

# Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

- Best of British – A Special Report Celebrating 75 years of British Innovation
- Disturbance Theory – One Step Back
- The Build up to a Major – Preparation for the US Open
- The Economic Value of 'Green' Compost utilised as Turf Topdressing
- New Look for Greenkeeper International

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## Greenkeeper

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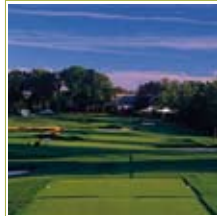
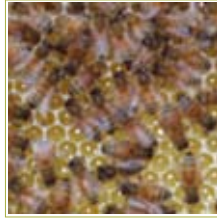
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### Best of British

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

# Welcome



**News that a Heads of Agreement has been signed between BIGGA and the IOG has resulted in a few negative responses on the BIGGA website from some quarters within the BIGGA membership.**

Such reactions are to be expected and I'd be very surprised if similar sentiments are not being expressed by elements within the IOG as well.

But it really is a case of standing back and looking at what has happened, what is happening and what is likely to happen in the future.

What has happened? Well, the golf industry is not getting any larger. Indeed, in some areas it has shrunk and everyone is beginning to feel the pinch. Golf clubs no longer have the comfort blanket of long waiting lists – more golfers now stay “unattached” and pick and choose the best golfing deal of the week. This has led to reduced revenue for clubs and smaller budgets devoted to maintaining the course, which, in turn, means machinery manufacturers don't sell as much - a consequence of which being their decision to alternate their attendance at Harrogate and Saltex. This has affected BIGGA's income, which means a knock on for the benefits and services we can offer members. It's a genuine vicious circle.

What is happening? Well, BIGGA could cut its cloth to suit and reduce benefits and services, or it could look at other ways of moving forward and protecting, and perhaps, enhancing those benefits and services. One way to achieve this may be to merge with the body which, while not exactly the same, has sufficient overlap - maintaining fine turf – to make a coming together an option, thus giving genuine economies of scale and more industry clout.

Both organisations are currently investigating whether such a merger is viable. I can tell you that there are some highly qualified and talented people from both sides involved in these talks - including representatives from the All England Tennis and Croquet Club and the R&A - and they are looking at all the implications of a merger as thoroughly and objectively as they can.

What is likely to happen? It may be that the working party's findings will result in a recommendation to continue as we are - that a merger is unworkable, or not of sufficient benefit to either organisation. In which case there would be no point in going any further.

However if the talks do highlight potential benefits and the logistics of it all are manageable, more work will be done with a view to putting a proposal to both memberships. It will be then down to the respective boards to put the facts forward to their individual members, who can then take a view based on what is placed before them.

So why the negative comment? Turn it around. Surely failure to explore all options for the future benefit of greenkeepers, could be seen as sticking their heads in the sand on the part of the BIGGA Board?

**Scott MacCallum, Editor**

Why not drop us an email with any news, press releases or new product updates you have –  
**Send them to Melissa ([melissa@bigga.co.uk](mailto:melissa@bigga.co.uk))**



Ron Christie, Course Manager at Addington Palace GC, winner of The Raymond Day Memorial Trophy

## ANNUAL GENTLEMEN'S DINNER

Over 100 members and guests sat down for dinner and an evenings entertainment recently, after a days golf on a Course superbly presented by Ian McMillan and his team at Walton Heath GC.

The Board for the South East Region of BIGGA would like to thank the Club for their hospitality, as always, and the following companies for their most generous support of this event and many others in the south east throughout the year: Avoncrop Amenity Products Ltd, The Art of Grass BSP Landscapes Ltd, CMW Equipment Ltd, Complete Weed Control, Ernest Doe and Sons Ltd, ESD Waste2WaterEurope Ltd, Grass Roots Trading Co Ltd, Harper & Eede, Headland Amenity Products, John Shaw (Machinery) Ltd, R & K Kensett Ltd, Rigby Taylor Ltd, The Scotts Co (UK) Ltd, Sisis Equipment Ltd, Symbio, Seol Nassau, Tower Chemicals Ltd, Tacit Golf Equipment Ltd.

## ANDY COLE RETURNS

Andy Cole has returned to STRI after six years absence. He will join the Southern Agronomy Team and develop the Midland Region.

Andy left STRI in 2001 following 14 years service. He joined PSD Agronomy where he continued to advise golf clubs and also worked with Northern Racing and football clubs including Aston Villa and Birmingham City.

As a founder member of RIPTA, Andy is a popular presenter and a regular contributor at events for the English Golf Union, The Land Drainage Contractors Association, BIGGA and the Golf Club Secretaries.

## TURF DONATED TO HOSPICE

Rolawn has donated its renowned Medallion® turf to Julia's House children's hospice, Broadstone, Dorset. The garden, which includes a sensory area, memorial garden and adapted play area was officially opened by celebrity gardener Alan Titchmarsh. The creation of the garden was supported by the Greenfingers charity which is dedicated to the creation and improvement of the gardens at UK children's hospices.



## WINNING TREES COMBAT CARBON FOOTPRINT

Three hundred and forty new trees have been planted as a result of Headland's initiative to offset the company's carbon footprint.

Will Kay, MD of amenity spraying company Languard Ltd at Lutterworth in Leicestershire; Dave Burliston, MD of lawn care company Lawn Order at Oxenhope, West Yorkshire and Ian Pullan, Golf Course Manager at Marriott Hollins Hall, Golf and Country Club in Shipley West Yorkshire are three of five winners in Headland's prize draw conducted during Harrogate Week. As such, they have each received 68 ready-for-planting, native species, which are all now in the ground.

Ian Pullan has used his mixture of Sycamore, Flowering Cherry, Lime and Alder to fill in gaps in recently planted trees on his course, and augment his new shrub border; Will Kay, has planted his winnings on newly acquired council farm land, which he's earmarked for expansion, and Dave Burliston has donated his to his Local Parish Council.

"They're turning some re-claimed land into a wildlife area," he explained.

Headland's two other winners are Graham Wallace, of Hilton Puckrup GC, in Tewkesbury, and Keith Ratcliff, of Waterers Landscapes, at Whitchurch in Shropshire. The draw, the brainchild of Headland's Operations Director Mark De Ath, was designed as a bid to combat the company's part in global warming.

"The idea came as a response to calculations of Headland's annual CO2 emissions," said Mark.

## AIRCRAFT ICE BALLS CREATE CRATERS

Paul Jenkins, Course Manager at Westridge GC, on the Isle of Wight, contacted BIGGA HQ after an ice ball fell from an aircraft onto his course.

Now famous for the fore-mentioned incident - due to the Isle of Wight County Press printing his story - poor Paul was only 12 foot away from the ice ball when it fell. The ice ball, around two feet wide, whooshed louder and louder before landing just outside the boundary of the course and smashing into pieces.

## Second iceball strikes Island

By Claire Wall

ONLY around 35 ice balls fall from aircraft across the country each year. However, two of them have struck the Island in the last month.

After a football-size lump smashed through the roof of Janet and John Harrison's home, in New Barn Road, East Cowes, on March 13, another made a crater next to Westridge Golf Course on March 26.

Westridge course manager Paul Jenkins was just 12ft away from the ice ball when it fell. He said: "It made a loud



Paul reported the fall to the Civil Aviation Authority and they are investigating the situation.

## NEW RECRUIT AT BIGGA

Tracey Tyerman has joined our Accounts Department at BIGGA HOUSE.

Having gone straight into book-keeping from school, Tracey acquired and built on her accounting skills over time. She started work as a Purchase and Sales Ledger and after four years in this position went on to work for a haulage storage and distribution company. Over her 14-year spell at the company, Tracey worked her way up from Clerical Assistant to Operations Manager, working with budgets and finances etc, on a day-to-day basis.

As well as working part-time at BIGGA (three days a week), Tracey, who has lived in Boroughbridge for the past four years with husband of 15 years, Nick, also does her own book-keeping for clients.



Tracey enjoys going to the gym, socialising and as an animal lover, has two mad dogs, Bailey and Tara. She is currently looking into obtaining an accounting qualification.

"BIGGA is a nice Association to work for. Everyone at HQ was instantly friendly and welcoming towards me. I look forward to learning more about the organisation," said the new recruit.

## SAD NEWS

Don Hunt, the Devon and Cornwall Section Administrator and a well known figure in the south west died suddenly on Monday, May 14. He was 69. A full tribute to Don will appear in next month's magazine.



## JCB CELEBRATES TRIPLE QUEEN'S AWARD SUCCESS

JCB recently celebrated a triple Queen's Award success after three of its business units were honoured for export achievement.

Receiving awards were JCB's Loadall business unit, based at the company's World Headquarters in Rokeby, Staffordshire, JCB Compact Products, of Cheadle, Staffordshire, and Wrexham-based International Transmissions Ltd, the sales business unit within JCB Transmissions.

Each business unit has received the Queen's Award for Enterprise in the International Trade category. It means JCB has cemented its position as the UK company with more Queen's Awards to its name than any other, with a total of 21 since its first Award – for export achievement in 1969.

## NOT SUCH A TURF LIFE FOR STUDENTS

Landscape students at one of the UK's leading colleges for the land-based industries, are set to benefit from sponsorship from one of the UK's leading growers of turf – and both are based in Yorkshire. The deal, between Inturf and Askham Bryan College, means that the best landscape craftsmen of the future can learn their skills using the best materials available.

"Askham Bryan College has a national reputation for producing highly skilled landscape craftsmen, the contractors, greenkeepers, and groundsman of the future," said David Hugill, Director of Operations at Inturf, whose turf is specified at world class golf clubs and sports stadia, as well as in parks and gardens throughout the UK. Askham Bryan College landscape students

will be representing the UK at the WorldSkills Competition in Japan this year. "WorldSkills is a biennial event and is the largest skills competition in the world," said Stewart Ward, Horticultural Resource Manager at Askham Bryan College.

"Our students become the best by working with and learning from the best. We are hugely encouraged by the support we receive from Inturf."



## OPEN DAY

Plumpton College, based in East Sussex, provide courses from school based programmes through to degree level.

They are holding Open Days from Monday, July 2 until Thursday, July 5. Potential students interested in subject areas such as: agriculture, horticulture and sportsturf, to name but a few, will be able to discuss the range of courses and careers available to them.

Visit [www.plumpton.ac.uk](http://www.plumpton.ac.uk) for more information.

## DEALER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Specialist sales and service dealers from across the agricultural machinery, garden machinery, turfcare equipment and ATV/Quad markets were honoured when the 2006 Dealer of the Year Awards were presented at the Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA) Conference and Lunch, held at the Savoy Hotel, London, recently.

The winners were as follows: Farm Machinery Dealer of the Year – Hamblys; Garden Machinery Dealer of the Year – Higgott Ltd; Professional Turfcare Machinery of the Year – Cheshire Turf Machinery; 2006 ATV/Quad Dealer of the Year – Nick Davies Nduro, and the Bryan Peachey Award for Outdoor Power Equipment, Technician of the Year – Ian Green, Senior Technician at Congleton Garden Machinery, Cheshire.

The awards are organised by trade magazine, Service Dealer, and were sponsored this year by Briggs & Stratton, Hayter, Husqvarna, John Deere and Kubota.

## MIDLAND SECTION WEBSITE

The Midland Section now have a new website. Primarily for the Midland Section, although anybody can register, there is a forum, news and information, golf day entry sheets, education and lots more.

Please log on and register at [www.biggamidlandsection.com](http://www.biggamidlandsection.com)



## TSADA GC, CYPRUS

Phil Helmn has recently taken on the position of Course Superintendent at Tsada Golf Club in Cyprus. The 18 hole golf course, which is situated within the grounds of a 12th century monastery on the outskirts of Paphos, set in the foothills of the Troodos mountains, has been completely redesigned by Tom McKenzie using all that nature abundantly had to offer and built by John Greasley Ltd to an exceptionally high standard. It is due to open for play at the beginning of this month.

The course boasts extensive vineyards, olive, walnut, lemon, orange and carob trees along with large naturally unspoilt areas of rosemary, lavender and oregano to name but a few. The new Toro irrigation system is fed from two large man made lakes situated on the golf course which catches water from the surrounding mountains.



A new clubhouse, with gym and spa overlooking the mountains and course is due to be completed by the end of the year. 250 villas and town houses are to be built in three phases - mountain views, sea views and of course golf course views.

The tees, collars, approaches and fairways have been overseeded with dwarf rye grass and greens with creeping bent grass. This mix combination is ideal for the slightly cooler sub climate higher up in the mountains which is always a couple of degrees less than that of the lower region around Paphos and next to the sea.

## SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The 2007 Scottish National Tournament will be held at Berwick upon Tweed (Goswick) Golf Club, on Thursday, June 21, by kind permission of the Captain and Committee. The cost of the event will be £20, which includes coffee/tea, filled roll, evening meal and prizes. (Apprentice fee will be £12.) Entry forms will be available at all Section Spring Outings and from the Regional Administrator.

All entries with remittance to: Regional Administrator, Peter J Boyd, 10 Meadowburn Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow G77 6TA - by June 12. Cheques made payable to BIGGA Scottish Region.

The draw will be placed on the BIGGA website.



Tel: 01883 344244

Email: [info@eagle.uk.com](mailto:info@eagle.uk.com)

Website: [www.eagle.uk.com](http://www.eagle.uk.com)



QUALITY GOLF COURSE SIGNAGE

# AN INSPECTOR CALLS...

There has been a huge demand for the GTC's wallchart and BIGGA's Machinery and Work Equipment Manual following an article published in the latest edition of On Course.

There is a general requirement under Regulation 9 of The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER) "that all persons who use work equipment have received adequate training for the purposes of health and safety, including methods which may be adopted when using the work equipment, any risks which such use may entail and precautions to be taken."

There are also situations where there is a statutory requirement to users to have a Certificate of Competence, for example application of pesticides, use of chainsaws and use of forklift trucks.

At the same time the GTC produced its wallchart, BIGGA produced a Machinery and Work Equipment Manual, designed to complement the wallchart, and both were sent to every golf club in Britain.

Good management practice would be to have clear records of any training that has taken place. Whether it is carried out in-house or outsourced this should include:

- Who attended the training
- Who provided the training
- When the training took place
- What was covered on the course – the course outline



- Outcomes of the course, results of any in-course assessment or report from the trainer, recommendations for further training
- Records of assessments from independent sources LANTRA or NPTC

This list gives the information required to support the GTC Work Equipment Wall Chart.

In addition to a visit from the local authority health and safety inspector there are several other situations where you could reasonably be asked to provide information and records about the training and competence of your staff. These are:

- During a health and safety audit or annual visit from a company health and safety officer, insurance assessor or health and safety consultant
- To prove that a member of staff is competent following an accident. An inspector investigating the accident could legitimately ask whether the person using the machine was trained and competent to carry out the work. And again, can you provide the evidence?

The wall chart is available from the GTC, Tel: 01347 838640 or Email: [fiona@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:fiona@the-gtc.co.uk) The Machinery and Work Equipment Manual is available from BIGGA, Tel: 01347 833810 or Email: [sami@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sami@bigga.co.uk)

## PETER RICHMOND

Born on 09.08.32, Pete began his first stint at Walmley GC in March 1985 for a three-year duration, before temporarily going to the Service Department of ET Breakwells. In January 1989, Pete returned to Walmley for another eight years, retiring in February 1997. As a gift from the club, he was made a Member. Although retired, Pete still worked part-time with Jimmy Lake at Druids Heath - a club he had joined many years earlier as a Member.



Pete passed away on May 3, aged 74, due to complications from a recent illness.

"When I started at Walmley 20 years ago, Pete took me under his wing. Mechanics - Pete knew the answer. Anything you needed to know, Pete knew. If he didn't know, he would leave no stone unturned until he did," said Jim Ewing, Deputy Head Greenkeeper, at Walmley.

"The old saying goes, 'Jack of all trades, master of none'. I would say Pete, 'you were the master'. Hence why I named you 'Peter Perfect'. You were an inspiration to people like me and to all at Walmley - Your commitment to BIGGA in your many roles, from Treasurer to Chairman, as an ambassador to our sport, but most of all, for being a true friend by all who miss you. Our thoughts go out to your wife Bryda, children: Barbara, Ann, Kate and

THE GREENKEEPERS TRAINING COMMITTEE		
WORK EQUIPMENT - RECORD OF TRAINING AND COMPETENCE		
STAFF NAME	MACHINE	HOW TO COMPLY WITH THE REGULATIONS
		<div style="font-size: 8px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Select suitable equipment for the task.</li> <li>▶ Make sure that staff are trained and competent.</li> <li>▶ Make sure that equipment is safe to use.</li> <li>▶ Make sure that you use the equipment correctly.</li> <li>▶ Make sure that the equipment is properly maintained.</li> <li>▶ Carry out and implement risk assessments for the work site operators to wear suitable PPE for example hearing and eye protection when operating machines.</li> </ul> </div>

KEY TO SYMBOLS	PROVISION OF USE AND WORK EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS 1998 (PUWER)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: red;">■</span> KNOWLEDGE</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">■</span> ONGOING TRAINING</li> <li><span style="color: green;">■</span> TRAINING COMPLETED</li> <li><span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span> CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WHAT IS WORK EQUIPMENT?</b> Any machinery, equipment or tools that are used at work. Examples: tractors, ride on machines, pedestrian controllers, mowers, rotavators, turf cutters, hand held machinery, trimmers, blowers, hand tools and workshop tools.</p>

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Dave and nine Grandchildren at this very sad time,” added Jim.

Peter was made President of the BIGGA Midland Section upon his retirement as Chairman in 2002. Peter was still an active member of the committee attending all committee meetings and golf days. He was a fantastic servant to the Midland Section and will be sorely missed by many greenkeepers around the Midlands.

## BIGGA SCOTTISH REGION V SECRETARIES ASSOCIATION

This year’s fixture took place at Glenbervie GC on Monday, April 5 with BIGGA determined to regain the trophy they lost last year after being the holders for several years.

Glenbervie GC was in excellent condition thanks to the efforts of Joe Wallace and his staff, and everyone was looking forward to playing this fine course.

To the match itself, and I can report on a resounding victory for BIGGA. The match was won by seven points to three with the only losses coming from the Chairman, Stuart Greenwood and the Past Chairman, Iain Barr, with the Administrator, Peter Boyd and Donald Gardiner being the other losing pairing.

Wins for Archie Dunn and Steve Sullivan, Neil Cunningham and Kevin Hodges, Stephen Higgins and Marshall Sloss, Kenny Mail and Chris Yeaman, Robert Hardie and Jim McCormack, and finally Derek Scott and Dougie Barr. Two halved matches Colin Black and Gordon Howat, and Andy O’Hara and Hayden Chambers made the victory secure.

The Chairman, Stuart Greenwood, was delighted to receive the Trophy from the Captain of the Secretaries Team and thanked Alan Osborne of the Secretaries Association for organising this year’s match - we look forward to renewing our friendship with the Secretaries next year.

Finally, thanks to the Board of Glenbervie GC for the courtesy and the facilities at the club.



Wilson Morrison, Regional Sales Manager for Fairways (left) and Sam Wade, General Manager at Newmachar GC

## DEALER SPONSORS MAJOR PRO-AM EVENT

Fairways (GM) Ltd, Ransomes Jacobsen’s grounds care dealer for Scotland, has signed an agreement with Newmachar Golf Club to sponsor the Club’s Pro-AM tournament, which is one of the largest event of its kind in the north of Scotland.

To be known as The Fairways Pro-Am supported by Golf Finance, the competition will be held on Friday, July 13 with up to 40 teams, consisting of three amateurs and one professional, competing for the trophy and prize fund of £6,000.

## BIGGA AND IOG SIGN HEADS OF AGREEMENT TO EXPLORE STRATEGIC MERGER

The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) and the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) have signed a ‘Heads of Agreement’ to investigate the merits of a strategic merger of the two organisations. The key aims of the ongoing discussions include:

- The provision of an improved, more comprehensive, service to members with enhanced benefits of membership;
- Increased membership numbers, which will lead to the development of greater influence commercially and politically;
- An increase in the skills, expertise and professional standards within the turf management sector through a wider ranging and more effective education and training programme;
- Increased professional status for all members;
- The development of strategic partnerships with related organisations and suppliers, for the benefit of members;
- Accessibility to sources of funding previously unavailable and increased opportunities for greater interaction between everyone employed in the turf management sector.

A steering group has been established and sub-groups are in the process of being established to investigate specific topics, such as organisational structure, education and training, membership, finance, marketing, sales and communications, and events and exhibitions.

“The signing of the Heads of Agreement is a major milestone and while there is a great deal of detail yet to be discussed there is a genuine wish by both bodies to reach agreement if at all possible,” said John Pemberton, BIGGA Chief Executive.

Geoff Webb, IOG Chief Executive, commented: “As the steering group moves forward and explores every avenue, it is clear that both the IOG and BIGGA are keen to investigate every opportunity that could benefit the members of both organisations. The fact that we have had two very successfully discussions, and with further talks planned, together with the signing of the Heads of Agreement shows the real potential for progress.”



## EARNING AND LEARNING!

David Golding, the GTC's Education Director, looks at the learning opportunities open to greenkeepers

We have all heard of the expression, "best of both worlds" but at long last I can report that greenkeepers have just that when it comes to learning.

Several of our Approved Training Providers offer the option of full-time courses at the Higher Education (HE) of the qualification such as the Higher National Diploma (HND) in Scotland, the Foundation Degree in the rest of Britain and the Masters Degree at Cranfield University.

The full-time courses do cater for a small percentage of British turf students and an increasing number of overseas enquiries regarding turf courses are being recorded by our colleges and University.

The most rewarding part of my job in recent years has been the acceptance by our providers to become more flexible in their delivery of education and qualifications and also the awareness by the greenkeepers, that to progress in their career there has to be a commitment to continual professional development (CPD). I am sorry to mention buzz terms such as CPD but all industries are encouraging employers to "buy into" training of their staff due to the duty of care to employees.

The majority of turf qualifications can be achieved "on the job" supported by your chosen training provider/Centre. The GTC has invited all of its Approved Training Providers to Aldwark Manor on June 25 and 26 to discuss all the issues facing turf education and training.

The main aim from the GTC's point of view is to ensure ALL our providers are teaching turf students on the apprenticeship and N/SVQ Levels 2 & 3 courses to the standards within both the qualification and the learning materials.

The providers have all copies of the learning materials and they are to be used as handouts either through hard copies or CD format. You can also access these for use at the course which may well be the answer for those greenkeepers who prefer to learn either with the support of their Course Manager or in the quiet of their own front room.

