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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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It goes without saying that ride on mowers, especially the cylinder models used on greens, tees, surrounds and fairways, must be well maintained and set up correctly to produce the optimum cut. This short article is a reminder of the basic checks and procedures necessary to maintain a machine that remains on cut from the beginning to the end of the season. James de Havilland reports

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When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.

Cover picture courtesy of Ball Colegrave Ltd

Welcome

Woke up this morning to the news that Sir Steven Redgrave was looking for tall athletes to develop for the 2012 Olympics. You had to be over six foot three for a guy and five foot 11 for a girl and they were aimed at sports like rowing, handball and volleyball.



If I was 25 years younger right now I'd be distraught. I could have all the drive, determination and talent at my finger tips but just because I'm just under six foot - well, two and a quarter inches under, actually - I'd be passed over for some other beanpole in shorts. Doesn't seem right.

Surely everyone should be given tests, strength and agility and the like, and the best man or woman should be selected - otherwise it would be a bit sizeist. From memory one of the best Harlem Globetrotters, can't remember his name, was a short guy among all the giants. Under today's criteria he probably wouldn't be given the opportunity to represent the UK in the Olympics! But sport is going that way. Rugby Union used to be a game for all shapes and sizes with positions on the field to suit whatever physique but now scrum halves can be over six feet tall and a centre or wing three-quarter is now a similar size to a lock forward of 20 years ago.

Golf still seems to be immune from the sizeist agenda although it is changing. Ian Woosnam became Masters Champion and world number one despite failing to grow much more than five foot four. He was a big hitter in his prime but now struggles in the company of the golfing gym junkies who spend more time pumping iron and visiting the Tour's Physio Bus than yesterday's Tour pros spent selling Mars bars and giving lessons. But getting back to the must be over six foot three and five 11 business. In any other walk of life you wouldn't be able to do that - rule people out because of a physical impairment.

If I'd been told you needed to have under a 32 inch waist to become a journalist - I would have slipped in as a student but from the age of 23 it may/would have been a bit of a struggle and I'd have been lost to the writing game. Indeed there wouldn't be many left to fill the columns of the nation's newspapers.

Thinking back to the halls of Harrogate and you'll recall the variety of shapes and sizes that is welcomed into the greenkeeping game - we have tall ones, short ones, fat ones, somewhat fewer thin ones, ones with hair and those without - and that's exactly what life should be all about. It's not the packaging - it's what's inside.

As we all know life caters for all shapes and sizes and everyone has something to contribute and let's just hope that it's another five foot nine and three-quarterer who becomes a national hero in 2012.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

ENGINES DEVELOPED TO USE B20 BIODIESEL

As part of its commitment to environmental responsibility, JCB announced that from the start of 2007 all JCB Dieselmix engines have been approved for the use of B20 Biodiesel (20% Biofuel).

Dr. Tim Leverton, JCB Group Engineering Director, said "We are aware that there will be increasing pressure in the future from governments and from the public to use Biofuels in all on and off-road vehicles. Biofuels are a carbon neutral energy source which create lower emissions and are produced from renewable resources. At JCB this is one of a series of Group-wide initiatives aimed at reducing our environmental impact. We are evaluating the use of other Biofuels for future use."

175 YEARS OF MOWER MANUFACTURING

2007 sees a major milestone in the grounds care industry with Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd, celebrating the 175th anniversary of mower production at Ipswich.

Edwin Budding's historic lawnmower design was patented in 1830 and JR & A Ransome were the first company to obtain a licence to manufacture this remarkable invention. The first Ransomes-manufactured machine for domestic use was produced in 1832 and this signalled the beginning of commercial mower production in the UK.



Budding 1834

Although the company no longer produces domestic lawnmowers they are one of the leading commercial mower manufacturers supplying equipment to golf courses, local authorities, landscape contractors, sports clubs and major sports stadia around the globe. David Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd commented,

"This is a hugely significant milestone in the history of our company; from this small beginning we are now one of the leading grounds care machinery manufacturers in the world. Ransomes mowers have been supplied to monarchies and nobilities across Europe and Asia and the Ransomes 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 providing employment and career opportunities to the people of Ipswich."

AEA NEW CEO

The Agricultural Engineers Association is pleased to announce that Roger Lane-Nott will be the new CEO of the AEA from April 17, 2007. He will succeed Jake Vowles, the current Director General, who is retiring.

Roger spent 32 years in the Royal Navy, mainly in nuclear submarines, and retired in 1996 as a Rear Admiral. Since then he has been the FIA Formula One Race Director running all F1 activity worldwide and the CEO of the Centre for Marine and Petroleum Technology, a brokerage for innovative technology and collaborative research for the offshore oil and gas industry. More recently he has been the Secretary of the British Racing Drivers' Club at Silverstone.



Left: Jake Vowles, the present CEO and right: Roger Lane-Nott the new CEO.

75th ANNIVERSARY



The Macclesfield-based staff of Sisis Equipment (Macclesfield) Ltd raise their glasses to celebrate the company's 75th anniversary, and to toast the future. Sisis pioneered mechanical aeration of sports fields and golf courses and the machine on the right of the photo is one of the earliest models, made in 1938. Above is the latest in a long line of Sisis innovations, the Aer-Aid air injection aerator.



Joint Managing Directors Roger and William Hargreaves get into the spirit of things!

NEW POWERPLAY GOLF FORMAT HAILED A SUCCESS

PowerPlay Golf – a shorter, more exciting way to enjoy golf – has been hailed a huge success at its worldwide launch, with some key figures in the sport claiming it could revolutionise the game.

Launched at Northwick Park by Playgolf plc, PowerPlay Golf uses two flags on each green and rewards golfers who take on the more difficult pin position – in essence a

bold bid to create golf's answer to Twenty20 cricket where aggressive and exciting play reaps dividends.

Some of golf's leading figures were among the first golfers in the world to test the nine-hole format at Northwick Park's revolutionary golf complex, which features replicas of famous holes from around the world.

PowerPlay Golf is played over a maximum of nine holes, with two flags in each green – one white, one black – with the black flag representing the more difficult pin position and a 'powerplay' scoring opportunity.

At the start of a hole, players nominate which flag they are aiming for and double their Stableford score on black flag holes provided they score a net birdie or better. Golfers must play three PowerPlay holes during the round, with an optional fourth 'powerplay' at a designated Par Three hole, which offers a special SuperPlay opportunity – a 30ft diameter circle around one black flag. A player can elect to go for the circle from the tee and if he successfully lands inside, he gains an additional 3 bonus points. But if he misses, he loses two points.

SEMINARS SET TO TACKLE TURF DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Scotts and Syngenta are joining forces to address all aspects of turf disease management at a series of special seminars during March.

Leading turf disease expert Dr Mike Agnew, technical manager at Syngenta USA, heads the line up of speakers. His presentation on the principles and strategies of turf disease management will be supported by papers from Scotts and Syngenta personnel, including Simon Barnaby, Syngenta Professional Products technical manager, who will cover new technologies.

Dates and venues for the seminars are as follows: Monday 19 March – Woodbury Park Hotel & Country Club, near Exeter; Tuesday 20 March – Ricoh Arena, Coventry; Wednesday 21 March – Oatridge College, near Edinburgh; Thursday 22 March – Huddersfield Golf Club (Fixby Hall), Huddersfield; Friday 23 March – Wentworth

Golf Club, Wentworth.

Full details are available by calling Sam Cassidy at Scotts on: 01473 201119 or visiting www.scottspromotional.co.uk

HAT-TRICK IN PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Barrie Lewis, an 18 year old Apprentice Greenkeeper from Bridgend in West Lothian, has been named Scottish



Landbased Learner of the Year by Lantra the sector skills council, making it the third year in a row that students from Oatridge College have picked up the prestigious title.

Barrie's success at an event at the Huntingtower Hotel in Perthshire follows that of last year's winner, 23 year old Farriery Apprentice Sarah Mary Brown, from Giffnock near Glasgow, and the 2005 victory of Colin Inglis, an Agriculture Apprentice from Aberdour in Fife.

Barrie Lewis has been in his present job as an Assistant Greenkeeper at Ratho Park GC near Edinburgh since last summer, where the Head Greenkeeper, Tom Murray, said: "His knowledge and enthusiasm are tremendous. He settled in very quickly and has not only made a lot of friends, but has been a huge help in training the younger greenkeepers. And while I think he is learning a lot from me, he is keeping me right up-to-date with everything he is learning at College."

The past year has been an exceptional one for Barrie. He was named Best SQA Level II Student at Oatridge College and picked up the Institute of Groundsmanship Edinburgh and Lothians Branch Cup. He reached the finals of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award. Three days after his 18th birthday, Barrie became the youngest-ever champion at his local Bridgend Golf Club, and then he was selected to join the team of greenkeepers which looked after the Loch Lomond course, during the 2006 Scottish Open.

TOP PRIZE SCOOP

JCB has been named as the overall winner in the first-ever Best of British Industry Awards staged to honour the cream of the country's industrial companies.

JCB was unveiled as the Industrial Company of the Year at a special ceremony at the Turbine Hall at Tate Modern, London, hosted by comedian Rory McGrath, and attended by top figures from the business community. Earlier in the evening JCB also collected the Industry Exporter of the Year Award.

Samir Brikho, chief executive of AMEC, the engineering and support services company that organised the awards in association with The Sunday Times and The Work Foundation, the research and consultancy organisation, said: "The Best of British Industry Awards were created to make a point – that industrial companies in Britain are dynamic and thriving. I am thrilled that the awards have made that point so forcefully. They have showcased industry moving forward with confidence in its future on the global business stage."



JCB Director Philip Bouverat (centre) receives the Industrial Company of the Year Award from (left) Jim Fitzpatrick, MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Employment Relations, watched by the event's host, comedian Rory McGrath.

ROYAL WARRANT

Jubilee Seeds & Turf Ltd have been supplying a range of turves to the gardens at Buckingham Palace for a number of years and have been granted The Royal Warrant as Turf Suppliers to Her Majesty the Queen.

IN MEMORY

Life member Colin Stuart Murphy, or "Spud" as he was affectionately known, from TY'R Teleri, Parc Place, Maesygrwrtha, Abergavenny. Passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 28. Below is an extract taken from Peter Lacey's reading at the funeral, which was held on February 8.

"I first met Colin "Spud" Murphy in 1982 some 25 years ago, as a spotty 16 year old Apprentice Greenkeeper. Spud I seem to remember worked for Browns at the time and he used to call on my father Colin, the then Head Greenkeeper. He was an old boy to me even then, the wise old owl, the father figure of our industry, the one everyone new, loved and respected, but I hardly new him then! Colin was different from other reps though, for he had time to speak with everyone and time to tell a tale.

"We became better acquainted from 1992 when I became Head Greenkeeper and Secretary of the South Wales Section of BIGGA. Colin himself had always been a member and an active participant, for he could not just come along and do nothing, that wasn't Colin, he enjoyed collecting the cards or selling the raffle tickets, he just couldn't help himself. "He was a proud Section President of both the British Greenkeepers Association and later the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association, he led by example, an example that we'd all do well to remember!

"It would not be an understatement to say that Colin was a legend within our industry, for he is well known and respected throughout the country. He was an ambassador, a colleague, a friend and above all a gentleman. I like so many of you have fond memories but I shall miss him greatly, for he taught me so much without even knowing it! Thank you Col, we'll miss you!"

US COURSE CLOSURES OUTPACE OPENINGS

According to the National Golf Foundation, there was negative net growth in US golf facilities in 2006 for the first time in 60 years, as the number of courses that closed (146 18-hole equivalents) was greater than the number of openings (119.5).

In releasing the data, NGF said it was not an alarming occurrence but a confluence of events – openings returning to more normal levels and weaker facilities being culled. In the late 1980s, the number of openings was about 100 per year. There followed a wave of increased construction in the 1990s that peaked in 2000 with nearly 400 openings. Since then the wave has subsided to near historic levels.

The culling of courses is not viewed as a negative by NGF. The organisation expects overall course supply to stop expanding in the absence of increases in demand. It is primarily the weaker courses that are closing and, in many cases, owners who sell are profiting from long-term real estate appreciation. Finally, a better quality overall golf supply means a better quality experience for players.

THE PERFECT COURSE FOR DANISH GREENKEEPERS

Myerscough College recently presented a Danish student with the first qualification of its kind in Denmark for greenkeeping.

Antoine Challe, from Rungsted GC, in Denmark, studied the NVQ Level 2 in Sportsturf course online over two years. There are currently eight other Danish students on the program who are from six different golf courses and there has been interest from a number of other students from across Denmark in the course.

Two highly experienced Sportsturf Assessors from Myerscough College visit the students in Denmark every three months working from Rungsted GC in Denmark where the students complete training and theory work.

Fellow Danish student Jacob Aakjaer from Horsholm Golf Club has also recently completed the course and two more students are close to finishing the course, which will take the count to four completed.



Antoine Challe (left) receiving his certificate from Work-based Assessor Simon Dadge (right).

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NEW APPOINTMENT

With over 30 years' experience within the garden, agricultural and grounds care sales and service industry, Des McCulloch is ideally suited for his new role as Area Sales Manager with turf care machinery specialists Ultra Spreader International.

Des will have responsibility for the complete area of Scotland, Northumberland and Cumbria.

Previously, Des had been the grounds care manager for a large Scottish plant hire company, so he fully appreciates the demanding workload of modern turf professionals and the need for high work-rate yet simple equipment and machinery.



New Scottish Sales Manager for Ultra Spreader International, Des McCulloch at the recent BTME exhibition.

STRENGTHENING WELSH DEALER NETWORK

Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd has strengthened its dealer network with the appointment David Evans Agricultural Ltd (DEAL) Turfcare as its main dealer in South Wales.

DEAL is based near Barry in Vale of Glamorgan and will market the complete Ransomes Jacobsen product range including E-Z-GO golf cars and turf utility vehicles, Turfco top dressers, Cushman utility trucks and Iseki tractors.

An established agricultural dealer retailing tractors, quad bikes and ATVs, they succeed RS Bird Ltd, who resigned as main dealers at the end of last year to concentrate on their growing E-Z-GO industrial business.

Adding to the end-user support in the region are Garems, a family-owned company established in 1986 and based in Llanelli, who have been appointed as Lawn & Garden and non-exclusive Iseki dealers for the South Wales area.

SALES APPOINTMENTS

Yorkshire Horticultural Supplies are pleased to announce two new appointments to the sales team. Stewart Jeffs joins the team as Southern Sales Manager and Alan Dyson as Northern Sales Manager.

Both gentlemen will be advising on a full range of turf maintenance programmes for football, golf, bowls and cricket clubs and general turf maintenance and both Stewart and Alan have been in the industry for 20 years and have worked for leading companies.

Stewart can be contacted on: 07920 265078 and Alan on: 07764 143680.



Alan Dyson



Stewart Jeffs



Photo: Robert Adcock

CHAIRMAN FOR THE TGA

Robert Adcock, of Somergreen Turf, took over the Chairmanship of the Turfgrass Growers Association (TGA) when members gathered in Bath for its Annual General Meeting recently. He farms 90 acres of cultivated lawn turf on the foothills of the picturesque Quantock Hills in Somerset and also undertakes soft landscaping works and garden maintenance in the South West of England. Robert has been a TGA member since its inception in 1997 and has taken an active role on the Council for most of that time.

SEMINAR DATES

Direct Contact Exhibitions (DCE) travels to all corners of the UK and Ireland with CPD Seminar presentations.

2007 sees Technical Surfaces yet again team up with DCE to provide the resources and speakers for the 'Parks & Play' section of the seminars.

This approach not only satisfies architects, engineers, buyers, specifiers, and influential decision makers but also provides manufacturers and suppliers with opportunities to project their technical message to groups of interested attendees at any given venue.

In light of the rising number of personal injury claims as a direct result of poorly maintained synthetic surfaces, facility managers, local authorities and grounds managers are now fully aware of the need for proper maintenance and advice – this is where these types of 'local' seminars have become a must attend event.

Seven one-day seminars will be held at the following venues during the year:
February 28: Apollo Hotel, Basingstoke;
April 24: Novotel, York; May 16: Arden Hotel, Birmingham; July 3: Hilton Hotel, Isle of Mann; October 16: Holiday Inn, Ipswich; October 17: Palms Hotel, Hornchurch; October 18: Goffs Park, Crawley.

For further details please contact Technical Surfaces' National Office on: 08702 400 700 or visit: www.technicalsurfaces.co.uk

SUDS TRAINING IN IRELAND

In Ireland, growing implementation of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) has been evident in recent years. Concerns about climate change, flood risk management and the need to positively respond to the impending Water Framework Directive has driven organisations in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in their up-take of SUDS. Also, The Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study places a clear requirement for the implementation of SUDS in new development CIRIA, in association with Engineers Ireland has announced a two-day training workshop (the second in a series of three modules) sponsored by Acheson Glover, Galco Steel and Wallingford Software - Designing SUDS - to be held in Dublin on 29-30 March 2007, to help organisations in Ireland prepare for the challenges ahead. For further information visit: www.ciria.org/workshops.htm or tel: 020 7549 3300.

ON THE ROAD

DLF Trifolium has organised a series of seminars titled "Practical Sustainability" to help turf managers achieve a quality, sustainable turf surface. The seminars demonstrate the benefits and use of more frequent overseeding within any prudent turf management programme.

The events will cover all aspects including: Why oversow and which grass? - Derek Smith, DLF Trifolium; Creating a receptive rootzone - Martin Ward, Symbio; Effective overseeding (practical) - Keith Kensett, R & K Kensett; Primo Maxx - Simon Barnaby, Syngenta; Managing for a quality sward - Andy Cole, PSD agronomy/Henry Bechelet, STRI.

The venues include: Belton Woods Golf Club, Grantham, Lincolnshire - March 28; Pedham Place Golf Club, Swanley, Kent - April 17; STRI, Bingley, West Yorkshire - April 19.

Please contact Bev Underwood on the details below if you are interested in attending.

For further information visit:
www.dlf.co.uk/amenity

BENEFIT GOLF DAY

There will be a Benefit Day in aid of Stuart Bridge at Withington GC (where Stuart is Head Greenkeeper) on Tuesday, March 20 from 10.30am.

On his way to work at the end of last year, Stuart was knocked off his motorbike and seriously injured. Join others for a round of golf in a friendly atmosphere, with hot food afterwards and the chance to win prizes. Money raised will go to Stuart and his family to help them through this difficult time.

To donate or enter the Stabledford 4 Ball Competition (£25 per person) contact: Sid Pugh on: 07811522758, Alec Davies on: 07747608049 or Henry Royle on: 07850698136.

NEW GOLF WEBSITE

www.pgagolfmagazine.co.uk

The Golf Pages is now PGA Golf Magazine, and to celebrate the rebranding they have launched a new website. Here you will be able to catch up on the latest equipment reviews, post in to one of their many forums, search for PGA Pros and Courses in your area and even leave your own comments on your local courses.

ENDORSEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SWM Golf Management is currently looking for Sponsors for the 2007 Golf Season. They are looking for the likes of Club, Hotel or Business 'attachments' for individual players to endorse and promote sponsors' products/services. This can be via attachment, clothing sponsorship, professional golf bag sponsorship/advertising, car sponsorship, headwear/advertising sponsorship etc. The players participate on the various professional golf tours i.e. European, Challenge, Asian, Tour de las Americas, US Tightlies, UK Europrotour Pro Circuit etc. Each event on the UK Pro Circuit (www.europrotour.com) is played over three days on a 54 holes strokeplay competition basis, with the top 50 plus ties going through to the 3rd and final round. Every tournament carries a minimum prize fund of £40,000, and the season will culminate in the Tour Championship with the top 50 players from the Order of Merit.

Any party interested in providing sponsorship on an individual or team basis, should contact: graham@swmgolfmanagement.com for further details.

CELEBRITY SUPPORTERS GATHER

The Bobby Moore Fund for Cancer Research UK is hosting another of its successful celebrity golf days, sponsored by Citigroup, on Wednesday, May 2 at the luxurious Wentworth Club, Surrey, to raise vital funds for research into bowel cancer.

The action will take place on the esteemed 'West' course, familiar to millions worldwide through the annual PGA and World Match Play Championships.

Last year, the event raised over £100,000 for bowel cancer research and celebrity participants included Jamie Redknapp, Steve Davis MBE, Will Carling MBE and David Seaman MBE among others.

Cancer Research UK, in partnership with Stephanie Moore MBE, established the Bobby Moore Fund in 1993 following Bobby's death from bowel cancer in the same year. The Fund raises money for research into bowel cancer and awareness about the disease. Bowel cancer is a curable disease if caught early, yet it still claims 45 lives every day in the UK. In the 16 years since Bobby died, the Fund has raised over £6 million for bowel cancer research. 27 teams will start the day with a hot breakfast before commencing 18 holes of golf. This will be followed by a champagne reception, three-course dinner and an auction of exclusive sporting memorabilia.

To enter a team for the Golf Day, call Margaret Rose or Alex Warner Smith on: 0207 009 8881 or visit: www.bobbymoorefund.org for more information.

PGA AGREEMENT GOES STATESIDE



David Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen, at the signing of the UK agreement at the British Open last year.

Jacobsen, the US sister company of Ransomes Jacobsen in the UK, has reached a 10-year agreement with The PGA of America to serve as the Official turf equipment supplier to The PGA of America and Exclusive turf equipment supplier to PGA Golf Properties.

This follows the signing of a similar arrangement in the UK last year which saw The Professional Golfers' Association sign a three-year agreement with Ransomes Jacobsen, where the Ipswich-based turf equipment manufacturer became the Official supplier of turf care equipment to the PGA.



SUCCESSFUL SKILLS TRAINING

In this month's article David Golding, GTC's Education Director, appeals to Course Managers to play the key role in staff training and assessment.

"Here he goes again" I hear regular readers say – "NVQ's and what we should be doing!"

Well that might well be the case but I would like to just take a few minutes of your time to ask who is best placed to know the staffs' training needs, how best they would learn and how the employer would best benefit from staff development?

Is it the College Lecturer? The Secretary Manager? Chairman of Green? Professional? The Owner?

While all of these people can contribute to the process of staff development it has to be the Course Manager's responsibility, otherwise the system of skills training cannot be successful.

Just to be a little controversial, you will note I have appealed to Course Managers and not mentioned Head Greenkeepers.

I am well aware that many Head Greenkeepers are managing the golf course but more and more employers contact me regarding their Head Greenkeepers and how they only maintain the course but do not manage the facility.

Yes, believe it or not many employers do really want their Head "men" to supervise and manage, and become increasingly disappointed when they don't carry out these important tasks.

This is often the area where Head Greenkeepers become frustrated because they still hear statements such as the "Secretary or the Chairman of Green keep interfering with my job". In my experience it is not interference so much as typical management duties which should be carried out by the Course Manager.

