excellent presentation it was. All our members were thrilled and not one nodded off - Martyn was still answering questions late into the afternoon - many thanks Martyn for driving down from Preston.

Please make a note in your diary for the following meetings in 2007.

First Aid Course, Portmore GC, Wednesday, February 21; First Aid Course, Trethorne GC, Thursday, February 22 - 10 delegates minimum, maximum 20, details to follow.

A workshop will be held on March 7 at Trethorne GC - construction and drainage being the main topic.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all members a healthy and trouble free 2007.

Donovan O Hunt

SOUTH WALES

The Rigby Taylor Matchplay Finals were held at the Royal Porthcawl GC on a glorious November morning and never have I known such benign conditions at this wonderful links. It was a glorious day; no wind and shirtsleeves were worn all day. Our thanks to the club for allowing us the use of their facilities for the day, to Course Manager David Ward and his team for the course was in splendid condition, the best we've ever seen it! (Sustainable Golf Course Management in Practice), and to David Carvey, Roy Barker and Peter Griffiths, from RT, whose hospitality is second to none and who ensured all those in attendance had an enjoyable day. To the finalists Gary Humphries and Rhys McDonagh, from the Llanwern GC, Newport, who were cheered on throughout the day by their Lady Captain, her husband and former club Captain and their Chairman of Green.

It was great to see such support from the club present on the day; however, Jake Waites and Robin Cheyney, from the Celtic Manor Resort, were not fazed by this splendid support. For they started off like greyhounds and were four up after six holes, from the 7th hole Gary got his driver firing and by the turn him and Rees were only two down. Jake and Robin however, gelled together more favourably than their well supported colleagues and won on the 17th hole amid failing light. An altogether enjoyable day and evening courtesy of Rigby Taylor. The Rosebowl was presented in the clubhouse to the winning partnership amid the after match celebrations and after having their names engraved upon the silverware will be returned to them in the very near future, well done lads.

As a result of some recent changes in sponsorships, some of which was confirmed at our AGM last month, I have the following to report.

Avoncrop Amenity Products, long time sponsors of our Winter Evening Lecture Series have decided not to continue with this sponsorship, stating that they wish to "channel resources into Road Shows". We thank them for their past support, two alternative companies have shown an interest in the series and confirmation will be reported in next months article.

"Tower Chemicals" have confirmed that they will commit to long term

sponsorship of the annual Spring Tournament, which, next year, will be held at the Coed-Y-Mwstwr Golf Club in Coychurch, Bridgend.

Tacit have confirmed that they will now sponsor annually the Summer Tournament, which for 2007 will be held at the Gower GC, Three Crosses, Swansea.

As soon as all other fixtures have been confirmed the fixture cards (sponsored by Rigby Taylor) will be issued, I predict this will be late January/early February 2007.

Hot of the press is the news that Master Greenkeeper Huw Morgan is to return to his roots and take up his new position of Course Manager of the Ashburnham GC, Burry Port, Llanelli. Huw is a native South Walian and we wish him well and look forward to inviting him onto committee in the not too distant future!

Back from his latest globetrotting experience is the well travelled Dave Gladwin, who along with his long suffering caddie, Vickie, supported the recently held "World Amateur Team Championships" in Cape Town, South Africa. Four rounds played over two courses on consecutive days over the Stellenbosch and Del-Solsa courses the Welsh team consisting of Rhys Davies, Royal Porthcawl; Llewellyn Mathews, Southerndown, and Nigel Edwards, Whitchurch, finished a respectable 4th place. Thanks for the info, Dave, you could end up having a regular column of your own with the amount of travelling that you do!

Norma Stead, wife of our President, Henry, would like to pass on her sincere thanks to all of those who contributed to her fund raising efforts at the recent Autumn Competition at Alice Springs GC, where £3150 was raised - well done lads. Also as a result of the crocodile hunter Steve Irwin, alias David Carvey in full regalia, i.e. leopard skin g-string strutting through the high street of Porthcawl a further £3269 was raised on the day of her recent charity walk. The weather was not too favourable but despite this a large gathering supported her efforts, Well done Norma, keep up the good recovery xx.

On my way to the Regional Seminar in Cannington College, I'm calling in at the Celtic Manor Resort to have a tour of the ongoing works by our good friend, Jim McKenzie. For those of you that don't know, all courses are receiving a total overhaul that will result in three Championship golf courses, The Ryder Cup course, the Montgomery course and the Coldra Woods course. Knowing Jim and the Celtic Manor Resort the way that I do and the fact that they don't do anything by half measures, I can't wait to see what's transpired since my last visit in April. Jim may shoot me for saying this, but Jim will make time for anyone who wishes to see what is going on throughout the complex, he is quite rightly proud of his facility and will find time to show people around and to explain where they are presently and where they wish to end up. Why not give him a ring and arrange a visit, you'll be amazed.