There are no longer barriers to learning! Skills of course are taught "on the job" however it is the knowledge that the GTC is making available to everybody wishing to learn about turf. Excellent courses are available through our provider network and organisations such as BIGGA, STRI, BTLIA, IOG and independent providers but what we must continue to develop is access to learning! Part time, full time, online or on the job, what is your preference?

All of the above providers are there to listen to the employers, Course Managers and turf students. We at the GTC have developed the qualifications, training manual and learning materials in partnership with leading sector specialists for you. Please take advantage of these, as they are readily available.

If you have special learning needs, our providers have the resources to help you, just ask either us or contact your local provider direct.

The turf sector is very fortunate in having a community which is willing to work together for the benefit of the sport. Golf is a great example of this, the Home Unions, BIGGA, R&A all meet as the GTC and through improved communication, seminars, websites will all share best practices which in turn will contribute to educate the golfer on course maintenance matters. We all must continue to learn and I feel we have travelled a long way since the days of attending a college as the only way to become educated about turf.

Yes, it still is an option but if actually attending college is a problem our network of providers have tremendous opportunities through various methods of learning and one thing is for certain, you can learn while you earn!

David can be contacted by email [david@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:david@the-gtc.co.uk) or call him on 01347 838640



Prices: Level 2 & 3 CD-Roms @ £30.00 each; Level 2 & 3 printed papers including CD-Rom @ £120.00 each.

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

An order form is available to download from the website on: [www.the-gtc.co.uk](http://www.the-gtc.co.uk) or by contacting the GTC direct on: 01347 838640.

GTC is supported by:





# Education

## Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund



Unlock the doors to progress through BIGGA'S Education and Development Fund – the key to a great future for greenkeepers, golf clubs and the game of golf.

Golden and Silver Key Membership is available to both companies and individuals.

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

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Kubota (UK) Ltd	01844 214500
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What a change of pace it has been this last month for both Sami and for me. I have gone from counting tropical fish to ploughing through the Safety Management System, while Sami has gone from resting her knee to intense physiotherapy, organising the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, updating the CPD database, helping to write the new BIGGA database, organising training courses and administering the recent Master Greenkeeper Examinations. We have also found time to produce the draft Continue to Learn Programme for Harrogate Week 2008 and we have written letters inviting presenters to take part.

## SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



You will now be able to access the Safety Management System through the membership area of the BIGGA website.

Thanks to sponsorship by Ransomes Jacobsen and to the hard work of a large team of golf course managers, golf club Managers (golf club secretaries), health and safety advisors and to the support of golf clubs, this Safety Management System should help all golf clubs produce a health and safety system that will make their clubs safer places to work and play.

Most health and safety is common sense although you might not think so if you read the popular press. This SMS tries to keep things as simple as possible but clubs need to have a 'competent' person or persons to implement the System. This competent person can be someone at your golf club who has the experience and qualifications that makes them competent or you could employ a health and safety advisor to help you to implement the system.

The Safety Management System is provided free of charge to all members of BIGGA and to all members of the GCMA (formally AGCS). However, clubs will need to budget for the costs involved in managing health and safety and provide the physical resources to make it happen.

Every department in the club should be involved in producing the SMS and communication between management and staff and with members and visitors is critical.

This SMS has taken two years of hard work to produce and it is as complete as we can make it. However, if you have any problems with the Site or if you think that it needs amending please contact me at BIGGA House.

## BIGGA GOLF ENVIRONMENT COMPETITION



All golf clubs in Great Britain should have received a copy of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition Application Form through the post.

This competition would be impossible to run without the kind sponsorship of Scotts UK Professional, Syngenta Professional Products and Ransomes Jacobsen all of whom see the need for golf clubs to be aware of their environment and the need to manage a golf course sympathetically.



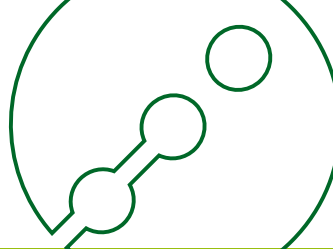
Almost every news bulletin and every newspaper carries a story about global warming, the 'greenhouse' effect, carbon footprints etc but being the usual media coverage, they tend to forget the good that is happening and concentrate on the bad.

Golf and golf clubs have had some bad press in the past. For example, horror stories about the excessive use of chemicals, excessive use of irrigation during a drought and pollution from cars, course equipment and golf buggies are just three that come to mind. However, many golf clubs do have an environmental management plan, have reduced waste, recycle glass, paper, cardboard and grass clippings. Use 'grey' water for irrigation. Have reduced cutting frequency, have wild flowers in the rough and have reduced chemical inputs.

Many of these clubs have taken part in the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, some have won a prize, some have received visits from STRI Ecologists and all have had feedback on their progress. Why not enter your club this year; it does not cost anything apart from the price of a stamp. Let us show the media, politicians and the general public that golf is good for the environment and that golf courses are doing their bit to reduce their 'carbon footprints'.

EDUCATION

# Membership



MEMBERSHIP

## VANESSA PROVIDES US WITH A DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE

### Incorrect data

Please do not forget to let us know when you have a change of address or employer. We seem to have incorrect details for quite a few of you. Just ring us on: 01347 833800 and we will update your details.

### Renewals

A lot of members that expired in April and May have not yet renewed. It is not too late to get your forms in. However, if your membership lapses then so do your benefits. This includes the Legal Helpline and the Personal Accident Insurance.

### Credit Cards

For super speedy renewals you can pay over the phone using your credit card. If you need your BIGGA Membership card in a hurry we can get it sent to you immediately.

### Pay by Direct Debit

If you are looking for a no fuss solution to your BIGGA Membership renewals you can pay automatically every year by Direct Debit. If you would like a Direct Debit mandate just ring: 01347 833800 and we will send you the form.

### BIGGA Website

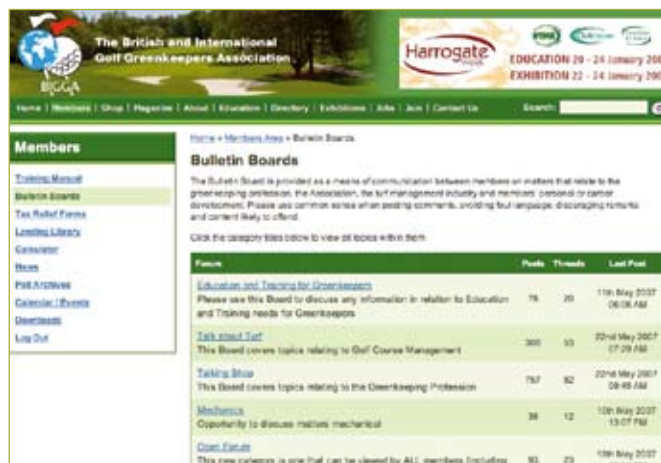
Thank you all for bearing with us during the development of the new BIGGA website. If any of you are still experiencing problems logging onto the Members' area please let me know at: [vanessa@bigga.co.uk](mailto:vanessa@bigga.co.uk) and we will sort it out for you.

### Membership forms

If you know anyone interested in joining BIGGA, they can now download membership forms from the BIGGA website. On the homepage just select Education and then Downloads in the left hand menu. Soon renewal forms will also be available on the website.

### Tax Relief

If you pay your own fees for your BIGGA Membership, don't forget that you can get tax relief. You can now download the form on the BIGGA website. Just go to the members' section and select Tax Relief Forms in the menu on the left.



## BIGGA WELCOMES

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Andrew	Smith	North
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David	Hird	North Wales
Geoffrey	Kent	North West
Keil	Lee	Northern
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Martin	Shepherd	Westminster College Golf Course
Michael	Whitehouse	Whitmoos Eco Supplies Ltd
Thomas	Mcaloon	Broadway Golf Club



# Hobbies

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



**Name:** Lee Robinson  
**Club:** Gerrards Cross Golf Club  
**Position:** Head Greenkeeper  
**Age:** 45 years  
**Hobby:** Beekeeping

### How long have you been a Beekeeper?

"I have been Beekeeping for a year now, a short term hobby after a long term interest."

### How would you describe Beekeeping?

"It is a very interesting and extremely relaxing pastime, with fabulous rewards at the end of the season."

### How and when did you get introduced to this hobby?

"I was lucky enough to find a member of Gerrards Cross Golf Club who kept bees. He leant me a hive and then put me in touch with Pinner and Ruislip Beekeepers Association. They sorted me out with some bees and a queen bee to start me off. I have come far since then, I now have six working hives and around 70,000 bees in them."

### What is it about Beekeeping that appeals to you?

"Honey is the only food stuff eaten by man but made by insects. When the pharaoh's tombs were opened, honey was found stored inside and was still edible 2000 years after...so much for use by dates."

"If you eat honey produced in your local area, it is said to reduce allergy problems by giving you small amounts of pollen."

"Each hive is capable of producing an astounding 100 lbs of honey per year."

### How often have you been stung?

"Not as often as you might think. 12 to 14 times, but I have worked with around 200 hives. It's rare and is due to how you behave in the hive – if you behave correctly you can pick up the bees with your bare hands. After the first three or four stings in the season you build up a resistance - it doesn't hurt it just itches!"

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# ONE STEP BACK

*By Henry Bechelet*

## **Our Holy Grail**

The Disturbance Theory articles all aim to give you a greater understanding of the management required to favour the development of the finer grasses in golf greens. By understanding the growing environment you should be able to manage it better. A greater dominance of the finer fescues and/or browntop bents will produce better putting surfaces for longer in the year and with reduced vulnerabilities. Fine grass dominated surfaces also greatly enhance the thrill of the game for the golfers. The finer grasses have always been at the heart of British greenkeeping for these reasons.

## **An Ecology Insight**

The theory comes from an ecological perspective and gives an insight into the differing nature of the various fine turf grass species. It explains how to set the environmental conditions necessary to encourage the development of the desired species and to cause the unwanted to decline. The Disturbance Theory method encourages the preparation of fast and true surfaces through top dressing and rolling rather than through aggressive verticutting and mowing. The finer grasses don't like too much rough treatment and aggressive management only plays into the hands of the annual meadow grass. Stress is also used in a controlled fashion to remove annual meadow grass but not to the extent of losing playing quality or damaging the desired species as well. This controlled stress is dovetailed with overseeding in the late summer to establish the finer grasses as the annual meadow grass dies back.

## **Hold your Horses!**

All this is fine and dandy, but you can forget about minimising disturbance and applying controlled stress if you haven't got the correct soil conditions. The fine fescues and browntop bents won't establish if the turf base is either water retentive or prone to droughting. The starting point for any good greenkeeping plan must be with proper soil profile management.

## **Avoid Extremes**

Essentially, to favour the finer grasses we are looking to steer clear of the extremes of wet and dry, as they can both be damaging and damage brings annual meadow grass (this is The Disturbance Theory after all!). We should aim to create a turf base that drains well through a soil/rootzone and has the ability to retain sufficient moisture to sustain healthy growth without the need for incessant watering. This might be a well-drained soil based green with a decent thickness of sandy top dressing accumulated at the turf base and without too much organic matter accumulation (don't think that the finer grasses only apply to the links).

So, before embarking upon a programme that aims to favour the development of the finer grasses you will need to sort out the drainage and get rid of the thatch. You can minimise disturbance and overseed to your hearts content once you have the correct foundations in place.

## **Drainage is Everything**

If too much surface water retention is a problem then drainage (or maybe even reconstruction) might be required. Poor drainage compromises playing quality, it can adversely affect turf health and it stifles the natural breakdown of organic matter. All bad. The decline in turf health magnifies the damage inflicted by play (and inconsiderate maintenance) and this leads to a thinning of the sward especially through the winter. This thinning provides gaps for the annual meadow grass to invade in the spring. Poor drainage favours the development of annual meadow grass through heightened winter disturbance damage. For the finer grasses to establish you need to improve the drainage and so reduce the potential for decline. A dry turf base improves wear tolerance not to mention playability and playing quality. Annual meadow grass coupled with poor drainage just brings thatch and disease misery.

## **Go by the book**

Methods for draining golf greens can be found in numerous other articles and reference books. Consult recognised drainage experts if you are unsure, because this is an area where the specialists do shine and they can save you a great deal of time and money. The drainage system should capture and move water away from the green through pipe carriers. The design should serve to intercept water flow and take into account the influence of the green surrounds. In the end, reconstruction may be the only answer. Once again, reconstruct according to industry guidelines and choose your materials carefully. The drainage of golf greens really isn't that complicated or demanding it just needs a structured approach and proper resourcing.

## **Soil profile management**

Many perceived drainage problems are due to poor soil profile management. Thatch holds water like a sponge and can give the impression of a deeper drainage problem. Soil compaction can impede drainage as well as stifle the growing environment. Thatch control and aeration of the soil have always been fundamental to good greenkeeping.



### Thatch Removal

Thatch removal is a straightforward task and the key is simply to get on with it! Don't worry about disturbance damage at this stage because while thatch is dominant the finer grasses won't establish anyway. A thick layer of organic matter tends to be either too wet or too dry and it is never suitable for the finer grasses to flourish. Just get rid of the thatch to bring immediate improvements in playing quality as well as giving the finer grasses a chance to come at a later date. The golfers will thank you well before the finer grasses take hold with the best yet to come. Hollow core, deep scarify, aerate and top dress as much as is required to reduce the influence of the thatch. Only when you have created a sand dominated turf base and a soil profile that drains, will the finer grasses stand a chance of taking over. Disturb to get the soil profile into shape then start setting the correct environment.

### Thatch prevention

You should also ask yourself why the thatch was there in the first place! You will not make progress with the finer grasses until you truly change all your ways. Too much fertiliser builds thatch and too much watering prevents it from breaking down.

### Roll your sleeves up

Don't compromise when hollow coring to remove thatch from the turf base. It is my experience that micro-hollow coring and top dressing just doesn't work well enough to make inroads into a thatch accumulation on its own. Significant thatch removal cannot be achieved without causing some sort of surface disruption. You should use big tines (12 to 16 mm) to remove a large volume of cores and leave a hole big enough to incorporate top dressing down. The smaller micro-tine holes just don't allow the incorporation of top dressing into the turf base, rather it tends to bridge over the top of the narrow hole instead of working itself down. Hollow tine and top dress as necessary to get through the pain as quickly as possible. Use the full year to get to grips with thatch rather than employing isolated, out of season treatments. Compromise will get you nowhere, the golfers will see the improvements soon enough and appreciate the necessity to keep going. This is all about creating firmer and drier surfaces for longer in the year, so who is going to object?

Deep scarification isn't a bad way of removing organic matter and it is probably just about perfect for overseeding, but the integration of top dressing into the narrow tracks is an issue. Innovations such as the Graden Sand Injector may resolve this problem.

### Aeration is the key

The integration of top dressing is all-important when reducing the influence of thatch. Filling the core hole with sandy top dressing will promote further thatch breakdown. Dressing into tine holes also produces channels for more effective watering. The more effective the irrigation, the less you need to do it and less thatch will accumulate as a result. Believe me, the finer grasses will prefer a drier environment. Choose consistent medium/course top dressings and concentrate on incorporating it down the tine holes rather than just into the turf base. Top dresser and brush technology has never been better. Regular additional in-season aeration is also necessary (in addition to intensive coring) to get the upper soil profile functioning correctly. Keep top dressing to maintain surface playing qualities.

### Commit yourself

To achieve the finer grasses you simply need to want better greens. This is about producing firm, fast, true and smooth surfaces for longer in the year. What else could you want? The bents and fescues can establish within golf greens but they do require a well-managed soil. If your soil profile isn't quite right then start making plans. You may need better drainage or more intensive maintenance and this will need proper budgeting. Aeration, core removal, top dressing and brushing



Henry Bechelet

all need to be carried out quickly and effectively to reduce the level of disruption. Thankfully, the machinery available these days is absolutely terrific and a credit to our industry but they still need to be paid for. Aerators are better than ever, core harvesters are available for purchase or hire, spinning disc bulk top dressers are heaven sent and brushing technology is at a peak but hard work is the key ingredient. You can do what you need to with commitment and with proper resourcing. Just remember that the finer grasses require far less work in the long run and the results will be better in the end. Hard work is necessary initially, to set the correct foundations but things will get easier with time. It might feel that you are going backwards to begin with, but the progress in the longer term will be worth it. One step back for a better way forward can't be a bad thing.

Henry Bechelet is the STRI Turfgrass Agronomist covering North and Eastern England, [henry.bechelet@stri.co.uk](mailto:henry.bechelet@stri.co.uk)

# CONSULTANTS IN GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT: GETTING THE BEST FROM YOUR CONSULTANT AGRONOMIST

By Stewart Brown

The use of independent consultants or agronomists has become an established management practice in contemporary golf course management and there are many practising professional consultants who offer a range of services. Independent consultants can bring a range of benefits to their employers as they can:

- Provide technical, agronomic and managerial advice and information
- Manage or supervise projects such as new constructions
- Manage change within the organisation such as staff recruitment
- Prepare feasibility studies and planning documentation
- Act as expert witnesses in legal and mitigation cases
- Develop learning capacity through training programmes and seminars



The use of consultants has grown in recent years as the management of turf and golf courses has become increasingly technical and more science-based, but also because consultants:

- Bring objectivity to the organisation concerned – an independent or fresh view
- Are usually low-risk management as they mitigate the chances of works or projects failing
- Bring with them a wealth of experience and knowledge that will benefit the employing organisation

## GOLF COURSE CONSULTANCY FEES

Fees are usually set or calculated in one of three ways -

### Percentage Fees

This is typically used in construction works and major projects where the consultant's fees are calculated as a percentage of the construction costs of the project. Generally speaking the percentage figure used to calculate the design fee is inversely proportional to the construction cost. The higher the construction cost of the project the smaller the fee percentage.

### Fixed Price Fees

Many consultants will negotiate a fixed sum based on the predefined and agreed service requirements. Many consultants offer a subscription service where a fee is agreed to cover a set amount of works, for example a set number of visits and agronomic reports each year. Fixed price fees are generally applied for many types of consultancy work, particularly for golf course appraisals, feasibility studies and technical reports. Fixed price fees are frequently preferred by private developers, commercial operators and members' clubs. There is the obvious advantage for the developer as fees are capped.

## Time Rates

Time rates may be billed by the hour (for design office work) or by the day (for site visits). Consultants may be asked to visit golf courses in order to give advice, to attend meetings which have not been included in other fees, or to carry out additional work that has not been specifically included in the original contract. This can be an expensive option unless the amount or time can be effectively capped to a final amount; often this may not be feasible. This method is the one least favoured by employers in golf course management.

## FINDING THE RIGHT CONSULTANT

The choice of a consultant is undoubtedly critical for a successful outcome for a project and will often be crucial, affecting the final quality and cost of any golf course project. When sourcing a consultant for your golf course, whether for constructional, agronomic, managerial or other requirement, follow a few simple guidelines and procedures to get the best consultant for your golf course and situation:

1. Seek recommendations. Ask colleagues and contacts who have appropriate experience for names of recommended consultants. Follow up on work that has impressed you and find out who was involved, scan the trade and technical press for projects and names in the same way. Approach professional bodies for the names and addresses of members in your area.
2. Contact several of these consultants or companies asking for details of the range and type of services offered; staff (qualifications and experience) and resources; fees and methods of charging and a client list. Ask that they give the names and contact details of clients willing to act as referees.
3. From the replies draw up a short-list. Prepare a brief so that you are able to tell potential consultants exactly what you will expect from them. If you have, a set or limited budget, make this clear. Ask them to submit a specimen report and check it against your brief.
4. Check the qualifications and experience of the individuals with whom you will be working. Qualifications vary enormously but of most importance is their golf course or sports turf content. Experience within the golf course or sports turf industry is also essential.
5. Membership of professional bodies is a pointer to professionalism and in many cases membership means that members have to abide by codes of practice and professional ethics. Check carefully with the bodies concerned for any bogus claims. An important organisation recently formed for such professional consultants is the Register of Independent Turfgrass Consultant Agronomists.
6. Make sure that the consultant is completely independent and not attached to another company. For instance, a materials or product supplier may retain a consultant.
7. Before you appoint anyone, meet him or her in person to see if you can actually work together. Make sure that the people you meet will be those that you will actually be working with.
8. If necessary and appropriate, visit their offices to ensure that they have the staff or resources needed for the job. This will only be a factor





Count on it.

for large contracts. Most independent turfgrass agronomists are self-employed and will work from home.

**9.** Check that the consultant has the necessary level of professional indemnity and third-party insurance.

**10.** Discuss contract terms. It may be inadvisable to appoint new consultants on a long-term contract, but unfair to put them on a very short contract, as they have to put in a lot of work at the beginning of any contract. The best option may be a renewal-type contract after a trial period of six months. Take legal advice before signing any unfamiliar agreement.

#### MANAGING THE CONSULTANCY

Once you have appointed your consultant, communicate with them. Identify who will be responsible for managing the consultant. It is always worth deciding at the beginning of the process what you will do with any products of the consultancy. If there is to be a report, to whom will the report belong? Do you want the consultant to be involved in discussing and even implementing the report? It is always useful to have mechanisms for interim reporting and reviewing. These ensure that the work stays on track and frequently these are tied to payments.

Using consultants effectively demands a commitment of time as well as money by clients. Remember that you must keep in touch with the progress of the consultancy work if you are to get the most from it. Consultants are likely to be most cost-effective when working to an agreed programme and timescale. Make sure there are regular progress meetings and that the consultant keeps you fully briefed on progress against the programme. To implement the recommendations it is often most cost effective to involve the consultant(s) together with your management. If you and your staff need to provide input, make sure that you do it within the agreed timescale. Consultancy requires an investment not only in fees but also in client time.

The consultant's report is often their most tangible 'deliverable'; but it must be in a format which is beneficial to you. If necessary, ask the consultant to produce a draft report so that you can discuss findings and recommendations with some of your colleagues before the final report is produced. Make sure the report is written in a way you and your staff can understand and use. Tell the consultant if you are not happy with it. Ask the consultant to make a presentation to you and your colleagues, if this will help discussion on its conclusions. Implement the recommendations and involve your management as well as the consultant.



A recently renovated bunker



CONTINUE TO LEARN

Following the above procedure should ensure that things run smoothly and that no problems occur. If you have cause for complaint, you must notify the consultant immediately, preferably with a face-to-face meeting to discuss your issue. It is highly unlikely that you will need recourse to law to solve disputes as most reputable consultants and consultancy practices value their good name and integrity extremely highly. With good management and careful control, an external consultant can inject new impetus and thinking into your golf course. Finally, if you do not have confidence in the advice or information given to you by a particular consultant look elsewhere for another.