Clearly the key word in the title debate is MANAGE and most of us entering the greenkeeping profession were not born managers, we just wanted to work outdoors and loved the challenge of working with nature.

Not for the first time I will put myself forward as a typical guy who fitted the above criteria and that is why I feel so strongly about supporting those of you who do want to

develop into Golf Course Managers.

As the game of golf is now in a period of change with more and more clubs under tremendous financial pressures, the Course Manager will truly need to be up for the challenges ahead. They will need to be at the table when key issues are under discussion with management and their professionalism, hopefully, will be fundamental when the future of the course and club are being decided. Financial planning, including staffing resources, will be high on the agenda and you will have a major contribution to the make to the discussions.

Today's modern Course Managers are well versed in these matters and I won't name names but I noted some of our top Course Managers were in workshops during the Harrogate Week topping up on their management skills - brilliant! So much so that I know they were keen to discuss speaker skills and programmes with Ken and Sami, all with the intention of ensuring that future training in this crucial area is of a high quality.

We know the tried and tested Frank Newberry and Brin Bendon, who continue to support so many of you, as management trainers who have taken the time to understand the sectors needs and I am sure there are other individuals who will serve us well but I have little time for trainers who just deliver generic courses and wonder why the delegates switch off!

We know this has been the case in our own assessor training programmes of late and this will be addressed due to direct feedback from the delegates to us. The GTC will be working very closely with BIGGA and the Home Union Golf Course committees to ensure we not only provide the subjects on seminars and workshops but also top speakers.

My guess is that you will see many more of our "top" Course Managers becoming the tutors at future workshops because one thing is for sure, this industry is not frightened to share their experiences and we must encourage this.

There is no better tutor than the one who has and often still is "at the coalface!" When you see these Course Managers offering to share their experience and knowledge with you, take up the opportunity, don't just say "oh it's alright for him he is at a course with a mega-budget", it is often these types of courses which will feel the financial pressure first!

Whether it is by contacting your favoured training provider or BIGGA direct, please do

not sit back with just your greenkeeping skills. Discuss the courses available to "convert" to a Golf Course MANAGER. Trust me, employers need you!

The association and the GTC approved training providers will supply the demand on a local basis and it need not be a course which is a full qualification e.g. N/SVQ Level 4 but short specific courses or bite size learning is the way forward.

Courses aimed at supplying employers with the skilled staff they require, and the GTC for its part, will continue to support this aim by arranging trainer and assessor training to keep you at the front-line of your teams skills development.

There will be many of you who have over the years achieved the assessor award and feel the GTC has not been in touch with you regarding updating or attending a standardisation/moderation meeting? If I can explain – the GTC, since the introduction of vocational or work-based training has invested heavily in assessor training believing that the best placed person to train and assess greenkeepers are Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers, or in certain circumstances Deputies, and this programme of training has been designed to assist Centres/Training Providers with the assessment process.

When you decide on your Centre to register your trainee you should automatically become an assessor within their quality control (verification) system. It is therefore the Centres responsibility to keep you updated on quality issues as well as the obvious task to ensure you are training and assessing your staff to the national standards.

Some Centres are still by-passing qualified assessors and using their own peripatetic assessors when really they should be visiting you as the Internal Verifier not assessor.

Don't settle for this, especially when you are the 'MANAGER'.

The Awarding Bodies External Verifiers are onto these Centres and we at the GTC are continually trying to drive up the quality of work-based training by supporting Centres through regular contact with verifiers and the Awarding Bodies.

This role is just part of the Course Managers role and I truly hope you are prepared for the demanding times ahead, if not take advantage of the courses available.

David can be contacted direct on Tel: 01347 838640 or Email: david@the-gtc.co.uk

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

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Education Update



Ken Richardson discusses the department's latest projects

The dust has finally settled from Harrogate Week 2007 and Sami and I are looking ahead to Harrogate Week 2008. We are planning a few changes to take into account the feedback received this year and to make Continue to Learn 2008 even better. We are spending a great deal of time on the BIGGA/AGCS Safety Management System that is due to be released at the end of this month, as well as working on the TORO Student of the Year Competition and on the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, Scotts, Syngenta and Course Care and we have also made some progress on the BIGGA Management Training Scheme.

We are pleased to say that we can start to award Higher Education Scholarships again following the receipt of more funds from Ransomes Jacobsen.

We are also subsidising a range of training course in the Sections and Regions as well as supporting Regional and Section Conferences thanks to contributors to the Education and Development Fund.

The BIGGA/AGCS Safety Management System

This Internet based resource will allow golf clubs to produce safety management systems for their golf club. It is an interactive resource that contains not only a full set of downloadable documents ranging from policy to review but it also contains model risk profiles for each part of a golf club and model risk assessments that link to the risk profiles. It also contains a 'hazard file' that contains detailed information on more than 100 hazards with links to other appropriate web sites.

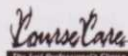
It sounds easy doesn't it? All you have to do is press a button and a safety management system appears. If only it could be that easy! You and other managers at your club will have to do some work to make sure that the System applies to your club and that you have included all risks and hazards.

It will make the task of producing a safety management system much easier, it will lead to a common system throughout golf, it will make golf clubs safer for employees, golfers and visitors and it should help to reduce insurance premiums for golf clubs.

Student of the Year Competition

Following a very successful Competition in 2006 that saw Mike Emptage selected as the Winner, with Abi Crosswood and James Billington the two Runners Up, TORO are continuing to sponsor this high quality competition. Competition details and Competition Entry Forms will be sent to Training Providers throughout this month. The closing date for entries is 4 May 2007 and the Regional Interviews will take place during the week commencing 2 July. Competition Entry Forms can also be sent by e-mail. Contact sami@bigga.co.uk for details.

BIGGA Golf Environment Competition



Details on how to enter the 2007 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition will be sent out during April. Remember that your club could win a Scotts Weather Station and a cheque for £2,000, but perhaps more importantly, gain credit for being environmentally friendly.

The BIGGA Management Training Scheme

We hope to launch the BIGGA Management Training Scheme in the autumn. The Scheme will give greenkeepers the opportunity to learn about management, to gain in-depth knowledge and to develop the management skills needed by golf course managers. Greenkeepers and golf clubs will be able to select the Unit or Units most appropriate to them allowing future managers to prepare for their future management roles, for others to refresh their management knowledge and allow others to extend their knowledge. Watch out for further details in future editions of Greenkeeper International.

Vanessa and Gemma would like to welcome 14 new members to the Association and this month talk about renewals

Membership Update



BIGGA Welcomes

SCOTTISH REGION		
Stewart	Brown	North
Stuart	Harley	Central
Stuart	Speirs	East
James	Wilson	East
Derek	Young	West
NORTHERN REGION		
Dylan	Cammack	North West
Robert	Hill	North East
James	Mccarthy	North East
MIDLAND REGION		
Stuart	Collar	Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Peter	Gotheridge	East Midland
Ian	Gough	Mid Anglia
Christopher	Horsler	Mid Anglia
Mark	Lloyd	Mid Anglia
Brendan	Searle	Berk/Bucks & Oxon
SOUTH EAST REGION		
Mark	Shuter	Sussex
Joe	Simpson	East Anglia
Craig	Sisson	East Anglia
STH WEST & WALES		
Andy	Fincher	South Coast
Christopher	Payne	South West
INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS		
Henk	Stuyvem	Belgium
Marc	Vandevijvere	Belgium
Michal	Engler	Slovakia
Christian	Pilon	Canada
STUDENT MEMBERS		
Danny	Partridge	Scottish Region
Neil	Plenderleith	Scottish Region
Robert	Corlett	Northern Region
Richard	Drake	Northern Region
Martin	Bird	Sth West & Wales Region
David	Daw	Sth West & Wales Region
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS		
Hugh	Fraser	Scottish Region
Nicola	Gemmell	Scottish Region
Christine	Hunter	Scottish Region
Brian	Inglis	Scottish Region
Douglas	Shearer	Scottish Region
Phil	Allen	Northern Region
Steve	Barnes	Northern Region
Stewart	Brown	Northern Region
Julia	Campey	Northern Region
Craig	Fort	Northern Region
Jean	John	Northern Region
Andy	Law	Northern Region
Jon	Mentell	Northern Region
David	Newton	Northern Region
Lee	Ashcroft	Midland Region
John	Briggs	Midland Region
James	Buckholt	Midland Region
Miranda	Chambers	Midland Region
Keith	Collingwood	Midland Region
Richard	Fortmuller	Midland Region
Simon	Harrison	Midland Region
Eddie	Bullock	South East Region
David	Cole	South East Region
Sheena	Shah	South East Region
Charles	Worsfold	South East Region
Alex	Burnand	Sth West & Wales
John	Daniel	Sth West & Wales
Alan	Boyd	N Ireland
Denis	O'regan	Rep of Ireland
Jonathan	Mcnally	Dubai
CORPORATE MEMBERS		
Graham	Purse	South East Region
Vic	Purse	South East Region
Bill	Stimson	South East Region

Keep in touch

We would like to be able to keep in touch more with our members and because regular mail is very time consuming, slow and pricey we would like to email you all more often. If you want to receive more regular updates and we don't already have your email address then email us on: vanessa@bigga.co.uk and we'll add you to our list of contacts.

Time's running away. Don't forget to get those renewals in as soon as possible if you don't want to lose the BIGGA membership benefits you are currently getting.

If your membership expired in November or December 2006 or at the beginning of this year it is not too late to renew your membership. If you've lost your renewal form just ring us and we'll send you a new one.

If you don't want to pay your subscription fee all in one go you can pay us in five or 10 instalments by Direct Debit. If you want a Direct Debit Instruction form get in touch with us on: 01347 833800 and we'll get one to you immediately.

Also, don't forget that if you are paying your own BIGGA Membership subscription fees you can apply to the tax office for a refund of 23% of the subscription amount. If you are a Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager paying £117 then this could save you nearly £27.

This is because BIGGA is recognised by the Inland Revenue as a legitimate professional body. Membership fees to such bodies are eligible for tax relief. All you need to do is get a form from us and send the completed form to your local tax office.

If you are retiring or leaving the trade, you don't have to say goodbye to your BIGGA Membership. There are many different types of memberships that BIGGA can offer you. For retiring greenkeepers BIGGA has a Retired Membership with full benefits or a Retired Membership with limited benefits. Just give us a call for more information. If you are leaving the greenkeeping profession, why not join BIGGA as an associate member so you can still be a part of the Association?

Message for the Section Secretaries

At BIGGA Headquarters we would like you to send us your dates so that we can update the website. Please email them to: vanessa@bigga.co.uk along with any other information that you would like us to publicise on the BIGGA website.

The image shows a form titled 'GREENKEEPER MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2007'. It includes fields for name, address, and contact details. There are sections for 'MEMBERSHIP DETAILS' and 'RENEWAL DETAILS'. The form is designed for members to update their contact information and renew their membership for the year 2007.

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All equipment used to carry out work within any organisation must always be safe to use. Some equipment is subject to statutory inspections and maintenance at varying frequencies. Other pieces of equipment e.g. kettles, microwaves, mowers, strimmers etc. should be checked visually for damage before use and are advised to be formally checked for continued safe usage on a routine bases (generally annually).

Each business should have a Work Equipment Register detailing the items of equipment they have and that the equipment has been at least visually inspected once per year for continued fitness for use. Items failing the inspection should be repaired or removed from service.

Complex pieces of equipment will require more than a visual examination and should be inspected and maintained by a competent person to ensure that they remain safe to use.

Work equipment should be maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions and frequencies. Records of maintenance visits and any repairs carried out should be retained on site.



Risk assessments may be required for work operations utilising certain pieces of work equipment which pose particular hazards. The range of work equipment available to green keeping staff is wide and varied and may range from:

- **Tractors with associated PTO and Non-PTO attachments**
- **Mowers – both ride-on and rotary handmowers**
- **Scarifiers, Slitters and Spiking equipment**
- **Groomers**
- **Brushcutters, Brushsaws and Strimmers**
- **Chain-saws**
- **Fertiliser Spreaders and Pesticide Sprayers**

Important aspects in ensuring that machinery is used safely with minimum risk of serious injury include:

- **Training**
- **Competence**
- **Maintenance**
- **Correct use**
- **Safe Systems of Work**

Training provides staff with information on safe working practices and machinery should only be used by someone who has been trained and is competent in its use. Competence is developed through correct training and experience. To prevent unauthorised use, all machinery should be secured when not in use

and only authorised employees should have access to the equipment.

Proper maintenance of machinery is essential. Safety devices, brakes, controls etc. need regular inspection and maintenance. Guards are designed to prevent operators and others from coming in contact with power driven components of machinery when in use and MUST NOT be removed until components have come to rest and have been deactivated. Machines should only be used if all guards are in place – it is a safety offence to do otherwise.

Machinery in use on golf courses can suffer a build-up of grass/debris around engine/transmission areas. This debris can absorb fuel, oil etc and eventually become a fire hazard. The machine should be deactivated before removing any debris and thereafter debris should be washed off or removed to cut the risk of the material catching fire.

Most machines used on golf courses are driven by petrol or diesel fuelled engines. To help prevent injuries and fires it is essential that all staff are adequately instructed in the safe use, transport and storage of petrol and diesel. Fuel should only be stored and transported in approved containers which are marked with the fuel type.

Care should be taken when decanting petrol that all ignition sources have been removed. A funnel should be used to obviate spillage and the machine switched off (and allowed to cool) before filling commences.

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OHIO ARTICLE

My name is Jack Critchley from Royal Jersey GC in Jersey CI. I have just recently gained my NVQ level 2 in Sportsurf with Myerscough college.

I want to thank you for the excellent article you published recently about Pinehurst. This is exactly what I need in my career, as I can not find that level of management, pressure and training (6 Courses) on the Island of Jersey. I am really keen on getting recognised for this as

I am the first person to be enrolled on the program from Jersey CI And think something like this would be extremely beneficial!

I have since been accepted by The Ohio State Program and they are placing me at a very famous course, Scioto Country Club, home course of Jack Nicklaus when he was growing up in Columbus Ohio. I met the Superintendent at your conference in Harrogate, as he was over for your show, which I flew up from Jersey to attend, and I really enjoyed it.

Thank you again for your help and would be grateful to hear from you in the near future.

Kind Regards
Jack Critchley

THANK YOU

Dear Editor

As a past member of BIGGA and former Langland Bay Golf Club greenkeeper, I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all club members, especially Mrs Gifford, Lady Captain 06 and Mr S Jones, Club Captain 06, for such as generous donation to the Ann Conroy Trust charity. Your support has been superb.

Yours sincerely
Paul Houlton

Course Feature

Chance of a Lifetime

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

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



Left to right, back: Thomas Freeman, James Smith, Neil Kennedy, Stephen Bregan, Front: Niall MacDonald, Craig Hay, Robert Lucas

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

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

Accommodation is arranged by Pinehurst Resort and we live together in the same apartment complex, only five miles from the golf courses. There's lots to do when not at the course. We are all really keen golfers and spend most of our spare time playing. At Pinehurst employees, we get free use of the golf courses and practice facilities - the only cost is \$2 for a golf cart.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PINEHURST THROUGH THE SEASONS

SUMMER

Summer temperatures frequently hit 80°C so bermudagrass (*Cynodon dactylon*) is used as the warm season turfgrass. A hybrid bermudagrass called Tifway 419 is used because it has a finer leaf blade, produces a tight sward and is more drought and shade tolerant than common bermudagrass. It grows on the tees, fairways, roughs, collars, and approaches.

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

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

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

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

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

ASTHMA UK

My name is Andy Reason. I work at Sunningdale Golf Club, Surrey, as First Assistant Greenkeeper and I have suffered from Asthma all my life (26 years now). I am just one of 5.2 million people in this country that suffer with this condition, one person dies every seven hours from asthma. When I was younger I was often in hospital with the condition and I am very thankful for all the research that had been done, and continues to be done, that allowed me to be treated.

So that is why I have decided to help by running the Flora London Marathon 2007 in aid of Asthma UK, along with my friend Steve Richardson who also works at Sunningdale as a Head Greenkeeper.

We have been training for a couple of months now, but before we actually take on the 26 miles we have to reach another finishing line, our fundraising target of £4,000. Yes, it is a lot of money, but we are committed to the challenge and we are getting there. However we still have along way to go and this is the reason for this letter. I would be grateful if BIGGA could print this letter in Greenkeeper International asking for sponsorship from fellow members and companies, to help Asthma UK continue to improve people's lives with Asthma.

I know you must get letters like this all the time but I do hope that you will be able to make a contribution towards our goal of £4,000 no matter how small, every penny counts. If you would like more information about the race or the vital work of Asthma UK just visit the website at asthma.org.uk or call the charity on: 020 7786 5000. If you want to contact me directly to discuss this further or maybe just tell me that we are crazy to run 26 miles please feel free to call me on: 07725954411.

Many thanks for your time I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully
Andy Reason

MANAGING BUNKERS FOR SUCCESS

By Tim Butler

One cannot deny the importance of sand bunkers from both an appearance and playability standpoint in the modern game of golf. Regardless of the golf course, it is likely that at least one golfer believes that the bunkers fail to meet the grade. When we think about golf course management, the green comes straight to mind. However, in reality, many golf course managers and greenkeepers frequently hear complaints about the performance of the bunkers on their course. It is vital to remember that bunkers are by definition a hazard, and this likely adds to frustration from some players.

Having visited numerous golf courses, I have come across many first-hand that have rebuilt their bunkers because they were performing poorly. Among the main problems associated with bunkers is washout from the sides, flooding of the surface under heavy rainfall, and ball lie within the bunker itself. In many instances, bunker performance has declined only a few years after construction or reconstruction.

More often than not, the reconstruction process failed to address the underlying problems that caused the unsatisfactory condition of the original bunkers on the course.

USGA agronomist Jim Baird has suggested that five areas should be addressed when trying to achieve consistency from bunkers including:

- Architecture
- Construction
- Sand selection
- Maintenance practices
- Etiquette

Architectural design is crucial to the success of any bunker and should be consistent throughout the entire course. In the design stage, I have frequently come across problems with inadequate drainage and bunker steepness issues which, without doubt lead to bunker failure over time.

The **construction process** is interlinked with the design stage. Issues with internal and surface drainage, and fabric liner are commonly faced by greenkeepers. Internal drainage is usually achieved by drainage lines which run through the underlying rootzone of the bunker. A herringbone system is commonly employed. Some courses rely on natural drainage through the

rootzone without any internal drainage system. This approach will work when no excessive rainfall events occur, although in recent winters this has not been the case. In the vast majority of situations, some form of internal drainage system was fitted at the construction stage.

Over time many of these drains begin to perform poorly because of migration of sand particles through the rootzone and into the drainage lines. Flushing dye water through the drain line and watching the drain line exit is very useful. In many cases, replacing clogged lines with new drainage pipe is the only option.

Among the most time consuming jobs on the course is the repair of bunker faces that are continuously washed out. This problem is related directly to the amount of water that is entering the bunker from the surrounding area. In many situations, low-lying areas of the bunker are most affected. This is particularly true around golf greens, where the bunker area in close proximity to the green and apron are badly washed out during heavy rainfall, which is often due to the natural fall from the apron edge into the bunker.

Channelling of water before it reaches the bunker is a commonly used approach to rectify washout issues, but this technique requires careful channel placement and the collected water must have somewhere to drain to.

Many in the industry believe that building sand bunkers with flat bases will help to reduce the incidence and severity of washouts. The option of eliminating steep edges in the bunkers, will likely reduce washout problems, but will also change how the course plays.

New types of fabric liners have been introduced to some success, which may help to hold sand in place in steep edges. Much uncertainty exists among turfgrass managers over the use of these materials. Such liners have been used to cover drainage pipes on both golf courses and athletic fields in the past. Some feel that these liners may prevent migration of fine particles into drainage lines, thus reducing drainage pipe blockages, while others believe that such liners may themselves block over time, leading to a reduction in water percolation. Fabric liners are often placed across the entire bunker prior to sand application. This method may aid in reducing stones from the bunker rootzone contaminating the bunker sand. This system



will likely prevent machine raking and this should be taken into account.

New fabrics are available that are designed to attach to the sides of steep bunkers and hold sand in place, although if high rates of watering are entering these bunker sides, it may be difficult for the sand to stay in place. It is very important to realise that washouts will also reduce the quality of the sand within the bunker, through introducing debris from grassed areas and clay and stones from the bunker sides. This is a big problem on many courses, giving greenkeepers no option but to frequently top up the bunker with fresh sand in order to keep the bunker looking clean and playable.

Sand selection is critical to the success of the bunker. Greenkeepers need to remember that the sand used, should give golfers a fair lie if their ball lands on it. Coupled with this, the sand should hold up to daily maintenance, resist forming plugged lines upon ball impact, withstand rain and wind and allow free drainage.

Selection of sand for bunkers can vary slightly depending on course location, with coarser types of sand frequently used in situations where high winds are a factor. Finer, lighter particles would be more easily blown away and lost under high winds.

Angular sand is usually chosen in bunkers because it can withstand shifting and the 'sinking' effect which on some courses can almost feel like playing in quick sand. Limestone and silica sands are often used as sources of bunker sand, although problems with surface crusting of limestone can occur. This is usually due to the fact that limestone



Edging bunkers is a very time-consuming job that is carried out on numerous occasions on the majority of courses each year. This task can be done physically or mechanically and in many instances leads to large chunks of poorly performing grass on bunker edges being removed in order to maintain the healthy grass that most golfers want to see. In reality, over time this practice can lead to severe changes in the shape of bunkers, coupled with issues such as clay movement into the bunkers from the fresh clay bunker faces.

It is very important that the grass surrounding bunkers is managed in order to resist thinning out as much as possible. This is particularly true in locations near greens, which

receive a lot of play. Many golf courses have specific bunker areas near the green which receive high levels of play, which ultimately means that sand from the bunker is moved onto the surrounding grass surface. This can lead to numerous agronomic problems and deep-rooted grasses are needed to resist serious damage.

Re-sodding and deep aeration are often used in these locations. Some bunker edges must be rebuilt after several years of aggressive edging in order to establish a definition between the bunker face and the surrounding grass and also to reshape the bunkers into their original design. The issue of hand raking versus machine raking is often asked and in my opinion both have their merits and faults.

Etiquette refers to the treatment of the bunker area by golfers on the course and usually entails the raking of foot prints when finished playing from the bunker. This practice is essential if bunkers on your course are to be maintained in good standing on a daily basis. It is often useful to inform greens committees of this step and to repeat this message on a frequent basis. Entering and exiting of the bunker should also take place on fairly low areas without steep banks, as this aids in preventing sand on steep banks from collapsing.

