

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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- The Neil Thomas Memorial Golf day
- Course Feature – The London Club
- BIGGA Golf Photography Competition
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Board Members

Lee Strutt, Jeff Mills, Gavin Robson, Archie Dunn,
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Chief Executive – John Pemberton

Email – john@bigga.co.uk

Deputy Chief Executive

Education & Training Manager – Ken Richardson

Email – ken@bigga.co.uk

Communications Manager /

Editor – Scott MacCallum

Email – scott@bigga.co.uk

Sales Manager – Rosie Hancher

Email – rosie@bigga.co.uk

Membership Department – Vanessa Depré

Email – vanessa@bigga.co.uk

Contact Us

Post – BIGGA House, Aldwark, A1ne, York, YO61 1UF

Email – reception@bigga.co.uk

Website – www.bigga.org.uk

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801



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Editorial

Communications Manager /

Editor – Scott MacCallum

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

Email – scott@bigga.co.uk

Assistant Editor – Melissa Toombs

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833801

Email – melissa@bigga.co.uk

Design

Agency – Stone Soup

Web – www.stone-soup.co.uk

Advertising

Sales Manager – Rosie Hancher

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833802

Email – rosie@bigga.co.uk

Advertising Sales Executive – Kirstin Smith

Tel – 01347 833800 | Fax – 01347 833802

Email – kirstin@bigga.co.uk

Printing

Warners Midlands Plc, The Maltings, Manor Lane,

Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH

Tel – 01778 391000 | Fax – 01778 394269

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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

October 2007

Regulars

4-9

News

10

GTC

11

Learning & Development

Sami Collins welcomes you all to her first article for GI, in her new role as the Head of Learning and Development

12

Membership

13

Hobbies

14-15

Continue to Learn



Machinery Finance: Hire Goes Higher
By Eddie Henderson and Colin Theedom

16

Letters

19

What's Your Number?

33

In the Shed

Greenkeeper International's puzzle page

46-49

New Products: Saltex Special

50

News from the Chief Executive

50-57

Around the Green

66

As I See It...

National Chairman Billy McMillan's monthly column



Features

18

Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship Scheme



This Scheme has helped fund many aspiring greenkeepers through their studies, and aided them in fulfilling their ambitions of becoming fully qualified greenkeepers. We look at this year's graduates

21-23

Course Feature

Scott MacCallum visited the London Club during the busiest week of its year and witnessed a club at the top of its game

26-29

Planning Between Dealer And Manufacturer To Get Best Maintenance

By James de Havilland

31-32

Rhubarb and Custard

By Henry Bechelet, Turfgrass Agronomist

36-38

Snap Happy!

The second BIGGA Golf Photography Competition produced a huge variety of pictures from greenkeepers who see photography as both a hobby and an important communication element of their job. GI reveals the winners

39-41

Safe and Warm

Melissa Toombs takes a look at safety and winter workwear

43

Artificial Influence

How important are artificial surfaces in golf and are they likely to play a bigger part?

44-45

The BIGGA's Neil Thomas Memorial Golf day

Sun Shines on John Deere Quartet



When you have finished with this magazine please recycle it.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Welcome



A Glimpse into the Future

News that the increased number of bugs and pests in our gardens at the moment is being put down to the mild wet summer and the lack of pesticides available to get rid of them, perhaps gives us a glimpse into the future for the fine turf industry.

There is a proposal with the European Parliament that the use of all pesticides be restricted, if not banned, in all areas to which the public have access. The Amenity Forum, Chaired by John Allbutt, has been lobbying MEP's hoping to influence the voting in late October on this issue that if implemented would have a drastic affect on us all.

Now we all know the amount of active ingredient being used on golf courses has reduced significantly in recent years thanks to the developments from within the chemical industry and the responsible approach taken by Course Managers, but a total ban would have a huge impact on fine turf management.

Greenkeepers will always strive to maintain golf courses to the highest standards possible given whatever the circumstances they are presented, but taking away all their chemical tools will have an impact. I would urge you to keep your club updated on the situation and, if possible, write, underlining the club's concerns, to your local MEP, and indeed, Westminster MP.

If a total ban does come in, it must be hoped that golfers, as well as turf managers, take the consequences on board and accept that the superb surfaces at their club will be blighted by disease occasionally and that their Course Manager will be powerless to come up with a quick fix. We don't want a string of disciplinary meetings based on "The state of the course" coming from club members, who are oblivious to the outside world and who believe miracles are what you are paid to produce.