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Tel: 01995 642305 Email: [sbrown@myerscough.ac.uk](mailto:sbrown@myerscough.ac.uk)



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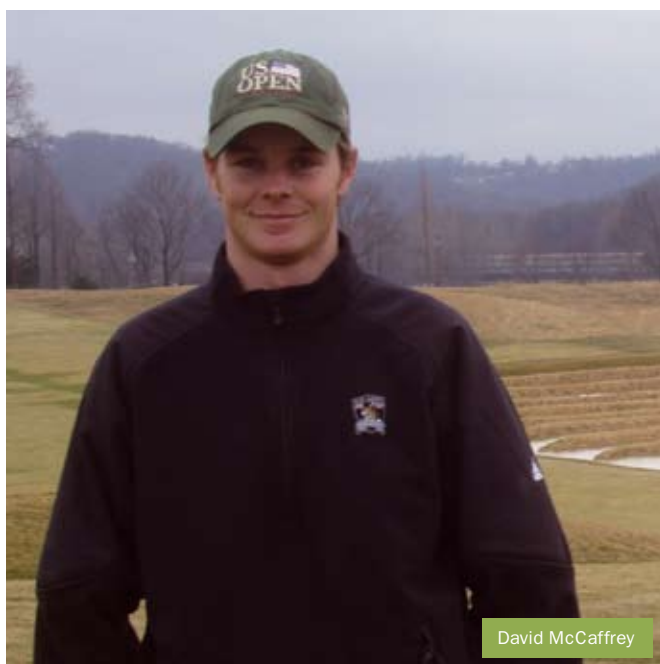
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*Intern, David McCaffrey, takes you through the meticulous preparations and work that has gone on at Oakmont in preparation for the US Open*

**This year's US Open venue, Oakmont Country Club is one of the oldest and most traditional courses in America.**

Throughout the early years of the club's history, club founder and architect, iron and steel magnate, H.C. Fownes would watch fellow golfers play, take note of where a bad or mishit shot ended up, then get the greenkeeper to construct a bunker in that area. Over the years the number increased to 320. Fownes only ever designed one golf course and it is amazing to think that over 100 years later it is still regarded as one of the very best.

As I began my fourth year in the United States I found myself smack bang in the middle of Oakmont's preparations to host its eighth US Open. This is my third year at the historic country club situated in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and without a doubt the biggest year of my career to date.



David McCaffrey

In 2002, I embarked on the International Intern Programme offered by Ohio State University. I first interned at The Sea Island Golf Club in Georgia, but it wasn't until I arrived at Oakmont in 2004 that I realised quite what this industry was all about. I had been warned that this was no easy place to work and that was to become apparent very quickly. A golf course does not get the reputation of the best without hard work.

John F. Zimmers Jr. took over as Superintendent in 1999 and is a Superintendent who demands the best at all times. He is the most intense and focused individual I have ever worked for. During his tenure Oakmont has undergone extensive course restoration in an attempt to return the golf course to its original design.

The extent of work done at Oakmont is now setting the benchmark for many others. The tree lined fairways of the 1994 U.S. Open have been completely altered with the removal of nearly 5,000 trees as the course was originally designed to be in keeping with the famous links courses of the UK and Ireland and was entirely treeless until the 1960's. Along with restoring the course, the tree removal programme was vital because the course was becoming overgrown and the turf was being affected. The trees were sucking moisture out of the soil, causing considerable shade and restricting air movement throughout the course.

The improvement in turf quality has been fantastic and similar tree removal programmes are being implemented at many clubs. In conjunction with the tree removal, the course has been lengthened with the addition of six new tee complexes. These alterations mean that Oakmont can boast to having the longest par-5 in U.S. Open history, the 12th hole, at 667yds and also the longest par-3 in U.S. Open history, the 8th hole, at 288yds. Many of the fairways have been narrowed and all the Fescue ditches that play an integral part in Oakmont's design have been deepened and refurbished. The course's 190 bunkers have all been rebuilt, and more have been restored in keeping with original design, increasing the number to nearly 210, with the most notable addition of four extra mounds to the infamous 'Church Pews'.

Oakmont is unique in that its location means taking care of the greens requires a lot of attention. The summer temperatures can easily soar

up to 35°C and this is a period when the conditions would be best suited to growing Bent grass rather than the native Perennial Poa. The greens are a mixture of Perennial Poa and Bentgrass at a ratio of around 90/10. The Poa at OCC is virtually unique to this area of the States with its resilience making it a very hardy and tough species. There are not many greens in the world that could withstand the torture these greens receive every day.

Perennial Poa also differs in respect to what British Greenkeepers are familiar with, in that it produces very little in the way of seed heads in the spring, avoiding the bumpy surfaces they bring with them. The leaf blade is extremely fine and creates a very dense sward. The fairways and tees are a mixture of Bent and Poa at a ratio opposite to that of the greens, the rough consists of a mixture of Poa annua, Kentucky bluegrass and various cultivars of Ryegrass.

Intense aerification plays an integral role in the upkeep of the course. Through years of aerifying at a depth of only 2-3 inches, the greens had



An aerial view of this stunning course



The unique and infamous church pews

developed a very severe perched water table which was restricting root growth and in turn affecting the turf quality. It was decided that Drill and Fill was the best technique to break through this layer and begin to alter the sub soil. This operation involves drilling down to 12 inches, removing the debris and filling the cavity with sand. The greens are then cleared of any debris and the crew will come straight back and Quad tine the greens twice more. This creates many small holes and quickens up the healing process. Zimmers is a believer in doing as much of the work by hand and reducing machinery traffic on the greens. In order to fill all the empty holes, the sand is applied using shovels and brooms.

The final step is Sand Injection which involves a machine to inject sand into the greens profile using a high-pressure jet of water. The sand is incorporated into the water before entering the soil profile. During aerification over 50 tonnes of sand is put into the greens profile and over the past five years the infiltration rate through the soil has risen from half an inch to over six inches per hour.

Throughout the height of the season the greens are vented every 2-3 weeks using pencil tines at two inch spacing, this operation is carried out first thing in the morning and the greens are then rolled before being cut to eliminate any scalping that may occur due to tufting.

The approaches and tees are aerified in a similar way to that of greens, but with larger 5/8th tines. Aerification on the fairways is carried out with two Ransomes GA-60 aerifiers, operated by modified Cushman utility vehicles. All roughs and fairways are slit using an 'Aerway' machine towed behind a Cushman and they are also deep tined. The knives penetrate up to eight inches deep creating an ideal slit which helps with water infiltration and root development. OCC has also undergone a very intense rough renovation programme, in an attempt to eradicate Poa Annua. During the autumn the rough has also been aerified using the GA-60's and then over seeded with a Kentucky Bluegrass/Ryegrass mix, the plugs and seed are then dragged and broken up.

OCC employs nearly 45 staff within the grounds department, including three Assistants, ten Turf Graduates and almost 20 Turf Interns. Immense effort is put into providing these interns with housing, food and offering them the very best opportunity to take as much away from their time at Oakmont.

John Zimmers has been building his current staff for the past two to three years, creating an operation that virtually runs itself. Every day

begins with the interns setting up all the mowers, loading them on trailers and checking fluids. This is followed by a 5-10 minute meeting in which the Superintendent and his Assistants update the crew on any relevant news and issue the morning assignments.

OCC is famous for having, quite possibly, the fastest greens in the world and it comes as no surprise that they require the most attention. All playing surfaces are cut every day during the season, with greens being cut three to four times every morning at 0.086 (2.2mm) using Jacobsen hand units with solid rollers. The hand units are responsible for 2-3 cuts while a triplex is used to make the first cut to remove dew and save on labour. The clean up cut is carried out using a separate mower set at 2.6mm and this is usually done every other day to reduce wear. After the Greens are cut they are rolled using Salsco ride on rollers, a process that is carried out on average, five times per week. Tees and Approaches are cut every day using Toro 1000 hand units set at 8.4mm and 6.5mm respectively. Fairways are cut at 9mm with grooved rollers by 7-9 people with triplexes. They operate in pairs splitting each fairway in half, one person working towards the tee end while the other works toward the green. There is also a person who works by himself with a triplex, set at the same height but with solid rollers on the units. This mower is used to cut the clean up pass around each fairway and reduces stress to the grass plant.



The stress that the turf is under during the summer from mowing and high volumes of play, can be immense, this, coupled with the high humidity levels in Pittsburgh, make spraying and watering the most important factors. Although Oakmont is equipped with the very latest irrigation system the greens/approach heads are never used, all watering to these areas is carried out by hand. 3-4 employees are entrusted with the responsibility of preparing the greens every morning after the mowing is complete. No two days are ever the same and the waterer must learn to observe the changes in the greens appearance and demands. The aim is to give the green just enough water to be able to survive, with the option of 'touching up' localised wilt during the afternoon.

The greens have to be as fast as possible at all times which means that they have to kept 'on the edge' at all times. During the summer the greens will start to wilt just after lunch and they will then be touched up if required for the remainder of the afternoon. The humidity plays a massive role in the amount of water applied, if the temperature is 35°C and humidity is 95% this will require a lot less water than if the temperature was cool and there was very little humidity. The waterer could have to cool off the green five or six times during the afternoon in an attempt to keep the grass plant cool. Once the temperatures begin to drop and the water crew deems it time, the course is 'put to bed', a process that involves watering hot spots and problem areas, building moisture in these areas and giving the turf enough water to recover over night. All surfaces (excluding greens) are watered at night if necessary and then any daily watering is done by hand, utilising a crew of up to 12 people.

Most spraying, and OCC use Floratine products and Primo Maxx, is carried out on a Monday morning as the course is closed until lunchtime in order to prepare for the corporate shotgun later that day. Oakmont is fortunate enough that it has enough equipment to be able to spray any day of the week and it is not uncommon to spray up to three times a week depending on the pressure the turf is under.





As this spring approaches, the crew will be under pressure to prepare the course for the upcoming US Open, a task that is made slightly easier by the high standards kept at OCC every other day of the year. It has often been said that if the Open had to be moved to a different venue any year, then Oakmont would be ready.

The general course maintenance will not change with the exception of growing up the rough, the USGA have again adopted a 'graduated rough' as they did at Winged Foot GC last year. The first cut will be 6ft wide and cut at 1 ¾ inches, the second cut will be 12ft wide and cut at 4 inches and will incorporate most of the bunker and green complexes, finally the third cut for the deep rough will be at 6 inches.

OCC has been preparing for this event for the last seven years and it is only as we come closer to the final stages of the preparation that it truly becomes apparent what we are about to be a part of. The regular staff will be helped out by an extra 120 volunteers during the week of the tournament and they will be assisting all aspects of course maintenance. 20 people will mow greens while raking the bunkers will swallow up another 30 people, this puts a serious dent into the staff quota and it is easy to see where the extra help is essential.

Along with the golf course itself the USGA also builds a small town around all 18 holes, from the merchandise tents and media facilities to

the volunteer tents and grandstands. Over 12,000 cubic yards of gravel for these to be built on. When all is said and done and the final putt is sunk on Sunday afternoon, I hope to look back on this experience with great satisfaction knowing that I have been a part of something truly special...

I would like give extreme thanks to Mr. John F. Zimmers Jr. for all he has done for my career, I hope to keep learning from him for many more years to come. I would also like to thank Mike O'Keeffe, at The Ohio State University. Being part of the programme was truly the best thing that I ever did and gave me a lot of opportunities. Thanks also to LC Lambrecht/Golfstock for the great photos, Gareth Woosnam and his team at Oswestry Golf Club and Reaseheath College.

#### About the Programme

It is run by Michael O'Keeffe and they bring trainees from all over the world to top courses, such as Oakmont, Merion, Pine Valley, The Olympic Club, Pebble Beach. You have to be single, drug free, have a clean drivers license and be between the age of 19 and 29 years old. If you have any questions about the programme feel free to email me at: [mccaffreydavid@hotmail.com](mailto:mccaffreydavid@hotmail.com) or Michael O'Keeffe at: [okeeffe.1@osu.edu](mailto:okeeffe.1@osu.edu)

The website for Oakmont is: [www.oakmont-countryclub.org](http://www.oakmont-countryclub.org)



# PUMP IT UP

Probably the biggest investment a golf club makes, outside of a new clubhouse, is its irrigation system. It might not be something that's used every day, or even every month, but Course Managers would invariably describe it as one of their most useful tools.

But an irrigation system is only as good as its pump station so making sure it is working efficiently is incredibly important.

There are three types of pump station that can be used on a golf course. There is the controller controlled pressurisation of mains which doesn't carry pressure until it is programmed to do so then it takes around five minutes for the pressure to build up. The other two are both pressurised mains systems, one a standard pressurised system, while the larger systems offer variable frequency control which means it only supplies enough water to perform the task it's been asked to do.

"The first two systems are ideal for nine to 18 hole golf courses which run one or two pumps but the variable speed pumps are ideal for larger facilities with more than one golf course which perhaps run three or four stations at the same time," explained Martin Hinchliffe, of North Staffs Irrigation.

"The particular pump station that a club needs is determined by the enormity and complexity of its irrigation system."



Once the correct station has been selected location becomes an important issue.

"The fundamental thing about pump stations is that you need a water supply and you need an electricity supply and those two things dictate what you are able to do," explained Martin.

If a golf club is in a remote area it might only have a 240 volt supply and that puts constraints on the type of pump you can have. A regular 18 hole course wishing to cover greens and tees will require a capacity of at least 4.4kW.

A club may decide that it wants its pump station beside the maintenance facility and not next to the clubhouse but if the club has three phase electricity but the maintenance facility only has single phase, which is often the case, a three phase cable would have to be run from the clubhouse which adds to the cost of the project and has to be factored in.

The other main considerations for positioning a pump station come down to water pressure. Irrigation water is drawn from one of several potential sources – the mains; a borehole; a holding tank or reservoir; a pond or stream.

"The major problem we come across when drawing from a pond or stream is that the pump is, without exception, above the water source so the water has to be sucked up by the pump before it is delivered out of the pump and, in doing these two jobs, this means you lose pressure on the delivery.

"If the pump station is below the water supply and this happens in the case of a holding tank and with a purpose built reservoir, gravity helps the water into the pump so it doesn't have to do any work and retains its power for pumping the water out."

If the topography of the golf course is also unusual it can also cause problems. Even if the water source was not the issue there are elements to consider when it comes to pump pressure. "If you have a mountainous course and put the pump station on top of the hill you'd have pump pressure and gravity providing a lot of pressure at the bottom of the course. If you put the pump station at the bottom of the hill you'd need a lot of pressure to pump the water to the top of the course," explained Martin.

"Ideally the best place to locate the station would be the middle of the course, half way up the hill, because what you'd be looking for is a working water pressure of 8 bar – 120 PSI. Normally sprinklers work

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between 6 and 7 bar but if you get too much pressure it atomises the water jet so you wouldn't get the range you required from your sprinklers," he explained.

Silting is also an issue particularly from natural water sources like ponds and streams and filters should be fitted to make cleaning much easier.

One final consideration when it comes to locating your pump station is that curse of the modern day golf club – vandalism. If the pump station is too exposed and/or isolated it becomes a much more attraction proposition for vandals and they can cause much damage to the electronics. If your pump station is exposed try to make it secure as possible. If it does become damaged it's Sod's Law that it is just before Captain's Day, in the middle of a drought or just when you want to assist the success of your overseeding!

- **Always check out the available electricity supply before positioning a pump station**
- **Assess which type of system best suits the needs of the golf course**
- **Be aware that if you are drawing water from a pond or stream, or below the level of the pump station, extra pumping power will be needed**
- **Too much water pressure can cause as many problems as too little water pressure**
- **Try to ensure that the pump station is position at a half way point on the course in terms of height**
- **Take potential vandalism problems into account when position a pump station**

Thanks to Martin Hinchliffe, Sales Director of North Staffs Irrigation, and to Rainbird for their assistance in the production of this feature.

## FIRST AID IN THE GOLF CLUB

BIGGA'S Health & Safety series produced by Xact



### Legal Requirements

No matter how safe the workplace or how well risks are managed, accidents can still happen. Members, employees or visitors may be injured or taken ill while in the Club or the Course and arrangements must be in place to give them some level of first-aid assistance as soon as possible. The Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981 put a legal duty on employers to make adequate first-aid provisions for their employees.

In addition to any legal duty and the moral obligation of employers to provide first-aid, there may be other additional benefits. Prompt first-aid is likely to lead to a faster recovery by an injured member, visitor or employee who may require less time off work.

Every Club should have a person delegated to take charge of the provision of first aid. The level of training required is dependent on the risks, the possible severity of injuries, the number of employees and the proximity of expert professional help.

High risk areas or activities e.g. chain-saw use, would be best served by a trained First Aider as any likely injury would be severe and prompt action may be needed to prevent death.

Lower risk areas/activities could be handled by an Emergency Appointed Person or Appointed Person. An Emergency Appointed Person would be able to help in situations of heavy bleeding or emergency resuscitation. An Appointed Person should limit their assistance to making the casualty comfortable and summoning medical assistance. There is also a duty to ensure that First Aid supplies are replenished as required. The name

of the person who provides First Aid should be prominently displayed in the Clubhouse and associated buildings.

### Advice on Treatment

Under no circumstances delay in sending for an ambulance if medical or nursing personnel are likely to be required. If you are administering First Aid, ensure someone else telephones for help.

First aid should only be administered if you are trained to do so. Persons not trained to administer first aid should not attempt to do so unless death is likely before trained medical personnel can take charge.

Above all, personal safety must always be a priority. There is little point in trying to save someone else's life if the likely result is two fatalities instead of one.

### The First Aid Box

First Aid boxes should contain a guidance card detailing the most important actions to follow as well as sufficient adhesive and wound dressing for the injuries envisaged.

### Records

Remember to make an entry in the accident book and that certain injuries are reportable to the enforcing authorities under RIDDOR.

### Minor Injuries

Where necessary, minor injuries can be treated by the casualty using materials from the first-aid box, but they must inform the Appointed Person or First-Aider and an entry made in the accident book.



# THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF 'GREEN' COMPOST UTILISED AS A TURF TOPDRESSING

By Ron Alexander

Golf course and other sports turf management faces many changes moving into the future. Golf course superintendents face the challenge of expanded course usage, a shrinking selection of pesticides, climatic change and tightening maintenance budgets. For these specific reasons, the use of compost in sports turf management around the world has expanded significantly. Golf course superintendents in the UK have a unique opportunity to benefit from the expanded production of compost. Real compost (sometimes called green compost in the UK) is the product resulting from the controlled biological decomposition of organic material that has been sanitised through the generation of heat and stabilised to the point that it is beneficial to plant growth. Real compost is not peat based. Compost can be produced from many feedstocks, however, the majority of composts produced in the UK are produced from green waste (grass clippings, leaves, brush). Composts can be produced so that they possess very consistent characteristics.

## The Benefits of Using Compost in Turf Management

Having a proper amount of organic matter in the soil is essential for soil health. These healthy soils allow turf to flourish, because they provide it with a better medium for which to grow and derive their sustenance. This is sometimes forgotten in the sports turf industry, where sand-based media are used and concerns about softness of playing surfaces are an issue. Compost adds high quality organic matter to soils and sand-based media, increasing its quality and long-term success through a variety of benefits:

- Improved soil structure and tilth
- Improved water holding in light soils
- Reduced bulk density in heavy soils
- Supplies slow release macro and micro plant nutrients
- More even turf colour, plus green-up without excessive growth
- Increases soil cation exchange capacity
- Improved wear tolerance
- Reduced surface hardness
- Provides and feeds beneficial soil microorganisms
- Biological disease suppression
- Promotes recovery on heavy-use turf sites
- Weed free

The majority of these benefits were demonstrated during a Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) research project (October 2005) completed on the use of compost in topdressing (sponsored by Waste & Resources Action Programme).

Unfortunately, when assessing the use of a new product, it is difficult to actually quantify these benefits. When assessing the value of compost in certain applications, we must consider not only the physical, chemical and biological benefits in general, but also the value it can lend to reduced chemical fertiliser, pesticide and irrigation costs. The following example illustrates the value of compost used as a turf topdressing. In saying this, it should be understood that neat compost (unblended with sand) is not a 100% replacement for sand-based topdressings often used in golf course management. It is not recommended to use neat compost as a topdressing on tees and greens or to fill in deep holes. However, it is an excellent topdressing for large turf areas, such as fairways, where it is too expensive to use a sand-based topdressing.

## ECONOMICS - Fertiliser

Most composters have avoided comparing their compost products to chemical fertiliser, however, the innate content of slow release nutrients in compost, both macro and micro-nutrients, can be a huge asset to golf course superintendents. As we know, fertilisers can contain macro and/or micronutrients. Most chemical fertilisers contain primarily N:P:K, whereas compost contains these three nutrients plus all of the micronutrients too. Artificial fertiliser formulations vary depending on the end use of the product.

## Comparison of Compost and Chemical Fertiliser Nutrients

Fertilisers on the market today are sold with a guaranteed N:P:K value. For example, two newer fertiliser formulations used on sports turf are 12-3-24 and 3-3-32, and they contain high quality, controlled slow release nitrogen sources. These products are often applied at a rate of 300 kg per hectare. At these rates, the 12-3-24 product provides:

- 36 kg/hectare of nitrogen\*
- 9 kg/hectare of phosphorous
- 72 kg/hectare of potassium

\*Calculation example: 300 kg/hectare fertiliser x 12% nitrogen fertiliser  
= 36 kg/hectare of nitrogen

Perhaps more common fertilisers used within the sports turf industry include a 12-6-6 or 12-3-9, used in the spring/summer, and 3-12-12, used in the autumn. These products contain quick release forms of nitrogen, and therefore, are much less expensive than the controlled release products (costing as little as £0.50 per kg). These products would also be applied at a 300kg per hectare application rate. A compost possessing a typical nutrient ratio of 0.8-0.3-0.6 (N-P-K, on a wet weight basis) with a 37% moisture content, and applied at 62 cubic metres per hectare (a typical 6mm topdressing rate), will provide:

- 210kg/hectare of total nitrogen - approximately 21kg/hectare of available nitrogen (typically estimated at 10% availability the first year)
- 79kg/hectare of total phosphorous - approximately 12kg/hectare of available phosphorous (typically estimated at 15% availability the first year)
- 157kg/hectare of total potassium - approximately 126kg/hectare of available potassium (typically estimated at 80% availability the first year) during the first year of application.