Long gone are the days when the green was solely of crucial importance on the golf course. Expectations of all aspects of the course from greens to fairways and out-of-play areas have dramatically changed in

recent years and bunkers are no exception to this. Careful design and management are crucial in ensuring that your bunkers are, and continue to be, accepted by golfers on your course.



About the author

Tim Butler is currently studying for a doctorate degree in Sportsturf Science at both University College Dublin, Ireland and Michigan State University, USA. For further information contact Tim Butler at timmbutler@hotmail.com

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is a soft stone and easily weathered, which can consequently lead to an increase in the number of fines in the sand. This may cause the sand surface to almost stick together and become impenetrable.

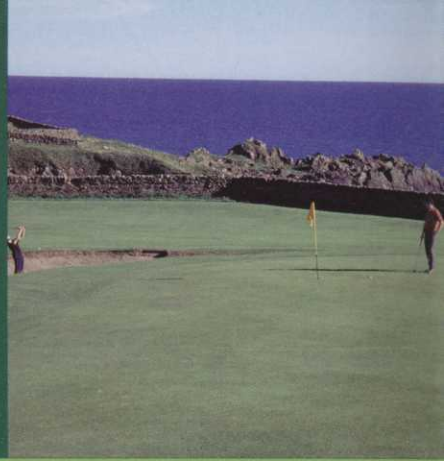
In recent years, numerous new bunker sand types have come onto the market, which vary greatly in price.

The use of crushed, recycled glass has gained much attention, particularly in the UK, although the colour of this material has been questionable to many. Bunker sand selection is usually influenced by the type of golfers using the facility. Higher handicap players often prefer softer sands more so than harder bunker surfaces which are frequently favoured by lower handicap players.

Maintenance practices on golf course bunkers usually consist of raking, edging, debris removal and ensuring that the bunker contains about 4in of sand. Sand bunkers located next to greens are often designed to have a sharp lip of up to 4in on the green side. This lip is used to add to the difficulty of such bunker shots. In many situations, the backside of bunkers beside greens and many fairway bunkers do not have such aggressive and sharp lines in order to give golfers a chance to get a shot in when their ball is located near such edges. However, over time in many situations these less aggressive lips are deepened and sharpened through edging the bunkers and it is important to keep an eye on how your bunker edges are, compared to how they looked when they were originally constructed.

	Positives	Negatives
Hand Raking	Less underlying soil disruption	Time consuming
	All areas of bunker raked	More weeds
	Eye appeal	Bunker edge damage from trafficking
Machine Raking	Fast	Bunker edge damage from entering and exiting
	Less weeds	Introduce clay and debris from underlying rootzone and edges
	Bunkers can be raked more frequently	Expensive machine
		Compaction on the underlying rootzone

Course Feature



Golfing First for Scotland

Scott MacCallum visits the latest club to be crowned BIGGA Golf Environment Champions

In much the same way as Egypt immediately brings to mind pyramids, thinking about Scotland does the same with golf. Of course the pyramids were in serious need of repointing by the time Allan Robertson and Old Tom Morris started to make golf the popular sport it has now become, but it would hard to claim that golf lacks history.

So when something occurs for the first time in the Scottish golfing world it is certainly news.

But that is exactly what Brighthouse Bay Golf Club has achieved – a Scottish golfing first – in becoming the first Scottish golf club to win the prestigious BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Ransomes Jacobsen, Scotts, Syngenta and Course Care.

What makes the feat even more commendable is that Brighthouse Bay is not one of Scotland's traditional, established golf clubs, set, as it is, in an award winning holiday park near Kirkcudbright, an area which is not regarded as one of Scotland's foremost golfing regions.

"As a relatively new golf club we are more than delighted to have become the first golf club in Scotland to win the Award,"

said owner, Tom Gillespie.

"We are always looking to raise our profile and gain recognition, particularly coming from an area which isn't renowned for top golf courses, and this shows that we have a very interesting course here with a lot going for it," added Tom.

The win has already brought publicity to the club with VisitScotland.com featuring the Trophy presentation picture on its website and it has created quite a bit of excitement in the local area.

"The South of Scotland Golf Association is absolutely delighted about this because we sponsor their juniors while they are very keen for us to pass on some of the environmental expertise we have at Brighthouse to other clubs in the area," said Evelyn Gillespie.

Tom and Evelyn have always been extremely pro-active when it comes to environmental issues and Brighthouse Bay is one of the most environmentally sustainable holiday centres in the UK, having collected a host of awards and certificates - including Gold Status in the Green Tourism Business Scheme; the Scottish Award for Environmental Excellence on Golf Courses; the Pan European Golf Environment Europe certification and Committed to Green, while they recently picked up the David Bellamy Gold Award for the 10th year running.

"A golfing landscape is of huge benefit to wildlife and the fact that it is viewed with suspicion in some quarters is ridiculous. However the BIGGA competition actually turns that on its head and displays to people that a golf course is a fabulous resource, not only to maintain, but to encourage, wildlife. We have had a huge turn around in the amount of wildlife which has come to the area since the development of the golf course," said Tom.

The drive and enthusiasm for environmental issues showed by Tom and Evelyn has been passed on to Head Greenkeeper, Richard Davis. "To be blatantly honest when Evelyn asked me to assist with the entry in the first year I was probably like 70% of greenkeepers out there and didn't give it too much thought. Since then, though, we've taken it on board, run with it and everything has snowballed to such an extent that it culminated with this win," said Richard.

And it would be fair to say that Richard and his team are now fully committed to ensuring good environmental practice is undertaken at all times. And Evelyn is particularly proud to be assisting in the development of the Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers of the future.

"Every decision we make is taken with

Every decision we make is taken with environmental issues in mind and if something we do affects a particular area of the course we ensure we compensate for that."

environmental issues in mind and if something we do affects a particular area of the course we ensure we compensate for that. For example the driving range re-development involved an area which had previously been set aside for skylark nesting but we reinstated an area for the skylarks around 100 yards away so nothing

was lost," explained Richard.

Tom and Evelyn were encouraged to take part in the competition by a friend, Ross Lindsay, who had read about it in

“ We were also pleased that the BIGGA competition is so much more about a **passion for the environment** ”



Greenkeeper International in 2002 and who felt that, with all the work Brighthouse Bay was doing, it was right down their street.

In the first year of entry they were Highly Commended and then, in 2004, they became Scottish winners which proved a great boost to all involved.

During the entry process Richard, Tom and Evelyn have built up a close relationship with judge, Lee Penrose, of the STRI, to the extent that they were actively looking forward to his visits and the opportunity to show off their work and pick his brains on future projects.

“In Lee’s role he must be as much an advisor as he is an inspector. It isn’t an easy balance to strike, and I know of many who

have failed to do so in other programmes, but Lee has always done this extremely well,” said Tom.

“We were also pleased that the BIGGA competition is so much more about a passion for the environment and not paper-based involving a lot of box ticking,” added Evelyn.

With a good run of results in the two previous years, Richard and his team went into last year’s competition with hopes high for a good result.

“I’d be lying if I said that we didn’t expect to be in the shake-up, although I perhaps didn’t expect to win,” said Richard diplomatically, too diplomatically for his boss’ liking.

“You’d have been most upset if we hadn’t

won it,” interrupted Evelyn, most indignant. “Ok, We’d have been most upset if we hadn’t won this year,” responded Richard, dutifully. Much of the Gillespie’s environmental thinking can be credited to Tom’s father, who farmed the land before it became the Holiday Park.

“He was a man before his time, who thought outside the box and could have perhaps been described as a bit of a crank,” said Tom, of his father, Douglas.

“He supported the first whole food shop in the UK, which was in Baker Street, in London. Sorry to say that about five years later it went bust but you can see how many whole food shops there are nowadays.”

It pains Tom that when he left agricultural college in the ‘50s and returned to the farm

“The Scottish Golf Environment Group identified that we had nine different landscapes on the course – most courses have about two or three and that’s what creates the interest.”



he had to persuade his father to forgo organic practices for a more profitable approach.

“We couldn’t afford to run the farm organically without some extra support. It was impossible and even nowadays organic farming is heavily subsidised to take the operation through to a finished product. I’m sorry to say that I had sympathy for the organic approach but could see how difficult it was from a practical point of view so had to call a halt to it.”

But as Evelyn points out Tom’s passion for the environment and the responsibility he has as custodian of Brighthouse Bay is undiminished.

“Tom knows every inch of this landscape and loves this land – he would spot if a single tree had been removed.”

“We keep coming back to the word sustainable, but if you are making something sustainable it is actually good business – maximising what you can maximise and minimising the costs of running.

“The other thing you want to do is maximise the resource which is out there. We have the privilege of managing an area and we are duty bound to maximise what it can do for wildlife and for the golfer. It’s all about making life worth living,” said Tom.

Golf became part of the Brighthouse Bay portfolio in the early ‘70s, not long after the Holiday Park opened, as Tom reasoned that the game was a great way to attract visitors in the summer months.

“We produced a fairly rudimentary nine holer but I always felt that the land we had lent itself potentially to a very interesting golf course,” said Tom.

That vision began to edge towards reality in the late ‘90s when Tom, working with local greenkeeper and golf course designer, Duncan Gray, planned the new 18 holer.

“I’d become aware of Duncan as he was from the neighbouring parish and he’d built up a reputation as an advisor and designer both locally and in Ireland. I’d got the impression that he took easily to the natural environment and made the most of the natural topography of the area,” said Tom.

Duncan, a well known BIGGA member, built and runs his own golf club The Pines, near Dumfries, about 50 miles from Brighthouse Bay.

England football legend and former Republic of Ireland manager, Jack Charlton opened the new 18 holes in 1999 and the course has gone on from strength to strength since then.

“The Scottish Golf Environment Group identified that we had nine different landscapes on the course – most courses have about two or three and that’s what creates the interest,” said Tom.

Included among the nine are a wetland landscape; rock shore landscape; cliff landscape; hillside landscape and upper plateau landscape.

With the publicity machine about to spring into action to ensure the rest of Scottish golf and beyond is aware of Brighthouse Bay’s status as the leading environmental golf course in the country, Richard’s thoughts

turn to ensuring the golfing challenge it presents is enhanced.

"We are trying to up-grade the quality of tees and greens and hope to attract more UK championships to the course – we've already had the British Universities Championship in 2004," said Richard.

The balance has to be struck however with Championship golf and providing a course that visiting holiday makers can get round.

"It is a difficult but we manage it by having a lot of tees to provide easier routes," explained Tom.

Having to refrain from entering the competition for three years is a frustration to the Brighthouse Bay team but they are already gearing up for a triumphant return in 2009 – Richard was particularly disappointed to learn that the feat of winning twice had already been achieved by Ipswich Golf Club.

"I'd particularly like to thank Espeth Coutts, from SGEG, and Lee Penrose and Simon Watson, from STRI, who have done so much to help me. It really gives me confidence, as a relatively young

greenkeeper, to make decisions which might be deemed to be controversial, knowing I've got the support of SGEG and the STRI behind me."

The point is reinforced by Evelyn who feels that more clubs should enter the competition because of the advice and support they would receive from the judges.

"I wouldn't want people frightened about taking part because they would probably find out that they were doing much more right than they are doing wrong."

While Tom is delighted that golf, through the competition is setting a fine example. "I think the competition is well timed, In fact it is ahead of a lot of things as every news bulletin at the moment is about climate change and environmental awareness.

"It's the biggest challenge to society today.

"I'd also like to thank all my green staff for their continued help and support and recognise the role they played in our winning the Award," said Tom.

For more information on Brighthouse Bay visit www.gillespie-leisure.co.uk

Look out for application forms for the 2008 competition around May.



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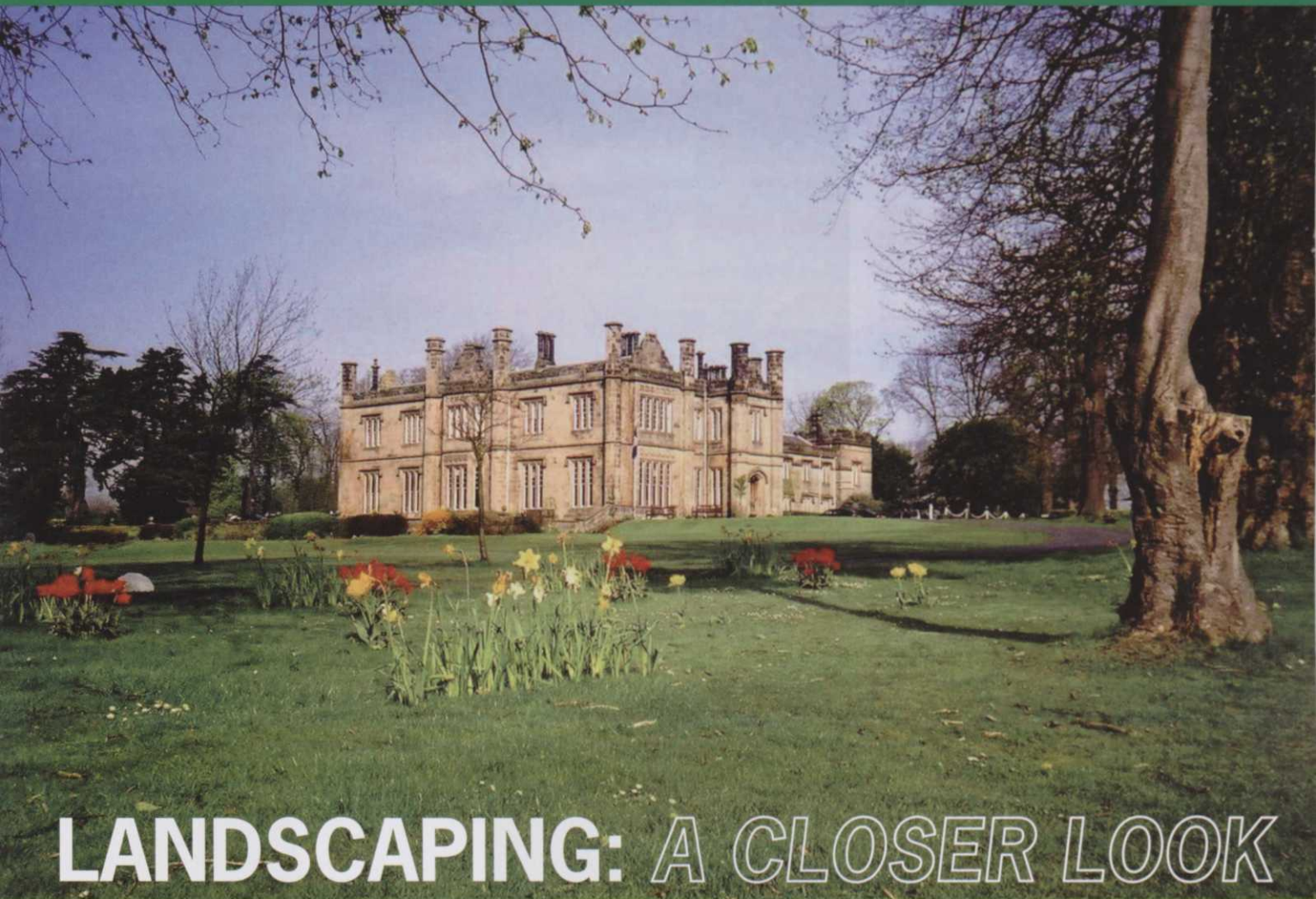
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Growing success



LANDSCAPING: *A CLOSER LOOK*

The **Allure** of Landscaping

Planning is the most important part of the landscaping process. Good planning can ensure that no effort is spent on unnecessary steps, money is spent wisely and time is used to maximum effect.

Available space and where the sun rises and sets, need to be considered in order for plants and trees to be planted in places that will best serve the golf course and cater for the members needs. For example, tees can be all shapes and sizes but whatever the shape, the main consideration is if they withstand the everyday wear and tear - No golfer wants to play from a tee where there is hardly a blade of grass and the surface is uneven.

This supplement looks at how to use landscaping to its full potential on a golf course and shows us the latest products the industry has to offer. Melissa Toombs talks with Freelance Writer and Gardening Broadcaster, Steve Bradley, who offers advice and helpful hints to incorporate into your landscaping routine. She also quizzes greenkeepers across Britain and abroad on how they go about landscaping their own golf courses.

Steve Bradley (known as Brad) is Gardening Correspondent for The Sun, a Freelance Writer and Broadcaster, and is expert on all things horticulture. Melissa Toombs sought his advice on landscaping a golf course.



1. Which areas on a golf course do you feel benefit the most from landscaping?

"I think around the clubhouse, it's important to make a first impression at any golf course. Having said that, I'm not a golfer so I dare say that someone who plays pays more attention to the course than the clubhouse, but the grounds around the clubhouse do give a very important first impression."

2. How can we make landscaping as maintenance friendly as possible?

"I think that mulches will become more and more prominent because if I was the Course Manager, I'd want to use anything possible to keep the greens in good condition."

3. What aesthetic values should a landscape incorporate?

"All year round colour, or all year round interest so that whenever anybody turns up at whatever time of day or whatever time of year, there should always be something that looks nice around the entrance to the clubhouse."

4. How do you think clubs can enhance their appearance further for special events throughout the year?

"I think what I would do, would be to have a framework of easy to maintain shrubs around the clubhouse and then when it came to the special day, I would go to town on the bedding. You can buy stuff in which is in flower or is just about to flower, and ok, it may cost a little bit more, but it's one less headache for the groundstaff. You know it will look good on the day."

5. How important do you think it is that a club invests in a greenhouse to bring plants on before they take them outside?

"I must admit that with regards to the bedding I have just mentioned, I wouldn't bother, but I would tend to have a greenhouse or conservatory where I could have indoor plants for use in the clubhouse and restaurant. I see that as the primary function for it rather than raising your own bedding. There are specialists that can do that for you and you can buy it relatively cheaply, whereas the house plants always make a good impression inside and these are the plants that have to deal with the various different light levels."

6. How can you remodel a course with minimum disruption?

"Again, I think the use of bedding. Colour always attracts the eye and even something like a simple raised bed, it can literally be dropped down within a couple of hours and filled and the plants put in, and it makes a very easy, immediate impact and can be put away again for next time."

7. Do you agree that sustainable landscapes reflect a high level of self-sufficiency?

"Yes, to a certain extent. You want it to be easy to maintain and not to have a great environmental impact on the area, but I think that in the main, most golf courses are better than many other areas. They've got their own water features – ok, they are designed to make life a bit more challenging for the golfer, but a lot of them, the way they have got their own water systems, their own areas for catching water and excellent drainage facilities, I think most golf courses are better than many other areas anyway."

8. What type of drainage should be used when constructing beds?

"I think that we have got to look at something else, I mean we almost want a system now where we can catch water rather than get it away. I reckon that through the summer, because the workload is so great and the climate is changing, when creating beds or raised beds, you almost want the water to be held there for as long as possible without water logging. You want these areas to look after themselves so that you can get on with something else. I think it's actually looking at systems of retaining water rather than draining it. We have always looked at drainage in the past, as water has not been an issue. I've been doing some work with people where the containers have holes in them about four inches up the sides. The idea being that when you water those plants, you know that they have that reservoir at the bottom that they can tap in to - So you can get away with watering say every third day in hot weather, rather than having to water them every single day."

9. Does plant placement and selection play an important part in achieving a good landscape? What plant selection criterion needs to be considered?

"Yes and I must admit that in terms of using broadly dugger greens to restrict a view or make a golf course more challenging is an excellent idea, but I do like the idea where they name a hole after the shrubs planted prominently close-by. I think at certain times of the year where you've got holes on the course dopped and stems and that sort of thing. I think it gives a course an identity and a good use of landscape rather than just being "a new hole".

10. Is there certain criterion that you look for when selecting the plants?

"Basically something that will look after itself. If you bear in mind that the guys that work at a golf course - their primary job is to make sure that the grass is in excellent condition and the playing surface remains good at all times - it makes their life a lot easier if they have plants that are self sufficient. Things that don't need a lot of spraying or pruning, don't need an awful lot of tidying up, they are there, they look good but they just look after themselves."

11. We always see Augusta with its rhododendrons and azaleas in April but surely these aren't necessarily good for certain areas of golf courses?

"Well a big problem with something like rhododendrons and azaleas as a group of plants, is that you've got to have the right soil. They are ericaceous plants and they thrive in acidic soil, which is not all that common in vast areas of the UK, but then again you can soon find alternatives like elaeagnus and different types of laurels and pyracanthas. With something like a rhododendron, they flower once and then that's it 'til next year, whereas if you get something like a pyracantha you've got the flowers on and you've got the berries on. I see one or two places where they've actually had sweet peas growing underneath the pyracanthas so they use them as a climbing frame and scramble up them - You've got flowers early on and berries later, with sweet peas in the middle of the year."



12. What factors need to be considered before installing a pond?

“Any water feature on a golf course has got to have several purposes. There’s the playing side of it in terms of making the course more challenging but I also think it has to be placed somewhere where it can collect water and reuse it. More and more as we have to start to face these water problems, its primary function has got to be water catchment.”

13. What environmental values need to be taken into account before designing a landscape?

“For a start you have got to have something that will fit in with the surroundings. For example, if you try having rhododendron in an area like Lincolnshire where the soil is quite chalky, you add to your problems straight away, as you have got to try and make something work and grow where it normally wouldn’t. A lot of the time you look at what the native vegetations are, for instance – if you notice say that a farmer’s hedges have got hawthorn in and your going to be planting trees there, why not plant some that are part of the hawthorn family. Pick on plants that you know are doing well in either the local gardens, round about, or in the fields – work with nature rather than trying to fight it every inch of the way.”

14. What kind of constraints would you normally come across and would they generally quite easy to work around?

“In terms of golf, you have nearly always got to do quite a lot of earth moving. A lot of it at golf courses these days, I see it bordering on civil engineering - the contours of the land and such like. I often see the soil type as a major problem – a heavy soil, easily damaged by machinery and compaction. If you can get the soil right, it makes life easy. In terms of solving these problems, if you have skilled contractors it’s usually not a problem but again it’s getting them to get it right to start with so the next stages are much easier, such as creating the greens, getting the fairways right, getting the drainage and everything else sorted out.”

15. What are some of the common mistakes made by enthusiastic amateurs when it comes to producing ornamental areas?

“They tend to over plant – they’ll put in far too many plants. You can see why they do it, to suppress the weeds etc but after a few years you need to start taking plants out and they tend to forget about that. They over plant to start with, they have a shrub board which you would expect to last 10 to 15 years before it needs major work, but after five years it’s so overcrowded

you’ve got to sort it out because they didn’t thin out the plants after the third year. Also they will tend to pick a lot of wrong rock and plant combinations in terms of they’ll probably want things in there like Iverson, which thrives on the chalky soil and a rhododendron next to it. Well, it doesn’t work like that, they’ve both got completely different requirements – one likes bright sunshine and the rhododendron likes dappled shade – so really it’s a lack of research. People love Japanese Maples, but they won’t stand bright sunlight or wind exposure because the leaves are so thin and they spend most of the year with shrivelled up leaves struggling against the wind.”