For further information visit www.amenity.org.uk

Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, retired at the end of September after nearly 14 years with the Association. Ken has been a great guy to work alongside – his knowledge and experience stretching far beyond the remit of his own job - and we have certainly benefited from his presence. There are innumerable BIGGA members who have had sensible career-enhancing advice from Ken.

I'm actually typing this very carefully as there is no-one more critical than Ken when it comes to spotting grammatical errors in newspapers and magazines, or, with the spoken word, on television and radio. Those who know him will perhaps be surprised to learn this, but when Ken has a bee in his bonnet he bears an uncanny resemblance to Victor Meldrew. But it is we on the staff, not Ken, who "Don't believe it" that he'll no longer be regaling us with his many tales, usually involving aircraft, in the years to come. We wish him and Sandra a long, happy and enjoyable retirement.

GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY

A Midland Region Golf Management Trophy day, sponsored for the 10th successive year by Scotts UK Professional, was held at Worksop Golf Club.

Teams from 21 golf clubs enjoyed a shotgun start on a very challenging course superbly prepared by Course Manager, Tim Gittins, and his staff, and everyone was made to feel very welcome by all staff and members at Worksop Golf Club.

The winning team was from Gay Hill Golf Club with 78 points, led by Course Manager, Paul Woodham. The home team was 2nd with 76 points on countback from Peterborough Milton Golf Club. Nearest the Pin on the 18th was won by Alan Burrows, from Chilwell Manor Golf Club, and Longest Drive on the 6th was won by Ade Porter, Course Manager at Greetham Valley Golf Club.



The picture shows the Gay Hill team and Nia Frost, Scotts Technical Sales Manager, presenting the trophy to Course Manager Paul Woodham. The Midland Region of BIGGA thanks Scotts once again for their sponsorship.

PRICES SET TO RISE

A combination of factors will inevitably force the price of grass seed to rise say DLF Trifolium Ltd. "In recent years we are seeing fewer grass seed crops grown, says Derek Smith, Amenity Sales Manager for DLF. "No longer is there any subsidy on grass seed production so growers are looking at the most profitable crops to grow i.e. wheat. In addition to this factor is a higher demand for bio-ethanol crops such as oil seed rape and wheat in Europe."

"Already we are experiencing difficulty in contracting for 2008 grass seed production due to these competitive crops," said Derek.

The recent wet harvest in the main production areas of Western Europe has reduced seed yield by 20% for 2007 harvest thus compounding the problem further.

NORRIE WHYTOCK TROPHY

Auchterarder Golf Club was the venue for the annual Team event for the Norrie Whytock Trophy held recently.

Defending the trophy this year was the Central Section who managed to break the strangle hold the North Section had on this Trophy for many years.

Archie Dunn, Head Greenkeeper, was on holiday and left the course in the very capable hands of his Deputy, Alistair Tough, and the remainder of the Auchterarder staff who presented the course in superb condition after the most horrendous weather over the weekend.

The East Section, led by our Chairman, Stuart Greenwood, scored 99 points but were beaten into second place by the Central Section who successfully defended the Trophy with a total of 104 points. There was fine individual scoring from Michael Love, Grangemouth Golf Club with 41 points and Robbie Murdoch from Dundas Parks Golf with 39 points.

The Central team comprised: Team Captain, Derek Scott, Scoonie GC, 31pts; Michael Love, Grangemouth GC, 41pts; Andy O'Hara, Leven Links GC, 26pts; David Simpson, Crieff GC, 32pts. Best three scores to count – 104. Runners up - East Section: Team Captain, Stuart Greenwood, North Berwick GC, 29pts; Stuart Ferguson, Dundas Parks GC, 31pts; Robbie Murdoch, Dundas Parks GC, 39pts. Best three scores to count – 99.

Chairman Stuart Greenwood thanked Auchterarder GC for the facilities at the club also took the opportunity to thank Bayer and Kenny Liddell - their representative in Scotland for their sponsorship once again. Unfortunately Kenny was unable to be present because of business commitments but left proceedings in the very capable hands of Blair Young.

Next year's event will be held on Thursday, August 20, 2008 at Auchterarder Golf Club.

Peter J.Boyd, Regional Administrator

175 YEARS OF MOWER PRODUCTION

Ransomes Jacobsen celebrated 175 years of mower production with a lavish cruise and dinner on the Thames during Saltex.