Using this example, you can see that using compost at a common topdressing application rate can often provide enough nutrients to replace a typical application of chemical fertiliser.

### Fungicide

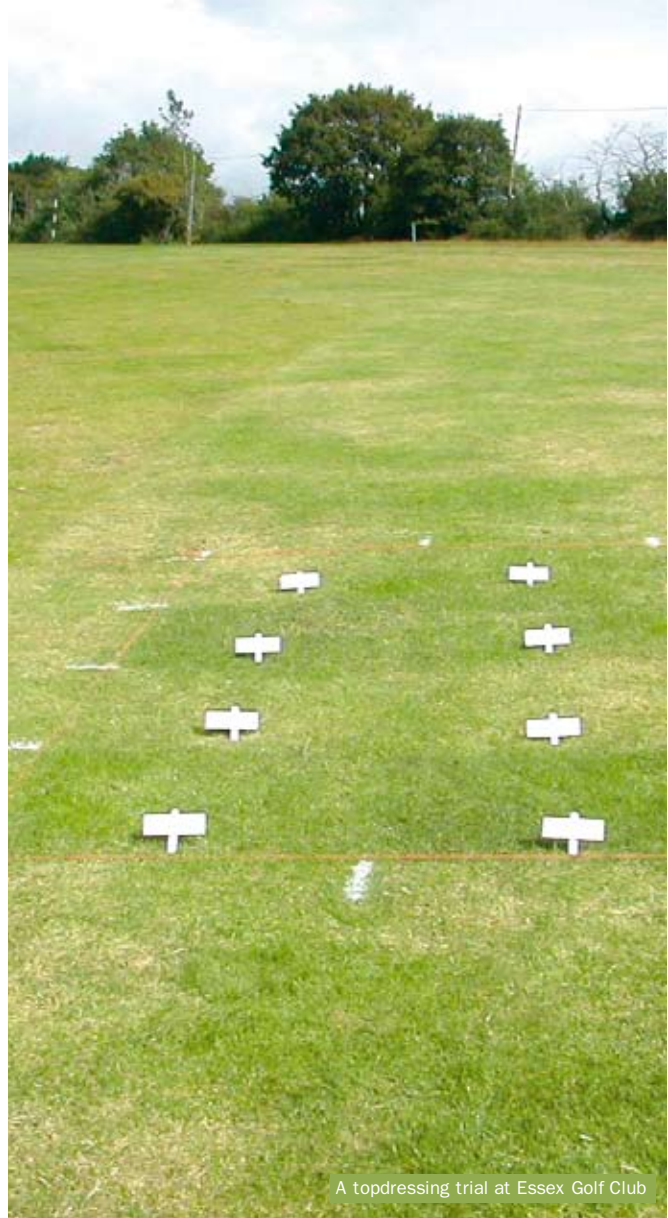
Research from around the world has shown that many composts possess disease (fungal) suppressive properties. Various Ohio State University (USA) research studies completed throughout the 1980's and 1990's, primarily spearheaded by Dr. Harry Hoitink, have even identified the specific modes in which suppression occurs. Commercial labs in the US are now testing composts for microbial populations in order to help predict disease suppression. It should be noted that compost provides preventative disease control, and not curative control.

All pesticides sold in the UK must be registered through DEFRA. Although specific disease suppression claims cannot be made by compost producers, without proper registration, DEFRA allows the following to be stated: "This product is not a pesticide. However, it contains low levels of naturally-occurring soil micro-organisms which may help to suppress soil-borne populations of some plant diseases." Although specific claims cannot be made, research and practical experience has shown that the use of disease suppressive composts could replace, or reduce, the use of fungicides in many turf maintenance scenarios.

Specific chemical fungicides can work as either preventatives or curative, and some possess both properties. Fungicides can be costly to apply, with preventative fungicides such as Myclobutonil and Fenarimol costing £450 to £750 per hectare (we are using £600 per hectare in the example below as a realistic average price). There can be a huge variation in the cost of different fungicides, based on application rate, product type, mode of action, etc. However, the cost figures above, estimate the two fungicides used at a 6 to 8 litre per hectare application rate, at a price of £75 to £100 per litre.

### Topdressing

Topdressings physically improve the soil structure, improving drainage and aeration, and may also be used to incorporate organic matter. Many composters market their finely screened composts as turf topdressings, which are used on golf course fairways, sports pitches and even home lawns. Furthermore, many composters are now blending their composts with industry standard sands to create high value topdressings that possess fertilising and disease suppressive properties from the compost.



A topdressing trial at Essex Golf Club

Green composts can be considered as alternatives to peat and topsoil in standard sand-based topdressings.

In the UK golf industry, sand-based topdressings cost approximately £25 to £32 per tonne, delivered, and similar products used to construct tees and greens (using less expensive sand) costs approximately £15 to £20 per tonne, delivered. In the example below, we estimate a finely screened compost being sold at a price of £16 to £17 per cubic metre, delivered, although they often cost less. One tonne of sand-based topdressing is the same approximate volume as one cubic metre of compost, since compost possesses approximately half the bulk density of a sand-based topdressing. Typically, in sports pitch topdressing applications, sand-based topdressings are applied at a 3, 6 or 12mm application rate, depending upon the requirements of the project and available funds.

### Replacement Values

Taking into account the economics outlined in this articles text, the cost to use compost as a topdressing would be £1023 per hectare, or £102.30 per 1,000 square metres, when applied at an approximate 6mm application rate (or 62 cubic metres per hectare). When considering the potential fertiliser and fungicidal benefits of compost, and its value as a replacement for sand-based topdressing, the cost is 40 to 54% of a typical sand-based topdressing.

Relevant product costs are found in Table 1. They represent products used by many turf managers, and those which may be replaced if compost is used as a topdressing.

**Table 1 - Relevant Product Costs**

Product	General Costs	Area Costs
Sand-Based Topdressing <sup>a</sup>	£25 to £32 per tonne (estimated as £28.50 per tonne foreconomics)	£1767/hectare or £176.70/1,000m <sup>2</sup>
Sand-Based Tee/Green Construction Mixes (used as Topdressing)	£15 to £20 per tonne (estimated as £17.50 per tonne for economics)	£1085/hectare or £108.50/1,000m <sup>2</sup>
Compost (used as Topdressing) <sup>a</sup>	£16 to £17 per cubic metre (estimated as £16.50 per metre for economics)	£1023/hectare, or £102.30/1,000m <sup>2</sup>
Fertiliser 1 <sup>b</sup> (containing controlled release nitrogen)	£1.25 to £1.30 per kg (estimated as £1.27 per kg for economics)	£381/hectare, or £38.10/1,000m <sup>2</sup>
Fertiliser 2 <sup>b</sup> (containing quick release nitrogen)	£0.50 per kg	£150/hectare, or £15.00/1,000m <sup>2</sup>
Fungicide <sup>c</sup>	£75 to £100 per litre (estimated as £75 per litre for economics)	£600/hectare, or £60/1,000m <sup>2</sup>
Seed	£5 per kg (Dwarf Perennial Ryegrass)	£833/hectare, or £83.30/1,000m <sup>2</sup>

- a Applied at 6mm, or 62 metres/hectare
- b Using nutrient examples from the text, compost with a nutrient ratio of 0.8-0.3-0.6 applied at 6mm layer, an Autumn 3-3-32 fertiliser (with controlled release nitrogen) or a 3-12-12 fertiliser (with quick release nitrogen) applied at 300kg/hectare.
- c Using Myclobutanol (at 8 litres/hectare) or Fenaramol (at 6 litres/hectare)

A detailed cost comparison can be developed using these estimated cost figures (see Table 2 and 3). This comparison illustrates that a compost topdressing can fulfill the function of three products normally used in the management of high quality turf (a physical topdressing, with fertilising and disease suppressive properties). To be fair, two scenarios are illustrated – one comparing a compost topdressing to more expensive products and one to lower cost products. Either way, these figures illustrate that compost used in a turf topdressing application may be able to fulfill a cultural and economic niche within the golf industry. And you will see, that the results will speak for themselves.



Going one step further as far as the economics, and using football pitch experience from the Northeastern region of the US, the use of compost as a sports pitch topdressing allowed the managers of the largest sports pitch venue in New England to reduce the amount of grass seed they used by two-thirds (Compost for turfgrass: multifaceted organic ally, Sports Turf Magazine, August 2005). Dwarf Perennial Ryegrass is commonly used on sports pitches in the UK. At an application rate of 167kg per hectare, the cost of treating a hectare would be £833. Even if the use of compost would decrease the application rate of grass seed by only fifty percent, that would further save the sports turf manager an additional £400 per hectare.

**Table 2 – High Cost Comparison on a 1000m2 Basis**

Product Costs	Sand-Based Topdressing	Compost used as Topdressing
Topdressing (using STRI/USGA approved tee/green topdressing)	£176.70	£102.30
Autumn Fertiliser (containing controlled release nitrogen)	£38.10	£0
Fungicide	£60	£0
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>£274.80</b>	<b>£102.30</b>
Grass Seed	£83.30	£41.65
<b>Total Costs (with grass seed)</b>	<b>£358.10</b>	<b>£143.95</b>

**Table 3 – Low Cost Comparison on a 1000m2 Basis**

Product Costs	Sand-Based Topdressing	Compost used as Topdressing
Topdressing (using tee/green construction mix as the topdressing)	£108.50	£102.30
Autumn Fertiliser (containing quick release nitrogen)	£15.10	£0
Fungicide	£60	£0
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>£183.50</b>	<b>£102.30</b>
Grass Seed	£83.30	£41.65
<b>Total Costs (with grass seed)</b>	<b>£266.80</b>	<b>£143.95</b>

Obviously, different cost figures and application rates could be used within the economic comparison within this paper, based on specific project requirements. That said, however, it is obvious that significant cost savings can be obtained through the use of compost in the management of golf courses.

**Author:**

Ron Alexander is president of R. Alexander Associates, Inc. (Apex, North Carolina, USA, Telephone: 001919 3678350, [www.alexassoc.net](http://www.alexassoc.net)), a company specialising in product development and end use for organic recycled products. Mr. Alexander is a horticulturalist with over 23 years of experience (six in the UK) working with compost. He has built golf courses using compost in the US and has worked with golf course superintendents throughout the UK.

The author would like to thank WRAP, Rigby-Taylor and the STRI for its support and assistance during the development of this article.

For more info on compost use, go to the WRAP website at [www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk)

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# INFORMATION IS POWER

*Scott MacCallum learns how one golf club has purchased a full course survey package and is about to reap the benefits of what it has produced*

**As the saying goes, “Information is Power”. In essence it means that the more facts you have at your fingertips the more chance you have to be successful. Think back to the efforts that have been made to gather information. There was that famous first census, during King Herod’s time; Britain’s first ordinance survey map was published in 1801; every 10 years or so we are asked to complete a Government census, while Googleearth.com succeeded in the small task of producing a 3D map of the entire globe. The more information that people gather the more they can achieve.**

It is precisely this philosophy, which has encouraged more and more golf clubs to have their courses professionally surveyed.

There are several types of surveys. There is the below ground variety which highlight soil structure and help to uncover drains long left undiscovered when the first course plans have been destroyed or lost. Then there is the above ground surveys which can help, as talked about in last month’s magazine, routing buggy tracks around courses and ensure slopes are not excessively steep.

These surveys are much more like your traditional ordinance survey map, although some can be virtually three dimensional, and allow accurate planning on course and course management issues to be carried out.

Like many things in life, though, you get what you pay for. A quality survey costs money and nowadays more than ever golf clubs must make its hard earned finances work as hard as is possible.

With that in mind any alternative benefits that can be generated from the initial survey could help to offset the cost would be hugely welcome.

Longniddry Golf Club, near Edinburgh, has recently had its course surveyed by Optimize Golf, and are just beginning to appreciate what it will do for them.

“It is early days for us, as we only took delivery of the full system in March,” explained Longniddry Secretary, Bob Gunning.

“We bought the survey for the course management system which came

with it and we looked at the commercial benefits as the icing on the cake,” he explained.

Those commercial benefits include course planners, pin placement cards, and web tours of the course. There is also the ability for a player to have his round and score marked out on an overhead picture of the golf course – great for a tournament winning, or course record score but perhaps not so desirable for your regular higher handicapper’s efforts!

“What it does give us is a much more professional look which is invaluable when it comes to marketing the golf course,” said Bob, adding that having the survey put Longniddry in the same bracket as Carnoustie and Muirfield who have also been surveyed by the same company.

As a members’ club Bob found that members who had paid for the survey through their membership subscriptions were reluctant to pay again for course guides, pin location cards and the hand held distance devices which can be rented or bought.

“As is probably common, members of golf clubs feel they pay enough for their golf and don’t like paying for anything else so I didn’t hold out much hope for them paying for the additional benefits and that is certainly how it has turned out so far.”

However, visitors are a different category and although the season is still to start in earnest Bob was confident that the club’s healthy visitor market will respond to the sale of the course guides in the pro shop.

“What we’d like to do is ultimately build the cost of the course planner and the pin position cards into the green fee and then give visitors a welcome pack when they arrive containing a course planner and pin card.”

He reiterated, however, that any additional business generated was purely bonus and that the main reason for going ahead with the survey was the benefit it brought to Head Greenkeeper, Philip Holmes, and the management of the golf course.

“I’m someone who likes things to be under control and to have things recorded properly and systematically. That’s what appealed to me about



the system we bought. I saw the commercial benefits as a way of off-setting the investment. The question is, 'Would you spend the money just to have the survey done?' and the answer would be yes because over time it would enable us to make savings on the golf course. Philip will be able to use the benefits it brings to his and our advantage."

Since the survey, and the arrival of the accompanying software and laptop, Philip has been getting to grips with what it will be able to do for him.

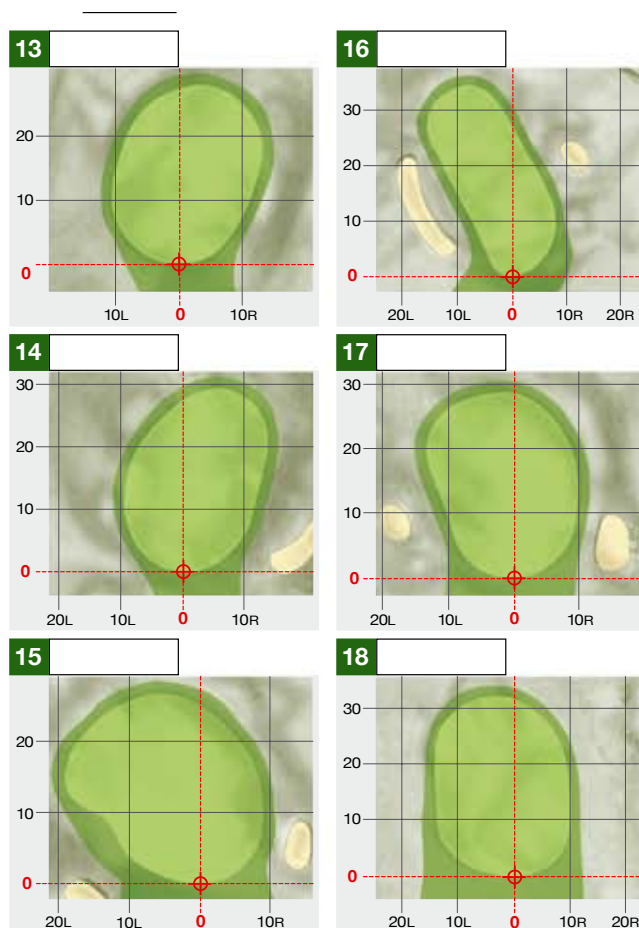
"It is great to know the exact sizes of greens and bunkers etc so I can work out how much I need to order when it comes to applications, gravel and sand etc. Rather than ordering enough for a hectare, for example, I can order 1.2 hectares worth or 0.9 hectares worth. It will mean in the long term I can be much more accurate when it comes to purchasing and there should be less wastage," said Philip. "It will also help when it comes to calculating the time required to do various jobs."

The surveying of the course was done remarkable quickly to the extent that Bob Gunning didn't even see anyone on site. "They first over flew the golf course then there were people here for no more than two or three hours. I didn't even see them," said Bob.

"They overlay the photograph they have taken from the air with the survey work they do on the ground. That's the clever bit," said Bob, adding that the fly through of all 18 holes will soon be available to view on the club's website.

"I'm hoping that what we have got here at Longniddry really sets us apart from the rest and will encourage more people to visit us and more people might consider becoming members."

*Thanks to Optimize Golf for their co-operation in producing this article*



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# In the Shed

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

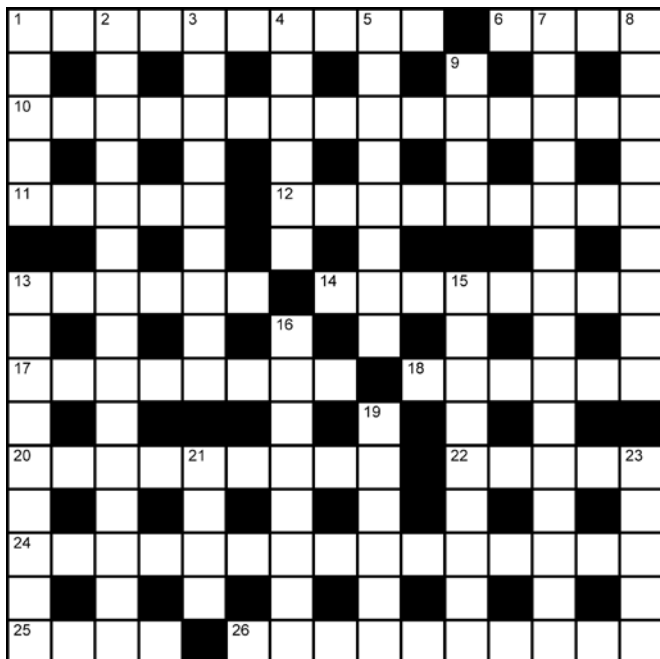
## CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 1 Of a statement, expressive of low opinion (10)
- 6 Musical notation indicating the scale of following notes (4)
- 10 Term given to discussions between leaders of major powers (6,9)
- 11 Perennial herb with yellow, daisy-like flowers (5)
- 12 Agreement, accord (9)
- 13 Conforming to, for example, Jewish dietary laws (6)
- 14 Italian composer of romantic symphonic poems (8)
- 17 Tiny insect which feeds on plant juices (8)
- 18 Puerile, immature (6)
- 20 Informally named London district, location of the BT Tower (9)
- 22 Measured portions of medicine (5)
- 24 Any factor whose relevance is not apparent (7,8)
- 25 Freight vehicle for transportation of gases or liquids (4)
- 26 The state capital of California (10)

### DOWN

- 1 Ottawan hit of 1980 (5)
- 2 Brothers grim character who destroys himself when his name is guessed (15)
- 3 Legendary wife of King Arthur (9)
- 4 Monotony, sameness (6)
- 5 Replicated (8)
- 7 A -- is designed to elicit a preferred response (7,8)
- 8 Electronic control system in an aircraft (3-2-4)
- 9 -- Berra, renowned US baseball player born in 1925 (4)
- 13 Another name for Chinese gooseberry (4,5)
- 15 Writer's fictitious name (9)
- 16 European republic, part of Yugoslavia until 1991 (8)
- 19 A spotted wildcat, also called panther (6)
- 21 Protective covering, especially of a building (4)
- 23 (The power to give) authorisation (3-2)

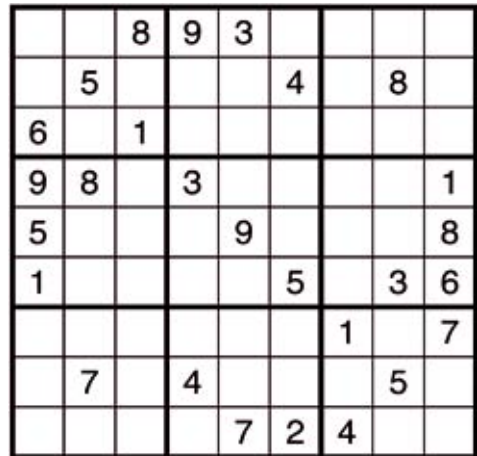


## QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

- 1 Why was there no winner of the World Series in 1994?
- 2 Which British footballer has the most number of International caps?
- 3 With which sport do you associate the Hawaii Ironman?
- 4 Tony Jacklin won the Open in 1969. Who was the next Briton to win the title?
- 5 Father Ted Crilly and Father Dougal McGuire lived on Craggy Island with which other priest?
- 6 Which sport forbids any competitor to play left-handed?
- 7 How much does it cost to buy Trafalgar Square on a monopoly board?
- 8 Magnolia, Flowering Peach, and Carolina Cherry are holes at which famous course?
- 9 What was the Titanic's first port of call after it left Southampton?

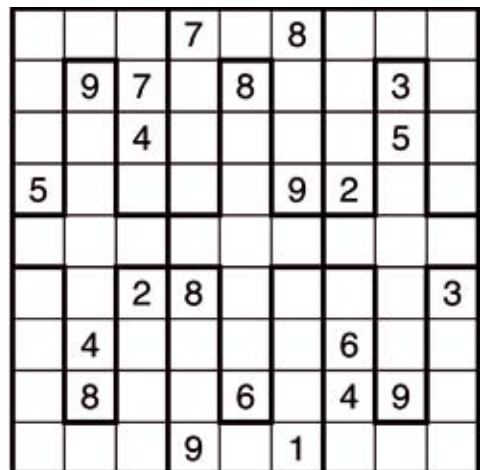
## MONSTER SUDOKU

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



## SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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



IN THE SHED ANSWERS ON PAGE 59



IN THE SHED



# BEST OF BRITISH

**The British - polite, respectful, dignified, like their own space, detest queue jumpers, adopt a stiff upper lip and continually apologise - What are they good at? Innovation and celebration...and no, we are not apologising for being an innovative nation!**

Melissa Toombs and James de Havilland celebrate the Best of British manufacturing in this special supplement

**SISIS EQUIPMENT (Macclesfield) LTD - 2007 is a special year for SISIS, which is celebrating 75 years of innovation**

In 1932 William Hargreaves, a 50 year-old steam engineer, could see his business ending - a casualty of The Depression. However, he could foresee a growing interest in physical recreation, and on 11th February 1932, founded W.Hargreaves & Co Ltd, using the registered trade name SISIS, and based in a converted chapel and cottages in Cheadle, Cheshire. The Company moved to a modern, custom-built factory in Macclesfield in 1962. By 1965 the Trade Name SISIS had become synonymous with the products and the company was renamed SISIS Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd.