16. If people want to improve their landscaping skills how should they go about it?

“Places like Askham Bryan have an excellent reputation in landscaping. Myerscough and Cannington also do landscaping and design courses, as does Writtle College.”



17. Do you think there is much existing crossover knowledge between greenkeepers and horticulturalists?

"I don't really. I think the problem's been in the past that horticulturalists have just thought, oh that's grass. That's the green stuff we plant all the stuff around to make it look pretty. I think it's only because of the American influence and the influence of people like Nick Bissett and George Shiels in the UK over the last few years, that have made people realise that golf course construction, maintenance, and particularly greenkeeping, are a skill in their own right. I see it now as a branch of horticulture rather than just someone who looks after the grass. It used to be this attitude that the local authorities said, oh anyone can mow a bit of grass, and grounds maintenance is very specialist these days and extremely science based."

18. Do you think it is important to have a person dedicated to the gardening needs of a golf club, or is it better for the jobs to be shared around?

"Again I think it's a specialist thing. Depending on the size of the golf club, I reckon you would probably be able to justify one person, two or three days a week, to look after the garden (non-play) areas around the clubhouse but I'd also include in that what I would call interior landscape, the plants that are in the restaurant and proshop etc. "

19. What would be an average budget for landscaping an 18 hole course?

"I've got no idea but I wouldn't want to pay the bill!"

20. What about the landscaping across car park areas?

"Now what they are trying to do is have cars parked in clusters of maybe six or seven, often with trees shading them, and they're looking more and more at areas where they have got down this mesh that the grass can grow through and you can park on that rather than great big areas of tarmac that look like their outside Asda's or Tesco's.

"The boutique layout consists of clusters or parking spaces – up to a dozen – with maybe one or two trees. They break them up into little areas like that so that quite often, if there are hardly any cars there, from a distance it looks like it's part of the course rather than the car park – it blends in and it meets a lot of the environmental criteria as well."

Brad's Helpful Hints

- Plan out a programme
- Try not to do everything yourself - get contractors in to help where necessary
- Incorporate as many low maintenance plants into your scheme as possible – especially drought tolerant plants
- Incorporate the car park into the course design where possible
- Incorporate as many trees as possible into your scheme – these are handy for shading cars and encouraging al fresco dining
- Mobile displays – raised beds can be used year after year
- Change your bedding two or three times a year
- Try to use as many multi-purpose plants as possible – i.e. plants that flower then have berries, and can be used in combination with various other plants

Aberdeen is a perfect example of how creative landscaping and gardening can improve the appeal of an area.

Aberdeen won the Best City category for Britain in Bloom 2006 and was awarded a Gold Medal.

"An outstanding combination of brilliant bedding and floral displays, wonderful trees, parks and borders and numerous lovely gardens and commercial displays. The countryside areas were well-used and well-managed and the community were clearly involved in the decision-making and active hands-on management of many features and facilities in this vibrant city," were just some of the reasons the judges gave, as to why Aberdeen deserved this prestigious award.



Talking Heads

Melissa Toombs quizzes greenkeepers across the UK and abroad on how they go about landscaping their golf courses.

1. How much landscaping/gardening are you expected to do at your club?
2. Do you devote specific time in your schedule to carry out this work?
3. Do you have the knowledge and skills that you need to carry out these tasks yourself, or do you have a dedicated gardener?
4. Which one landscaping project at your club are you particularly proud of?
5. How important do you think a well-landscaped golf club should be?

Answers:



Name: **John Clarke**
 Club: **Marriott Hanbury Manor Hotel & Country Club, Ware**
 Position: **Golf & Estate Manager**

1. Hanbury Manor has approximately 25 acres of historic gardens, lawns and pineatum.

2. Our Head Groundsman is responsible for all landscaped areas. He has dedicated staff and the assistance of the golf course crew.

3. The management and skills for maintenance and development are contained within the team, we use a local consultant for specific plant knowledge, professional arborists and a specialist in the maintenance of listed constructions for our walled gardens and terraces.

4. A large, hard landscaping project at the 1st tee. This included new walkways, lawns, features and a large Rhododendron bed to provide a much better sense of arrival.

5. Hugely important, the landscaping at the main entrance is the first impression any customer receives to our venue and will set the tone for their stay.



Name: **David MacIndoe**
 Club: **Killarney GC, Ireland**
 Position: **Course Manager**

1. We often undertake projects to enhance our very natural setting - Mainly through the quieter winter months.

2. I have one designated staff member to keep the clubhouse environs neat and tidy. When necessary other staff are allocated on an as needed basis.

3. My staff are multi-talented!

4. My staff and I turned an ugly drainage ditch on the 18th hole of our Killeen course into a series of ponds which also improve the visual and playing characteristics of the hole.

5. I personally feel that there is far too much emphasis on tree planting without regard to drainage, shade and air movement. I like to see the grass!



Name: **David Chapel**
 Club: **Rotherham GC**
 Position: **Course Manager**

1. We do quite a lot of landscaping through the autumn and winter months i.e. new winter tees plus improving summer tees, and also general work in wooded areas.

2. All work is assessed and a specific time is allowed to do the tasks.

3. All Staff are NVQ 3 trained plus have many years of experience in landscaping and gardening.

4. For the Golf Club's Centenary in 2003, two new ponds were constructed along with a fountain and water features.

5. It is very important for the purpose, as to make it pleasing to the eye and to add to the pleasure of a round of golf here at Rotherham Golf Club.

Name: **Bob Ehrler**
 Club: **Town of Huntington, New York**
 Position: **Director of Golf Course Maintenance**



1. At one of my golf courses (Dix Hills Golf Course in Dix Hills, Long Island), we will be implementing a major renovation. We anticipate a sizeable amount of landscaping work around the clubhouse, parking fields, and related support areas, such as the maintenance facility, wash pad area, and tee surrounds.

2. I personally don't do the physical work; however I oversee all work to ensure it's being performed properly, within budget and schedule. We have a competent staff that does the horticulture work.

3. I have an extensive education in landscape design, agronomy, turfgrass management and turfgrass science. My academic credentials are: B.S. in Turfgrass Science (high honors) from Penn State University; Graduated Rutgers University Two-Year Turfgrass Management Program – covering landscape design and horticulture; Masters Certificate from Penn State University in Turfgrass Science; Certified Turfgrass Professional (CTP) designation from the University of Georgia for cool and warm-season turfgrass management.

4. We recently completed a \$1,200,000 renovation project at Crab Meadow Golf Course in Northport, Long Island that consisted of designing new tees, bunkers and greens complexes and installing an automated irrigation system. The tee surrounds, clubhouse and parking areas were extensively landscaped, to arrive at an aesthetic, functional landscape.

5. Landscaping should be an integral part of golf course design or renovation project. Landscaping adds colour, form and function to the golf course project.

Name **Tom Murray**
 Club: **Ratho Park, Edinburgh**
 Position: **Head Greenkeeper**



1. The landscaping/gardening that is done at Ratho is carried out by the greenstaff who have all been trained at Oatridge College within the SVQ level in shrub and landscape maintenance. The greenstaff are hands on at their place of work - learning the skills of tending to the tree, shrub and plant areas are all important to the golf course.

2. There are specific times at which we carry out this work, normally when we have been around the golf course cutting and preparing for the days play. We then move to the shrub and flowerbeds that surround the clubhouse and 1st tee, and feature areas throughout the grounds.

3. All of the greenstaff have a knowledgeable outlook when working on the landscaped areas throughout the grounds.

4. Many of the projects have been a success as well as the areas that surround our "Tudor Revival" style building dating back to 1824. The land surrounding the clubhouse is a landscape design in itself, with many tree types common to the UK and with the help and guidance of Scottish Golf Environmental Group we have managed these wider areas with the correct sensitivity.

5. A well landscaped golf course is very important to the playing golfers, for look and the feel good factor but most importantly to our bird, butterfly and insect life that seek food and refuge from the types of trees, shrubs and wetland areas that we manage and have created throughout our golf course.

Name: **Sean McDade**
 Club: **Sandwell Park, West Bromwich**
 Position: **Deputy Course Manager**



1. We are expected to carryout all landscaping requirements on the course. The area around the clubhouse is looked after by a part-time gardener.

2. Not really, such works can only be carried out once the grass has slowed down - i.e. during the winter - such is also at the mercy of the weather. I do feel that some form of planned programme is, however, very useful for informing the members and prioritising projects.

3. Yes I have a lot of experience in Hard Landscaping. I am able to survey and draw plans, which also allows for quantities present and/or required to be calculated. Over the years I have reconstructed/introduced greens, tees, surrounds, drainage, paths, steps etc.

4. I have not been at my present club for long and as yet have not undertaken anything significant, but at my previous club, Penn GC, I undertook; the 1st tee/rear of 18 surround, the 3rd green, and the rear surround of the 14th green.

5. Such is very important from many aspects. Ease of efficient safe maintenance, which of course is linked directly to playability and standards of presentation. Also from an aesthetical point of view, features should emulate a natural blend within its environment even though it probably isn't. Presentation, presentation, presentation!

Name: **Peter Lacey**
 Club: **Pennard GC, Swansea**
 Position: **Head Greenkeeper**



1. The greenstaff are expected to undertake all landscaping/gardening work at the golf club. After completion of the new clubhouse building in 2001, the greenstaff undertook the design and landscaping of the clubhouse surrounds and gardens.

2. The maintenance of these areas is carried out as part of the overall golf course requirements, inclusive of mowing, weed and pest control, etc. Any other specific job/project such as re-turfing would be undertaken as part of the "winter work" requirements.

3. The knowledge and skills required to carry out these tasks, we have within our workforce, as all of our greenstaff have NVQ level 2 & 3 as a minimum requirement and many years of practical experience in construction/landscaping behind them.

4. Many greens, tees and even fairways have been landscaped in-house over the years, however it would be a close call between the recently re-modelled 145 yard par 3, 2nd hole re-built last year or the 165 yard par 3, 5th hole re-modelled in 1995.

5. A well-landscaped golf club that is easy on the eye, but most importantly is in keeping with its natural surroundings, is without doubt essential. After all, this is the starting point for what is to come and it is important to set the tone and to sell the image as early on as possible.

NEW PRODUCTS –

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PREDICTING TURF DISEASE FOR BETTER CONTROL

A powerful new internet-based decision support service specifically developed for the UK and Ireland is now available to turf managers through Syngenta. Called GreenCast, it gives turf managers early warnings of likely disease attacks and weather events via a dedicated website, www.greencast.co.uk



GreenCast – our unique turf management decision support system.

Developed by Syngenta Professional Products over the last two years, GreenCast provides turf managers with detailed weather information and key disease forecasts across the UK and Ireland. With up-to-the-minute accurate information, available 24-hours a day, GreenCast gives an early warning of impending changes in weather conditions, predicts disease infection levels and helps turf managers decide the optimum time to apply fungicides. For more information visit www.greencast.co.uk

BEAT THE HEAT

Fanfare™ had added two new colours to its 2007 range - Orchid and Pink Sparkle. This sun-loving Impatiens, with its exotic New Guinea blooms, is a go-anywhere plant due to its consistent performance in sun, part-sun and shade locations. With their mounding, spreading and cascading habit, they quickly fill large garden beds, hanging baskets and containers providing incredible all-season colour. Fanfare™ rebounds quickly from water stress without shedding buds or blooms.

For the full range and availability of Fanfare™ Impatiens visit: www.ballcolegrave.co.uk



CELEBRITY GARDENER GIVES BACKING

Kim Wilde has been singing the praises of traditional rubber crumb technology that reinforces and cushions ground surface on golf courses. The popstar has teamed up with Dunweed, a company that produces the original rubber crumb that is applied to grass to create reinforcement, prevent soil compaction and improve drainage and aeration. Its patented rootzone application is already popular among greenkeepers and the crumb is used extensively on greens and lawns throughout the UK.

For more information call: 01928 735555 or: 07739 525065.



NEW AND SQUEAKY CLEAN

Two great new colours; Light Pink and Dark Pink Magic, have been added to the UK's top selling range of Aztec™ verbenas. Aztec™ verbenas keep benches spic 'n' span with reduced chemicals and easy finishing, and their super-uniformity, early flowering and excellent branching give the grower a quick cropping series.



For the full range and availability of Aztec™ ® Verbenas visit: www.ballcolegrave.co.uk

HARDWOOD STAKES

Northumberland based company, Trees Please, has launched a new type of tree stake.

These hardwood stakes made from Acacia (Robinia Pseudoacacia), contain a natural resistance to decay – Which is of utmost importance these days, as businesses are no longer allowed to burn timber that has been treated.

The stakes are also very strong, resulting in fewer breakages during use.

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



BSH SEED CATALOGUES

British Seed Houses' 2007 seed catalogues are now available to download from their amenity website at: www.bshamenity.com. Available as five separate PDF documents – native flowers, seeded turf cultivars, sports mixtures, golf mixtures and landscaping mixtures, they're quick and easy to save to your desktop. Simply click on the banner at the



top of the homepage.

The 2007 BSPB/STRI Turfgrass Seed Listings booklet is also available to download from the website, free of charge.

NEW BRONZED-LEAF BEAUTY

Ball Colegrave have added the new bronze-leaf Nonstop® Mocca to their distribution list. With its large fully double flowers, Nonstop Mocca contrasts exceptionally well with foliage. It combines early flowering with a narrow blooming window, low production costs and an excellent garden performance.



Nonstop® Mocca' is available from Ball Colegrave as pelleted seed for precision sowing in five distinct colours. For more information contact Ball Colegrave customer services on: 01295 811833.

A NEW FACE FOR BEDDING

The first ever seed-grown Angelonia series offers ease and convenience to growers and carefree performance for consumers and Parks bedding. Growing Serena™



Angelonia from seed is economical and easy – it branches well without pinching and flowers vigorously with no need for deadheading. Serena™ Angelonias can easily be combined in the greenhouse with warmer crops like Impatiens. Plants are ready to transplant four to five weeks after sowing and saleable in small pots or premium packs in 13-15 weeks.

Angelonias love the sun and heat. Serena™ is no exception with a shorter garden height than vegetative varieties it is highly versatile and ideal for use in garden borders, mixed containers and Parks bedding schemes. For more information contact Ball Colegrave on: 01295 811833.

NEW ORGANIC FERTILISERS

Demand for fertilisers which use only natural products is on the increase, and Scotts has recognised this need by introducing Greenmaster Organic. It is a granular formulation composed of a mix of organic and natural ingredients guaranteed free from disease, weeds or other contamination. The mineral and organic part provide the grass plant with essential nutrients, and the organic component stimulates soil micro-organisms. Greenmaster Organic feeds the turf and stimulates soil life in one treatment. There are three products to choose from; high nitrogen and high potassium for fine turf, and Sportsmaster Organic, a high nitrogen version for sports outfields. These fertilisers provide a naturally slow-release source of nutrients that ensure an even growth without growth peaks. They can help increase the Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) of the soil, therefore increasing the efficiency of nutrient applications both now and in the future. The products also improve soil structure, natural nutrient cycling and breakdown of thatch.

For more information visit: www.scotts.com

WIND TOLERANT NOZZLES



Strong winds play havoc with watering, especially during hot dry summers when greens and tees can bake if water can't reach the playing surfaces due to the wind factor. The summer of 2006 was such a summer, and may be a typical of future weather patterns in the UK.

For courses where wind is a regular challenge to the normal watering needs, Rain Bird, the world's leading irrigation equipment manufacturer, has developed the new EAGLE 700/750 Wind Tolerant nozzles. These have been specially designed to combine a lower trajectory with innovative features that produce two essential factors:

- A larger water droplet size to counter the strength of the wind more effectively
- A specially adapted spray pattern - The combination of which makes the resulting water curtain far more wind tolerant.

For further information contact Rain Bird's Golf Manager for the UK and Ireland, Kneale Diamond, on: 01438 314583 or: kdiamond@rainbird.fr

LAWN EDGING



D J Turfcare Equipment Ltd has launched the Atom Golf Bunker Edger.

Light and manoeuvrable, D J Turfcare claims the Atom can trim bunkers up to eight times faster than other edging devices.

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

GDC CONTROLLER



Toro Irrigation believes a highly-innovative Golf Decoder Controller (GDC) system launched recently, is set to revolutionise golf course irrigation design and management. It will benefit everyone, they say, from golf course designers and irrigation consultants to installers and greenkeepers. Graphic showing Toro's new GDC irrigation system, which can operate up to 800 sprinkler stations per cable path, with up to 50 of them operating simultaneously, off only a single 2 x 2.5mm² cable.

LIQUID FERTILISER

Rigby Taylor has launched Microflow-CX, a range of multi-component liquid fertilisers with secondary elements and micronutrients for use on amenity turf.

These liquid fertilisers have low scorch potential and are absorbed through the leaves and roots of the grass plant.

For more information visit: www.rigbytaylor.com

YEAR-ROUND DISEASE CONTROL

Banner Maxx is a new fast-acting, broad spectrum, systemic fungicide from Syngenta that uses unique chemistry to deliver exceptional control of Anthracnose, Dollar Spot and Brown Patch in turf. The active ingredient in Banner Maxx is propiconazole, which acts in three ways, by protecting the turf, eradicating the disease, and curing any damage caused.

For more information visit: www.syngenta-crop.co.uk

HYDROSTATIC RAINWATER HARVESTER

Rainpiper.com has launched the first ever hydrostatic rainwater harvester that allows gardens and plants to be maintained without draining the mains water supply. Rainpiper stores over a ton of natural rainwater in vertically installed rain towers linked to a rainwater reservoir. The rainwater is dispersed by a hose giving a soft spray specifically designed not to damage plants and flowers.

Landscape management companies that rely on water will have instant access to harvested rainwater to maintain commercial landscapes without effecting the environment. Hydrostatic pressure forces the rainwater through a bespoke length of hose without having to use an electrically driven pump.

Rainpiper works independently of the main supply therefore can be used during a hosepipe ban. Users are supplied with a sign to display during water shortages to prove they are using harvested rainwater.

Every Commercial Rainpiper is tailored to fit the individual building. The capacity can also be set to suit requirements, from six thousand litres upwards.

For more information visit:
www.rainpiper.com

AIR-POT SYSTEM

Deepdale Trees Ltd grow all their containerised trees in Air-pots – a relatively new technique of containerising trees and large shrubs.

Consisting of a reusable plastic sleeve which surrounds the root system. The sleeve, laid flat, resembles a honeycomb with slits in the top layer.

The slits are positioned on the outside of the container and allow air pruning of the roots. This produces a more fibrous root system, because the surface does not allow root circling.

For growing trees in Air-pots, each tree is placed on a layer of compost and tied to covered support wires.

For more information and details of Deepdale Trees Ltd's products, visit:
www.deepdale-trees.co.uk



PRODUCT GUIDES

Rolawn has produced a series of product guides, each featuring a specific product group in the company's expanded range. For domestic customers 'Choose it, Lay it, Live it' covers preparing and laying a Medallion® lawn, and an 'Aftercare Guide' details how it should be maintained. 'Topsoil & Bark' highlights the benefits of selecting quality topsoil and bark, along with frequently asked questions and a handy calculator to determine requirements.

For landscape contractors, the 'Turfmaster™ System' explains the labour saving way to turf large areas in minimum time and 'Minster Pro™' highlights the key benefits and applications of Rolawn's new greens turf which utilises the most advanced cultivar technology.

The leaflets are available from Rolawn Depots, email: info@rolawn.co.uk or tel: 0845 604 6085

ROLL UP AND ROLL OUT



Ultra Spreader International's latest newcomers to their existing range of spin and drop spreaders, tippers, trailers and screeners are the 'Ultra Mat' and the 'Ultra Diamond Brush'.

The 'Ultra Mat' is an all rubber dragmat. The mat is available in different sizes, making it ideal for large-scale treatments of any natural or synthetic grass area.

The second product launched; the 'Ultra Diamond Brush' is a new diamond shaped broom which can be supplied with a different

type of bristle for use on different surfaces. For more information visit: www.ultraspreader.com

AMENITY SECTOR CLEANS UP FOR WASTE RECYCLING



Techneat Environmental has launched a new range of products engineered to help amenity managers and greenkeepers clean up for more effective waste plastics recycling. With tough waste management legislation and the cost of landfill disposal, businesses are increasingly looking at sustainable recycling routes for used pesticide containers that have been safely and thoroughly cleaned, to meet environmental obligations.

The new Techneat Environmental Can-Drain is a free-standing, self contained tank for draining triple-rinsed pesticide containers safely and quickly. The large-capacity covered hopper collects washings into a reservoir, which can be emptied back into the sprayer for safe disposal. The company has also introduced the clever Rinse Nozzle as a separate option, to wash the insides of plastic pesticide containers more effectively. For further information visit:
www.techneat.co.uk

PRECISION BLENDED TOP DRESSINGS

Bespoke Blending and Bagging (BBB), run by Ecosolve Ltd, has launched the first customised service for precision blended top dressings, rootzone and soil amendments in the fine turf sector.

BBB has its own blending and bagging plant which uses state of the art equipment to produce any mix of product in a variety of particle sizes specifically for the requirements of individual greenkeepers, agronomists, soil amendment and turf maintenance specialists.

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

AMENITY GRASS SEED MIXTURES

A new catalogue which features all amenity grass seed mixtures in the MM range, has recently been published by Advanta Seeds.

The catalogue provides a user-friendly selection chart which enables greenkeepers and other professional turfgrass managers to locate the best mixture/mixtures for new or overseeding projects.

To obtain a copy of MM Amenity Grass Seed Mixtures 2007, email: paul.lees@advanta-seeds.co.uk or tel: 01522 861318.



TOP AMENITY PLANTS DATABASE LAUNCHED

A 'Top Plants for Amenity Landscapes' database is being launched by the HTA in conjunction with the Landscape Institute to provide guidance and support to Landscape Architects and highlight some of the best and most widely available plants for use in amenity plantings. The database lists the top 50 trees, top 100 herbaceous (including grasses, perennials and bamboos) and the top 50 shrubs and it is available on a searchable website and also in the form of a free poster.

The lists have been compiled by the HTA using independent experts working closely with nurseries supplying the amenity plant market and in consultation with the Landscape Institute. The list can also be used alongside the National Plant Specification (NPS), which provides specification details for thousands of plants that can be used in landscape schemes. Visit: www.plantspec.info for more information.

GROWING DEMAND



Bellwood Trees have seen a growing demand from golf courses for semi-mature trees to be used in landscaping the public areas of the course. Large trees are being used to provide an instant and dramatic impact in the clubhouse area, for both existing and new developments. This can be seen in the photograph of semi-mature Birch, just three months after being planted at The Duke's Course, St Andrews.