Guests, dressed in black tie and posh frocks, boarded a boat at one of two points in Windsor and sailed to Monkey Island and a pavilion owned by Eton School which had been specially decked out for the occasion.



Picture shows Dan Wilkinson addressing the guests.

Among the invited guests were top Ransomes Jacobsen and Textron staff, past and present, including former Managing Director Peter Wilson and sell as dealers from all over the world. Also in attendance was Ransomes Jacobsen American-based President Dan Wilkinson.

Managing Director David Withers gave an entertaining journey though the history of the company and various landmarks and what was going on in the rest of the world at the same time while The Three Waiters vied for the affections of the guests with some wonderful operatic singing.

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGIONAL SEMINAR

The South West and South Wales Region are pleased to announce that this year's annual Seminar will be held once again at Cannington Centre for Land Based Studies on Thursday, November 15.

The theme for this year is "Golf In The Commercial World" The speakers will give an insight into running their department within the commercial world.

Presentations will be made by: Stuart McColm Course Manager – Castle Stuart Golf, Inverness; Jim McKenzie Course Manager – The Celtic Manor Golf Course; Kenny MacKay Course Manager – The Belfry; Colin Webber Owner/Course Manager – Portmore Golf Course; Laurence Pithie Director Of Maintenance – Crown Golf.

The line up of speakers is intended to give perspectives from all levels ranging from the very large organization to the privately owned commercial venture.

Places for the day are limited and booking details and information will be sent to all Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers in the region.

TERRAIN LAUNCH FIFTH UNSUNG HERO AWARDS

Terrain Aeration launched their fifth Unsung Hero Awards in conjunction with Pitchcare and Greenkeeping magazine.

Brian Firmin, Head Groundsman at Halstead Cricket Club, one of Terrain's Unsung Heroes for 2006 was on hand to open nominations for this year's awards, which will see one Groundsman and one Greenkeeper honoured at a special ceremony during Harrogate Week in January.



Left to right - Steve Gingell, Lynda Green (Terrain Aeration) and Brian Firmin

Designed to recognise the scores of individuals who routinely perform over and above the call of duty, the awards are open to all Greenkeepers and Groundsmen nominated by anyone (other than family) connected to the industry. Judged by ex. IOG Chairman, Derek Walder, past BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child, and STRI Senior Agronomist and Southern Area Manager, Steve Gingell, the winners will receive holiday vouchers and a framed certificate provided by Terrain Aeration and £200.

Nomination forms are available on the Pitchcare website, the Greenkeeping website and direct from Terrain Aeration on Tel :01449 673783 or website: www.terrainaeration.co.uk

VIBRATION & NOISE MANAGEMENT

BIGGA Midlands Section is holding a Vibration and Noise Management Seminar at Gay Hill Golf Club on October 24.

Group workshops/seminars will include: Legislation and working with the HSE – Timothy Ward, HSE (HM Principal Specialist Inspector); The Importance of Risk Assessment and Monitoring Systems – Jon Allbutt; A Manufacturers Viewpoint – Manuel Ruiz, Ransomes Jacobsen; Vibration and Noise Management – Fivesquared Ltd; The Practical implications of noise and vibration assessments and daily management of work programmes and staff welfare – Paul Woodham, Course Manager.

For more information visit: www.biggamidlandsection.com

IRRIGATION WORKSHOP

BIGGA Midlands Section are holding an Irrigation Workshop at The Belfry on Tuesday, October 30.

Group workshops will include: Electrical faultfinding and repairs – Tony Ware (Tonick Watering Ltd); Pipework malfunction and repairs – Nigel Wyatt (MJ Abbott Ltd); Sprinkler and solenoid valve maintenance and repairs – Adrian Handbury (Evenproducts Ltd); Pumps and pump house maintenance – Jeff Mountford (Grundfos Ltd); Determining irrigation requirements – Martyn Jones (BTLIA).

For more information visit: www.biggamidlandsection.com

SOUTH EAST REGIONAL SEMINAR

Final arrangements are now being made for the South East Regional Seminar to be held at Hadlow College, Kent, on Tuesday October 30.