Angus Macleod

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

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

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

SECTION NOTES INFORMATION

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

Word limit for Section notes: 500-600.

You will receive an email back to confirm receipt of your notes. If you do not receive this confirmation please get in touch with BIGGA HQ.

In the Shed ANSWERS

CROSSWORD

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ANAGRAM

LOONY TRUE WEARINESS

Answer: New Year's Resolution

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



A QUICK NINE HOLES

- Giuseppe Farina
- Alfonso de Portago and Peter Collins
- Annie Lennox
- Apple
- Paul Hewson
- The Faces
- A lively two beat time Russian or Ukranian dance
- Seven
- Rindt, McLaren and Courage

BUYERS' GUIDE

CATEGORY LISTING:

AERATION
 AGRONOMY
 AQUATIC WEED CONTROL
 ARTIFICIAL GRASS
 BUILDINGS
 BUNKER RAKES
 CLOTHING
 CONSTRUCTION
 COURSE MARKERS
 DRAINAGE
 DRIVING RANGE EQUIPMENT
 FERTILISER MIXING
 GOLF COURSE ACCESSORIES
 GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION
 GOLF MATS
 GRINDERS
 HIRE
 IRRIGATION
 IRRIGATION CONSULTANTS
 LAKE CONSTRUCTION/LINERS
 PATHWAYS
 PEST CONTROL
 RUBBER CRUMB
 TOP DRESSINGS
 TREES
 TREE MOVING
 TURF
 TYRES
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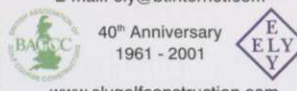


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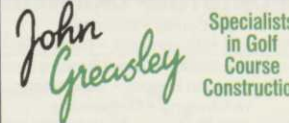
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The successful applicant will have to show that he has the necessary experience and ability to maintain a traditional links course within budget and to the highest standards of presentation as enshrined in the Club's Links Mission Statement. The Club is currently investing heavily in a new state of the art maintenance facility to meet the needs of the greenkeeping staff, and to ensure the security and proper maintenance of the club's equipment.

Applicants must possess all recognised greenkeeping qualifications up to management level including pesticides handling and must have a sound knowledge of all current Health and Safety legislation. A sound working knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems is also required.

Salary and benefits, with the option of accommodation, will be by negotiation depending on experience and qualifications.

Please apply by e-mail or in writing with a full CV by 31st Jan 2007 to:

The Secretary/ Manager, Portmarnock Golf Club,
Portmarnock, County Dublin, Ireland.

E-mail: sec.man@portmarnockgolfclub.ie

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BTME 2007

See the article "Chance of a lifetime" in this issue

COLONY CLUB GUTENHOF

Vienna, Austria

requires Full-Time Assistant Greenkeepers for their 36 hole Championship complex

All applicants must be suitably qualified to NVQ Level 2 or equivalent and have a minimum of three years experience.

The successful applicants will be expected to work as part of a hard working team and contribute to the running of both golf courses.

Start date end February 2007. UK interview.

Accommodation and first flight paid for.

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

Thorney Park Golf Club – Iver Bucks

This challenging very well maintained 18 hole course requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Qualifications not essential but some experience preferred.

Salary dependant on experience and qualifications.

EXPERIENCED CONSTRUCTOR

Required to work predominantly on golf related projects.

You will have to be highly self motivated and able to work flexible hours.

Excellent package and prospects offered to the right candidate.

For further information on either position

Telephone: 07973 210 879 or email: davidgolflinks@aol.com



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Bridgwater College is a highly successful and expanding tertiary college which has been awarded Beacon status, has won 6 AoC Beacon Awards and received an outstanding Ofsted/ALI report at its last inspection. Sports Turf and realted courses operate from the College's Centre for Land-based Studies at Cannington, which was formed following its merger with Cannington College.

PROGRAMME MANAGER FOR SPORTS TURF & GREENKEEPING COURSES

£23,991 - £32,361 per annum plus £900 Professional Development Award for eligible candidate and 35 days annual leave

We are seeking a person with qualities to train the next generation of greenkeepers and golf course managers at one of the leading college facilities in Europe. You will be expected to grow and develop a range of new training courses, teach to excellent standards and represent the College with the industry's professional bodies. To be successful you will need a Level 4 qualification in sports turf, greenkeeping or golf course management and at least 3 years experience within the industry. A teaching qualification is desirable but support and training will be available to those relatively new to teaching.