For more information please visit: www.bellwoodtrees.com



WILDFLOWERS

Alba Trees have introduced a range of 18 common British native wildflowers, grown from seed in 175cc cells. These can be planted almost all year round, moisture permitting. There is no need to create a clean seedbed; the plants can be planted direct. Competitive annual weeds do not have a chance to invade and choke the young plants. These will flower and set their own seed in due season thus establishing their own progeny. Growers will find that this can often be a more successful and cost-effective way of establishing wild flowers.

Availability varies throughout the year, contact Alba Trees on: 01620 825058 or visit: www.albatrees.co.uk



DESIGN PACKAGE

A World of Golf, together with their associated partners can provide you with the full landscape design package, from initial site appraisal through to detailed design, construction management and completion.

Our experienced team can resource the necessary skills across a broad range of disciplines including: Golf Course Architecture and Management; Landscape Architecture; Topographical Survey; Civil and Structural Engineering; Electrical Engineering; Sustainability and Health & Safety and Planning Supervision.

For more information call Andrew Mair, A World of Golf Ltd on: 0191 2306211 or 01670 590043 or mobile 07949 128759.

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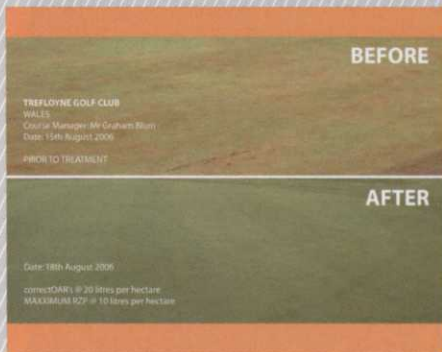
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Organic Fertilisers: They're Coming of Age

By Hugh Frost

A decade or so ago many greenkeepers and other sportsturf managers were quite taken with the idea of using so-called 'organic' inputs. However, for a number of people at that time, product performance did not meet their expectations. The reason for this was predominantly due to high expectations caused by over-selling in the market, together with biological misperceptions, inferior quality "copy-cat" products and an inadequate level of technical support.

Times have changed. Biological systems are better understood, companies and their products have evolved and at the same time there is a renewed emphasis on golf course ecology, environmental protection and input rationalisation. Several organic-type products are now persisting in the marketplace, therefore demonstrating their popularity, yet to too many people they remain an unknown quantity. It would be helpful to provide the golfing community with more accurate information, so that they are able to review the role of 'organic' inputs and decide for themselves. Read on...

Included within this category of 'organic' products is the largest group of golf course inputs, the plant nutrients, better known as fertiliser. It is this group which is now scrutinised more closely, though a better term for them would be 'plant growth stimulants' rather than fertilisers, as the activities of the organic components are more numerous and more complex than just solely providing soil fertility.



Defining 'organic' fertilisers

The term 'organic' is generally misused, as it is most commonly applied to all fertilisers that are not inorganic, mineral fertilisers. Broadly speaking, these so-called 'organic' fertilisers fall into one of three categories:

1. Predominantly inorganic fertiliser, with some components of organic origin, so giving some biological activity. These products are numerous in the market place.
2. Organic-based products with a predominantly biological activity, which usually contain some inorganic mineral component, to a greater or lesser degree. Products that fall into this category are generally fewer in number but more commonly used.
3. Fully organic, certified products that do not contain inorganic ingredients. These products are currently lacking in the golf marketplace

The second category of products listed above are generally those which most people describe as organic, though it would be more accurate to describe them as 'organic-based' as most still contain some level of inorganic nutrients. These minerals are included into most products to meet what most greenkeepers see as their turf needs, however, in reality it maybe that the inclusion of inorganic nutrients are less of a need to the plant and more of a want to the greenkeeper, by way of insurance. Given the pressure of the job it is entirely understandable for any greenkeeper to act in this way, though hopefully by reading the next few paragraphs greater levels of trust can be placed in the organic component of these organic-based fertilisers.

Product contents

Whatever its source, the main ingredient of organic-based fertilisers is also most likely to be the main source of nutrients within the product. The most common source for organics has previously been composted poultry litter, but feather meal is now also being used, whilst alternative composted products are also arriving on the market.

This organic base forms the backbone of the fertiliser and acts as a carrier for the

other components of the product. These additional components will include the macronutrients (N-P-K), any micronutrients and a plethora of different types of biological growth stimulants and microbes. All these components, in conjunction with the organic matter, are able to provide either growth stimulus to the grass plants or add beneficial structural or microbial properties to the rooting zone. The various components, their benefits and applications are outlined below:

Organic matter – The source of the organic-base within a product is important. It needs to be easily broken down and so contain organic matter that is in a readily available form. Technically this is described as coming from an 'active' pool of organic matter, as opposed to a 'passive' pool of slowly degradable material. Many of the 'copy-cat' products that were pushed on the market in the past few years contained at least some organic matter from the 'passive' pool and so caused problems to the root zone on golf greens. Providing good quality organic matter carriers are used, then the essential character of a golf green will not be changed (just its performance amended as described in the proceeding section).

Bio-stimulants – These are a broad range of natural plant products, usually include seaweed (or kelp extract) for cytokinin production that stimulates root growth and limits leaf dieback. Other bio-stimulants include vitamins, humic acids for improved nutrient use efficiency and amino acids which form proteins that are the building blocks for plant growth.

Bacteria & fungi – A large group of organisms that have in the past been seen as only having a negative effect on turf but which we now know contain many beneficial micro-organisms. Organic-based products will vary in their approach to micro-organisms, from not specifying a product's content (or indeed fully knowing) to providing a full analysis of bacterial or fungal content. The benefits of the soil bacteria to the plant will range from making nutrients more available in the soil (e.g. from thatch), to assisting nutrient uptake into the plant, to competing with pathogenic bacteria. Fungi are either be free-living and assist in suppressing other negative fungi or in the

case of mycorrhiza fungi form symbiotic relationships with grass, so increase root growth and lead to improved nutrient and water use efficiency.

Standard inorganic fertilisers use ash and salts to act as the carrier for the mineral fertiliser component which do not provide any further advantage to the plant and indeed over time can acidify the soil, making other micronutrients less available. While this acidification may be desired in some instances to lower a high pH, it also reduces microbial activity, not just pathogenic bacteria but also beneficial bacteria that compete with disease and many others intricately involved in plant nutrition.

Product performance

Organic-based fertilisers utilise natural components, therefore they have a biological activity that works within natural plant and soil systems, so improving the growing environment for the plant and helping turf to be more robust. This is generally considered a preventative approach.

nutrients available to plants through normal soil processes. The result is that, depending on the levels of inorganic components, the different fertilisers will have differing properties and so performance. This can be summarized as follows:

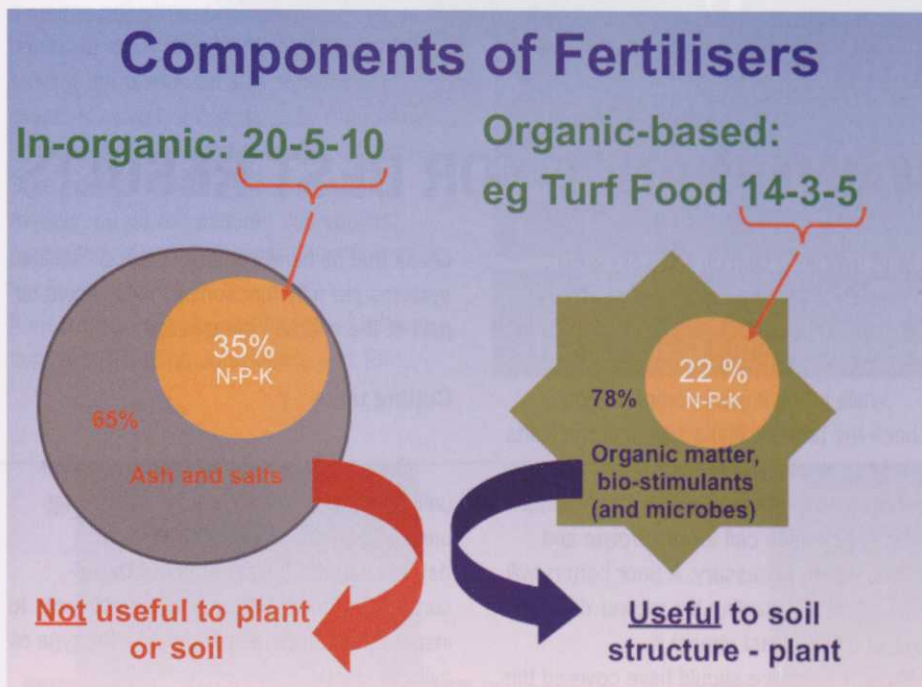
Inorganic fertilisers	Organic-based fertilisers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast acting, force quick growth • Response curve of products less variable • More volatile and easily leached • Performance of product tails off rapidly • Tend to acidify soils • Carriers more likely to scorch turf • Good product adsorption requires water • Salt content reduces water uptake • Cheaper to manufacture, at present 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A steadier, more gradual response • Product action proportionate to soil types • Nutrients less volatile in soil profile • Product performance fades in a slower manner • More of product used of benefit to soil structure • Less likely to scorch turf • More easily adsorbed into root zone • Low salt deposited in soil, so greater water uptake • Costs marginally high, less affected by oil price

Organic-based application methods

It is often believed by greenkeepers that they either have to be totally 'organic', or

The future of organics

No-one in the organic marketplace would argue that they know everything about the biological activities of plants, soils and the related microbial products, especially as science does not yet have all the answers. However, as new concepts and possibilities are almost endless in plant science, in a similar way as human health, then there are going to be a myriad of new biological products coming forward for trials in the future. In the meantime greenkeepers can get used to the idea of using biological control methods to contain their pathogens in the same way as greenhouse managers have learnt to control theirs.



By contrast, non-biological products generally use combinations of synthetic and natural ingredients to partially by-pass natural ecosystems, thereby seeking to get round obstacles of soil nutrition and achieve extra plant performance or to overcome disease. This is generally considered a curative approach.

What this means is that organic-based fertilisers do not 'spoon-feed' nutrients to the plant in the same way the mineral fertilisers do, instead they make the organic

not. While there are now a growing number of golf courses that predominantly use an organic-based regime it is a misconception it is not possible to integrate biological and non-biological products. Indeed, providing greenkeepers are advised correctly, there can be many good reasons why a mixture of product types might provide them with a larger armoury of tools. Certainly an integrated programme of organic-based and mineral based products can be a useful first step to understanding how their biological activities work best on a specific

Finally, as more pressure is placed on society to rationalise their use of pesticides, nutrients in water sources are scrutinised in greater depth and so nutrient and water use efficiency becomes more important, then the role that biological products play are likely to become increasingly important in golf course management. This is will not happen overnight, but as greenkeepers gain more confidence, get better technical advice and experiment with new options then turf grass can be managed in a more 'organic' way.

Author: Hugh Frost, UK Technical Manager (Plant Care), Novozymes Biologicals. hugf@novozymes.com tel: 07710-461359.



KEEP AN EYE ON MAINTENANCE FOR BEST RESULTS

It goes without saying that ride on mowers, especially the cylinder models used on greens, tees, surrounds and fairways, must be well maintained and set up correctly to produce the optimum cut. This short article is a reminder of the basic checks and procedures necessary to maintain a machine that remains on cut from the beginning to the end of the season.

James de Havilland reports

Many ride-on machines will have recently completed their winter overhaul, but if they have not been out of shed recently a few checks prior to their first use is a sensible precaution. It is never a good idea to assume every adjustment will be spot on. It is also easy to forget the basics too. Virtually every modern ride on mower has a diesel power unit and hydraulic drive to the cylinders. Whatever the make or model, it's really worth checking all of the hydraulic connectors for any sign of leakage. Who wants to be responsible for dumping gallons

of hot hydraulic fluid on the 18th green, just prior to an important early season tournament? Don't forget to check the fuel lines as well.

While in the engine compartment, check the battery. Make sure that the leads are fitted tightly and the terminals and connectors greased to prevent corrosion. Next check each cell for electrolyte and top up where necessary. A poor battery will typically make starting the mower difficult just when you least expect it. Although a service should have covered this, check the filter screen in front of the radiator as a matter of routine. If clogged with old clippings, remove with an airline or stiff brush. Check the fuel level in the tank and, if possible, verify that the fuel indicator gauge is working correctly. A false reading can lead to the machine stopping mid-mow.

It's also worth checking the instrument panel to ensure all gauges and indicators are working correctly. A faulty gauge will not stop the machine but if it fails to alert the operator to an overheating power unit, it could lead to an unnecessary repair bill. Also

check that all safety and operator presence systems are fully functioning. This should be part of the course risk assessment.

Cutting units

Once you are satisfied that the power unit is OK, it is time to look at the cutting units. These are obviously critical to determining the quality of your playing surface and there will be various elements to inspect and check, depending on the type of cylinder used.

First off, check the bottom blade. Make sure it is sharp and regrind if in doubt. If your cylinder manufacturer recommends an air gap, check the clearance between the reel and bottom blade with a feeler gauge and test the scissor action using a piece of paper. Remember, as Chris Perkins, Workshop Technician with Parks and Grounds Machinery, stated in the pedestrian mowers article last month, using the non-contact (air gap) method can reduce the wear on bottom blades by anything up to 50%.

Also it is most important to carry out cylinder/bottom blade adjustments before setting the height of cut. As either is adjusted, the height of cut is also changed. Check for worn bearings in the front and/or rear rollers. An accurate height of cut cannot be achieved if there is free play in these bearings.

Turf groomers cut the lateral growth of the grass and stand the blades up to ensure a very consistent finish. If groomers are fitted, one of the first jobs is to set the blade depth.

This is done using a setting bar, with companies that include and Ransomes Jacobsen recommending that the blades are set no more than 0.8 -1mm below the height of cut to avoid any risk of scalping or turf damage. The setting bolt should just touch the groomer blade and then be taken back just a fraction to avoid contact. This is done at both ends of the unit to ensure a consistent depth is achieved. This is a workshop, as opposed to 'on the green', operation.

The Jacobsen groomer also features a course adjustment lever which, when released, stops the grooming process by moving the blades up and away from the grass. However, it continues to run to help keep the grooved front roller free of debris. These details differ between makes and models, so do not assume this applies, particularly if a recent swap between models has been made.

Ransomes Jacobsen and the other leading suppliers including John Deere and Toro,

also recommend that rear roller brushes are fitted as they will keep the roller clean and help maintain a consistent height of cut. The Jacobsen designs are belt-driven and the belt tension should be checked to ensure they are functioning correctly.

Don't forget that these checks have to be done on all cylinders and groomers. On a greens/tees triple or five unit fairway mower, it's very easy to 'forget' the rear units, especially if it's not the swing-out type and difficult to access.

Finally, check the roller and cylinder bearings periodically. Look for play when spun, any unusual noises or any tightening

as they rotate. If any anomalies are found, do not take the machine out. Consult your mechanic or local dealer.

Regular checks and routine maintenance are not 'rocket science', but they are essential for producing excellent sports turf. In a profession where greens staff are often maligned it is essential that equipment is kept in the best possible condition to give you the opportunity to refute the myth, that you 'simply cut grass.'

With thanks to Nigel Church, Ransomes Jacobsen.



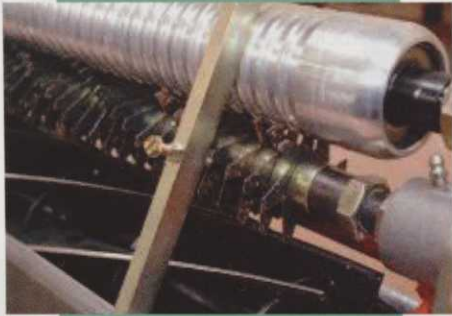
A fairway mower will benefit from regular setting and maintenance checks, little and often care improving mowing results and reducing overall operating costs.



Powered brushes keep the rear roller clean and maintain height of cut



The belt of the rear roller brush drive should be checked to ensure correct tension



Set blades no more than 2-3mm below height of cut



The course adjustment lever stops the grooming process. However, it continues to run and helps keep the grooved front roller free of debris



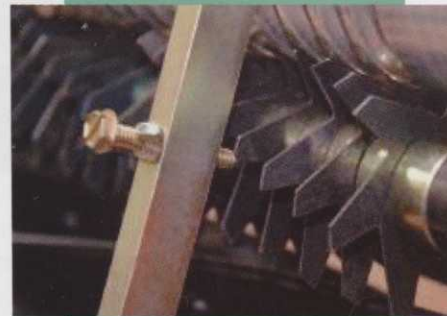
Make sure that battery leads are fitted tightly. Grease terminals and connectors to prevent corrosion. Check cells for electrolyte and top up where necessary



Check all of the hydraulic connectors for any sign of leakage



On a greens/tees triple or five unit fairway mower, it's easy to 'forget' the rear units, especially if it's not the swing-out type and difficult to access



The setting bolt should just touch the groomer blade and then be taken back just a fraction to avoid contact



Turf groomers cut the lateral growth of the grass and stand the blades up to ensure a very consistent finish



Ensure all gauges and indicators are working correctly

HOBBIES

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

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



Name: Don Clark
Club: Orsett GC
Position: Course Manager
Age: 46
Hobby: Breeding

How would you describe your hobby?

"Breeding a thoroughbred race horse - This is the first time that my mare has been put in foal. I bought her after she retired from racing, nearly five years ago. Although she never won (only placed once from five races), she is reasonably well bred. We keep her in the same village that we live in and my wife normally rides her. Based on the foal the mare produces and whether it races will be a deciding factor, on whether the mare will go to stud again."

How and when did you get introduced to breeding thoroughbreds?

"I have had an interest in flat racing for many years - to witness a top class racehorse in full flight is an incredible sight. Latterly I have enjoyed studying bloodlines and breeding of the thoroughbred. I have found it interesting to look at the large commercial bloodstock organisations and study their breeding patterns with the aim/dream of producing perfection in the racehorse. Over recent years I have had shares in racehorses and have enjoyed their lack of success - through this ownership I have been fortunate to visit several training establishments and meet with owner/breeders."

What is it about breeding thoroughbreds that appeals to you?

"Last year I decided to try and breed from my Mare - rather than employ a stud to manage the whole process (as a commercial breeder, would do), I felt that the whole experience - from researching suitable stallions to the birth of the foal - would be fulfilling.

The Mare has to be accepted as being suitably bred for the Stallion. After which, I arrange and send her for her holiday at the stud where she is to be covered.

After three months research and checking bloodlines to find the type of stallion that would produce the type of foal I was looking for from my Mare, and after visiting various stud farms, the Stallion I decided to use was a group one winner at Newmarket, in the early 90s.

The most appealing thing, is how hands on I have had to be - After the Mare came back from the stud (she was there for three months) and was confirmed to be in foal, I had to be in close contact with my local equine vet, to discuss and organise a nutrition programme for the Mare with the Stable Yard Manager, and now I have had to start making plans for the foaling and the future well being of Mare and foal. Although I am a member of the thoroughbred breeders association, I am not a commercial breeder of racehorses. This is for the fun and the hands on experience that most commercial breeders would not have - their interest is purely long-term financial gain."

Have the thoroughbreds entered any competitions and/or do you have any plans to enter them into competitions?

"The mare only raced five times, three times as a two year old and twice as a three year old. Unfortunately, she did not really grow between the ages of two and three. Therefore, a decision was made to retire her from racing (fully sound).

My aim would be to keep the foal until it nears racing age. If it is able to go into training, it will be placed with a trainer and hopefully win many races. Although it would be a great thrill if a racehorse that I have bred just makes the racetrack."

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Have we got it right on Waste and Recycling?

We are all aware of our responsibilities under the latest waste regulations...or are we?

David Mears reports

The Hazardous Waste Regulations came into effect in July 2005 and required all producers of Hazardous Waste to register with the Environment Agency (EA). We will assume that all concerned will have registered and obtained their 'Premises Code' and that you are renewing registrations annually. Your waste management company, on your behalf, often does this.

If your business produces Hazardous Waste (and every greenkeeping/grounds maintenance department does), you also have a 'Duty of Care' to ensure that it is properly disposed of. This means selecting a waste management company you know you can trust, who will operate your service efficiently with trained personnel, providing correct and approved waste containers, audit trails and full certification and Consignment Notes. (Consignment Notes must accompany hazardous waste when it is removed from your premises. The responsibility for ensuring Part A and B of these notes are completed correctly, rests with you). You may prefer, as most do, to allow your waste management provider to complete the documentation for you.

categories of EEE included in Schedule 1 of this legislation, covering among others; toys, IT equipment, household appliances and lighting. The list of products under each category is huge but examples include; TV's and monitors, computers, fridges, microwaves, radios and phones, printers, and fax machines. The Act and the schedule in full can be seen at www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si2006/uksi_20063289_en.pdf see this link for further information regarding hazardous waste: www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waste/1019330/1217981/

It may be an idea to review your current waste disposal arrangements to satisfy yourself that you are meeting your 'Duty of Care' requirements and fully complying with legal demands. The following nine-point check list may prove helpful:

1. Are we registered with the EA as producers of Hazardous Waste and know our premises code?
2. Is my waste service provider fully licensed and do they operate the service themselves?
3. Does my waste service provider have recycling facilities or take my waste to be recycled or does my waste go mainly to landfill and/or incineration?
4. Does my waste service provider supply us with five 200 litre UN approved containers, properly labelled for:
 - Waste oil,
 - Waste chemical packaging,
 - Waste filters,
 - Waste aerosols,
 - Workshop waste. (Remember hazardous waste can no longer be mixed)
5. Are my containers changed for clean ones at each collection?
6. Do I have a dated certificate from my waste service provider showing their EA registration number?
7. Is my waste service provider happy to collect and replace any or all of my containers frequently, or am I made to wait until I have accumulated too much waste? (Some will not take away less than 600 litres of waste oil for example)
8. What annual fee am I paying and is this value for money?
9. Is my waste service provider able to collect WEEE items and arrange other "one off" special collections of tyres or fluorescent tubes for example?

Recycling? Responsible operators will recycle, as does my own company, for example, recycling over 90% of the waste we collect. One example is the many thousands of plastic containers that are processed in a huge machine that chops the product into small plastic chips that then go on



Correct disposal of chemical packaging.

to be moulded into useful rot-proof items such as fence posts, seating, sleepers etc, that can be used on golf courses and at leisure and amenity sites.

It is important to recycle as much as possible and reduce dramatically as much landfill as is possible. Metals, plastics, paper, oil and more can all be recycled. Landfill costs are rising fast and, as a result, some waste operators are reducing the number of collections and/or putting up their prices! Apart from hazardous waste, which must be handled by the experts, many items from around the course can be composted rather than treated as waste. Twigs, small branches, grass clippings, cardboard (the pro's shop has vast quantities!), leaves and green kitchen waste can be processed in an appropriate machine to produce windrows. The way forward for us all is to take environmental responsibilities seriously and actively seek ways to reduce waste and recycle, protecting our children's and grandchildren's inheritance.