The theme for this year's Seminar will be "The Changing Climate" and will cover the Environment, Weather, our Association, Finance, Equipment etc. Speakers will include John Pemberton, BIGGA; Ian Lacey, IOG and Steve Isaacs, R&A; Jason Lock, Better Golf Centre; Laurence Pithie MG, Crown Golf and a Groundsman from a leading County Cricket Club.

Cost of the day will be £15 including coffee/tea on arrival and a hot lunch. For more information please contact Clive Osgood, South East Regional Administrator Tel: 01737 819343.

HARROGATE WEEK 2008

A three-night bed and breakfast package at the Cairn Hotel arriving on Monday, January 21 and departing on Thursday, January 24, 2008 is available for those members wishing to attend the exhibition and seminars. The rate for a single room is £222 and for a twin room (sharing) £133.50 per person.

For further information and booking of these events contact Jane Jones, BIGGA Regional Administrator on Tel: 01454 270850 or mobile: 07841948110.

BIGGA South West and South Wales region would like to thank the following patrons for their support of the region and these events: Gold Patrons -Ransomes Jacobsen Limited and Irritech Limited; Silver Patrons -The Scotts Company, Countrywide Turf and Amenity, Vitax Limited, Avoncrop Amenity Products, W. T. and R.J. Jones and Tower Chemicals.



PESTICIDE RESTRICTION

An urgent plea is being made to the horticulture industry to lobby MEPs against plans to severely restrict pesticide use.

NFU Horticulture and Potatoes, the IoG, BIGGA and the Amenity Forum are calling on professionals from all sectors in horticulture to join forces and urge MEPs not to vote in favour of the plans.

In question is the European Parliament's Thematic Strategic for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides and amendments that have been made to it this summer by the Parliament's Environment Committee.

Final votes on first the amendments and then the strategy itself are being held in Brussels next month.

The groups want to lobby MEPs now before they can vote in favour of proposals – which could threaten the sustainability of the industry.

NFU horticulture adviser Dr Chris Hartfield said: "If your local MEP happens to be on the Environment Committee, or if you have access to one that is, then talk to them and ask how they are planning to vote."

Chairman of the Amenity Forum John Allbutt added: "We need to actively lobby our MEPs now to get across to them the powerful message of the likely negative impact of these laws. They must hear the argument loud and clear."

IoG head of professional services Ian Lacy said: "The industry needs to close ranks."

The Environment Committee has not only heralded the Thematic Strategy – drawn up by the European Commission to tighten up laws on pesticides - but also called for even tougher rules.

Proposals to "prohibit or restrict" pesticide use in public places like parks and sports grounds have been amended to completely prohibit their use in these areas.

Proposals to ban aerial spraying when possible have also been amended to include further restrictions – such as the need for operators to notify the time of spraying and inform all residents and bystanders of their use.

Amenity Forum and BALI representative Neil Huck said: "If such proposals become law, companies' pest control costs could soar by up to 50 per cent as people seek to find alternative ways of controlling pests."

But the UK groups believe many of the proposals are impertinent to Britain - which they say has an exemplary code of conduct and track record on pesticide use.

"Pesticide usage in the UK is strictly controlled and subject to some of the most stringent safety measures within Europe. Many of the proposed measures, such as operator training, sprayer testing and residential buffer zones, have been already been adopted voluntarily by the UK industry" concluded Chris Hartfield.



Call to discuss your requirements: 01883 344244

Email: info@eagle.uk.com Website: www.eagle.uk.com



JOURNEY THROUGH THE LINKS

This mighty volume – over 400 pages – is a genuine table topper and includes virtually every links course in the UK and Ireland.

David Worley is an Australian financier whose love of links golf grew deeper in '96 when his Scots-born wife bought him a tee time at Carnoustie for his 50th birthday present. Over the last 10 years this book has been a labour of love - enjoyed a role that makes him the envy of many of us – playing golf, photographing the courses and writing about his experience. He and his wife undertook a number of fact-finding missions to complete the work – including a 97 course in 90-day marathon trip in 2006!

Five times Open Champion, Peter Thomson, perhaps the finest ever exponent of links golf provides the forward and who could be better to describe the delights of golf in its purest form? Among the gems he reveals is that Brora Golf Club on Scotland's Sutherland coast is, "a better piece of links ground I have yet to find... and is kept playable by five men and a hundred sheep and cows."