The first products were tennis and netball posts, and a game called Spiropole. A visit by William Hargreaves to the Board of Greenkeeping Research at Bingley (now STRI) sparked an interest in aeration and the challenge of mechanisation.

In the early days William Hargreaves was something of a pioneer - having to convince people that grass grew better if you put holes in the ground, before he could think of selling them an aerator. From a basic hand operated aerator and horse-drawn slitters a range of machines was developed.

Now the company offers aerators and deep slitters for every situation, including their new Aer-Aid. The Aer-Aid injects air directly into the



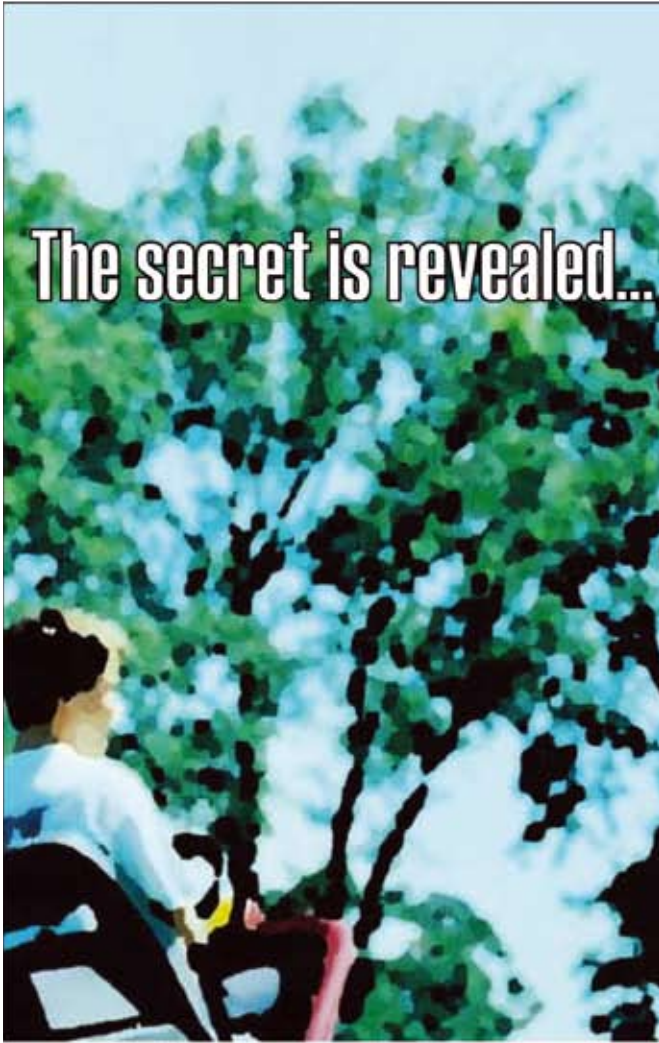
The Aer-Aid

root zone speeding up the aeration process and delivering the benefits of reduced compaction and healthier growth faster than conventional aerators, with minimal surface disturbance.

SISIS introduces new products every year, with the aim of making greenkeepers' lives less arduous. All products are designed and manufactured at the Macclesfield factory. In addition to aerators and scarifiers the SISIS range includes mowers, seeders, sweepers, top-dressers, rakes, brushes, drag-mats, rollers, line marker – even a land clearer and beach cleaner.



SISIS RR600 being used in Malaysia



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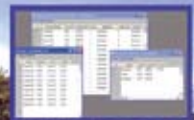
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SISIS is still very much a family business with two grandsons of the founder, Roger (left) and William (right) Hargreaves, being Joint Managing Directors

SISIS is a direct sales organisation with Territory Managers based around the country and has around 40 distributors worldwide (selling to countries as far apart as Mexico, Russia, Egypt and Iceland) and SISIS Inc, based in South Carolina with a network of distributors for SISIS Sales and Service in USA.

### HERON – Specialists in Irrigation Control

Heron is a Sussex based electronics company dedicated to the design and manufacture of irrigation control systems.

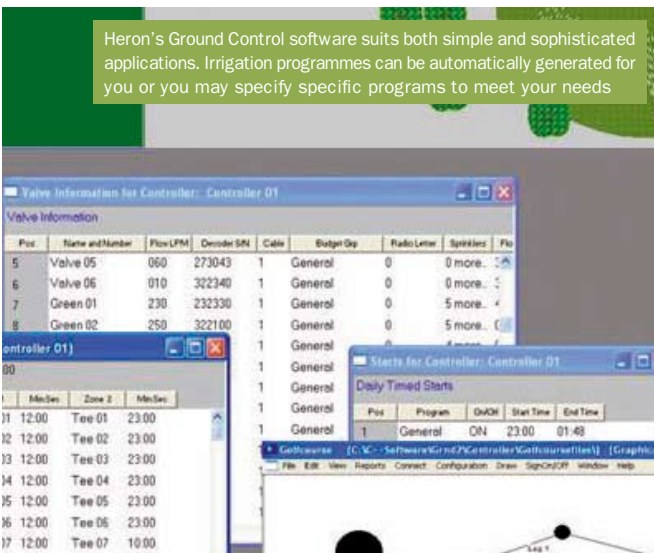
Two brothers, Jimmy and David Carter, founded Heron 19 years ago. The company initially designed and manufactured a multi-wire irrigation controller for the horticulture industry.



Jimmy Carter (left) and David Carter (right), Heron Company Directors

In 1991 they launched their two-wire irrigation controller the MCI-100S. 10 years ago they introduced pH control systems to their product range. Over the years the company has expanded steadily both within the UK and overseas.

Jimmy and David pride themselves on developing their products by listening to their customer's needs. They have exploited the latest innovations in technology to develop the features of their irrigation controllers and



Heron's Ground Control software suits both simple and sophisticated applications. Irrigation programmes can be automatically generated for you or you may specify specific programs to meet your needs

produce user friendly, control systems with an outstanding level of reliability. The Heron two wire irrigation controller has proved so reliable that it is exported to some of the most challenging environments in the world, for example Florida and Australia.



The MCI-100S

Heron is committed to developing their products to use water efficiently. Their irrigation controllers already integrate with a number of sensors. Next year will see the full integration of the MCI-100S irrigation controller with a Heron weather station.

The MCI-100S two-wire irrigation controller can operate as a standalone controller or be operated from a PC using Heron's Ground Control software. There is also the option to dial up and operate the controller via a mobile phone. The controller has been built with a unique lightning surge suppression feature utilising optical technology.

With Ground Control, no dedicated PC is required. The irrigation controller still operates the irrigation, giving you a much more reliable control system. Multiple irrigation controllers can be run from one PC. Estimated water usage is calculated and actual water usage can be reported.

### HUNTERS PROMOTIONS LIMITED – Golf Course Products

Hunter's Promotions is a husband and wife team based in Wick, Caithness, in the Scottish Highlands. John Hunter is Managing Director and his wife Christine, Director.

The company came about through John being heavily involved with Wick Golf Club - He is one of the countries longest standing captains, having served 16 consecutive years. During this spell John was privileged to re-design part of Wick golf course and it was in this period of time that he came up with new ideas and inventions for greenkeepers. He then decided, after being made redundant after 33 years in the music manufacturing industry, that he would start up Scotlands only manufacturing facility for golf course products.



Hunters Shoe Cleaner at Brora Golf Club



Husband and wife team, John and Christine Hunter, are both active in the day-to-day manufacturing, design and marketing of the company

The company was started in May 2003 and during this time the range has been extended to over 25 products with many new ideas still in the pipeline. The extensive customer list includes many very famous courses throughout the whole of Britain and Northern Ireland, and is continuing to grow.

Out of the range of products there is no doubt that the wooden slatted bins are proving to be a big hit along with our very high quality traffic control frames. We travel around the country extensively, demonstrating our products and letting greenkeepers see and feel the quality first hand. Although we are based in the North of Scotland this is no hindrance - as we have proven over the years - and our aim is to continue to satisfy our many customers and to introduce our company to as many golf courses as possible.

**TERRAIN AERATION – Providers of compressed-air de-compaction treatment**

David Green, the Managing Director of Terrain Aeration, designs, builds and develops the company's unique Airforce Terralift machines, supervises site visits, liaises with customers and trains all machine operators.



Terrain Aeration: Founded and owned by David and Lynda Green

Lynda Green, Operations Director, oversees all other aspects of the business including sales, finance, transportation and forward planning.

Based in Suffolk, Terrain Aeration was founded in 2000 and has become the leading provider of compressed-air de-compaction treatment at a depth of one metre. The couple started with a standard, original Terralift machine, which over the last six years has been adapted to improve both speed and performance while remaining true to Terralift principles. David and Lynda Green are the people manufacturing new machines of this type.

Terrain Aeration now fields the largest fleet of Terralift machines in Europe – two lightweight Airforce Scamper machines for golf greens, bowling greens, cricket squares and croquet lawns, two Airforce Trackers for

small, difficult to access areas including back gardens and Airforce, the largest of the fleet, ideal for football, rugby and all winter sports pitches, polo fields, race courses and large areas of parkland. Utilising the Terralift injection technology, in addition to their compressed – air de-compaction service, the company can inject water-storing polymers to combat drought, oil digesting bugs to de-contaminate soil, and mycorrhizal fungi to aid the establishment of newly planted trees. In addition their Airblaster can safely excavate tree roots to establish spread, and their soil corer can take accurate soil samples from the surface to a depth of one metre.

Airforce scamper has been developed to work away from the main air compressor, which is attached by an umbilical air hose.



Airforce Scamper



Airforce Tracker

When the turf surface is soft, the compressor can be parked off the green.

Another great seller is the Airforce Tracker. Built on a reliable Honda base, Airforce Tracker is designed to treat rough turf or bare ground in difficult to access areas.

**DENNIS – A world-renowned brand**

Dennis dates back to the late 19th century, early products having included motor tricycles, cars, lorries and fire engines. Mower manufacture began in 1922 and Dennis soon became the name on the equipment used on the world's fine lawns and sportsfields. In 1981, the company transferred to



Ian Howard

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Derby and massive investment in new products and manufacture followed. Today, Dennis machines are used by groundsmen, greenkeepers and landscapers at public and private sector facilities the world over.

Ian Howard is Managing Director of Dennis. He believes the key to the company's success is listening to their customers, having a sound knowledge of the UK market and producing British products for British conditions.

The company's pro-active design philosophy is typified by the ingenious Dennis FT range of pedestrian cylinder mowers, which feature specially developed cassette attachments that can be quickly interchanged.



The Dennis FT510

These include verti-cutters, scarifiers, aerators and turf brushes, as well as various mowing reels. As well as the precision finish to turf that Dennis equipment is famous for, the versatility of the FT machines enables grounds professionals to use one product for many essential tasks, maximising operational efficiency.

Another British success story is Dennis' Sport Ultra. Derived from the Sport pedestrian mower, which was developed specifically for work on fine turf like golf greens and features simple click-adjust cutting height adjustment, the Ultra incorporates a powered tungsten tipped groomer reel.



Aston Villa's Head Groundsman, Jonathan Calderwood with his two Dennis G860s and Premiers

Dennis also recognise how changing Health & Safety regulations influence product choice. The handlebar mechanism and other refinements to Dennis machines have been developed in conjunction with experts in the field. This includes research carried out at universities as well as by the development arm of QinetiQ, one of the world's leading technology companies.

Continuing to flourish, Ian Howard reports ongoing sales growth and an annual turnover now in excess of £2m. Dennis strives for continuous improvement of their quality British-engineered products to suit changing customer needs.

**BERNHARD AND CO – Manufacturers of Express Dual and Anglemaster sharpening machines**

Bernhard and Company, based in Rugby, Warwickshire, is owned by Stephen Bernhard and grew from the export services division of Jeffery Bernhard & Sons – a family firm with a long and successful heritage in commercial landscaping and horticulture.



Stephen Bernhard is owner of Bernhard and Company Ltd

The landscape division encompassed the construction and maintenance of golf courses and it was here that Bernhard's founder, Stephen Bernhard – an experienced agronomist and horticulturist – developed a special interest in the technical issues surrounding the cutting of grass. In particular, the critical effect that grinding technique had on turf quality and mower maintenance benefits.

Disappointed by the many inadequacies of the cylinder and bottom blade grinders then available, Stephen acquired Atterton and Ellis Ltd, the original manufacturers of spin grinding machines whose origins date back to the 1880's. Together they redeveloped a range of precision grinding systems, specifically to meet the practical demands of busy maintenance workshops.



Express Dual (left) and Anglemaster (right) remain uniquely British as they are still manufactured in the Haverhill, Suffolk, factory where John Atterton first engineered the spin grinder

The result was the redesigned Express Dual cylinder grinder and the Anglemaster bottom blade grinder. Express Dual and Anglemaster transformed workshop practice and boosted productivity. Moreover, they produced a cleaner cut which caused less damage to the grass, improving its health, disease resistance, appearance and playing quality.

Bernhard and Company started to export its grinding system to golf courses and mower maintenance shops around the world. One of the biggest challenges was the North American market where grinding practice was largely based on the use of traditional, low cost US machines

(single blade grinders) and there was an understandable resistance to change and investment.

Undaunted, Stephen embarked on a series of educational workshops for golf course superintendents and technicians across US in which he demonstrated the many benefits of effective precision grinding and the huge impact it had on both maintenance costs and turf health.

This educational effort, coupled with recommendations from satisfied customers led to a rapid growth in sales. This was recognised in 1997 with the Department of Trade and Industry's Export Award. Today, over 30 years later, the majority of the world's top golf courses use Express Dual and Anglemaster grinders in their workshops, including 75 of the US Top 100.

**LLOYDS & COMPANY LETCHWORTH LTD -  
Celebrate their 130th anniversary in 2008**

Lloyd, Lawrence & Co was founded by John Post Lawrence in 1878 as an agency for the import and sale of American Pennsylvania mowing machines in the City of London. In 1913 John Lawrence decided that Letchworth would be an ideal new location for the company, thus beginning the company's long and deep association with the First Garden City.

In the 1930's the decision was taken to manufacture the machines in the UK. Production of the first Letchworth-made Pennsylvania machines started in early 1934 and this was followed by machinery such as: motor mowers, gang mowers, lawn sweepers, lawn rakes, lawn sprinklers, mechanical scythes and electrical hedge trimmers.



Ian Bunting, Production Director; Clive Nottingham Managing Director; Glenn Bray, Chairman & Client Director

During the post war period, business continually increased. True to the founder's principles, however, the directors of Lloyds were not in favour of mass production in a soulless corporation, preferring instead to retain the company's friendly family atmosphere. This philosophy meant a limit on production in the early 1960's, when the number of machine types were decreased so that the company could concentrate on producing high quality mowers, such as: the Leda gang mowers, Paladin and Ariel were introduced.

Lloyds continued to expand its range of machinery with the introduction of the Hydraulic Pentad gangs, Elite triple mower, Greenline Combi-trailers. As it moved into the new millennium development of machines continued with new designs. Most recently with the launch of the new Paladin TG and Dual machines with all the award winning attributes of the original Paladin. Other recent additions include the Hovermower and Eastman commercial mower range which has now been followed by the Pequea range of Top Dressers and Material Handlers.



Lloyds Pequea range of Top Dressers, TG100 Trailed or truck mounted suitable for greens, with the SuperSpread and FX 650

Lloyds today still remains a privately owned company with many of its employees having a vested interest and, as a result, retains the philosophy of giving a personal service in the supply and maintenance of high quality products to the professional market.

**PERKINS ENGINE COMPANY LTD -  
Celebrating 75 years of diesel engine manufacture**

Peterborough based Perkins Engines build both diesel and gas power units from 5 to 2,600hp. That is some product range! For compact equipment and ride-on mowers, the naturally aspirated 13-60hp two-three- and four-cylinder 400 series engines are key power units. These recently launched motors offer increased service intervals at 500 hours, lower emissions and much improved refinement over the units they have superseded. They are also the first in their class and power category to be offered to meet tough Tier III emissions standards.

Built in Peterborough as part of a joint venture with Shibaura of Japan, 400 series engines are used to power a wide range of mowers and utility vehicles, including machines produced by Ransomes Jacobsen.

Perkins success can be traced to it being a genuine pioneer. The company's P4 and P6 engines of 1937 introduced affordable and efficient high-speed diesel power to an era dominated by petrol and petrol/paraffin (TVO) powered commercial and agricultural vehicles.

A key customer post WWII was Massey Ferguson, the latter taking over the company in 1959. Caterpillar subsequently took control of Perkins in 1998, creating what is now the world's largest diesel engine manufacturer. Frank Perkins, who died in 1967, would have been proud that his company survives not just as one of Britain's leading exporters and employers but continues to innovate in the 21st century.

Perkins engines are used to power products that range from power boats and yachts through to tractors and ride-on mowers.



Massive investment in recent years will see a growing number of customers for its latest 400 series power units, these engines offering excellent refinement and long 500 hour service intervals





The latest 400 series of compact engines from Perkins have benefited from a number of improvements that make them both quieter and smoother running than existing designs

#### ALLETT MOWERS LTD

Founded by Reginald Allett in 1955, Allett Mowers Ltd has produced some impressively long-lived professional cylinder mowers over the years. This reputation for longevity is matched by first class mowing performance, the company's pedestrian cylinder mowers having a strong following not just for summer sports turf but also high profile amenity areas. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission use Allett mowers in cemeteries around the World.

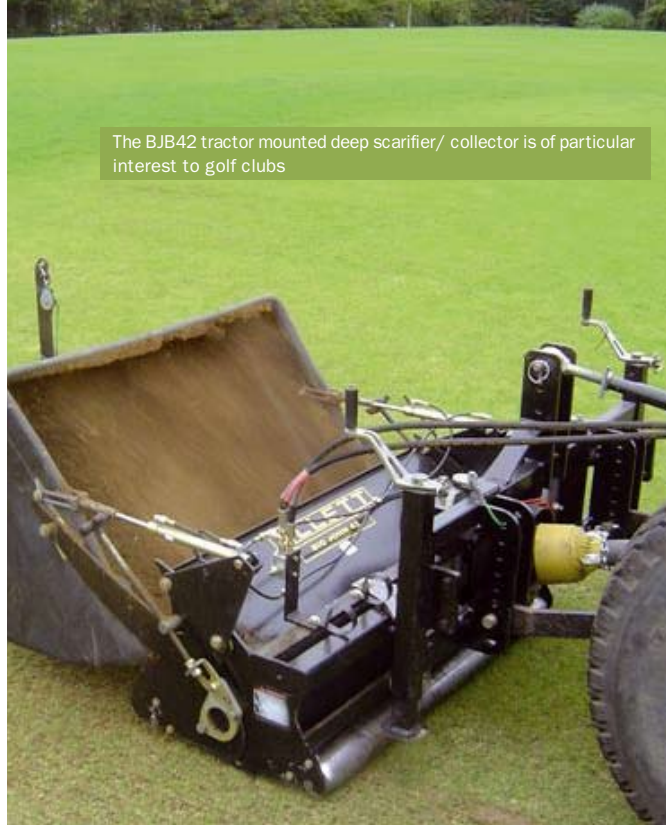
More 'recent' Allett mowers are easily recognised by the 'trade mark' stainless steel drive cover, with the 20, 24 and 27 inch Buffalo enjoying an enviable reputation as one of the best general purpose pedestrian mowers of its type.

The company's current range includes the 36 or 42 inch Regal sports turf model. Named after company founder Reg Allett, the 'RegAI' is another key model in a range of models that also includes the C20 interchangeable cassette mowers. Scarifiers, slitters and aerators are also produced from the company's works in Arbroath, Scotland.

Sales Director Roy Allett has seen growing interest in his company's mowers among golf clubs, particularly the 20 or 24in Tournament model. Fitted with a groomer, these mowers deliver the high quality of cut demanded for fast, consistent play. Now part of the Reekie Group, Allett mowers still offer a personalised service, with great emphasis placed upon product quality.



Allett offers its Shaver and Tournament models in 20 and 24 inch cutting widths, the Tournament having the addition of a groomer reel



The BJB42 tractor mounted deep scarifier/ collector is of particular interest to golf clubs

Allett's Shaver and Tournament mowers are designed to mow down to 1.5mm, these mowers will deliver 246 cuts per metre from the 10 blade cylinders. For heavier applications, a 4mm bottom blade can be specified. The Aztec range offer the same cut widths but can be fitted with a range of fully floating hydraulic attachments that include a groomer or scarifier.

The BJB42 tractor (above) is available with either 310 litre capacity manual or hydraulic tipping collector, and has a 1.08m working width. Designed to work behind tractors with a minimum of 12hp at the PTO, the BJB42 is can be offset by 230mm to avoid tramlining. 41 or 21 blades can be fitted to five a spacing of 20 or 40mm.

#### TURFMECH MACHINERY LTD

The impact made upon the turf industry by privately-owned Turfmech will be well known to turf growers. The company was responsible for importing and manufacturing equipment that has helped drive turf quality forward, with the improved mowing and harvesting systems now employed by many leading turf producers owing a great deal to the foresight and determination of Turfmech founder and Managing Director Austin Jarrett.



Austin Jarrett, Managing Director of Hixon, Staffordshire based Turfmech Machinery, is a keen advocate of British engineering

The company began life as a provider of contract turf maintenance services, branching into the distribution of mowers, blowers and turf vacuums. Turfmech Machinery evolved to become a major equipment

producer in its own right, manufacturing, marketing and supporting a product range specified and used by turf growers, groundsmen, course managers, greenkeepers, contractors and turf and grounds maintenance professionals throughout the British Isles and overseas.



Turfmech's MaxiMow 13 and 17 trailed hydraulic gangs bring a new meaning to the term 'wide area mowing', with respective mowing widths of 9.06 and 11.75m. Innovative equipment, such as this, has helped specialist turf grass growers to contain costs and improve quality

Although well known in golf circles for its low impact top dressers, blowers and vacuum equipment and the EarthQuake range of rotary turf decompactors, Turfmech mowers also have a leading role to play in large area mowing. The company's MaxiMow 13 and MaxiMow 17 trailed hydraulic gang mowers, for example, have a massive 9.06 and 11.75m operating width, making them what is believed to be the largest mowers of their type in the world. The Pro-Max 36 rotary is another wide area model, with a 10.9m working width.

Although these mowers are targeted primarily at turf growers, their efficiency has a knock-on effect for the golf and landscaping industries. The cost of growing quality turf can be more tightly controlled when kit like this is used, this in turn helping to keep turf a viable option for large area re-turfing projects.