David Mears is Joint Managing Director of Course Care who operate a licensed Waste Transfer Station (licence no. EAWML/65417) offering national waste management services, with recycling and a range of Compost Makers. Websites: www.course-care.co.uk & www.waste-away.org



Course Care 5 cubic metre compost maker.

With the introduction of the Hazardous Waste Regulations came the introduction of items not included in the previous regulations (Special Waste Regulations) and those incorporated in the European Waste Catalogue (Hazardous Waste is defined on the basis of this list) and these include, for example; fluorescent tubes, batteries, aerosols, paints, varnishes and solvents, waste oils (including biodegradable and synthetic) and fuels, end of life tyres, CFC's and electronic items. The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2006 (WEEE) is due for implementation on July 1 of this year and a number of responsible waste management companies have prepared for this, some already operating collection services. There are 10





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PORTSTEWART GOLF CLUB

Method used to Rebuild Old Bunkers and Build New Bunkers on Fairways and Greenside

By Bernard Findlay, Course Manager

1. It is important to have an end result in mind before starting renovation, reshaping or citing of a new bunker. In the case of Portstewart we carried out research at other Clubs such as St Andrews and Carnoustie (acknowledgement and thanks are due to the management and staff of these golf clubs). Many photographs were taken that could be shown to Greens Committee Members before work began. The end result has been a high specification bunker that is durable, repeatable in any position, easy to maintain and a pleasure to look at (from the outside at least).



2. Having decided on a particular shape, edge out the rough shape and position that you want the bunker.

3. Use a narrow gauge digger to pull out the edged material leaving a hole in which the bunker can be built. Some of this material may be required for landscaping around the bunker.

4. If drainage is required it must be carried out at this stage (how wet might this hole be in the middle of winter?).



5. Prepare a shelf inside the hole that is very firm and perfectly level all the way around



Eric O'Neill (left) and Brian McConway, Deputy Course Manager (right), two of the bunker building Greenkeepers at Portstewart.

the bunker. The shelf must roughly reflect the shape of the bunker.



6. Choice of turf used for 'revetting' is very important. We sourced a turf that is grown on a clay soil – the clay bakes hard during the summer, does not crumble like sandier turf and offers strength and durability for maintenance and play. The turf is delivered by lorry in rolls that measure 5 meters long by 740 mm wide by 50mm thick (16 1/2ft by 29in by 2in). We then roll out the turf and using a board cut the turf into lengths that are 740mm long by 250mm by 50mm thick (a reasonable size for handling and building).



7. Place one row of turf on the prepared shelf, at this point stand outside the bunker and check that the shape is as desired.

8. The wall of the bunker is built at an angle of 65 degrees, we use a wooden frame set at this angle with a spirit level set along the edge that is on the ground and check very regularly that the angle is maintained. To ensure this angle is followed we set old flag sticks on the inside edge of the first row of turf that can then be followed all the way up.



9. Place the next row of turf on the last row maintaining the same angle throughout until the desired shape and depth is obtained. It is important to backfill behind each row of turf as you build making sure the sand/soil is well packed.



10. When we reach the point that the bunker

needs to be higher at the front than the back we use a turfing iron to 'feather' the ends of the turf so they blend in with the previous row.

12. The bunker is then blended into the surrounding landscape and turfed around. We start this work in October and the bunker is open for play the following spring.



11. When the revetting is finished and before turfing around the bunker starts, we put fresh sand in the bunker. The level of sand in the bunker is maintained at 4 rows 200mm from the top edge of the bunker, at the bunkers lowest point of entry and is maintained at this level all the way around the bunker. The shape of the sand in the bunker is such that a ball entering the bunker will roll away from the immediate edge and more into the middle of the bunker making it easier for a shot to be played (the golfers prefer this!).

13. Ongoing maintenance involves daily raking and once every week blowing sand off the face of the bunker, followed by strimming and further raking. A flymo is used to cut around the top edge because in the first season of growth the grass can grow very lush in this area. The blowing of sand off the bunker face is very important otherwise sand accumulates and grass grows through the sand, and over time the face of the bunker would become steeper than 65 degrees.

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Turf: A Growing Concern

By Tim Mudge

Picture courtesy of Norman Maitland

When it comes to choosing turf, you can't ask too many questions. Making the right selection can mean the difference between having your course in play or not. Establishing a good relationship with your turf grower is essential – after all, they want to supply you with the best turf for your course and you want nothing less than the best. Turf growers want to listen. Only by having a full understanding of the golf industry and by learning more about the issues facing greenkeepers, can they ensure that their businesses continue to produce turf that meets the needs of the people who maintain it.

A grower should have a genuine interest in understanding your turf needs and working with you – over time – to meet them. TGA member growers are committed to producing quality cultivated turf and work side by side with industry partners to ensure end-users receive the very best turf possible now, and in the future.

When considering greenkeepers' requirements for turf, climate change and changing maintenance regimes provide possibly the greatest challenge. The choice of cultivars in turf has always been critical but changing times will make it more so.

Growers have for years been aware of the need for grasses that are more tolerant of drought, flood, disease, shade, wear and, where there's a coastal location, salt. The major seed producers invest heavily in their breeding programmes and are working hard to develop cultivars which will address the issues facing greenkeepers in the future. Growers, as an end-user themselves, take a keen interest in these developments and work with seed companies in taking their developments through to the finished product. Ask your grower for a breakdown of the grass varieties in their turf, and refer to the 2007 BSPB/STRI seed listings to assess their suitability for your course.

It's important to find out how a grower maintains their turf before it's harvested. Those who produce top quality turf for golf courses invest heavily in the latest machinery and irrigation systems to ensure the turf grown on their farms is maintained in the way it would be on a golf course. Greens turf, for example, should be top-dressed regularly to prevent the accumulation of thatch and treated with fungicide to prevent disease. One of the distinct benefits of using turf rather than seed is the instant mature effect, and the maintenance of an appropriate mowing height at the turf farm is crucial. Tees turf should be maintained at

around 12-15mm, bent/fescue greens turf at around 6-8mm, and 3mm for creeping bent turf. In this way, turf should be playable within a short time of laying.

The key to successful turfing is rootzone compatibility. Problems of surface water retention will occur if the soil at the turf farm is substantially different from the golf course rootzone. It's important that you discuss with your grower the most appropriate growing medium for your course. Increasingly, greenkeepers are buying a custom grown turf using a specified rootzone.

These days, turf is delivered within hours of being harvested to arrive with you fresh. You should receive strong, uniform rolls, virtually free of *Poa annua* and free from disease, with a dense sward. During particularly hot periods of the summer, heat damage within the turf roll can be a problem. This can be avoided by harvesting turf in the early hours of the morning, and by the use of temperature-controlled lorries for longer journeys.

Having been given the opportunity to write for Greenkeeper International with a turf grower's view, it would be remiss of me not to mention some of the issues associated with turfgrass production at present. Changes in Health and Safety legislation have encouraged the change

from manual to automatic turf stacking. Growers have had to invest six figure sums on bigger and more technically advanced machines imported from the States in order to improve efficiencies and to meet the new regulations. Pesticide legislation – and a general feeling that as an industry we ought to think more about our impact on the environment - has meant that turf growers have to consider how they'll treat common problems without the use of chemicals. Last summer's drought provided new challenges for greenkeepers and growers alike in the South East of England. As an association, we've been proactive in promoting the beneficial role of natural turf in replenishing aquifers, and in calling for a 28-day exemption from drought orders for newly established turf.

Turf growing continues to evolve and innovate in anticipation of such challenges. Our members are constantly looking at ways to help greenkeepers meet new demands from increased traffic, changing legislation and environmental pressures. The need for low mowing and fertiliser inputs, concerns about clippings disposal and the possible withdrawal of effective Poa control chemicals have prompted investigations into the use of different grass species, with growers exploring the possible benefits of tall fescues, hard and sheeps fescues, and velvet bents to the end-user.

Meeting these demands will depend on a close and continuing dialogue between growers and greenkeepers. The TGA exists to support growers, and our ongoing research and development programme reflects our commitment to helping them meet the future needs of the sportsturf industry.

Tim Mudge is a member of the Turfgrass Growers Association.

The TGA invites readers to see at first hand the latest techniques and innovations for establishing, growing, harvesting, handling, transporting, laying and maintaining cultivated turf by visiting its turf show on Wednesday, June 27. The one-day event will be hosted by County Turf at its turf farm at Cleatham Hall Farm, nr Kirton Lindsey, North Lincolnshire. Please visit www.turfshow2007.co.uk for more details.



Picture courtesy of Norman Maitland



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Every Drop Counts

By Adrian Mortram

The summer of 2006 has undoubtedly had shades of 30 years ago, 1976, with high temperatures, clear blue cloudless skies and constant gentle breezes. As I have little memory of those halcyon days long gone by my father points out to me that automatic irrigation then was in its infancy, far less of a science. Water bowsers, known locally as gully wagons were hired from the highways department to drench the greens, automatic irrigation consisted of movable rotary sprinklers attached to a skid, which were constantly either moved or turned off by each successive passing four ball. Only the wealthiest and most prestigious clubs had fully automated pop-up systems but although the control systems were state of the art then, they would be rudimentary now. I am reminded of a recent television programme on the Apollo 13 mission, when all the technology available then could now be handled by a simple modern laptop.

Turf was certainly parched save for the relative greenness of the deep rooting dandelions and the clearly delineated lines above the herringbone drainage systems. The interference that the deeper rooting plays a major part in the sustainability of the sward, and resistance to drought. Deep aeration, where appropriate, is a vital tool

to combat drought measures and relieve inevitable compaction, not only to encourage a deeper root system and greater root biomass but also to improve infiltration and encourage more desirable grasses. Back in the 'dark ages' even though water bowsers discharged large quantities of water over the greens, most was wasted, as run-off promptly shed the valuable life giving water to the swales, hollows and invariably provided lush approaches to most greens.

The discussions then were as now, the choice of irrigating 'little and often' or a more 'sustained and heavier application less frequently'. Both methods are successful but for differing situations and neither can be condemned in the right environment. With predominantly soil based greens of a more traditional construction a heavier application may be the norm, and it may be necessary to apply water to six greens only on a rota system irrigating once in three nights. However infiltration rates must be assessed to prevent run off. On sand based greens of a more modern construction lighter rates of application may be required but more frequently to aid infiltration in both cases it may be advantageous to programme the irrigation system to apply a single pass of the sprinkler heads to dampen the surface of the turf before the required application is given, a dampened sward being more receptive to a later more vigorous application.

When discussing application rates and run times with both greenkeepers and turfcare professionals at both STRI courses

and BTME workshops, timing and rate of application is often confused. 'How much water do you apply', 'Oh, 10 minutes per station'. What does that mean in balancing evapo-transpiration rate and application rate? Very little, as sprinkler run times must be matched to application rate in millimetres and this can vary considerably, dependent upon pressure, nozzle size and spacing, among other factors.

Many, if not most irrigation systems are understandably not up to modern standards. Your irrigation system is often out of sight, out of mind until it is required to perform. Rather like suddenly having to run to catch a train and seeing it leave somewhere in the distance as you arrived sweating and breathless, not as fit as you thought you were.

Managing current systems and minimising water usage does not always involve selling the family silver:

- Like Thames Water, leakages within the system can be a problem, a weeping solenoid, a faulty ball valve on a tank, low head drainage at the sprinkler heads can all lose water.
- Sprinkler heads installed several years ago may have sunk, or the surrounding ground risen with continued top dressings over many years, causing the spray jets to be deflected thus creating poor and inefficient coverage.
- Loss of pressure at the pump station can result in poor head to head contact and inefficient application rates.
- Sprinkler arcs may be excessive and by reducing the arc setting and adjusting



the timings, water conservation measures can be achieved.

- The use of wetting agents or even the incorporation of water retaining polymers to aid infiltration and reduce evaporation.

However, although it is possible to wise up on the management of currently installed automated irrigation systems, fundamental changes may be needed in the future. Water will become more expensive and with more regulation will become more restricted. Water is the new political football. On the continent in Denmark for instance, some golf courses are restricted to 5000m³ per year. On most golf courses this is sufficient only for an 18 hole green and tees system. So what are the future alternatives:

- A well integrated and professionally designed irrigation system with matched performance sprinkler heads can save between 10% - 20% of your current water needs.
- Water farming, collecting and cleaning surface water and run off from roofs, car parks and roadways has to be seriously considered where appropriate.
- Abstraction by 'V' notches on ditches and when in spate streams/rivers, or wells/boreholes, and subsequent winter storage in reservoirs and lagoons has to be considered. Evidence is demonstrating that it is not the quantity of rainfall that is varying but the frequency and intensity; more like monsoon conditions.
- More research and exploration into potential use of alternative sources of water, grey water or treated effluent and even the potential of desalinated water, but perhaps,
- A fundamental rethink of design, management and maintenance strategies with the abolition of water guzzling grasses and use of more environmentally sustainable root zones and grass species.

There was good source of articles in the Drought issue of Greenkeeper International July 2006 outlining further practical measures. As I have said previously, water is a political football so let us not forget that those commentators who are against our frivolous use of water on golf courses and sports pitches will always present statistics to suit their cause. Rainfall figures for example will always be produced from the south east; average figures will



be presented over the past five, 10 or 20 years whichever furthers their cause best. Few commentators ever mention the encroachment of urbanisation on green belt with modern household aids and en suite bathrooms or that two thirds (60%) of potable water is used by industry and only 0.1% used for golf course irrigation. To put golf course irrigation into perspective:

- An acre-inch of farmed water will provide 22,000 gallons [100m³] or alternatively 25mm over a hectare 250m³.
- Two hundred and fifty [250] modern, four bed roomed houses flushing the toilet 10 times a day will use as much water

in a year as an 18 hole greens and tees system on an average golf course.

Yes, there are problems with water usage and it will probably get worse. Undoubtedly golf course usage will need to be monitored, systems updated and refined, but management systems and knowledge of water movement in the plant and root zone also needs greater understanding.

Adrian Mortram regularly presents a one-day seminar on irrigation at STRI training courses at Bingley and will be presented a two-day workshop entitled 'Using water wisely – Every Drop Counts' at this year's BTME.



In the Shed

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

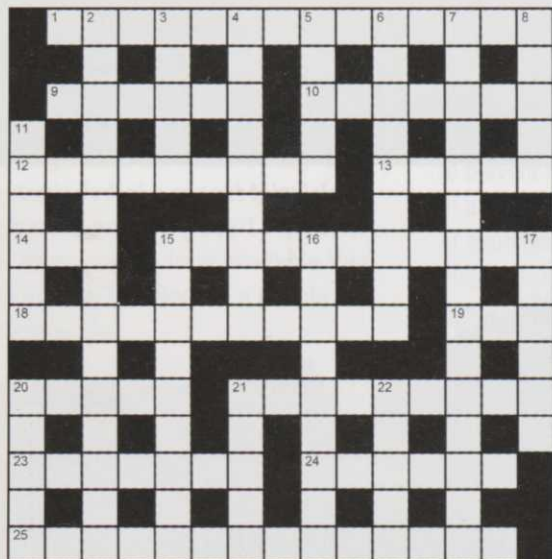
CROSSWORD - Compiled by Anax

ACROSS

- 1 Associated with the Christian Church (14)
- 9 Vitate, weaken (6)
- 10 Peter —, actor who twice played Dr Who in film (7)
- 12 Events observed through senses rather than reasoning (9)
- 13 Sphere of activity often called the "fourth estate" (5)
- 14 Abbreviated name for large, metal-cased container, usually 1000 litres capacity (3)
- 15 Cheshire site of Nuffield Radio Astronomy Laboratories (7,4)
- 18 Bowl over, astound (11)
- 19 Title associated with knight or baronet (3)
- 20 Direction indicator (5)
- 21 Easily irritated or unpredictable (9)
- 23 "Union" - pertaining to northern US during its Civil War (7)
- 24 Essex market town north of the M25, its associated forest to the south (6)
- 25 Exhibit exaggerated changes of mood (4,3,3,4)

DOWN

- 2 Broadcasting which earns revenue through on-air advertising (10,5)
- 3 Name given to a mostly treeless plain, especially in Latin America (5)
- 4 Antonym of "resist" (9)
- 5 The capital of Ghana (5)
- 6 Flier of aircraft under development (4,5)
- 7 Wrongdoing caused by intense emotional upset (5,10)
- 8 Port on the Gulf of Guinea in Nigeria, formerly its capital (5)
- 11 Joint, reefer (6)
- 15 Uncooperative minor official (9)
- 16 Egyptian site of major WWII Allied victory over Rommel (2,7)
- 17 South African cloak made from animal hide (6)
- 20 Shortened name of Saunders/Lumley comedy series (2,3)
- 21 Boneless steak cut from beef tenderloin (5)
- 22 Subject under discussion (5)



QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

1. Which sport uses a piece of equipment that is five foot wide and nine foot long?
2. Who played Basil Fawlty in 'Fawlty Towers'?
3. In which sport do players take long and short corners?
4. Who wrote the novel 'Fantastic Mr Fox'?
5. In which sport are competitors forbidden to play left-handed?
6. Who had a hit single in 1981 with 'Romeo and Juliet'?
7. Which Olympic sport needs a planting box?
8. Which band released the 1983 album 'Sports'?
9. What kind of sport is the game of futsal?

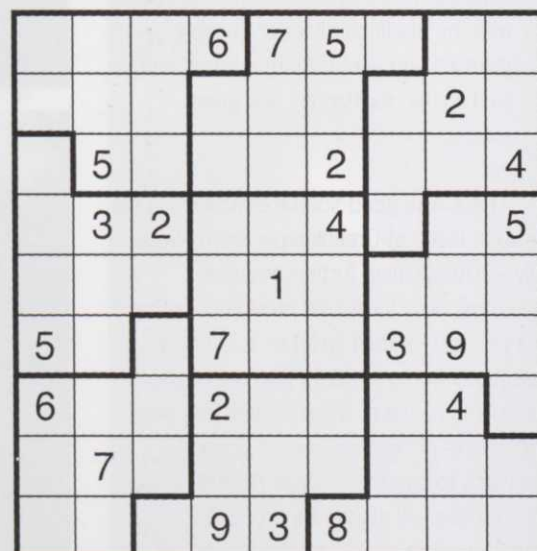
MONSTER SUDOKU

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



SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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



ANSWERS TO ALL THE PUZZLES ARE SHOWN ON PAGE 58

Supplied by
www.dailysudoku.com

What's your Number?



Name: Andrew Cornes

Company: Acorn Golf (UK)

Position: Managing Director

How long have you been in the industry?

"Since 1986 (21 years)."

How did you get into it?

"My uncle was a golf professional and greenkeeper at Knutsford GC, he introduced me to the industry."

What other jobs have you done?

"Helicopter Ariel Spraying Coordinator – International Speedway
Mechanic – Business and Finance Support – Running my own Car Sales and Auto Accessories Shop."

What do you like about your current job?

"Everything – The people, the places and running my own business is a great challenge and I am answerable to nobody."

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

"Many changes, but all around a higher professional approach is ever more apparent in the golf greenkeeping industry."

What do you like to do in your spare time?

"I enjoy time with my family and friends watching my sons racing motorcycles, speedway grasstrack, and playing golf."

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

"I never rush the river, just let it flow."

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

"I have many best friends in the industry, too many to mention them all."

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

"81, as this number is the race number both my sons and I use when racing."

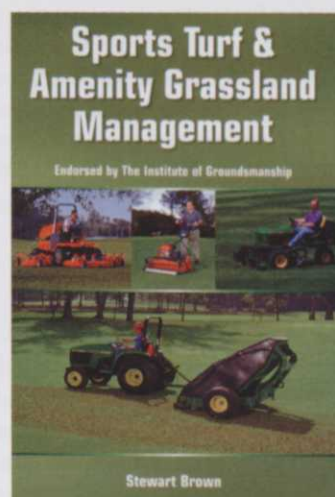
Pick a number

"81 of course."

You've picked Peter Lloyd from Korec, do you know him?

"He is not known to me yet, but I am sure I will have the pleasure of meeting him at some industry conference, at sometime in the future."

BOOK REVIEW



Sports Turf and Amenity Grassland Management

By Stewart Brown

First published in 2005, this paperback book covers a range of amenity grasslands from sports surfaces to motorway embankments.

Each chapter contains useful information covering areas such as grasses, mowing, irrigation, nutrition and fertiliser application, pests and diseases, aeration, thatch control, top dressing, turf establishment and renovation and species rich swards. The information is descriptive rather than prescriptive, giving readers the opportunity to compare and contrast what is provided and allowing them to make their own decisions, although the book is intended as a source of 'best practice' information. There is a wealth of illustrations, lists and photographs to break up the text of this easy to read book.

It is a textbook that would be of use to greenkeeper, groundsmen and turf professionals, students and anyone who is interested in producing and maintaining turf.

The author, Stewart Brown, a senior lecturer at Writtle College, has more than 20 years experience in sports turf and amenity-landscape management.

The book costs £19.95 and can be obtained from the Crowood Press, The Stable Block, Crowood Lane, Ramsbury, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 2HR.

www.crowood.com

By Ken Richardson, BIGGA Education and Training Manager.



News from the Chief Executive

The Chairman and I recently had the pleasure of attending the annual FEGGA conference, that this year was hosted by the Slovenian Greenkeepers Association.

The event was attended by over 70 delegates who represented 18 countries as well as some of the sponsors. The two day conference had a separate theme for each day, one day related to education and the other day dealt with environmental issues.

One of the topics covered was an explanation of the proposed Pan-European Greenkeeper Education Unit and its intended qualification system. BIGGA has been involved with the development of this concept along with the GTC, FEGGA and representation from Elmwood College. The working party has determined the Standards necessary to fulfil three categories of job: Manager, Supervisor and Greenkeeper. These will then be adopted by the Education Unit when it has been formally set up and a European Certificate will be awarded for achieving the required Standard. Individual countries will continue with their own education process but this can be matched up to the European Standard for award purposes. In essence the holding of a European Certificate should give a better appreciation of competency levels when greenkeepers look for employment outside of their native country. At present an NVQ/SVQ qualification may mean very little to an employer, in say Slovenia, however the holder of such a qualification can apply for a European Certificate using his/her N/SVQ as evidence of achievement. Depending on the standards in each country some additional units may need to be studied to match the appropriate European Standard. In time this should help raise and consolidate standards across Europe as well as bring about a better understanding of greenkeepers individual abilities.