David has visited and played the majority of the 155 courses included and he gives a short description of the course and his perception of it. This ranges from short notes of around 100

words or so to long essays, and full descriptions of some of the better known, or his favourite courses. He took photographs wherever he went and some of these are quite stunning – although having to pack picture taking into the tightly-scheduled trips he sometimes has had to include pictures taken on days which were not ideally suited for the purpose.

David's own photography has been supplemented by other contributions included some superb images from, friend of BIGGA, Alan Birch, whose pictures of Royal Birkdale and Royal Lytham & St Annes are particularly notable. Other guest photographers include St Annes Old Links Course Manager Stuart Hogg MG.

David, an 11 handicapper, is a real enthusiast and this comes across in the book. If you work at a links courses there is every chance David visited and you can read his comments and enjoy the photographs. If you golf you will also be able to share your views with those in the book. Chances are that you won't always agree!

Journey Through The Links is available from Aurum Press and costs £30

www.aurumpress.co.uk

GOLF MANAGEMENT TROPHY

A Golf Management Trophy day, sponsored in Northern Region for the 4th year by Scotts UK Professional, was held at Wetherby Golf Club.

Although we had a relatively small field this year, those that played enjoyed a fine but windy day on the new layout, which had been superbly prepared by the Course Manager, David Hannam, and his staff. The hospitality afforded by all staff at Wetherby Golf Club was excellent, and a very enjoyable day was had by all.

The format, of four man teams comprising of a greenkeeper member of BIGGA and three golf club officials playing a Stableford with the best two scores on each hole to count, continues to be popular.

The winning team was from Childwall Golf Club with 85 points led by Course Manager, Dave

McAvoy. Close runner up was Wath Golf Club, also with 85 points, losing on a countback. Renishaw Park Golf Club claimed 3rd place with 83 points. Nearest the pin on the 8th was won by Robert Biggin from Renishaw Park Golf Club, and longest drive on the 16th was by Mark Nelson, Course Manager at Renishaw Park Golf Club.



The picture shows the winning team with the Captain of Wetherby Golf Club, Tony Page. The Northern Region of BIGGA thanks Scotts once again for their sponsorship.

BIGGA NEW RECRUIT

Sandra Raper has joined the team at BIGGA HOUSE as Secretary/Administrative Assistant.

Before accepting her new position with BIGGA, Sandra worked in Commercial Construction for 20 years as PA to the Joint Managing Director.



Sandra, who has lived in Alne for 21 years, spends much of her spare time watching her husband and two sons play cricket, but also enjoys reading, listening to music and going to concerts. Her two main loves in life are driving her sporty red MG convertible (with the top down of course!) and footballer, Alan Shearer.

"I am absolutely thrilled to have joined the team at BIGGA HOUSE," said the new recruit.

MACHINING FACILITY

A six-figure investment in a state-of-the-art machining facility at Dennis' headquarters in Derby will speed production and enable the progressive company to make many more components in-house. This follows the introduction of a total lean manufacturing programme.

The sophisticated installation includes three new computer-controlled Haas CNC lathes and milling machines, which will enable components to be produced with great precision and with a very fast turn around, so customers' orders can be processed very quickly. Made in the US, Haas are a very innovative US company renowned for high quality value for money equipment.

This exciting new development will also expand the Derby-based company's workforce. A dedicated Production Manager, Pat Craven has been appointed to oversee the new facility, and other recruits will follow.

NEW COURSE TAKING SHAPE

Leading golf Construction Company 360 Golf has started work on the world's first purpose-built 'PowerPlay Golf' course, which will be a main feature of the new £16m Playgolf East Kilbride centre in Scotland.

The 100-acre site – a joint venture between property developers Kilmartin and golf operators Playgolf (Holdings) Plc – will be home to a 9-hole Peter McEvoy-designed course featuring replicas of famous British Open links golf holes.

360 Golf has started earthworks at the Kingsgate West location, stripping topsoil and preparing for a major 'cut and fill' operation which will begin to create the course's contours.

Mel Thomas, of 360 Golf, said today: "Playgolf East Kilbride is a groundbreaking development in every respect and we are delighted to be part of this innovative project."

Billed as golf's answer to Twenty20 cricket, the new format is a simple, shortened, yet highly competitive and strategic version of the game. Played over 9 holes, each green houses two flags, one white in a relatively 'easy' position and one black skull 'n' crossbones or 'PowerPlay' flag in a much trickier position on the putting surface.