Although remaining a relatively small company, employing around 30 staff at its Hixon, Staffordshire base, Turfmech is a strong advocate of British engineering skills, supporting graduate training and promoting further education for numerous past, present and future employees.



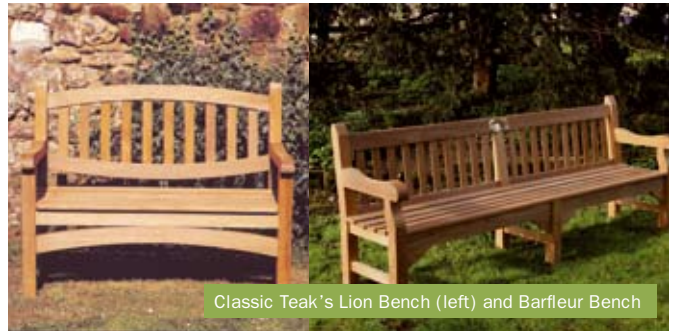
The Turfmech TM5

The Turfmech TM5 vacuum collector can be fitted with a choice of brush or scarifier suction heads. Ideal for working on large areas such as fairways and parks, the TM5 can be fitted with a wander hose. Among the latter's many uses is litter bin emptying, a useful extra for staff clearing up following a golf tournament or music event.

**CLASSIC TEAK - Great British craftsmanship isn't dead, it's alive and well and living in Yorkshire**

Classic Teak pride themselves on having retained the art of master carpentry and on using it to produce the very best hardwood outdoor furniture. This ethic and stance has been the cornerstone of the company since inception in 1923.

In today's market quality is often vying for position, the outdoor furniture industry being rife with inferior products imported from across the globe. The simple equation is quality versus cost versus value; the misconception is often that value and cost are the same thing, which of course they are not. Classic Teak's customer base spans the entire range from schools, landscapers, parks and gardens to major hotel chains and the Sandringham Estate.



Classic Teak's Lion Bench (left) and Barfleure Bench

For top products the quality depends as much on the choice of materials as on the workmanship and being able to source the correct wood for the job is vital. It takes great experience and care to make the right selections. The wood for used to make Classic Teak's products



Karl Barowsky, Managing Director of Classic Teak

comes from plantation stock or correctly managed sources, underlining the need for environmental awareness in today's climate. This is also one of the reasons why you won't find Classic Teak's furniture in any multiple store or high street chain, as they do not support the 'pile it high and sell it cheap' system so widely prevalent in some of today's outlets.

"It's not old fashioned to want to produce great quality products, it's a British tradition and it's our heritage that's at stake if we don't," said Karl.

**ALLIED TURF TECH – A small British family business**

Allied began life 22 years ago as sub-contract toolmakers, designing and manufacturing engineering production solutions to many types of industry. The Founder and Managing Director, Stuart Booth had a history of working within major British engineering companies, such as Alfred Herbert, and used this experience to begin manufacturing volume



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precision parts for all kinds of engineering based industries, ie, Textiles, Food Packaging, Automobile, Aerospace, Machine Tools, M.O.D. etc. Despite manufacturing and supporting other British companies, the company began to look for ideas for their own product range. The founder lived next to Northcliffe GC, Shipley, who asked if Allied Turf Tech could make some aeration tines upon which the company decided to become involved in re-engineering a whole range of turf blade consumables to be substantially harder and perform better than “original parts”, direct to British Golf Clubs.



The team: Jamie Booth, Stuart Booth MD, Matthew Booth

The product range continued to grow with innovations such as the Star Tine, affording the greenkeeper a much larger choice of Aeration Tines. In a number of cases only a “special” will do and on that score Allied’s purpose built turf blade machine shop is on hand for design and quick turnaround.

Further developments on the shop floor gave Allied a CNC Laser Profile Machine which is perfect for quick turnaround of flat blade type products in any shape or form. It was this facility that led to the innovative product – The Tine Comb (Patent Pending). This basically does away with the accepted design of a tine holder and singular tines.



Allied Tine Combs

Other products include many types of turf maintenance blades, i.e. Stone Burier blades, Scarifiers, Flails, Turf Cutting Blades, Hard Edging Blades all given the Allied re-engineered treatment.

“We must support our own manufacturing industry,” said MD Stuart Booth. “If we do not then we will all suffer and eventually have no control over what we have to pay. Unfortunately a lot of damage has already been done but I applaud BIGGA for enabling us to comment. We know that we offer best quality, price and delivery.”

Allied Turf Tech is now supported by the founder’s sons, Matthew and Jamie Booth, who are really proud to say they make everything they sell and also support other British suppliers.

**HAYTER – A leading producer of professional mowers**

Douglas Hayter started manufacturing mowers in 1946 thanks to a bit of lateral thinking. Originally a house builder, he needed to keep the grass leading to the sheds in which he dried timber under control. This was just after the end of WWII, and mowers of any description were hard to come by. Faced with the option of using a scythe or coming up with his own solution, he set about building a mower from a dustbin lid and redundant two-stroke motorcycle engine.



T424 Turf Mower: It is commercial users who tend to favour models such as the T424. Although a cab adds weight, it helps keep operators happy in all weathers

The resultant rotary mower soon attracted interest from all that saw it, the net result leading to Mr Hayter giving up building houses and concentrating on mower manufacture. Over 60 years later, the company has evolved into a leading producer of both domestic and professional mowers from its plant in Spellbrook, Hertfordshire. Indeed, the Hayter name has often been used generically to describe assorted grass toppers and bank mowers.



MT313 Tees & Surrounds Mowers: Light and agile, the MT313 Tees and Surrounds mower is one of Hayter’s best kept secrets.

In February 2005, the company was acquired by Toro, with manufacturing at Spellbrook continuing to thrive. The company now offers a broad choice of walk behind, ride on and trailed mowers for a wide variety of applications.

**RANSOMES JACOBSEN LTD – Celebrating 175 years of manufacture**

Ransomes Jacobsen celebrates 175 years of cylinder mower manufacture in Britain this year. In fact Ransomes was the first company in the world to build cylinder lawnmowers in volume, the company’s first models of



Managing Director, David Withers



Machines manufactured at Ipswich are virtually hand-built to match the end-users exact specification. The AR3 pictured above can also be fitted with cylinder units, this model being known as the TR3

1832 being made under licence from inventor Edwin Budding. Protected by a patent filed in 1830, the JR & A Ransomes manufactured mowers were initially sold for domestic use and signalled the beginning of lawnmower production in the UK.

Although Ransomes Jacobsen no longer produces domestic lawnmowers, it has grown to become a global leader in professional mower production, supplying equipment to golf courses, local authorities, landscape contractors, sports clubs and major sports stadia around the world.

In 1998, Ransomes was acquired by US based Textron Inc., integrating with the existing Jacobsen company to become Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd. This marked a new era of development and investment for the Ransomes element of the company. Textron, a multi-industry organisation, has a turnover of \$11 billion, employs approximately 40,000 and operates in 32 countries.

Initial fears that the Ransomes name would disappear have proven unfounded, although an early decision to 're-brand' all former Ransomes golf equipment did disappoint some; the Ransomes name is now used solely on the company's successful municipal, commercial and sports mower and equipment range.

This change has not seen the end of British-built golf maintenance equipment with the famous Ipswich factory continuing to produce mowers in Jacobsen orange livery. Among the impressive range of models produced in the UK are the G-Plex III ride-on greens mowers, the Fairway range that includes the 250, 305 and 405 models, the HR-6010 batwing rotary mower and the AR250 fine cut rotary mower for semi-roughs. Completing the line-up are the AR3 and TR3, two machines that use the same tractor unit but with a choice of cylinder or rotary decks depending on the application.

Ransomes equipment for the municipal sector retains its distinctive green livery. Recognised across the globe, the Ransomes professional mower range includes walk-behind models with cutting widths of 51-91cm, the HR-3806 out-front rotary, the Highway and Parkway triplex mowers and the five-unit Commander with its 3.5 metre cutting width. Tractor mounted mowers, both ground driven or with hydraulic drive, complete the company's impressive UK manufacturing line-up.

The manufacturing facilities at Ipswich occupy some 242,000 sq ft and have recently received £3 million worth of investment. The plant provides a light, modern and safe plant for skilled technicians to virtually hand-build each machine. If that suggests old fashioned practice, it is not meant to. Advanced laser cutting equipment, a new tube bending machine and a new robot welder have recently been installed, bringing the Ipswich factory bang up to date.

"Our 175th anniversary is a hugely significant milestone in the history of the company; from the first Budding machine in 1832 we are now one of the leading grounds care machinery manufacturers in the world," said Ransomes Jacobsen MD David Withers. "Our mowers have been supplied to monarchies and nobilities across Europe and Asia and our name has become a by-word for quality British engineering. Over the years the company has had its ups and downs, but today it is a vibrant market leader, with a modern manufacturing plant that provides employment and career opportunities to the people of Ipswich.



The Jacobsen G-Plex III production team at the end of an Ipswich factory production line. The G-Plex III is one of the UK-manufactured mowers exported around the globe, and particularly to the USA

If you look at the grounds care manufacturing industry today, you'll find a huge number of people who either began their careers in Ipswich or have worked for the company and this has been the case for decades. On a personal basis, I am delighted to be heading a dynamic management team at this significant moment in the company's history and thank everyone, past and present, for their contribution."

BIGGA readers are the first to see the latest hand-made bronze trophy by exclusive studio Thomas & Peters – and can get 20% off this and selected items for 28 days.

British company, Thomas & Peters, has been leading the way in designing figures and miniatures of clubs, bags, other equipment and much more for 25 years and sells only its own original trophies.

See: [www.golftrophies.com](http://www.golftrophies.com) for more information.





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## WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?



**Name:** David Jenkins  
**Company:** DJ Turfcare Equipment Ltd  
**Position:** Managing Director

**How long have you been in the industry?**  
"35 years."

### How did you get into it?

"I was a Sales Engineer with a Company manufacturing instruments when I was approached by a magazine called Parks & Sportsgrounds to become their Advertisement Manager. I spent five years in publishing and was then recruited to head up sales & marketing for Jacobsen machines in the UK."

### What others jobs have you done?

"I originally served an apprenticeship as an instrument maker which is rather strange because when I finished, I immediately went into the Merchant Navy as a Ship's Engineer. The two jobs could hardly be more different. I eventually returned to the instrument making industry as a Sales Engineer and as I have said, was recruited from there into publishing."

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

"The thing I love most about this industry, and particularly my current job, is the opportunity to mix with people who have their feet firmly planted on the ground, i.e. they are involved in growing grass."

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

"Industry changes over the last 35 years have been enormous. The first time I visited the IOG Show, which was then called Mottspur Park, all sorts of people had different machines, many of their own design and making. In particular I recall Rocky Rochford (Peter Rochford's father) who in those days manufactured his own Turf Cutter. Rocky owned a brown bowler hat which is something I have never seen before or since. I think he used it as his trademark."

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

"I have two children and five grandchildren. It is quite fascinating watching grandchildren grow up - you are inclined to take more notice of their development than you did with your own kids. I am also a Lay Reader at our local Church."

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

"At my age that is a stupid question."

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

"This is a wonderful industry to be in. I count it a great privilege that I have enjoyed it for so long and consider all those I have met throughout the years to be colleagues, friends and people who I have been glad to rely on."

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

"I am afraid I do not believe in luck."

**David picked no. 56, Rob Donald, Whitehorse Contractors**

## DEAR READERS...

That's everybody, although this short piece is more specifically for the "maintainers" and "repairers" of turf maintenance equipment.

With thanks to BIGGA, who have kindly offered this magazine as a platform, I would like to inform you of a relatively new association that is free to join with benefits to those involved as Mechanics & Technicians on the equipment we all use daily.

The International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association (IGCEMA) is the brainchild of an Equipment Manager in Florida called Stephen Tucker. Although based in the USA the Association is aimed at technicians and maintainers worldwide.

Founded in September 2006, this association is already effecting changes that will benefit mechanics such as us all over the world. Nine countries are currently represented in the membership, which is growing daily.

There is now a website [www.igcema.org](http://www.igcema.org), (see picture, right) with background information, aims, ideas, an active forum and where you can join if you would like - Membership is free.

Online education is available to all for no cost and in the near future will be in two languages, English and Spanish (possibly others depending on demand).

The educational offerings, which are the underpinning idea in forming the association, will lead to certification with recognised qualifications that are accepted internationally. Having demonstrably improved knowledge will enable Technicians to improve their position with employers by showing greater worth and justifying increased rewards it is hoped.

You may be aware that there is a severe lack of dedicated college courses available in both the UK and America, specifically for Turf Equipment Technicians. In addition there are the stumbling blocks of time and money for Companies to release personnel and justify the cost of hotels, travel and course fees. Online education can help with all of these, students can access courses in "off duty" time, travelling is not required and the cost will certainly be affordable to all.

I urge you to not only join the association but to pass on this information to others you know by any means that you have; personal contact, email, snail mail, Company Representatives within the industry, or just tell them about it by telephone.

Please visit the website and have a look, you have nothing to lose and if you decide to join us, an awful lot to gain.

Patrick Callaby  
Board Member

## THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank David Rae at Fairways GM Ltd and Ransomes Jacobsen very much for the invite to Anaheim for the GCSAA Golf Industry Show.

I was invited on the trip along with five other Course Managers from

the North East of Scotland - Hugh McLatchie from Peterhead Golf Club, John Littlejohn from Fraserburgh Golf Club, John Morton from Alford Golf Club, James Piece from Newburgh Golf Club and Roddie Mess from The Aspire Golf Centre.

Special thanks must also go to our Fairways representative Wilson Morrison and from Ransomes, Ian Bridges, you looked after us and made sure we were fed and watered at all times and also showed us some of the great American places like hooters (but there lies another story).

Davie Wilson from St Andrews Links also joined us on the trip so a big thank you to him for his company.

It was a long distance to travel but was well worth it in the end, the show was fantastic and the company even better.

Many thanks

Dale Robertson

Course Manager, Newmachar Golf Club



## LONDON MARATHON 2007

Dear BIGGA

On Sunday, April 22, we managed to complete the London Marathon (26.2 miles).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. We managed to raise around £4,000 for Asthma UK.

Many thanks

Andy Reason and Steve Richardson

Sunningdale Golf Club

# New Products



## CORE COLLECTOR

The redesigned CC3000HL Core Collector from Charterhouse Turf Machinery is still the only pedestrian operated machine of its kind in the world. Enabling speedy clear-up of greens to get them back into play after essential aeration work, it now has an integral belt collection system for maximum pick-up efficiency.

[www.charterhouseturfmachinery.co.uk](http://www.charterhouseturfmachinery.co.uk)



## BETTER, FASTER, CHEAPER

Call-Systems Technology has launched EasyCall, an idea in customer paging systems for golf clubs that is simple but effective.

EasyCall encourages clubs to make better use of outside dining and drinking areas, by allowing guests to summon staff by a simple button press. It consists of a self-contained wireless weatherproof button that can be embedded in tables outside and is effectively maintenance-free. When pressed it sends an

instant message to the base station in the bar, restaurant or kitchen, alerting the waiter which table requires service.

0800 389 5642  
or visit: [www.call-systems.com](http://www.call-systems.com)



## COMPACT TRACTOR

A new version of Valpadana's hydrostatic drive compact tractor, introduced by distributor Landini UK, has an updated drive-train and new front linkage/pto options that add to the machine's versatility.

The Valpadana 1430 replaces the 1330 model and comes in two versions –the HST with a conventional forward-facing driving position and as the HST-REV with reversible seat, instruments and controls.

[www.landini.com](http://www.landini.com)



## DIESEL POWER

Bobcat has launched a restyled version of the 2200D multi-purpose, four-wheel drive utility vehicle. Changes in the latest version of the two-passenger 2200D include a new rugged front-end design, brush guard and new tyres. These changes enhance the ability of the 2200D to tackle a wide range of terrains for applications as diverse as working on farms and country estates to gaining access across construction and landscaping sites.

[www.bobcat.com](http://www.bobcat.com)



## TURF CUTTER

Northern Ireland based Groundsman Industries, have just launched a new Turf Cutter which has been designed specifically for the landscaping and hire industry.

The Groundsman TCSRB Turf Cutter is from the same stable as the TCDBR rear blade four wheel drive Turf Multi Cutter launched by Groundsman Industries two years ago.

[www.groundsmanindustries.com](http://www.groundsmanindustries.com)





**ELECTRO-HYDRAULIC CONTROLS**

Programmable electro-hydraulic controls are now available as an option on the ProPass 180 low impact top dresser and the MH-400 materials handler from Turfmech Machinery.

Offered in place of the standard hydraulic control levers, the new electro-hydraulic (EH) system is designed to enhance the ease, speed and convenience of using the two machines.

[www.turfmech.co.uk](http://www.turfmech.co.uk)



**GOLFING CHALLENGE**

The online game [www.puttitaway.co.uk](http://www.puttitaway.co.uk) created by the Government's smart business agency Envirowise, invites you to try out your golfing skills on an 11-hole course while flagging up tips on making your business leaner and greener.

And if you feel the need for real competition, you can pit yourself against other UK regions and compete to see who's the 'greenest' on the green.

[www.puttitaway.co.uk](http://www.puttitaway.co.uk)



**BACKPACK BLOWER**

Echo have launched a new, tough, back-pack blower aimed at commercial users, for heavy applications. The new PB-755 is powered by a two-stroke engine and features an integrated anti-vibration design.



[www.echo-tools.co.uk](http://www.echo-tools.co.uk)

**PORTABLE COMPRESSOR ENHANCED**

Ingersoll Rand has launched an enhanced version of the small 7/20E portable compressor. It is aimed at a wide range of applications in plant hire, construction and general industry - including standard pressure applications such as powering breakers and tools in road repair, demolition and refurbishment.

[www.ingersollrand.com](http://www.ingersollrand.com)



**REVOLUTIONARY ROOTZONE SYSTEM**

WBB Minerals and Scotts have launched a brand new rootzone system called TurfStart which claims it will allow golf and football clubs to establish a much healthier playing surface in a far shorter space of time.

The system differs from conventional rootzone materials in that it is pre-blended with Scotts latest controlled release fertiliser technology and, under a patented process, mixed with a quantity of lignite from WBB's reserves in Devon.

[www.wbbminerals.net](http://www.wbbminerals.net)

Below: Mick Higgins of WBB Minerals (right) and Stuart Staples of Scotts, demonstrate the difference between grass seed grown in TurfStart (right) and seed grown in a conventional rootzone material – over a three month period.





## News from the Chief Executive

**I was saddened to learn of the sudden death of Don Hunt who was an Associate member and a staunch supporter of BIGGA in the Devon and Cornwall Section. I had the privilege of knowing Don for a number of years and his enthusiasm and gentlemanly nature will be a sad loss. Our condolences go to his wife and family.**

My condolences also go to the families of Peter Richmond and Matthew Folka both of whom died recently.

There seems to be much rumour and speculation regarding BIGGA's talks with the IOG regarding a possible merger. The two organisations put out a joint Press Release to the media following a recent meeting of representatives from both Boards of Management.

This was also reproduced in full on our own website within the 'News' section of the Members' area. Talks to date have centred round identifying prime aims and key issues, how discussions and a review will operate and how and when consultation with members will take place. As I have stated in earlier writings the talks are merely at an investigative stage and members will be consulted when there is something to be consulted about. I am in danger of repeating myself however it is important that members of both organisations understand that the membership will ALWAYS have the final say and that no agreement will be entered into unless the majority of members are in favour. It is inevitable that there will be mixed opinion and I would ask that everyone reserves judgement until the outcome of talks are communicated. The BIGGA Board of Management will be looking at the consultation process at their next meeting in June, coupled with this serious thought needs to be given to the voting process to ensure that all members have the chance to decide upon the Association's future. I am assured by Geoff Webb, IOG's Chief Executive, that the views expressed by the editor of The Groundsman, Trevor Ledger, in his column of the May issue are not the views of the IOG. The steering group that has been appointed by the Boards of BIGGA and the IOG is due to meet again in early July following which I will post a report on our web site as well as an update in the August edition of Greenkeeper International.

By the time that you read this two major tournaments will have taken place, the Welsh Open at the Celtic Manor and the BMW/PGA Tournament at Wentworth. I hope that the weather was kind to both sets of organisers and that Jim McKenzie and Chris Kennedy and their teams had a successful event.

*John Pemberton*



### SCOTLAND – AYRSHIRE

Hello all! Hope you're all in good health and have started the season on the front foot. That unseasonably warm and dry weather in April gave us an early wake up call at Turnberry as we rushed out the hoses to our newly turfed areas. All major construction work in preparation for The Open in 2009 has been completed. This included (over the past two winters) 12 Championship tees, 21 fairway bunkers, the complete lifting, shifting, landscaping and re-laying of the 16th fairway alongside other nips and tucks here and there. Added length, hole re-shaping and strategic bunker placements were a must if the Ailsa course was to test the best in the game and I have no doubt that this will be the case, and it could get really ugly if the wind blows!

Lochgreen was the venue for the Spring Outing on Wednesday, April 25. Weather on the day was good with a stiff breeze proving a test over the opening six holes.

Our thanks to my pal Billy Fletcher and South Ayrshire Council for allowing us the times and use of the facilities and it was well commented on how fairly the course played, but I know that as Lochgreen is where I have played most of my golf over the past few years. Some had the cheek to say this was a major factor in the results! Our gratitude also to the chef's and friendly waitresses who provided excellent food and lovely beer.

The results were as follows: 1.1 D. Tweddell (Get In!), 37pts; 2.1. MacDonald (Unlucky!), 36pts; 2.3 G. Morrison (Lucky!), 36pts; 2.4 R. Macbeth (Alas!), 34pts. 2.1 M. Lothian (No comment!), 38pts; 2.2 R. Bunting (Robbed!), 38pts; 2.3 D. Jeffrey (Tough school!), 34pts; 2.4 G. Ross (Ya dancer!), 34pts. Trade Prize – D. Duthie (As usual!)

There were 45 members in attendance which is a great turnout. Thanks largely to a good number travelling from the Dumfries area and coming over from Arran - Thanks lads for helping to make it such an enjoyable day.

The Dundonald GC and Barrassie GC are hosting the BIGGA National Championship on October 8 and 9, so hopefully we can get some numbers in the competition and take some of the silverware. Our rematch against the Northern Irish lads has been scheduled for Friday, October 5. If there are any of you who played in last year's massacre who are unable to go over, good! I mean can you please let me know. Likewise if there are any brave souls interested in coming aboard please get in touch. More details will appear soon.