Closing date: Thursday 25 January 2007

Bridgwater College is an Equal Opportunities Employer

For an application pack contact Staff & Quality Services:

Tel: (01278) 441221 email: sqs@bridgwater.ac.uk

or via our website www.bridgwater.ac.uk

Bridgwater College Bath Road Bridgwater
Somerset TA6 4PZ

UPMINSTER GOLF CLUB

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

A vacancy exists for a Greenkeeper.

The candidate will have a minimum of 2 years experience, be hard working and reliable.

Qualified to NVQ level 2 an advantage as would be a PA1 PA2 or PA6 qualification.

A working knowledge of Health & Safety at a Golf Club would also be of advantage.

Please apply in writing with a full CV to:

Doug Fernie, Course Manager, Upminster Golf Club,
114-116, Hall Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 1AU

ORSETT GOLF CLUB

Open Regional Qualifying Course

Requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We are looking for an enthusiastic, hard working greenkeeper who is highly motivated and able to work as part of a team.

Ideally you should be qualified to NVQ2 and spraying certificates would be an advantage.

The successful applicant will be encouraged to undertake further training to progress within the industry.

Written applications, including full C.V should be sent to:

Don Clark, Orsett Golf Club, Brentwood Road, Orsett, Essex, RM16 3DS

Shortlands Golf Club



Require a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

We are looking for a Head Greenkeeper to look after a 10 hole parkland course, first established in 1894. The successful applicant will be fully experienced, suitably qualified, and capable of supervising two assistants.

Closing date 31st January 2007.

Applications to:

Peter May, Club Manager, Shortlands Golf Club,
Meadow Road, Bromley, Kent BR2 0DX
Telephone: 020 8460 8828.



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The successful applicant will be able to develop sales in conjunction with our distributor partners, contribute to new product development and work closely with other industry professionals. They will have experience in the turf or amenity sectors and be highly motivated with exceptional communication skills.

Applications are welcomed from people who wish to be part of a young, rapidly growing company and can act within a close team of sales professionals as well as working on their own initiative.

The territory concerned covers Eastern counties including East Anglia. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. The position also offers a quality company car as well as Private Healthcare and Pension after a qualifying period.

Please apply with full C.V. either by post or email to:

Andy Russell, Sales & Marketing Director
Headland Amenity Ltd,
1010 Cambourne Business Park,
Cambourne, Cambs CB3 6DP
Email: info@headlandamenity.com
Telephone: 01223 597834 Fax: 01223 598052

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Assistant Greenkeeper • Sales Representatives and Sales Managers
Engineers, Technicians and Mechanics

TORO

Customer Care Representative Golf Key Accounts

Turf Maintenance Machinery After Sales

Lely is the UK and Ireland distributor for world-leading Toro professional turf maintenance machinery. The company also distributes Toro irrigation and consumer products in the UK.

As part of our aim to provide the highest standards of after sales service in the turf industry, we have an exciting opportunity for an experienced professional to join us as a customer care representative working in our Toro golf turf business.

This is a new position in which the successful applicant will work closely with the Key Accounts Manager, as well as support, and report to, the company's Operations Manager. As such, you will need to provide the highest levels of after sales assistance demanded by many of the biggest names in British golf.

To be successful, you will need to demonstrate a high level of professionalism, as well as a sound knowledge and experience of providing after sales support for turf machinery to end-users on the golf course. This starts with machine set-up and includes all aspects of servicing and maintenance.

The job involves nationwide travel throughout England, Scotland and Wales, so a full, clean driving licence is essential. Lely itself is a long-established, leading name in the turf machinery distribution industry. And for this key position we are offering a full remuneration and benefits package, including a company car, plus pension and life insurance scheme (after qualifying period).

Please apply in writing or by email, with full CV and details of existing remuneration and benefits to: Christine Wilson, Lely (UK) Limited, 1 Station Road, St. Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 1QH. Tel: 01480 226800, or email cwilson@lely.co.uk

Closing date for receipt of applications is 31 January 2007.

LELY

BIGGA's Fantastic Outdoor Range

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

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



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833800
to
order!**



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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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



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Feature listing from January 2005

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

November 2006; National Championship; BIGGA Photographic Exhibition; Drainage Explained; Greens Brushing

December 2006; BIGGA Environment Competition Results; Harrogate Week Preview; Work Wear; Paths; Tyres

Chairman's Column



Time to vote with your feet



Happy New Year to one and all!

As I write this, my final column, the weather in early December is still very mild and wet. This is the first year for some time that many of our inland courses in the southwest have had to close before Christmas due to water logging; it's marvellous how Mother Nature tries to put her house in order.