COMPANIES COMBINE

A secure and vibrant future underpinned by sustained product development and sales growth are promised for Allett Mowers following the purchase by Turfmech Machinery Ltd, of the company's assets, trademarks and main product range.

The move brings one of Britain's best-known makes of professional walk-behind cylinder mower and turf-care equipment into the Turfmech stable to be based at Turfmech's product development and manufacturing centre in Hixon, Staffordshire. The business will continue to trade as Allett Mowers with all products carrying the respected Allett name.

Turfmech's Managing Director, Austin Jarrett, pointed out that the Allett product line forms a perfect fit with the Turfmech range.

TRAINING INITIATIVES CAN BENEFIT GOLF CLUBS

Training budgets can be the early casualties in golf clubs' drive to reduce costs for more efficient running.

Andrew Wight, from Oaklands College, explains how clubs can get much staff training free. "The government has set up a number of training initiatives for employers over the last few years and many of these are open for use by greenkeepers and their employers," he said. The schemes and their benefits are: 16 to 18 Training: Employees in this age group are entitled to free training by law and therefore are well suited to an NVQ Level 2 route as run by their local GTC approved provider. Train to Gain: This is an initiative set up by the Government for England. Its intention is to place training back into the hands of the employers. The scheme is set up to give workers who do not hold a full Level 2 qualification the chance to train for one.

The training is free of charge to the employer and can consist of two routes: option one gives the employer the option of 20 hours of training from the provider as well as assessment; option two gives the employer assessment visits only.

"The advantage of Train to Gain is that it is free of charge for people over 19 and there is no requirement to attend college, for example," said Andrew. "This makes the scheme suitable for greenkeepers who have been doing the job for a while and have all the skills and knowledge required but do not have a formal qualification.

"The greenkeeper can start on an NVQ 2 and have their skills recognised with assessments being carried out in the workplace. The system is made even easier if there is a qualified assessor at the club," he said.

The GTC has a recognised network of qualified assessors within the industry and for those golf clubs looking at training their staff, but who have not got a qualified assessor at the workplace, please contact Fiona at the GTC for further information on the assessor programme Tel: 01347 838640 or email: fiona@the-gtc.co.uk.

Train to Gain is designed to allow workers to gain their first Level 2 qualification, therefore anybody with a Level 2 qualification - including

five GCSEs at grade C or above - does not qualify for this funding. There is no upper age limit but employees must be 19 or over and it is possible for workers who meet the criteria for Train to Gain to jump straight to a Level 3 qualification and be a "level 3 jumper."

Apprenticeship schemes – standard and advanced - are the Government's preferred route for training, especially for young people, and are developed and reviewed by our Sector Skills Council, Lantra.

"Hopefully, you will now have identified some areas of training that are available for your staff," said Andrew. "The next step is to contact your local GTC approved provider for help and advice."



David Golding, GTC's Education Director, said: "As part of the GTC's work we are aware of local and regional variations in terms of funding support for employers to access through our Approved Training Provider network and it is often difficult for us to keep up with the Government's funding agencies' priorities.

"The GTC can direct employers to their local Approved Training Provider but, with some providers securing national contracts, it is important that you check with the GTC just where the various training initiatives are operating and how contact can be made," he added.

For further research on Train to Gain and apprenticeships visit:

- www.traintogain.gov.uk
- www.lantra.co.uk/modernapprenticeships/ModernApprenticeships-England.asp
- www.lantra.co.uk/modernapprenticeships/ModernApprenticeships-Wales.asp
- www.lantra.co.uk/modernapprenticeships/ModernApprenticeships-Scotland.asp



CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEPARTMENT

In this article David Golding, GTC's Education Director, looks at the increasing references to CPD or Continuing Professional Department in all industries and how we can all benefit from jumping on this topical bandwagon

While I have often been accused of working in a world of acronyms and I admit education is full of them, we should all take advantage of those which can bring us great benefit.

One such acronym is CPD and as BIGGA has a CPD scheme for its members let us have a look at the opportunities open to us all. We can all sit back on our experiences, and maybe qualifications gained years ago, and think I don't need to attend seminars, exhibitions or training courses. I know from personal experience, hardly a day goes by when an invitation comes across my desk to attend a seminar, workshop or exhibition.

The key is to choose those events which will bring most benefit to me personally, my employer and colleagues. It could even be a colleague would benefit most by attending some of these events, as it is important that everybody gains some CPD at regular intervals. In greenkeeping there are always events advertised both locally and nationally, you cannot possibly attend them all.