Following the Conference FEGGA held its Annual General Meeting during which BIGGA was elected to membership. Some members will recall that BIGGA was one of the founder members of FEGGA in 1996 but decided to resign several years ago when the Board did not agree with the direction that FEGGA was taking. Time and events have moved on and if greenkeeping is to progress then more can be achieved if organisations work together. To this end the Board is delighted to have become a member once more and look forward to making a positive contribution.

My nomadic life took me to Anaheim, California where I attended the GCSAA's flagship event that has developed into the Golf Industry Show. This is run in partnership with the Golf Course Owners Association and the Club Managers Association of America. In talking with the staff of GCSAA and the Superintendents I quickly realised how similar problems are in our two countries it's just that the scale of operation is different. The Golf Industry Show is always an important international meeting place and British greenkeepers are always talked of with great respect. It disturbs me that there are those among us back home in the UK who almost seem to take pleasure in picking fault when we as an association have a lot to be proud of. Anaheim is eight hours behind the UK and so I was sat there working at 4.30 am, thinking it's mid-day, and very much looking forward to getting back to my own bed and enjoying a proper cup of tea!

John Pemberton

SCOTTISH REGION

AYRSHIRE

Hello everyone, hope your courses are starting to dry out and didn't suffer too much during that wild spell of weather we had. I've just a few bits of news to relay so here goes!

Lochgreen (Troon) will host our Spring Outing on Thursday, April 26 with tee times starting from about lunchtime.

Tuesday, September 25, sees us set sail for the Isle of Arran to contest our Autumn Meeting at Shiskine GC. We should be leaving the mainland around 10am, more details will follow nearer the time. Hopefully we can continue with good turn-outs this year. I for one will be aiming to get my name on the Harry Diamond Trophy this year!

Some plaudits are in order for a couple of Ayrshire lads, firstly to Iain Barr for his photography skills in obtaining 3rd place in the BIGGA photographic competition. Is there no limit to this guy's knowledge? Secondly to Barry Crawford for securing a place on the Bernhard's trip to Anaheim, California. Hope you had as great a time as I did a couple of years ago. Well done!

The Section would like to send best wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery to Jim Paton after his recent illness.

Any news or constructive criticism gladly accepted at: denis.t@hotmail.co.uk or: 07939 104701

Denis Tweddell

CENTRAL

Most of you will know our Associate committee member, Jim Finlayson, who travels the country far and wide providing us all with an array of services. Unfortunately Jim is quite ill at the moment. Jim is a stalwart supporter of the Section and I know you will all join me in wishing him the very best. Get well soon Jim.

You will have received your application forms for the Spring Outing by now, and also the newsletter produced for the Section. It would be advisable to send applications as early as possible as demand for this venue is likely to be high. Panmure is a qualifying venue for this year's Open at Carnoustie and the opportunity to play this fantastic course should not be missed.

Recent new members to the Section are Gordon Mitchell, of Greenmaster, and John Thomson, from Lochore Meadows. Welcome to you both. I hope you are able to attend our events, and your contribution to the Section will be appreciated. If we can be of any assistance to you, let us know.

You will notice that we are still actively arranging as many educational events as we can. Full details can be found on the Section website. (See below)

Seminar: March 1, 2.30pm to 7pm, Pilmour house, St Andrews Links. Topic: Disturbance Theory & the Thrill of Real Golf Presented by Richard Windows and Henry Bechelet, STRI Agronomists.

Workshop: March 22, 1 day course, Elmwood Golf Course. Topic: Using Water Wisely, Every Drop Counts. Presented by Adrian Mortram B.Sc (hons) Irrigation Consultant and Director of Robin Hume Associates.

Seminar: March 28, 3pm (location to be decided). Topic: Rules Relevant to Course Set-Up presentation by Grant Moir, R and A rules official. One hour presentation, One hour networking!

Seminar: April 12 and 13, Elmwood GC. Topic: Leadership and Management Skills Workshop, presented by Frank Newberry.

There are other presentations in the pipeline. Please contact us with your feedback if there are any areas you would like us to investigate for you. Any other comments on how you would like the Section to operate will be most welcome and discussed by the committee.

Many of you will be hiring seasonal staff soon. Some of them will have come through college, or are just leaving school, some even possibly

changing career. I hope you will all give them the opportunity to sample what a great occupation we have. Please encourage them to join the Section, where they can gain access to a great network of colleagues to help them progress in their career. Summer's on its way (I hope) and I for one, can't wait. Will we get the drought of last year? Who can tell, but the challenge of presenting your course the best you can, regardless, is one I still relish, and on behalf of the committee I wish you all the best for this season.

Andrew Mellon www.biggaentrust.org.uk

EAST

As I write this report in early February, winter has finally struck with several nights of consecutive hard frost being enjoyed by those awaiting the chance of commencing construction works. If you are feeling hard done by, by all the wet weather, a look at the following rainfall figures for Scotland as a whole will make you think again:

December rainfall: Loch Lomond – 380mm; Gleneagles - 240mm; West Linton - 138mm; St. Andrews - 29mm.

I have been advised by Stevie Dixon that the Spring Outing to The Glen GC, North Berwick is on Tuesday, April 17. Entry forms will be with you shortly and the committee are hoping for a good turn out from members of the Section. I am sure Iain Kinley and his staff will have the course in pristine condition by that date.

The BIGGA Conference and show in Harrogate has come and gone, and although numbers were slightly down from last year, I for one felt that with one less hall, there was a greater throughput of visitors to the various stands.

Finally during Harrogate week Cecil George (West) celebrated his 80th birthday in style ably assisted by three East members, Jimmy Neilson, Stuart Greenwood and Graeme Wood.

Mike Dooner

NORTH

How's it going folks, how are we coping with the winter so far? The weather has been reasonable so far but who knows what will come this month. There is very little happening anywhere in the Section at the moment, so if you have any news or stories to tell give me a shout.

There are two new members to the Section this month, Brian Williams, who is Deputy Head at Inverurie GC, and Bryan Littlejohn, who is Deputy Head at Portlethen GC. Welcome to the North Section lads.

Scotts have very kindly agreed to sponsor the 200 club again this year, so our thanks go out to them and also Gary Smith in particular for their continued support.

The Scottish Conference will again be held at Lauder in early March and there is a good cross section of speakers on the day. Well done to Peter Boyd for the organisation on the day.

It will soon be time to dust down the golf clubs again and start playing. Hopefully there won't be too much rust on the hinges before the counting medals start.

Have any clubs in the Section got any major events this year that are worth a mention? I know Dornoch has the Scottish Stoke Play Championships in June, so good luck to Eoin and his staff with that one and I'm sure the course will be immaculate as always.

Not much more from me I'm afraid, just to remind you all to buy your 200 club tickets so that we can boost the funds for the Section. I would imagine by now the SPL trophy will be tucked up under Gordon's bed with a space beside it for the Scottish Cup.

Robert N Patterson

Royal Aberdeen GC

WEST

Well that's Harrogate over for another year and I must admit this year was a great show. I attended most of the seminars which were of a very high standard, the show seemed to be very well run with lots of members and guests in attendance.

Congratulations to everyone at head office for their hard work making the show

such a great success, Long may it continue.

It was good to see Cecil George and Jimmy Neilson down, they seemed to enjoy themselves as I met them in the bar on a few occasions.

I travelled down with Bryce Houston, John Barr and my Apprentice, Alan McVey, Many thanks for your company and for behaving yourself. We had a great few days meeting up with some old friends and making some new ones.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the Section on behalf of myself and Steven Sheehan as we attended the show as part of our Patrons' Award. Also many thanks to all our Patrons for their continued support.

Peter Boyd once again put together a great package for the Scottish Region and everyone who attended had a very enjoyable time, it's much appreciated Peter - the hard work you put in on behalf of the Scottish Region.

On a sad note I report the passing of Raymond Day. Raymond served his Apprenticeship at Erskine GC and later became Course Manager at Gledloch GC. Over the past years he had also worked south of the border.

The Section would like to pass on their condolences to Raymond's family and close friends at this sad time.

Alec Donachy has left Erskine GC after seven years service, we would like to wish you all the best with your future employment.

Notes from Section meeting - We are looking into holding some half day health and safety courses with subjects ranging from manual handling to fire safety, Stuart Taylor, our education convenor, is trying to arrange these courses over the next couple of months. Members will be notified of any progress.

Football season - Brian Hillan has offered to organise this year's football calendar. Brian, being a past player, will do his best to take our team on to great heights. There will be trials for team selection during March, anyone interested please get in touch.

You can contact Brian at: brian@hillan69fsnet.co.uk

Annual Dinner - We are open to suggestions for this year's annual dinner, one being the comedy club in Glasgow, we hope to have something arranged as soon as possible.

The fixture diary for the year ahead is being drawn up at present and once again is being sponsored by Aitkin's, many thanks to Richard for his continued support.

Dates for the trip to the Carrick GC at Loch Lomond are either March 19 or 26, members will be notified when dates are confirmed.

We have still to confirm the Spring Outing, we hope to have a course in place over the next couple of weeks.

It's good to see some decent weather for a change hopefully this is a sign of things to come and allow for a better start to the season.

That's all for now, more news next month

Fraser Ross 07970 366 355 karen.ross@tesco.net

NORTHERN REGION

NORTH EAST

Well it was that time again at Harrogate in January, it was good to see many greenkeepers from our Section there, especially the lads from South Shields GC (Glen Baxter, Wayne Reid) attending the workshops on Sunday and Monday as were James Storey and his Deputy Colin Pearce, both from Alnmouth GC, It's a pity it's always the same ones attending.

I would like also to thank the greenkeepers from Stocksfield GC and Ravensworth GC for looking after me on Tuesday night - the entertainment was first class - it's a pity that Roy and Andrew are leaving the profession but I still expect them to go to the show next year.

Another person I bumped into at the show was David Cuthbertson, from Slaley Hall GC, and he tells me that they are looking for qualified and unqualified greenkeepers, so if anyone wants a job up there give him a ring regardless of when you read this - whether it's in the March or April issue.

More recent news heard was that Stocksfield GC have appointed the Deputy Greenkeeper from Consett to take over from Roy White, we wish him well.

Craig Parkinson, Course Manager at Matfen Hall GC, has recently been promoted to Director of Golf, therefore Derek Miller (Course Mechanic) has been appointed as Head Greenkeeper - good luck to the both of you. Other congratulations go also to young Stuart Armstrong on passing his level 2 and Michael Harrison and David Thompson on almost completing level 3 - they also have a new greenkeeper, he is Nick Armstrong. Having moved from Ponteland GC, Nick had worked at Matfen last summer.

Jimmy Richardson

NORTH WEST

Quite a lot of news this month. I hope everyone who attended Harrogate was pleased this year; it was noticeable that there was not the usual amount of big trade there, but I don't think it affected my enjoyment in any way, I just spent my £100,000 with somebody else.

A few movers this month. Bolton Old have appointed Steve Hemsley as their Head Greenkeeper - he was formally the Deputy at Reddish Vale GC. A lot of you will know Tom Wilkinson who was at Mottram Hall GC, well he is now in charge at Shrigley Hall GC in Macclesfield - good luck to both of you and indeed to anyone who has taken up a new position recently.

A lot of you will know about Stuart Bridge having a terrible accident recently, I hear he is recovering slowly but surely and we wish him well.

Bert Cross, our Section Secretary, is out of action at the moment and has been for a while after breaking his ankle, again he is making slow but steady progress and we all wish him a speedy recovery. On Friday, March 9 at 9.15am, we will be holding a Joint Seminar at Wilmslow GC, this has been organised by the North West and the North Wales Sections, and thanks go out to Stuart Varwood, Jeremy Hughes and Steve Oultram for finding the time and having the patience to organise this event for us all. The subject for the seminar is

Sustainable Golf which judging by the BIGGA website was the hottest subject at Harrogate. As I said before it will start at 9.15am and include, at 9.45am - Pathway to Sustainability by Steve Oultram; 10.15am to 11am - Natural Greenkeeping and Disturbance Theory by Alister Beggs; 11am to 11.45am - Legislation and Sustainability - it affects us all by John Albutt; 11.45am until noon - The Gingerbreadmen - you are not alone by Stuart Yarwood. After lunch, 1.15pm to 2pm - Ecology Management by Bob Taylor; 2pm to 2.45pm - Achieving Sustainability by Steve Isaac, then question and answer time and close. The cost will be: BIGGA members - £20 and all non-members £25. As you can see this is going to be a very popular seminar and places are limited, so if you have not already booked, please do so as quickly as possible.

I have just received some of the golf venues for this year and they are as follows, North West versus North Wales at Sutton Hall GC on Wednesday, May 28, 1.30pm tee - we require a team for this match. Spring tournament at Prestbury GC, April 19, we are restricted to 38 maximum so please enter early. Summer tournament at Denton GC, Thursday, June 14. The Whitelaw Bowl at Penrith GC - Friday, September 14. The Stewards Match - T.B.A. Autumn tournament T.B.A. and lastly the Presidents Cup and AGM at Wilmslow GC on Thursday, December 6 - please bring a bottle to the value of £5, so everyone goes home with a prize.

If you have any news, please contact Bert Cross on: 0151 7245412 or myself on: 0151 2894625 my email is: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan


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MIDLAND REGION

MIDLAND

Well I must admit that one is overwhelmed by the response to the Thought of The Month feature, and the amount of emails received via our very convenient source as provided by your Committee, me, and of course you the members. Don't you dare ever state that the Committee has not tried or is not serving you. To date I haven't received any emails from the Members, only from our many trade friends wishing to support our Section. My personal thanks to those that have. Please remember that my email address and mobile phone number is listed on each month's calendar page.

The Sponsor's of this month's calendar page are Complete Weed Control/ Richard Minton. Our greatest of thanks to them for their continued support of the Midland Section. Also please remember that many of these sponsors also fund prize tables, education seminars, refreshments, and of course our long standing Mr. Starter, John Hammond. Please support our very varied array of events, without such they are of no use to our sponsors, and indeed the kind efforts of your Committee.

It is with the greatest of sadness that I must inform you of the passing of Mr. Trevor Blake, who worked at Broadway GC and in his latter years at the hotel there. I was fortunate enough to have met him twice. He was a gentleman and true caricature, whose legacy is unquestionable via his fine sons within the greenkeeping field. Our sincerest of condolences to his family and friends. Rest well Sir.

Well I never thought that the following would come to pass. Steve" sexy boy" Harris (H.G.C.) has gone down on one knee and proposed to Rachael. She has foolishly agreed. Congratulations to you both.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome seven new members to our Section: A.Wood, I. Lloyd, M. Love, C. Roberts, M. Turner, G. Chilton, and K. Macnab. Finally, our Spring Tournament is to be held at Ludlow GC on May 9. You will have received a fixture list and entry forms by the time you read this. I hope to see you at our many events throughout this year.

Sean McDade

EAST OF ENGLAND

Happy new year one and all, it's been a couple of months since my last report so if you do have any news or views, give me a call, otherwise I will have to write about Scottish rugby. I know that won't take up much space, but at least the tries we score are tries!

I will start with Harrogate. What a week, the show was just as busy as ever, if not busier. I did not have time to miss the big three! And as for the education side, first class well done to all concerned. Congratulations to Dave Walden for being awarded his Life Membership - thoroughly deserved. Dave has been involved with EIGGA and BIGGA since God was a boy, serving on committee at every level as well as being education officer, best wishes on your retirement mate.

The final seminar of the winter programme will be held at Belton Park on Wednesday, March 14 in conjunction with BLBC and Bernhards, should be an enjoyable day.

Finally good luck and best wishes to Nigel, from Elsham, who has taken the Course Manager's position at John O Gaunt, Also a little bird tells me we have another Scotsman coming into the Section, an old college buddy of mine - Angus MacLeod, who has taken the Course Manager's position at Bolton Woods. Good luck and welcome to the Section mate.

P.S. I believe they are filming the sequel to Blazing Saddles at Grimsby, Telegram for Mongo. Sorry Gareth couldn't let that one go.

Allan Walker 07974816927

SOUTH EAST

SURREY

Saturday, January 3. I'm sitting in my understairs cupboard/study/office, waiting for my computer to connect to, what or who these things connect to, in order to read my emails. I'm not on that broad thing, I'm on dial up so I'll just have to wait a little longer for the wonders of modern science to be at my fingertips.

Three hours later, I have tried again and I'm in, if that's the correct expression. My first email is a report from my official outside Sports Reporter and Midfielder Adam Watts, regarding those Titans of the turf, Surrey and Sussex, and their second clash in 2006. Earlier in the year Surrey had beaten Sussex easily by five goals to nil but word had it that Sussex, with some new young blood in their team, were looking forward to getting their revenge. Even that old rep chap from Worthing had been dropped to reduce the need for medics and stretcher-bearers, much to the regret of Dave Langheim and Billy Martin. John Ross, it's impossible not to mention his name although I do try, was once again the target of some very unfair abuse but with his natural determination this pre match banter did not stop him from donning his usual black number and running onto the pitch sporting a new whistle and showing no panty line.

The following is Adam Watts, unexpurgated report.

It was on a foggy night that Surrey and Sussex battled out a 3-3 draw at Colliers Wood football ground. Surrey, showing stunning skill, soon had two goals but Sussex with only a few minutes to half time managed to get one back. Moments after half time Sussex scored again and with a 2-2 score line both teams battled to take the lead. 10 minutes from time Sussex, after some dazzling football, scored their third goal. Surrey then showing grit and determination straight from the restart had Dave (Dangerous) Langheim go on a mazy run and the shot which rebounded off the bar was bundled in. Sam Bethall from Cuddington GC scored twice. Both teams now look forward to the third encounter.

The Programme of events for Surrey have been finalised and are as follows: Friday, March 9, Walton Heath GC - Gentleman's Dinner; Thursday, March 29, Dukes Dean GC - Texas Scramble; Thursday, May 17, Gatton Manor GC - National Qualifier and Spring Tournament; Tuesday, July 3, Cuddington GC - Cresta Cup; Monday, July 30, Sunningdale GC - McMillan Tankard; Monday, August 20, Tandridge GC - Autumn Tournament; Wednesday, November 7, Hankley Common GC - England vs Scotland; Wednesday, November 28, The Berkshire GC - Match vs Secretaries; Thursday, December 13, Tyrrells Wood GC - Turkey Trot and AGM.

Details of the above will be sent to all members shortly and any suggestions or comments members wish to make, please write on the back of a 50 pound note and send direct to me and I will personally guarantee it will be used in a charitable way next year at Harrogate.

Best wishes go to Mark Openshaw and his move from Sunningdale GC to North Hants and also to Billy McMillan in his addition role as Chairman of BIGGA for the coming year.

Brian Willmott

KENT

Firstly, on behalf of everyone in our Section, may I pass on our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Ray Day, a long time active member in our region who sadly passed away recently. Ray was a great ambassador for our profession, he will be sorely missed by all who had the fortune to know him. My usual, light-hearted, column would not be appropriate at this time so I shall merely inform you that our first golf event is on March 28, at Kings Hill GC. We shall be meeting for a full English breakfast at 10.30am followed by 18 holes of golf and an informal buffet afterwards. Entry forms will soon be downloadable from our website but if you have any trouble getting one or if you just want to ensure your place early, then please contact any of your committee members directly. Spaces are limited to 40.

The new website will be re-launched very shortly at the old address of: kentgreenkeepers.co.uk so keep an eye out for all the latest news and events there.

Rob Holland

ESSEX

Another (BTME) Harrogate Week is under our belts and although smaller than in previous years, it was still worth the trip. A few stalwarts from Essex made the trip, John Sinclair, Thorp Hall; Don Clark, Orsett; Doug Fernie, Upminster; Adrian Cornell and Jon Goodman, Stock Brook Country Club; Ray Goodsall, Saffron Walden; Tom Smith and Paul O'Kane, Colne Valley; Ben Scrivener, Benton Hall, plus various members of staff from courses around the area. Sorry if I have missed anyone.

Other news is that Steve Crosdale has returned to the greenkeeping ranks having worked with Headland for the past few years, has decided to come back into the fold so to speak. He has joined Lords Golf Group as Course Manager overseeing what were Hanover and Notley GCs.

Steve Denton, Rigby Taylor, has taken on the new roll of Grass Seed Development Manager for the company, plus retaining some of his original golf accounts.

Mark Keysell has joined the Rigby Taylor and looks after accounts in the Essex and Suffolk areas.

On the education front, Paul O'Kane has informed me that he is in the process of arranging some courses for our section in the following fields: First Aid, Spraying, and Chain Saw. Anyone who needs training should contact Paul. Watch this space for more information in future issues of this magazine.

As promised, his season's fixtures are as follows: Spring Tournament, Wednesday, May 2, Gosfield Lake. Summer Medal, Wednesday, June 27, Theydon Bois. Autumn Tournament, Wednesday, August 15, Colchester GC. Winter Tournament, Thursday, September 27, North Weald. Christmas Texas Scramble and AGM, Tuesday, November 27, Orsett. Please remember to let Antony Kerwan have your entry in good time, as there are no entries on the day. Anyone who has any news for inclusion in the Around the Green section can email me at: highwoods.photographic@virgin.net or call me on: 01206 852353 Arnold Phipps-Jones

SUSSEX

Hello again, I must start with the sad news of the passing of Ray Day, who died on Sunday, January 21. Ray is well known in the greenkeeping industry, turning out for most Sussex golf events and doing a lot of good work behind the scenes for BIGGA. Ray's funeral was on January 26 and over 170 friends turned up. Everyone went back to East Sussex National where Ray was Course Manager.

At a recent AGM, Ray turned up and was always looking to the future for our Section, even though he knew his time was limited. This shows the kind of man he was, never selfless and always there to help if you ever needed it. Our thoughts are with his wife Gill and their family. Ray will be missed but never forgotten.

There are a few dates for golf this year so far: May 24 - Ham Manor; early July - Copthorne; August - Surrey v Sussex; September 13 - Cooden Beach

I hope to see you at some of the golf days this year.

If you need to contact please call me on mob: 07776223234 or email me on: robert.hudson77@btinternet.com

Rob Hudson



SOUTH WEST

Congratulations to everyone in the Southwest for supporting Harrogate Week 2007. Many thanks to Jane, Chris, and the Regional Board for organising the sponsored trip, and ensuring we were really well represented. I should

mention our Patronage Partners, whose support makes it possible to sponsor some of the costs. The week seems to grow in stature every year, despite some notable absentees on the exhibition floor, and the 2007 event was a shining example of what this association can achieve. Thanks to all the exhibitors, speakers, and staff. No stories of riotous partying – well almost no riotous partying (you know who you are) but the less said about that the better. I thought Frank Newberry's opening address hit all the right notes, even more so as Frank was brought in at relatively short notice. I did try out some of his recommendations on personal presentation in the exhibition afterwards. Always be positive, always ask leading questions, always establish eye contact etc. Eventually, people were asking, "Are you alright?"