I can be reached at: [denis.t@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:denis.t@hotmail.co.uk) or: 07939 104701

*Denis Tweddell*



### SCOTLAND – EAST

I start this month's report with a plea to all East Section members to attend the Scottish National Tournament at Berwick Golf Club, on Thursday, June 21. With the event on your doorstep this year, the usual excuse

# Around the Green

of distance does not apply in this case. It will also give everybody the opportunity to see at first hand the major improvements to the course that George and his team have carried out in recent years.

The Spring Outing was held on Tuesday, April 17, at the Glen GC, in North Berwick, where a total of 41 attended. As usual Ian Kinley and his team presented the course in excellent condition and drew fulsome praise from all in attendance, including our Scottish Representative, Peter Boyd. Our thanks go to the Glen GC for granting us courtesy of the course, the catering staff for keeping everybody fed and watered and last but certainly not least, to the trade for providing the raffle prizes. The results of the golf are as follows: Best Scratch – Keith Burgan, Goswick, 76pts; 1.1 Stuart Ferguson, Dundas Park, 78-6-72pts; 1.2 Mark Pagan, Eyemouth, 80-7-73; 2.1 Neil Jacobs, Glencorse, 93-13-80; 2.2 Adam Sherwood, Glencorse, 99-17-82; 3 Liam Grossart, Glencorse, 120-28-92; Best Nett – Colin McArthur, Mortonhall, 77-6-71; Veterans – Alistair Holmes, Seahouses, 78-5-73 (NB – you are catching me up Alistair) Trade – Jim Darling, Aitkens, 78-4-74.

On Tuesday, April 26 George Thompson, from Goswick, played in a team event at the Dukes Golf Course in Fife. The team was Captained by my old friend Andrew Corn, of Acorn Golf, and included Colin Powrie, from Ladybank, and Paul Murphy, from Downfield. Although, in George's words, his golf was dire, he had a great day and I understand he spent a lot of his time discussing his love of motorbikes with Andrew!

The Course Manager at Kilspindie GC, John Arbuckle, has recently returned to work after being rushed to hospital with a ruptured appendix. After three weeks in late January/early February of feeling unwell, and with his local doctor being unable to pinpoint the problem, he collapsed and was rushed to hospital on February 11 where he was given an emergency operation. Fortunately John has made a full recovery and is now back at work.

*Mike Dooner*



## SCOTLAND – NORTH

Hello everybody, is this dry weather your friend or foe? I would imagine the links courses need some rain now, as it has been very dry for quite a while. We went 26 consecutive days from mid March without any rain. Thank God we had our irrigation system up and running by then. It was unusually warm through April and early May for this part of the world, anyway we shouldn't complain too much as it may turn cold in the summer.

There are three new members to add this month, Stewart Brown, Assistant at Royal Aberdeen GC; Andrew Smith, Greenkeeper at Meldrum House GC and Michael Forsyth, Greenkeeper at Rothes GC. Welcome to the North Section lads.

We will have had our outing at Oldmeldrum by now so the results will be posted next month. While talking about Oldmeldrum, Robert O'Donnell, the Head Greenkeeper, told me that they were excavating an area to extend a tee and they uncovered a Toro GM3 intact with the grass boxes still on the machine. There were some other pieces of equipment in there as well but it was the Toro that caught the eye. I wonder if

anybody will own up to dumping that one and have an idea how long it has been in there.

Raymond Warrender and Kevin Strachan have suggested putting on a bus from the Aberdeen area to go to the Autumn Outing at Fortrose GC. They would like to get an idea of numbers to see if it is feasible or not. I think it is a great idea and would allow for a bit of banter and camaraderie if we could get at least 12-15 people.

The Scottish Championship is at Goswick GC, near Berwick Upon Tweed, this year and I'm sure George Thompson and his staff will have the course looking its best. I bet George and the lads are glad that they won't have to travel far this year for the Scottish. They never miss one, it's great credit to them for supporting the event from so far away every year.

Andrew Nixon, who has been an Assistant at Fortrose GC, has left the club to try another profession. Fortrose GC would like to thank Andrew for his endeavours at the club and wish him all the best for the future.

Not much more from me this month. Keep up the good work and hopefully we will see some of you at the Scottish Championship at Goswick.

*Robert N Patterson*



## SCOTLAND – WEST

Welcome to this month's West Section report. I'm sorry for the lack of reports the last couple of months, I've been in Australia visiting my family.

The Section visited the new Carrick course at Loch Lomond during May and the feedback was first class. I would like to thank Alec Clachan for allowing us to see the course in the early stages, also to Stuart Taylor, our Education Convenor, for arranging the day and to Gordon Howat, from Souters, for providing lunch.

On the education front – over the past month training courses have been run on manual handling and fire safety at GOSTA training in Glasgow. They turned out to be very successful and more courses will be arranged for later on in the year, thanks to Stuart for organising the courses.

The Section played their annual match against the Secretaries at Glenbervie. Stuart Taylor arranged the team for the day and they were victorious four matches to two.

The Spring Outing was held over Blair Beth GC, it was a fantastic day and the sun shone from start to finish. Eddie McGee had the course in first class condition as many folk commented - congratulations to Eddie and his staff. Everyone at the club was very helpful with the food and bar service was first class.

I would like to thank the Captain and Committee for courtesy of their fine course and hope to see them again in the future.

The results on the day were: Scratch Stuart Taylor; 1.1 Scott Mc Kittrick; 1.2 Andy Peace; 1.3 Brian Hillan; 2.1 Steven Copland; 2.2 John Barr; 2.3 Barry Mculloch; 3.1 Michael Maxton; 3.2 Richard Cuthbert; 3.3 Stephen Sheehan; Trade Prize - Robert Bruce.

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# Around the Green

The Scottish National Tournament will be held at Goswick GC on June 21. Please try and come along as it's a great day.

New members this month are: Kenneth Ambrose, Airdrie; James Gilmore and Christian Carrel, both East Renfrewshire. Welcome to the Section.

This year's night out will have a change of venue as we will be going to the Comedy Club in Glasgow, included will be three comedians entertainment and a three course meal.

Fraser Ross – 07970366355



## NORTHERN – NORTH EAST

On April 19 we played our Spring Competition at Tynemouth GC. Credit goes to Head Greenkeeper, Ian Kerr, and his staff for the condition of their course - it was a pleasure to play there, the greens were excellent for the time of the year. A sunny day marred by a strong west wind made scoring pretty high but everyone who played enjoyed the day, pity there were not a few more playing – I'm sure they had their reasons for not been there. Our thanks to the following companies who donated prizes: Turfservices Ltd, Shorts, Greenlay, Hoggs of Fife, and, of course, to the committee of the golf club for granting us courtesy. Former Head Greenkeeper, Brian Udberg, of Tynemouth, was retiring at the end of April after 30 years - a mean feat these days working at the same club, good luck Brian, hope to see you at future events.

The leading scores were as follows: Best Gross - A.Gunn, Hexham GC, 82pts; Best Nett - K.Dinsdale, 90-20= 72; Northumberland Assistants Cup - B.Udberg, Tynemouth GC, 88-15= 73.

Next year we might be playing the Autumn Competition at Northumberland GC. I bet you we get a few coming out of the closet for that one - lets hope we get a strong turnout for the Autumn Competition this year at Ravensworth - another course that we have not played for along time.

Jimmy Richardson



## NORTHERN – NORTH WEST

We had a great day at Prestbury GC on April 19. The course was in magnificent condition and the food was fantastic. Many thanks to

Bathgates for providing the Nearest to the Pin and the Longest Drive, and all our sponsors who contributed on the day.

The prize winners were: Best Gross - J. Ellisson; Best Nett - Simon Barker; Vets Prize - Peter Hogan (hope you're feeling better Peter) and the Guests Prize went to Garry Cusack. The committee would like to thank Prestbury GC for their hospitality and courtesy of the course. Next up is the Summer Tournament at Denton GC on June 28, not June 14 as published on the fixture list. If you wish to play in the tournament please send a cheque payable to: BIGGA North West Section for £20 to Bill Merritt, The Lodge, Beacon Park Golf Club, Beacon Lane, Dalton, Wigan, WN8 7RU. Mobile no: 07985175825. On a more sombre note, it is with great sadness I have to report the tragic death of Jason Dutton, Jason was the North West Representative for Turner Groundscare and I am sure everyone who met him would say how friendly and helpful he was. Our thoughts are with his wife and daughter and all the staff at Turner Groundscare for their sad loss.

Chris Sheehan



## NORTHERN


I'm pleased to say that the weather was perfect for our first tournament of the year at Hessle GC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank George and his staff at Hessle for their hard work leading up to the Spring Tournament, the course was in fantastic condition and was a credit to you all. Also thanks to Tito Arana, and Alpha Amenity, for their sponsorship of the day.

The results on the day were as follows: Scratch Cup – Grant Lee; 1.1 John Waite; 1.2 Dave Collins; 1.3 Andy Slingsby; 2.1 Adam Speight; 2.2 Chris Martin; 2.3 John Watts; 3.1 Ken Christie (I know, I couldn't believe it either!); 3.2 Simon Rothwell; 3.3 Richard Smith. Trade: 1. Ian Collett; 2. John Dobson. Nearest the Pins: 6th Alan Barker; 16th Dave Smith.

Please remember that the next event in our calendar is President's Day, which this year is taking place at Ripon GC on Thursday, June 28. First tee off is at 1.30pm. If you wish to play, please let me have your name and payment of £17 at least one week in advance of the event.

One of the dates missing from your fixture list, which I am hoping you have all received, was the date for the Autumn Tournament. I am pleased to inform you that the day has now been arranged and is being held at Fulford GC on September 27 with first tee off at 1.35pm.

Yet another date for your diaries is Wednesday, September 5. This is the date we have booked to hold an end of season seminar. The seminar will



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# Around the Green

be held at Moortown GC and is being sponsored by Rigby Taylor. The seminar is based upon the latest findings from the STRI at Bingley, with regard to their Disturbance Theory. Studies and data from the Institute are now challenging long held maintenance procedures and applications by greenkeepers. The two speakers on the day will be Henry Bechelet and Richard Windows, who I am sure some of you will already know. This is a free seminar, so anybody who is interested in attending please let me know, we will be starting around 9.30am, there will be a buffet lunch, and expect to finish at around 3pm.

And finally, I must say a massive thanks to John Dobson and Midlube Ltd for the sponsorship and distribution of this year's fixture list.

*Adam Speight*  
16s Hodgson Fold, Myers Lane, Bradford, BD2 4EB.  
Mobile: 07739 319060



## MIDLAND

As a committee we have discussed on many an occasion setting up our own BIGGA Midland Section web page. Thanks to the great skills of Leigh Swann we now have been able to produce what I can only describe as a superb web page. Such offers many informative and simple to access pages that offer information regarding many differing aspects of our profession. From education to general information, golfing fixtures and their individual start times, and the ability to post any comments you may have and interact with others on the site, are all available at: [www.biggamidlandsection.com](http://www.biggamidlandsection.com). Please visit our web page, it is for you, why not log on? You may be assured that such has been screened for viruses etc. and that such will not be omitted to third parties. Very well done Leigh. This month's calendar page is sponsored by our irrigation friend's of North Staffs Irrigation Ltd. Our thanks to them for their kind support.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome two new members to our Section, Russell Sinnett, of Stonebridge GC, and Malcom Barnett, of Warwickshire GC.

With the deepest of regret and sincere sadness, it falls upon me to inform you of the sad passing of our President Mr Peter Richmond. Peter was undeniably a great force within our profession, his counsel was always sought and never wrong. More over Peter was a true gentleman and friend to all he met. The world is a lesser place without him, but a better place because of him. Our deepest of condolences to his friends and family at this most difficult time. Good night Sir.

*Sean McDade*



## EAST OF ENGLAND

Well chaps, don't say you weren't warned, if nobody gave me any news views and/or gossip I would have to talk about Scottish rugby, so here goes! Well maybe not, although we will do better than England in the World Cup, but hell, that's not difficult.

What a start to the season, in 26 years I have never known one quite like it – how dry and warm was that, don't you just love this job, hand-watering in April, what next, cutting fairways in January? Oh bugger, we did that as well, God bless global warming.

You should all have your fixture card by now, not all Rob's fault, we were double booked so a bit of juggling was required but we got there. Our thanks go to JCB for sponsoring it this year.

There are a few changes this year, for example, there are two order of merit awards, the main one and one for the under 25's which is sponsored by Banks - thanks Simon. We also have a two night stay at Harrogate up for grabs, this will be awarded to two members who have done the most to support the Section throughout the year, Course Managers and Committee are not included, this is sponsored by Wurths - thanks Ian.

Ransomes Jacobsen have sponsored the half way house at every event this year which is greatly appreciated.

The first Golf Day of the year was held at Seacroft, which was sponsored by Rigby Taylor, the course was in fantastic condition – a credit to Tim and his staff. Our thanks also go to STG supplies for the new Nearest the Pin and Longest Drive markers. The results were as follows: 1. B. Robinson; 2. L. Howkins; 3. A. Cox; 4. G. MacDonald. Nearest the Pin – G. Cooper; Longest Drive – R. Bemment; Trade Prize – R. Latham; Longest Walk – Matt Smith.

All the best for the season.

*Allan Walker*  
07974816927



## MID ANGLIA

Hello chaps, I hope you are all getting to grips with the dry start to the season as I write this in the summer like month of May.

I would like to congratulate Gerald Bruce for completing the London Marathon, especially after getting a blister after just six miles. Well done mate.

Our first competition was held at East Herts GC at the beginning of May and the results were as follows: 1. S. Mason, Stocks, 38pts on countback; 2. J. Smith, South Beds, 38pts; 3. M. Halverson, East Herts, 37pts. Nearest the Pin – F. Whittle, Stocks, Straightest Drive – J. Elborn, Shendish Manor.

John and myself have both qualified for the National Championship up in Scotland this year - If anyone feels like joining us, I am sure there will be application forms available from BIGGA HQ, it would be good to have a team entered and being in October we should be fairly quiet on the course.

The committee and all who played would like to thank East Herts GC for their hospitality on the day. Also a big thank you to Neil Faubel and his team for the hard work and presentation that went into giving us a course in excellent condition.



Thanks to our sponsor of the day, Darren Mugford, from Rigby Taylor, for the prize table, (now I have a new bag to go with my new handicap) and, of course, to all our other trade members who always support our Section so well.

That's all for now folks, but if you want anything aired through ATG then please get in touch with a committee member and we will do our best to get it printed.

The next competition will be at one of my old clubs, Welwyn Garden City GC on August 9, it will be an afternoon tee off with a three course evening meal, hope to see you there.

Steve Mason



### SOUTH EAST – SURREY

Monday, May 7. It rained today in Surrey, not much but enough to water in the fertiliser/weed and moss killer I had spread by hand on Sunday. I am now waiting for the deep green lawn, the packet promised, to appear at any moment so that I can photograph it and show you all my expertise? It rained as I mentioned but only when I was at the top of the ladder washing the conservatory roof. I got soaked much to the amusement of my wife who was sitting reading in the said conservatory. I did contemplate climbing down and waiting for a dry spell but once committed I wanted the job done. So I got wet but the conservatory roof, conservatory sounds more up market than lean-to, is algae free and a shining example to all conservatory owners. So much for my weekend and I hope you all had as much fun as I did and are now looking forward to the rest of the rain that is forecast for this week.

They say no news is good news but that's no good when you have a monthly report to fill and only a little news to fill it with, so help me out, don't bore the wife as I suggested in last month's effort, tell me and save yourself the torment of reading my usual (creative) endeavours. One member who didn't bore the wife was Jason King, from Woodcote Park GC, for Paula was too busy giving birth to their first son Charlie 8lbs 6ozs at 12.40am on April 19. Congratulations to you both from us all. Also congratulations to John Budd, from Ham Manor GC, the new Course Manager at Effingham GC who is now probably looking forward to rejoining Surrey Section after many years lost in the wilds of Sussex. Royal Mid Surrey GC also has a new Course

Manager and we welcome Gavin Kinsella who is leaving Royal Blackheath GC in South London for the 36-hole course in Richmond. The draw for the Surrey Bowl has been forwarded to all participants, so good luck

to you all and may the best team win - especially Mark Harvey and his partner.

Results of the second golf event at Gatton Manor GC will appear in July's edition and I hope the turnout proves to be larger than the response so far predicts. Please support Surrey's Golf Days or they will disappear and then what would I do?

Finally I'm pleased to report that the something that Barry Robertson had operated on has not fallen off and is nearly back to full working order and he can now get it just above shoulder height.

Brian Willmott



### KENT

Golfers. Where would we be without them? All shapes, sizes, ages, races, classes and ethnic backgrounds but all with one thing in common, a love of the game which we work tirelessly to provide for them. And as an ever-increasing number of this most unique of species flock to us at Birchwood, one cannot help but be swept along with the infectious enthusiasm that so many vastly different people display when they approach the first tee.

Golf is now very much a game for the masses and has long since shed it's millstone of being an elitist pastime, thanks largely, in my opinion, to a certain Mr Woods who has transcended many divides and has made the sport of golf big business.

Most greenkeepers are now also golfers and are treated with far more respect whether we are playing our courses or just when we are maintaining them. Our paying guests and members are far more appreciative of the intricacies of golf course management these days than they were in years gone by, when we were required to be neither seen nor heard by anybody.

BIGGA have played a big role in helping our cause but the now universal appeal of our great game has, ultimately, improved the lot of the green keeping profession. Very rarely these days do we get referred to as mere grass cutters.

Golfers are also a more discerning breed than their predecessors of old. Very few are loyal to a single club come what may, but are more than willing to travel 20 or 30 miles to get a decent game. That puts pressure on us to provide the best possible environment and therefore ensure the future of our clubs which would no longer survive without a first-class core product.

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# Around the Green

The most beneficial part of my membership with BIGGA all relates to this end. The regular interaction with like-minded individuals at a variety of different courses who are more than happy to impart some of their unique knowledge to help out their fellow man sets our profession apart from surely any other. In what other career would you find local rivals getting together sharing experiences and knowledge to help each other's business?

No, in this cut-throat world our profession is unique and something we should all be proud of. Solidarity Brothers! Tune in again next month for more inane drivel - unless you lot give me some news to write about!

Don't forget our next golf day which is a 2pm tee off at Westgate and Birchington GC in Westgate on Sea. Entry forms along with a host of other informative tidbits can be found on our recently re-launched website at: [kentgreenkeepers.co.uk](http://kentgreenkeepers.co.uk) Many thanks to Danny Stunt, of Redlibbets GC, who was given the unenviable task of totally revamping the old site and has really come up trumps for us.

Good luck to Gavin Kinsella who is moving from Royal Blackheath to Royal Mid-Surrey. I guess he just can't get that blue blood out of his veins!

Don't forget to contact me, or any member of your committee, via the webpage with news or pictures.

Rob Holland



## LONDON

Hello and Welcome to the London Section. I hope you are all well and the season is well underway.

I'm glad to see we finally gotten some rain after the NO April showers! I can't remember ever hand-watering so early in any year. There's no gossip to report at the moment but please let me know if you have anything to put in the magazine!

The Spring Meeting was held at Brookmans Park GC, with a great turnout. There was a good standard of golf on the day (mostly from Brookmans Park). Thanks to my playing partners Jamie and Gordon for an enjoyable round. We must give a special mention to Darren and his team for all their hard work, the course was very impressive. Everyone I spoke to complimented the superb conditions. Also thanks goes to the Catering, Bar staff and new Secretary for giving us a brief insight to the club's history.

The results of the day are as follows: 1. Johnson, Sandy Lodge, 37pts; 2. Ian Boothby, Brookmans Park, 36pts; 3. James Baldry, Brookmans Park, 34pts; 4. Daniel Watts, Brookmans Park, 34pts.

Good luck to Pat and Ian who go through to the National Championship in Scotland. A big thank you to AT Olivers for sponsoring what turned out to be a good day with great prizes. As always a big thank you to our on going sponsors: Supergrass; Avoncrop Amenity; Rigby Taylor; Seoul Nassau; Prime Irrigation; Rainbird; Turner Groundscare; Banks Amenity; Browns; Scotts; Gems Professional.

Lastly I would like to thank Aaron Percival, David Badham, Jamie Lomas and Rob Phillips for their hard work on the day.

Please see below for 2007 fixtures: Summer meeting at Gerrards Cross GC on Thursday, August 16, tees from 1.45pm. Turkey trot meeting (Scotts Trophy) at Porters Park GC on Wednesday, December 12, tees from 10am.

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

*Matt Pledsted*



## EAST ANGLIA

By the time you read this report, you should have received your fixture list for this year. I am sorry that it is so late but we had to reschedule a fixture and it has taken time to negotiate with another club – but do not worry, everything has now been finalised. The National Championship will take place at Barassie GC and Dundonald GC, near Prestwick, on October 8 and 9.

April 25 saw 45 of our happy band descend on Newton Green GC for our first meeting of the year. The course was in excellent condition, which was a fitting tribute to Kelvin Sansum and his team – John Morley-Smith, Martin Brightwell and Chris Gurton's hard work. The Secretary, Carol List, and the Club Captain, Ian Woodhead, made us feel very welcome. I would like to thank all the Club House staff for the superb meal and service throughout the day.

Our main sponsor was Ernest Doe, and Eddie Jack and Andy Turbin were on hand to ensure that everything was ready for the off. As usual the Section Secretary, Ian Willett made sure that the day ran as smoothly as possible.

On to the results: 0-9 Handicap Group – 1. Michael Virley, 34pts; 2. Nick Brewster, 33pts; 3. Peter Howard, 33pts. 10-18 Handicap Group – 1. Robert Ransome, 37pts; 2. Glen Rayfield, 29pts; 3. Wayne Thrower, 28pts. 19-28 Handicap Group – 1. Andrew Baker, 34pts; 2. John Morley-Smith, 32pts; 3. Martin Mison, 29pts.

Michael Virley and Robert Ransome will represent the Section at the National Championships. Trade and Guest results – 1. Edward Clarkson, 33pts; 2. Paul Hewitt, 32pts; 3. Ian Woodhead, 31pts. Nearest the Pin – Wayne Thrower; Longest Drive – Jams Gill.