Yet again many Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers are feeling the strain of their members' demands to play golf in any condition, and usually these members will be the first to point the finger in early spring if the course isn't like Augusta!

By the time you read this the festive season will be well and truly over, I hope that all of you have had a stress free period with the course fully open and your members purring about their clubs the other half gave them for Christmas.

So January is here, still with those miserable days when we start and finish work in the dark, those spring days seem so far away. Harrogate for me is a refreshing break from those January blues when you can meet new and old colleagues who are in the same boat as you. Sometimes just talking about your problems will lift the stress from your shoulders; quite often someone has been through the same problem as you and can advise on the best way through it.

So what's Harrogate Week got to offer you?

The Continue to Learn programme at Harrogate Week offers educational opportunities to absolutely everybody within the turf care industry. From the Course Manager to the trainee greenkeeper there will be something for you and many of the seminars are free!

We also have plenty of educational opportunities for Groundsman, Golf Club officials and club owners, Secretaries/Managers and Professionals, so if you are connected to turf you should be there.

Over the course of the five days there will be five two-day workshops; 11 one-day workshops and six half-day workshops for Greenkeepers and Groundsmen. In conjunction with BIGGA, the English Golf Union and the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, there will be two half day workshops and six seminars and for the first time the Professional Golfers Association will be holding its three day UK Coach Certificate course during the week. The R&A is also holding a one-day workshop on Sustainable Golf, which is already sold out.

Harrogate Week exhibition is now completely full and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our exhibitors for once again showing their support to our industry and continuing to make Harrogate week the largest indoor trade show for our industry outside the United States. The talking has now stopped and it's time for one and all to support your own trade show, so lads and lasses it's time to vote with your feet and make this the event no one can afford to miss.

Recently I was invited to the South Wales Christmas event held at Pyle & Kenfig GC. After working that morning I rushed

home at lunchtime and had a quick clean up before heading off to arrive for their Christmas dinner. As I expected Peter Lacey, the Section Secretary, ran the day in superb fashion. Peter is a true supporter of our Association and always asks questions about the Association he cares passionately about, through the Section and Regional boards. Peter is without doubt a Champion of BIGGA, the evening gave me a chance to meet many members for the first time, I did get slightly depressed when two gentlemen informed me that their course maintenance budget was just 13k a year! Local involvement at Section level can help if only to give support and encouragement.

Well my year as Chairman is nearly over now, I would like to thank everyone I have met throughout the year for the hospitality shown to me. It's been an honour to represent you, the members, at events and meetings throughout the year. I believe as an Association we have continued to look to the future which is a credit to the democratic system we have in place, we as an Association must continue to look forward as we owe it to the membership not to stand still and be left behind.

At the AGM I will pass the stewardship of our Association over to Billy McMillan whom I know will be a great ambassador for our Association.

Champion of BIGGA

My final champion of BIGGA is all the National Board members who give up their own time to benefit each and every member. Many of the board will travel six hours to attend meetings at Aldwark which is then followed by sub committee meetings from 1pm to 5pm followed by the full board meeting the following day at 8.30am, running to about 1pm before making that long journey home. I would like to thank each and every board member for their professional approach throughout the year and the due democratic process.

Richard Whyman
Chairman



BIGGA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

FREE LEGAL HELPLINE

Access 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for you and your family (living at the same address). Advice on employment matters, health and safety issues, consumer rights and any other legal matter. Medical costs and expenses should personal injury be sustained in an accident and Legal expenses up to £50,000 per annum. Call 0800 177 7891 For Greenkeeper Members Only.

FREE PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Cover for time off work due to an accident at home, work or even on holiday as well as one off payments dependent on the type of injury. Call 01277 251000 and ask for Ira Mullish For Greenkeeper Members Only.

FREE MEMBERS HANDBOOK

A free yearly copy of this indispensable tool, enabling members to track down professional help and keep contact with contemporaries.

FREE FIELD GUIDES

A set of field guides is available to every member on request. This handy guide is produced in an easy to use format and is an aid to course identification. Call 01347 833800.

FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL

A monthly copy of the Association's award winning magazine delivered free to your door, keeping you up to date with all that's new in the industry.

BIGGA LIBRARY

The BIGGA Library boasts over 650 books available to borrow for up to six weeks. The only cost is that of returning the book to HQ.

BIGGA REFUND OF FEES SCHEME

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

BIGGA REGIONAL TRAINING

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

DISCOUNTED WORKWEAR

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

*Discount not available on selected products.

CAR LEASING

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

CAR RENTAL

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

INSURANCE QUOTATION SERVICE

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

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

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

BIGGA WEBSITE - www.bigga.org.uk

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

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