Straight after returning, my wife and I whisked off to Paris on the Eurostar for a very nice, if rather expensive, weekend birthday celebrations. One of the big attractions was of course the Eiffel Tower, and I made a dramatic discovery on the top floor – I still can't stand heights. Hazel has a great photo of yours truly, white-faced, clinging on for dear life to the topmost railing. The first stage – straight up no probs, the second stage – bit high but nice view – the lift to the third stage, just a sheet of Perspex and a couple of flimsy looking girders between me and oblivion. My knees went, I had to take a firm grip, and not show panic in front of a load of bored looking kids (who'd obviously been torn away from their Playstations). It took a good couple of hours and several pints of lager to get over it. Interestingly, construction of the Tower was completed in the same year (1889) that our Old Course opened. Gustav Eiffel won a competition to design it for the World Trade Fair in 1889, and only had a 20 year commission (after which it was to be dismantled). In the event it was so hugely successful – during the first two weeks of the Trade Fair, 28922 persons climbed to the first and second levels and after the lifts opened a total of 1.9 million visited in the 173 days of the Fair, and a further 70 year concession was granted.

Back at Minch, Abbots are now about two-thirds of the way through the irrigation installation on our second course – I'm crossing the days off until they've finished. Not content with making life difficult outside, they've recently started on my office so there's no place to hide. The new lake is filling nicely but took 47 and-a-half pallets of turf to turf the banks. The lads are still speaking to me, but only just. I might just take this opportunity to pay a tribute to their effort and commitment – we have in fact laid 130 pallets of turf on the Avening Course this winter in all weathers, with the lads developing a new list of extreme sports activities - ice turfing, bog turfing, even hurricane wind-assisted turfing. Sorry guys. I might also mention our suppliers Teal Turf from near Worcester – in all the 130 odd pallets, and despite the worst of weather, Teal have never been late, never missed a delivery, and the turf has been in tip top condition throughout - I've yet to see a single weed. Let me know how your winter's going - has anyone else completed a winter programme, or spring renovation. Lets have some news. In the meantime, the Spring Tournament at Cotswold Hills in April is the next event, and I know Course Manager, Wayne Vincent is looking forward to showing off his course. Please support your committee by attending. Finally, I had the very great honour of speaking at a meeting of Minchinhampton Committee of Commoners and graziers the other night. The purpose was to inform them about a management plan for the Old Course that we are developing with Bob Taylor at the STRI. The venue was the Vestry Rooms in Minchinhampton, which are attached to the church. "Just go into the churchyard, you can't miss it" I was told. In the event, Sarah Allcock and I stumbled around a pitch-dark freezing cold churchyard for what seemed like ages before making out a chink of light coming from under a distant door. "Thank God for that" we thought, only to go blundering in and inadvertently crash a meeting of the Church Council. There was a stony silence, and we had to be escorted out by the vicar – fortunately he was very good about it. The Vestry Rooms turned out to be up a steep flight of stone steps set in the side of the church – no safety rail, and no light either come to that. The rooms were quite fascinating - oak panelled with the original Parish Charter inlaid in gold leaf all around. Happily the introduction to the Management Plan went pretty well, and I've been invited back to expand at the next meeting, (presumably when they've thought of some really tricky questions). My next talk is at Box Gardening Club in late March. Box is a

pretty little village on the edge of Minchinhampton Common, and I'm particularly looking forward to question time there – because my wife would like to know why ours is the only forsythia in the street with twisted brown sticks rather than a cascade of golden flowers, and could it be something to do with my husband pruning it with a strimmer every year? They'd better mind their own business on that one.

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

SOUTH COAST

Hello everybody, I hope that all is well and winter work and programmes are all up to date and on target. At this time of year we all often start to dream of the spring days (hopefully) around the corner.

The South Coast Seminar will take place at Canford Magna GC on Wednesday, March 14. By now you should have all been informed of this event. If you have not yet booked please contact Chris Bitten on: 0779 688 7633 or email him on: chrisbitten@btinternet.com. The cost to attend for BIGGA members is £17.50 and £20 for non-members. Please make your cheques payable to BIGGA South Coast.

The format for the day is as follows: Coffee and Registration at 9.15am onwards. 10am until 11am Marcus White from Irriplan will talk to us on the subject of making the most of your irrigation water in relation to good storage, effective use and licensing in regard to water abstraction. From 11am until 11.30am Jim Whatley from the Environment Agency will be speaking. 11.30am to 11.50am will be a break. From 11.50am until 12.30pm we welcome Andy Cole, Agronomist from the company PSD, and he will present on the subject of Soil Water and its effects within the root zone. All of these above speakers and subjects link to the important theme of managing fine turf in a changing climate, with water becoming a rare and costly resource. Lunch is from 12.30pm and we will resume at 1.30pm with Peter Craig, from the Hurlingham Club speaking about the very many different sports surfaces and managing a successful team. Peter is a member of the IOG and also of BIGGA Surrey Section, and will briefly talk about the importance of both organisations and the necessity of them working together. At 2.15pm we welcome Eddie Seaward, from the All England Tennis Club, who will tell us about the all year round maintenance of the lawn tennis courts and of course the build up to the all important Wimbledon fortnight. The day will finish with an open forum and questions to all of the speakers. Close of play at 3.30pm. A huge thank you to our sponsors for the day, who are Tower Chemicals, Banks and Vitax.

Chris Bitten will soon be sending out the fixture cards for this year if you've not already had them. We would like to thank Tacit for the sponsorship of these cards. The first date for your diary in regard to golf will be the Spring Tournament held at Romsey GC on May 3. Chris Sturgess will contact you soon with details.

Joe Crawley 07721 389200

DEVON AND CORNWALL

It is imperative that I start this month's report on behalf of our Section with three big thank you's. Firstly to Martin Ward, of Symbio, for sponsoring the coach to enable 17 members to visit Harrogate this past January, and secondly to our Chairman, Steve Evans, for driving the coach there and back in one piece - it just goes to prove that miracles do occur on the odd occasion.

Last but not least to everyone at BIGGA for making the Exhibition such a success, long may it continue.

Our Past Chairman, Richard Whyman, in one of his articles in the magazine asked all members to march with their feet to support the show, well with some 45 delegates from the South West, and Devon and Cornwall Sections I would like to think we all carried out his wishes, well done to all members who made the effort.

Our first meeting of the new year was held at The Carlyon Bay GC on Thursday, January 18, in Cornwall and it has to be said that I have never seen such strong gale force winds for a very long time, and as the course is on the

coast it was a miracle that members were able to play, it was so bad that golf bags were being blown over not to mention the golf pins that were virtually bent double, I asked the Professional what he thought would be a good score, and he replied that he thought it would be very difficult to reach 30pts, the winners score was 34pts, needless to say his handicap will be cut by one shot.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brian Summers, the Course Manager at the club, and his staff for preparing the course in such excellent condition in spite of the heavy rain fall the day before, the greens were dry and firm, and a big thank you to all the staff who made us so welcome.

The guest speaker in the afternoon was Colin Wheatcroft, the Head Groundsman from Plymouth Argyle, who entertained us with a very amusing talk on pitch maintenance, and the various managers that he had worked with in his career.

Finally, a huge thank you to David Singleton, the Area Manager of Barenbrug, for sponsoring the day.

Results of the Barenbrug Competition as follows: 1. Chris Ralph, Hele Park GC 34pts; 2. Chris Pearson, Newquay GC, 30pts; 3. Gordon Tamlyn, Mullion GC, 29pts.

I will look forward to seeing you all at Trethonte GC on March 7 for the Workshop, the day will consist of Drainage and Construction, Health and Safety, and Environmental Issue.

Donovan O Hunt

SOUTH WALES

Hi everybody, it's your Prez speaking (Henry Stead), yes, Angus MacLeod has left us for bigger things. He has taken up the post of Course Manager at the Belton Wood Golf complex, nr. Grantham in Lincoln - a big challenge but we know he can make a big impact up there as he did here, good luck Angus you will be greatly missed, keep in touch.

It's with much regret that I write the next two sad reports. On Sunday, January 28, a great friend of mine Mr Colin Murphy passed away. I am sure I speak for everybody in the turf industry in England and Wales, who knew Colin, who wish to send our deepest sympathy to his widow, Rosemary, and the rest of his family. I have known Colin for 30 years and always found him helpful and friendly, always ready for a laugh and joke. He had been involved with BIGGA since the early days when it was BGGG and always seemed to hold some official position, he held the post of President of the Association for many years and later became our Section President. At golf days Colin could always be seen sitting at a table, writing or checking scorecards, or taking money, he never played golf, but he never missed many meetings up until last summer when his health was poor. Colin will be greatly missed.

News from Wenvoe GC of the death of Jim Bond, he passed away on Christmas Day. He was Head Greenkeeper at the club from 1970 until 1985 that's all I know at present. Ty Laurence and the rest of the staff at the club, and all the Welsh Section members send our deepest sympathy to his family.

The first of the winter educational seminars organised by our IOG colleges was held at Pencoed College on Wednesday, January 17. It was very well attended and those off you who did not make it missed a very good talk. The presentation was by Neil Baldwin and Garry Adkins of Amiga Science, and it concerned stress in turf, dry patch, fairy ring and drought related problems from which most of us suffer at some time or other.

Congratulations to Cerri Richards and his partner Donna on their forthcoming wedding which takes place on April 28, son Taylor and baby daughter Scarlett will be in attendance, we wish you all the very best for a long and happy life together.

On a last note, our old mate Julian B Jones is breaking into ACTING, he will be appearing in BBC Wales Belonging, he will be standing by the bar drinking Strongbow and eyeing up the birds, (nothing changes then Jinks!). I have no information on when it will be broadcast.

If you have any news or views, then please send them to me at (henry@henrystead.wannadoo.co.uk)

Henry Stead

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

SQUIGGLY SODUKU

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

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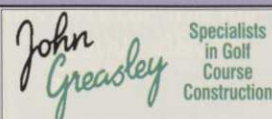
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ASSISTANT HEAD GREENKEEPER

Closing Date: 12/04/2007
Venue: *Quindell Golf & Country Club*

Applications are invited for the position of Assistant Head Greenkeeper.

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

- Spraying Certificates
- Be reliable, flexible, hardworking and be prepared during the core season to work 48-60 hrs over 6 days
- Good communication skills and be able to work as part of a team
- Recognise the importance of presentation to all outside areas
- Mechanical knowledge an advantage.

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

Please apply in writing with full CV to: *Terry Puttock, Quindell Golf & Country Club, Quob Park, Titchfield Lane, Wickham, PO17 5PG*
Tel: 01784 424644

ASSISTANT/TRAINEE GREENKEEPER

Leckford Estate is a 4000 acre Estate in Hampshire in the Test Valley with many diverse businesses including 2 nine hole golf courses and a cricket ground.

We are looking for an enthusiastic greenkeeper to join a dedicated team to assist in the upkeep, development of the courses and maintain its reputation for excellence.

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Pay: in the range of £304 - £355 per week dependent upon qualifications and experience and linked to BIGGA recommendations.

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The Partnership is committed to providing equal opportunities for all regardless of differences such as gender, ethnic origin, disability, sexual orientation, age, social background, religion and belief.

Please telephone Clare Rogers on 01344 824439 for an application form. Completed applications must be received by Friday 23 March 2007.



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The ideal candidate will most probably already be a head green keeper with an established track record at a quality members' club or perhaps the number 2 at a major golf facility. As such the successful applicant should have strong leadership skills to motivate a large team, have a proactive approach to training and staff development, be used to preparing and operating within budgets and possess the drive and enthusiasm required to realise the potential this superb facility can achieve.

To apply in the first instance write enclosing your CV to,
Matthew Staveley,
Board Representative,
High Legh Park Country Club,
Warrington Road,
Knutsford,
Cheshire
WA16 0WA.
Or email mstaveley@highleghpark.com

THE CRAYTHORNE HEAD GREENKEEPER



See our 18 hole course on our website & download an application form.

The candidate must have a proven track record in all aspects of green keeping, including planning and monitoring work programmes and budgets. They must be self-motivated and have the ability to lead by example. This is a hands on position. The applicant should be qualified to at least NVQ 3 or its equivalent and possess a sound working knowledge of Health & Safety regulations. Spraying Certificates would be an advantage. Salary negotiable in accordance with experience. No accommodation available.

ALSO 1ST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER REQUIRED

Applications in writing, with full CV.

Mr. A. A. Wright, Managing Director, The Craythorne, Craythorne Road,
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BROMBOROUGH GOLF CLUB



Applications are invited for the position of *Head Greenkeeper*

Bromborough Golf Club is a mature parkland course (founded 1903). Due to the retirement of our present Head Greenkeeper we are seeking a Head Green keeper to start in June 2007.

The successful applicant will have a Degree in Course Management, NVQ 3 or equivalent in Greenkeeping, with a minimum of 5yrs experience preferably in a managerial role. Good communication skills and the ability to lead a team of six staff will be required. Budgeting skills, experience of tree management and the possession of spraying and chain saw certificates will be an advantage.

Salary subject to qualifications and experience.

For an informal discussion about the Club and the position phone Peter McMullen 0151 344 2155.

Applications in writing including a full CV to Peter McMullen, Secretary/Manager, Bromborough Golf Club, Raby Hall Rd., Bromborough, Wirral CH63 0NW, to arrive no later than 31st March 2007.

JOB OF THE MONTH



WEST SURREY GOLF CLUB

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- Ability to manage resources efficiently and exercise strict budgetary controls.
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Please apply by email or in writing with full CV to:
Denis Kane, Chief Executive, Druids Glen Golf Resort,
Newtownmountkenedy, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.
Email: dkane@druidsglen.ie

Greenkeeper

Roehampton Club is a private members' sports club in southwest London, set in 100 acres of parkland close to Richmond Park.



We are looking for an NVQ Level 2 qualified Greenkeeper to join the Golf section. Candidates will ideally enjoy playing the game and possession of valid PA1, 2 spraying certificates would be highly desirable.

In return, the club offers a generous benefits package and single on-site accommodation may be available.

Apply to Human Resources, Roehampton Club, Roehampton Lane, London, SW15 5LR or via email hr@roehamptonclub.co.uk

www.roehamptonclub.co.uk

Closing Date 26th March 2007



HEVER CASTLE GOLF CLUB Require an EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

Applications are invited for the above position at this prestigious 27 hole Parkland Golf Course on the Kent, Surrey, Sussex borders.

The successful applicant, already working on a golf course, will ideally be qualified to NVQ Level 2 or equivalent, current spraying certificates PA1,2 and 6 with a minimum of 3 years relevant experience. A full driving license is essential.

Applicants must be enthusiastic and self motivated whilst being able to work in a team environment, and showing commitment to a career in golf course management. Rented accommodation may become available.

Salary negotiable according to experience and qualifications.

Applications in writing with current CV to: *David Wood, Golf Course Manager, Hever Castle Golf Club, Hever, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 7NP*

MID-HERTS GOLF CLUB

requires a

GREENKEEPER

to join a team of 5 greenkeepers to maintain an 18-hole heathland course near to the village of Wheathampstead, Herts.

Applicants should possess an NVQ Level 2 or equivalent with a minimum of three years greenkeeping experience and a good knowledge of the game of golf.

The successful applicant will be highly motivated and enthusiastic.

Please apply in writing to: The Course Manager, Mid-Herts Golf Club, Lamer Lane, Gustard Wood, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8RS

EVESHAM GOLF CLUB

Require an Assistant to Head Green Keeper

With minimum of 3 years working experience
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Closing day for applications 30th April 2007



The European Family of Greenkeepers



I have just returned home from Slovenia, where I was representing you all, along with John Pemberton, at the FEGGA conference. Your Board have decided to re-join our association once again into the European family of Greenkeepers. I was overwhelmed by the welcome we both received from our friends in Europe and it was evident we had been, I believe, missed by them over the past number of years.

Topics that were up for debate were the environment and, of course, our impact on its well being. I am always amazed to hear what it is that we do wrong at these events and sometimes I want to jump up and beat my chest and shout from the hill tops "WE'RE NOT THAT BAD". You know what, we're not perfect, and yes we do require some help in terms of chemical control from time to time, but let's stop beating ourselves up here. Nature actually flourishes in abundance on the golf course because we're a golf course and not, as commonly suggested, by chance.

Another thing you might like to consider is this. If we don't, in fact, get our act together we will be told just what to do by politicians, and those without a fraction of our passion for the well being of our natural habitat, unless we can convince them all that, in fact, we are all good custodians of the land used for golf for now and into the future.

Now that's off my chest what else is going on in the life of your Chairman. Well, I am, I'm sure, just like you all trying to wind up all those winter renovation works and get prepared for the spring. A few years' ago at Tyrrells Wood we agreed with the club and members some dates, within the very busy golfing calendar, for some course maintenance days. Now these were intended not to close the course for play but change the bias from play to maintenance and allow these necessary works to be carried out without the burden of golf getting in the way of the operation. So we have agreed for three days in the spring, autumn and winter totalling nine days when we have priority over the golf of the day. It has been a revolution for us and if we are working on a green complex or any part of the course the golfers play to that point pick their ball up and move onto the next hole. It's been a win win for us all they can

still play and we can uninterrupted carry out the required course maintenance programmes quickly and efficiently.

I have become an avid reader of our bulletin board on the website and am always pleased to see the members' comments held within its pages. The subject matter is varied and certainly topical at all times and I would recommend to anyone, who has a particular problem or point of view, to have a look and see what goes on. I would like to suggest that we all have a positive input and refrain from what can only be described as tittle-tattle with no real substance or intention for the betterment of your Association. We live in an electronic age and I look forward to seeing your input over the coming months.

I was asked what my intentions were for my year in office and I think the young man was expecting great pearls of wisdom and foresight that would bring immediate change to the life of us all as Greenkeepers. If that were true we could be lumped into that old golf club doctrine of a year in office and feel compelled to leave a lasting monument of our time in office. So, I replied by saying this! I see my year of continuing the good works of my predecessors and continue the philosophy of building bridges that will stand the test of time. Key people doing key things is the way forward, no one person can, on their own, do it all. God, I used to be that arrogant that I never needed the help of anyone and then I grew up and realised I'm not so able or clever that I can do it all on my own. So I will try my best to put the right people together and I'm sure that together they will progress our Association to greater heights than ever before.

We live in a world of amalgamation and fusion of minds recourses and efforts for the common good of everyone involved and it's very true that

there is strength in numbers. So it's with that in mind that we have entered into discussions with our friends at the IOG to explore the possibilities of common ground for both bodies to flourish into the ever-changing future. This is no light undertaking on anyone's part and who knows where it will lead, but this I do know, it's just another positive development for our industry that two such organisations have the courage and wisdom to at least explore the future.

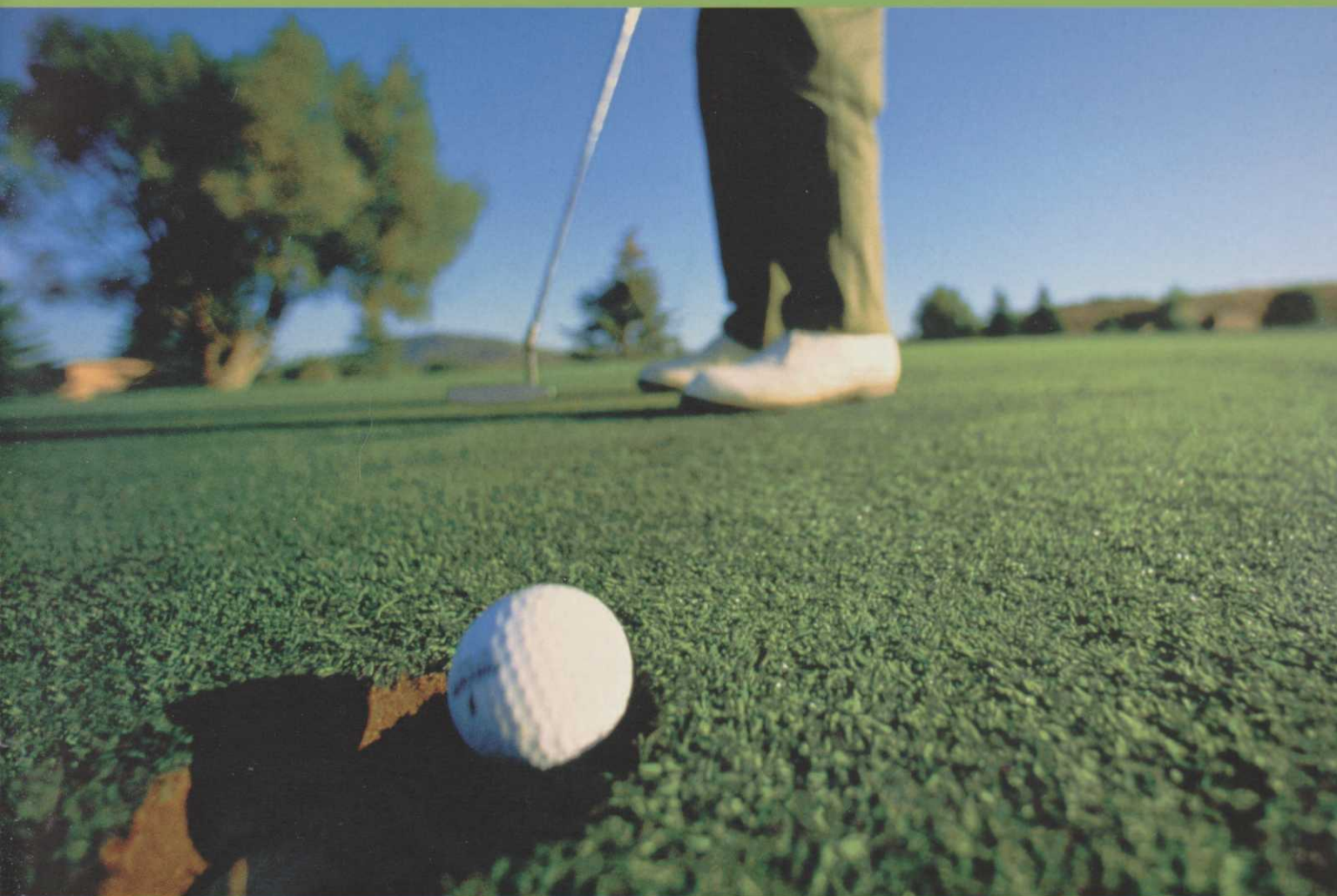
Your Board will need your input to make any informed recommendation that would be brought to you all to have your say on, so please become engaged into the process by saying what you think. I urge you all to discuss locally and keep the communication flow coming to Region and, of course, then your Board will be an informed one that can take on (sorry about the pun) board your views.

So, in closing, I wish you all a warm slightly wet spring sprinkled with a dash of good luck and, of course, we all have the Masters to look forward to don't we?

Billy McMillan
Chairman

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