The coveted toilet seat went to Keith Titshall – this is the second occasion his name is to be put on the trophy, he was quite magnanimous in accepting the honour. The Section would like to thank: Ernest Doe, Aitkens, Tacit, Headland, Rigby Taylor, Collier Turf Care, SISIS, Atterton & Ellis, Lely UK, Tomlinson Groundcare, Consult Clarkson and Scotts for their continual support of the Section. If I have missed anyone out please let me know and I will include you next time.

Clive Osgood, our Regional Administrator, popped in on his way to another meeting at the London Section and wished everyone well.





The presentation of the prizes was overseen by The Club Captain, Ian Woodhead and Eddie Jack.

Our next meeting will take place at Stowmarket GC on Thursday, June 14. On a finishing note, Mark Henderson has now joined Rookery Park GC as Course Manager. May I take this opportunity to congratulate him on his promotion and wish him well with his new golf club. See you soon - at our next meeting.

Ian Willett



## ESSEX

What a month we have had - no rain until May 7! That's six weeks without anything significant. I recorded 14mm in 24 hours at home which was just what we needed. My courses are certainly starting to struggle, as are most of the courses around our area.

The first Section Tournament of the year is under our belts and what a fine day we had, our thanks go to Jon Selwood, of Avoncrop Amenity Products, for their sponsorship. Gosfield Lake GC was the venue and boy did they do us proud. 51 players were on the start sheet and it was smooth running all day.

Well done to Antony Kirwan for organising it. He mixed us all up and with a two-tee start, we were all in on time for a fine evening meal. Our thanks go to the catering staff for looking after us so well during the day.

The inclusion of starting times on our new website helped those that looked, [www.essexbigga.co.uk](http://www.essexbigga.co.uk) again our thanks to Tom Smith, of Colne Valley, for setting it all up. Personally, I had an abysmal day but enjoyed the companionship of Andy Turbin and Jamie Hughes who, though not tearing the course apart had a good couple of scores.

Winners on the day, apart from the course that was playing very short due in part to the hard ground conditions and strong wind were: Best overall - Nick Gates, 36pts; 1.1 - all on count back, Tom Smith, 35pts; 1.2 Adam Milward, 35pts; 1.3 Robert Bramwell, 35pts; 2.1 Don Clark, 34pts; 2.2 Nick Swanson, 32pts; 2.3 James Morgan, 31pts. The Guest Prize was won by Olly Homewood, 35pts. The Trade Prize went to Mark Clements 37pts. Longest Drive - Will Sjoberg.

With 51 players in action, the Nearest the Pin was won by NO ONE. Hard conditions meant pinpoint accuracy, if you wanted to be anywhere near the flag and the temptation to go for it in such hard conditions meant your ball took a flyer when it landed. So the course won on this occasion.

Our thanks also to the owner of Gosfield Lake, Ralph Roe, for the courtesy of the course and to the staff for their efficient service. The greenkeeping

staff under the leadership of Steve Parsons did a great job in presenting the course under very difficult weather conditions. Our trade members supported us as ever, filling our raffle table to overflowing and we thank them for their continued support.

Antony Kirwan has asked that if any greenkeepers are interested in offering their course for inclusion in our 2008 calendar of events would they please contact him? [azt216@btinternet.com](mailto:azt216@btinternet.com)

The date for the Summer Tournament at Theydon Bois GC is Wednesday, June 27 - So be sure to make a note and get your entries in as soon as possible. Entry forms are on the website.

Anyone who has any news for inclusion in ATG can email me at: [highwoods.photographic@virgin.net](mailto:highwoods.photographic@virgin.net) or call me on: 01206 852353.

Arnold Phipps-Jones



## SOUTH WEST

At last, a decent day for golf. Upwards of 30 members attended the Spring Competition played at Cotswold Hills GC, Cheltenham on April 25. "Wayne's World", as the lads sometimes refer to the course, was in fantastic condition with plenty of spring blossom on the flowering cherries and other trees. Tees and fairways were in very good order despite last minute difficulties with the fairway mower, and the greens good enough to die for. Wayne and the team have done a significant amount of work around the greens, tidying up bunkers and green surrounds and this really showed in the presentation of the course. The greens themselves were fast and in very good early condition - Wayne told me afterwards that he mowed at 4.5mm by hand, the greens had been scarified 15 mm deep, three to four weeks prior to the event, about 30 tonnes of top-dressing and a 4.0.10 plus iron fertiliser had been applied. Wayne also verti-cuts the greens quite often during the spring to even up the growth and prevent bobble of the ball. All in all, a very good start to the season. I had the pleasure of playing with Jon Jarvis and Roger Neale who were wonderful company, although when they asked where the green was on the 10th hole, I told them it was a dog-leg with the green situated in the trees, Jon said "oh, that should quite suit you then!" Both played so well with Jon unfortunately suffering a mild back problem over the final few holes. No such problem for Roger, though, who was smashing the ball miles off the tee - so much so that you actually felt quite sorry for the club and ball. The competition was keenly contested and was won by John Batchelor with 39 pts, from the newly married Richard Louisson, and Roger Neale with 38 pts respectively. While presenting the prizes, Cotswold Hills Club Captain, Colin Gay, made a particularly nice speech welcoming all the competitors, and paid tribute to the hard work of the club staff.

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# Around the Green

He did suggest that Wayne had organised the other staff into hand mowing of greens and hand raking bunkers, while he himself did a little gentle swishing to warm up his swing, which I'm sure was quite untrue – probably. Thanks very much to Cotswold Hills for the day, particularly the warm welcome.

Don't forget Race Night at Bath Racecourse on June 27, again arranged by Jon Jarvis. Contact Jon at Lansdown GC to book your place.

Winning the Spring Tournament was actually a double celebration for John Batchelor, having been recently promoted to Deputy Course Manager at Long Ashton. Congratulations to John on both counts, and best wishes from everyone. It was very nice to see Ivor Scoones at Cotswold Hills. Ivor, who is back on his feet after a recent knee replacement operation, was in fine form and looking forward to his retirement later in the year. Long Ashton are organising a testimonial competition to which our section committee are sending a team. This will be played at Long Ashton in July.

Back at Minch, everyone's been laughing at me all winter putting in irrigation and lakes etc while it poured incessantly with rain. But after a hot dry April they weren't laughing quite so loudly - although I suppose there might have been the odd titter the other Saturday morning, when I got to grips with some hand-watering. I plugged a hand hose into one of the new QRV's (Quick Release Valves) by the 10th green and watered a dry spot. Unfortunately while unplugging the hose, the end came off sending a very impressive jet of water some 40 feet into the air. This crashing torrent of water was gushing into a bunker and quickly started to wash the sand away, I had no valve key, no pumphouse key – even an umbrella or a bit of board would have come in useful, but no. There was only one thing for it, with my waterproof jacket over my head, I blundered blindly into the deluge of water on all fours fumbling for the valve. My 12 year old collie, Meg, who up until that point had been sensibly watching from a safe distance away, obviously saw danger and helpfully took hold of my trouser-leg in her teeth, dug all four paws in, and tried to pull me back while growling and snarling. Thank God there was no one watching, or worse still with a camera, seeing the much vaunted Course Manager deliberately crawling into a deluge while being savaged by a rabid dog. Hey – man's best friend (crossed my mind to give it a good kicking afterwards, but no).

Look forward to the Summer Competition at Cumberwell, and the Marc Haring Quiz Evening afterwards.

*Paul Worster*  
[paulw@mgcnew.co.uk](mailto:paulw@mgcnew.co.uk) – 07768 394593



## **SOUTH COAST**

Our first golf meeting for the season was the Spring Tournament held at Romsey GC on Thursday, May 3 - Of course magnificent conditions as usual with a slight easterly wind. Mike Wheeler-Osman and his greenkeeping team had done a fantastic job in the preparation and presentation of the golf course for our 27 holes of golf. We had a new starter for the day, as I was treading the boards that evening, Mike King, from Vitax, greeted everybody on the first tee and ensured proceedings kept on time. Thank you very much Mike.

The Spring Tournament is a very special occasion as we remember Colin White. This golf day is dedicated to his memory. When I speak to people about Colin, it is no coincidence that we always end up smiling and laughing he was such a kind and joyful person. Once again we had great pleasure in welcoming Colin's mum Jill Francis, Colin's Brother Rob White and Gilbert Francis (Rob's golf partner in crime). Jill made a lovely speech at the end of the evening and presented a memento to the Course Manager, Mike, and his staff. Jill always does this as Colin was an ex-Groundsman at Southampton FC and Spurs and she believes Greenkeepers and Groundsmen do a superb job in presenting our sporting surfaces.

The hospitality and catering was second to none. The Section offers many thanks to Romsey GC for welcoming us and looking after us so well. The sponsors for the day were Vitax and Avoncrop Amenity (me), who of course provided a wonderful prize table. Much gratitude is shown to our sponsors.

The results for the day were: 1.1 Nick Reynolds, 51pts; 1.2 Simon Ridland, 50pts; 2.1 Simon Justice, 56pts; 2.2 Chris Bitten, 53pts; 3.1 Doug Pringle, 50pts; 3.2 Paul Dyter, 47pts; Longest Drive – Mark Davis; Nearest the Pin – Simon Ridland. Congratulations to all.

Also special thanks to Chris Briggs, my colleague from Avoncrop, for taking over from me for the evening's presentations.

The next Golf Day will be the Summer Tournament at Andover GC on July 3 (Andover's Centenary Year). We look forward to visiting Chris Sturgess on that day.

That's all folks - of course any news then please call me.

*Joe Crawley*  
07721 389200

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### **Section Notes -**

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



# In the Shed

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

### QUICK NINE HOLE QUIZ

- 1 Players' strike
- 2 Peter Shilton (125)
- 3 Triathlon
- 4 Sandy Lyle
- 5 Father Jack Hackett
- 6 Polo
- 7 £240
- 8 Augusta
- 9 Cherbourg

### MONSTER SUDOKU

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

### SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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

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## North Hants Golf Club

Requires

### Assistant Greenkeepers

We are looking for enthusiastic, hard working greenkeepers who are highly motivated and able to work as part of a team. Ideally you should be qualified to at least NVQ level 2, spraying certificates and chainsaw certificates would be an advantage. The successful applicants will be encouraged to undertake further training to progress within the industry

**Written applications including full CV should be sent to:**  
Mark Openshaw, Course Manager, North Hants Golf Club,  
Minley Road, Fleet, Hampshire GU51 1RF

Or by email to: [coursemanager@north-hants-fleetgc.co.uk](mailto:coursemanager@north-hants-fleetgc.co.uk)



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Please write with CV to Brian Hall, Sandburn Hall, Flaxton, York, YO60 7RB

An exciting opportunity has arisen for

### Assistant Greenkeepers

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

During the past few months a significant amount of investment is taking place including a new fleet of Toro machinery and continual course development.

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

We are looking for ambitious and dedicated Greenkeepers to help restore Selsdon Park Hotel's golf course with the vision to become the premier golfing destination in the South of England.

**Applicants must have a good understanding of the game of Golf and a reasonable knowledge of Greenkeeping. An NVQ level II, PA1 and PA2 qualifications will be an advantage, but are not essential.**

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

## DEESIDE GOLF CLUB

ABERDEEN

### COURSE MANAGER

Deeside Golf Club is a 27 hole traditional, but forward thinking private members club established in 1903.

The successful applicant will be responsible for management of the course and its continuing development.

**Applicants should possess the following attributes:**

- Appropriate experience as an Assistant Head or Head GreenKeeper.
- In depth knowledge of turf management, irrigation, drainage & equipment maintenance.
- Recognised greenkeeping/agronomy qualifications.
- Strong supervisory and management skills.
- A proven ability to prepare and work within an approved annual budget.
- A proven ability to prepare work programmes and meet deadlines.
- Fully compliant with current Health & Safety legislation, to include risk assessments.
- A strong team leader with communication skills at all levels is considered critical to the successful fulfillment of the role.
- A keen and competent golfer or at least fully familiar with and knowledgeable about the game of golf.
- Awareness of environmental and wildlife practices.

**This is a great opportunity for a committed, hands on, enthusiastic, motivated and hard working Course Manager to lead and manage a dedicated team and to work with our experienced Head Greenkeeper to further develop and maintain the golf courses.**

Please apply in writing enclosing a CV to:  
Club Manager, Deeside Golf Club, Golf Road, Bielside, Aberdeen, AB15 9DL

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The successful candidate will assist in the development of the Greenkeeping and Horticulture unit and take responsibility for the management and delivery of HNC/HND Golf Course Management courses.

The post holder will demonstrate a sound knowledge of current Sportsturf/Greenkeeping curriculum and be in possession of an industry related qualification. A teaching qualification would be desirable. The candidate will also hold or be willing to work towards A1 & V1 Assessor qualifications.

**For further details and an application form, contact Elmwood College, Cupar**

Tel: 01334 658823

*Closing date for applications is Friday 15th June 2007.*





## GREAT OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE FOR GOLF COURSE MANAGER AT ADDINGTON COURT GOLF CLUB

Addington Court is one of the largest and busiest public golf sites within the London area and comprises two 18 hole courses, a 9 hole course and a driving range currently under construction. The club is one of 32 properties within Crown Golf's portfolio. The position offered, is an exciting opportunity to join Europe's largest golf course management company and to help further develop Addington Court as a leading public venue in the South East.

Applicants must have a proven track record to lead and work with a committed greens staff team and to help continue with a planned development program for both Downland courses. The successful applicant should have all the necessary experience and ability to maintain a high standard of condition and presentation equal to that of a private club.

Applicants for the position should have the following:

- HNC or similar plus spraying qualifications
- A sound knowledge of irrigation systems & machinery
- Knowledge of Health & Safety Regulations
- Excellent man management & leadership skills
- Ability to work within and understand budgets
- Good communication skills & IT aptitude

Salary by negotiation.

Apply in writing by Friday 22nd June with full CV to:

Laurence W. Pithie  
Group Golf Courses Manager  
Crown Golf  
Blue Mountain Golf Centre  
Wood Lane  
Binfield  
Berks RG42 4EX  
or E-mail [l.pithie@crown-golf.co.uk](mailto:l.pithie@crown-golf.co.uk)



## MURRAYFIELD GOLF CLUB LIMITED

Applications are invited for the position of

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Founded in 1896, this busy mixed Club, one of Edinburgh's most prestigious, with a parkland course situated within two miles of the city centre, requires a successful applicant to

- Deliver high standards of course presentation
  - Take responsibility for 27 holes
- Motivate and manage a large greenkeeping team
- Possess all relevant qualifications including computer skills
- Be conversant with modern equipment and technology
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Salary negotiable

Applications in writing with full C.V. by  
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to

The Club Manager  
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## MUSWELL HILL GOLF CLUB

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

A private members club established in 1893, and situated in North London, Muswell Hill Golf Club offers an 18 hole par 71 parkland course on London clay.

The Club is seeking a BIGGA registered head greenkeeper who will:

- Have NVQ/SVQ level 3/ HNC qualifications and safety and sprayer certificates
- Be able to develop and implement a course management plan
  - Be conversant with modern and traditional turf management practices
  - Be mechanically minded and competent in dealing with machinery maintenance and irrigation systems
- Have excellent people management and communication skills

Applicants should be organised, self motivated and able to ensure effective management of both staff and resources within budget. The ability to play golf would be an advantage.

Interested candidates should send a C.V. to the Club Manager, Muswell Hill Golf Club, Rhodes Avenue, London N22 7UT or by email at [mhgclubsecretary@btconnect.com](mailto:mhgclubsecretary@btconnect.com)



MALTON AND NORTON GOLF CLUB  
Is a mature parkland 27 hole golf course with 12 bay driving range and dedicated short game facility, a strong membership and many repeat visitors year on year.

Due to the retirement of our present Head Greenkeeper in December after 39 years with the Club, we are looking to appoint his successor.

You must have a proven track record in all aspects of greenkeeping, including planning and monitoring work programmes and budgets and machinery maintenance.

You will be self motivated and lead by example as this is very much a "hands on" position. Good communication skills and the ability to lead a team of six staff will be required. Qualified to at least NVQ Level 3 (or equivalent) you must possess a sound working knowledge of Health and Safety regulations.

Salary negotiable, no accommodation available.  
For an informal discussion about the Club and the position phone Linda Gurnell on 01653 697912

Applications in writing including a full CV to

Mrs Linda Gurnell  
Managing Secretary  
Malton and Norton Golf Club  
Welham Park  
Malton YO17 9QE

Closing date for applications 11th July 2007

RECRUITMENT



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### Deputy Head Greenkeeper

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Applicants must be able to demonstrate team leadership attributes, have a willingness to learn and a flexible approach.

Apply to:

Kate Brett [Kbrett@bhgc.co.uk](mailto:Kbrett@bhgc.co.uk)

Brampton Heath Golf Centre, Church Brampton, Northampton, NN6 8AX

### Deputy Head Greenkeeper



Chichester Golf Club is a 45 hole facility on the South Coast of England. We offer both membership and pay and play golf. We also have a 27 bay driving range, crazy golf course and golf academy.

Applicants will need to demonstrate a positive and assertive attitude, lead by example and deputise for the Head Greenkeeper in his absence.

The successful candidate is expected to have the following qualifications and skills;

- NVQ level 2 or equivalent, working towards level 3
- Current spraying certificates
- Excellent supervisory and communication skills
- Excellent machinery skills
- A knowledge of Health and Safety regulations
- A sound knowledge of irrigation systems

For an application form and Job Description please contact  
Jo Bowry 01243 536666 or  
[Jo.Bowry@chichestergolf.com](mailto:Jo.Bowry@chichestergolf.com)

## A QUIET TIME

**My duties as Chairman have been a little quieter during the past few weeks, giving me some normality back in terms of day-to-day life at work and home. We have been very dry here in the south east with, in some cases, Greenkeepers under the cosh because of no rainfall and intense heat for the time of year.**

At Tyrrells Wood we have had only 3mm of rain in seven weeks, coupled with temperatures that would have been more akin to the summer than the spring. As if that wasn't enough to contend with we have had winds that would have blown off even the best-glued wig. So putting all these factors together it's been another tough spring with a slow start up to active growth in our part of the world.

Now that it has finally rained, thank goodness, with more rain in a week than during the past month and a half, we're off and running, with grass popping and our course doing very well. I have to thank my staff for their continued efforts they have done a fantastic job this year and have together laid the foundation of a good summer season.

We have had our second meeting with the IOG at BIGGA HOUSE and there are a few points of interest I would like to share with you on those.

Some rumours have been bandied about with reference to any discussions we have been having with our friends at the IOG. That it's a done deal, is the first one I would like to put to rest. If that were the case why would we need to continue to meet with the IOG? Our terms of reference are quite simple. We are exploring the possible merger of both organisations to see if there are any real, and I must add, tangible benefits for the members of both.

The next point is that we are only engaged in these talks out of financial necessity. Well, you would be pretty ill informed if you were not aware of the fact that, as an Association, we have had a downturn in our cash flow because of some manufacturers pulling out of Harrogate Week



earlier this year. Your Board has to consider many things during the course of a year and, yes, where the cash will come from to deliver the services you, the members enjoy, is one of them. So the honest answer is, of course, we have to deal with the commercial realities at all times and plan a safe and secure future for our Association for the here and now and well into the future.

With that said we have been aware of these commercial changes for some time and have been managing our affairs in your best interests so, in fact, the impact in reality has been much less than was forecast this time last year. There was a much better result from a well supported and vibrant Harrogate Week this year than was budgeted for. For that, you can all be very proud because, when asked for your continued support, you attended in your droves. To those trade members who placed their trust in us, they have my heart felt thanks also. Well done to all.

So, make no mistake, we are not engaged in these talks out of fear of our financial position.

Another real point that has been raised is this one - a perceived loss of identity will follow. Well, let's be honest we're all extremely proud

to be Greenkeepers and would never ever want to diminish our identity or standing as professionals. The same, I would suggest, is true of our friends within the ranks of the IOG. You can be sure of one thing. If there was ever going to be a case that we would lose standing within our chosen industry, I'm sure we would all, me included, decide not to pursue this merger any further.

As I said, we had another meeting to develop our thoughts further, with both parties now off doing lots of homework on some of the major issues that have to be understood if a merger is to be a possibility or not.

So no deal has been done and, no, we are not in these talks because of fear. Involved in these discussions are some very proud and dedicated Greenkeepers and Groundsmen who have great wisdom and vision for the future of their chosen organisation and have their respective members interests at heart. I'm sure they will conclude an honest report for everyone to consider this autumn and allow you to determine your own future. As I asked of you all in this column previously, engage in discussion and share your views at Section, Region and Headquarters and with your Regional Administrators - I have been impressed with their grasp of grass roots opinion during my term as your Chairman.

So it's a soggy Chair signing off for now until the next time. I have enjoyed my quiet time and have managed some quality time at home with the kids. Summer, age nine, had her first trip away with the school and had a ball and I have to admit it was a lot quieter at home for a day or so, Shannon and his football team won their league while if you have any tips on how best to deal with a teenage girl of 14 going on 27, they would be much appreciated!

Billy McMillan



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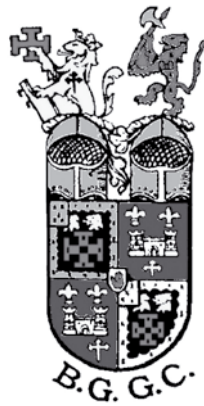
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Does this sound like you? If so, we look forward to receiving your application. Please send your full particulars to: Syngenta Crop Protection AG, Tobias Bossert, WRO-1010.1.01, P.O. Box, CH-4002 Basel, Switzerland, tel. +41 (0)61 323 69 92, e-mail [tobias.bossert@syngenta.com](mailto:tobias.bossert@syngenta.com).

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## Blackwell Grange Golf Club Ltd HEAD GREENKEEPER

Blackwell Grange Golf Club is a compact 18 hole parkland course.

We are seeking an enthusiastic individual who is suitably qualified (minimum NVQ level 2)

The successful applicant must have the ability and dedication to:

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- Apply and adhere to current Health and Safety regulations.
- Manage resources efficiently and work within budget constraints.

Salary appropriate to experience.

Apply by sending full CV with covering letter to: The Club Secretary, Blackwell Grange Golf Club, Briar Close, Darlington, DL3 8QX

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## ROYAL PORTRUSH GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the following positions:

Male or Female

### ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants, preferably, should be qualified to NVQ level 2 in Amenity Horticulture; Spraying Qualifications would also be an advantage.

Applications,

In writing, with full C.V. to be submitted to:

Ms. Wilma Erskine  
Secretary/Manager  
Royal Portrush Golf Club  
Dunluce Road,  
Portrush, BT56 8JQ, Co. Antrim

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