Let us have a look at some of the opportunities for greenkeepers to gain CPD. Exhibitions, where a range of products and machinery are there for all to view and at least find out what is the most up to date available, even though you might not be able to afford it in this years budget!

More often than not, exhibitions have education programmes attached to them, when invited speakers share their knowledge and experiences with delegates, all CPD. The most obvious CPD is when you are registered on a formal training course, qualification or apprenticeship scheme, but I would encourage everybody to also look at the bite-size CPD events. Employers especially need to be aware of the minimum legislative requirements and while in the main the industry has moved forward in terms of improved working conditions for employees, we still hear of horror stories regarding maintenance facilities. Health & Safety at all levels is an integral part of all sports turf qualifications and with NPTC Certificates of Competence available through the GTC Approved Training Provider network, we really encourage employers and employees to invest in these courses - There are also specialist H&S advisors awaiting to assist you, a little investment in training may save a hefty fine.

The new GTC-HSE Guidelines are available on our website with a link to the BIGGA-GCMA Safety Management System which has all the information available to ensure you and your employer/employees are compliant. The National Register of Sprayer Operators (NRoSO), the Safe Use of Pesticides (PA 1, 2 & 6 etc) are excellent examples of CPD administered by the NPTC visit www.nroso.org.uk or www.nptc.org.uk. BASIS is a Professional Register for Managers involved in pesticides and fertiliser applications visit www.basis-reg.com for details of training courses in this specialist area. The Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) has a range of short courses including a specific Ecology course www.stri.co.uk

Another established organisation the British Turf Landscape Irrigation Association (BTLIA) has specialised courses visit www.btlia.org.uk The BTLIA works in partnership with a limited number of GTC Approved Training Providers.

The IOG, and of course BIGGA, have been the greatest promoters of CPD in the sector and their in-house courses have benefited hundreds of their members with short courses ranging from basic machinery operator use to management training.

Yes, sports turf organisations do work together when education, training and qualifications are concerned, as many readers know, the formal qualifications from National/Scottish Vocational Qualification's (N/SVQ's), National Certificate (NC), Advanced National Certificate (ANC) and Higher awards including the Degree are have SPORTS TURF in the title!

Last month we said farewell and happy retirement to Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education & Training Manager and with Sami Collins and Rachael Duffy now forming the BIGGA Learning & Development team there will be no shortage of CPD development! Sami has administered the BIGGA CPD scheme since its introduction and I encourage all greenkeepers to register as it is a constant reminder for you to update your portfolio of CPD.

The Home Unions of England (EGU), Scotland (SGU) and Wales (GUW) have, for some years, hosted seminars and workshops all designed to engage golf club employers as well as greenkeepers in the best advice available to improve golf courses - look out for an autumn series in England and Wales. All these seminars are developed in association with the GTC and are eligible to CPD accreditation.

The R&A have also become more actively involved in golf course management through the promotion of the best practice website www.bestcourseforgolf.org, hosting seminars and ongoing support to the GTC.

There are many other examples of CPD within the sector so sincere apologies if I have forgotten any organisation or individual!

Finally the GTC website has had an update so why not pay us a visit. www.the-gtc.co.uk

David Golding
GTC Education Director david@the-gtc.co.uk Tel: 01347 838640

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I am delighted to welcome you all to my first article for Greenkeeper International, in my new role as the Head of Learning and Development.



Before we get down to business I would like to express my thanks to Ken Richardson, without whom, I wouldn't be where I am today. Ken has guided and supported my career development and together we made a great team. I'd like to wish Ken every happiness in his retirement, I'll miss him a great deal but I'm sure he'll be glad to finally escape my nagging!

I have been a member of staff at BIGGA HQ since April 1993 and worked alongside Ken Richardson in the education department for 12 years. I hope that my knowledge of the Association will help ease the transition to becoming Head of Department. Rachael Duffy, is now working with me as the Learning and Development Administrator and we are both on a very steep learning curve!

You will have noticed the department is now known as Learning and Development instead of Education and Training. The decision was taken to re-brand the department to bring it up to date with other industries, reflecting BIGGA's mission to continue to develop standards of excellence in the golf course management and greenkeeping profession.

Harrogate Week



You should have received your copy of The Definitive Guide to Harrogate Week with this magazine, it includes everything you need to know about the Continue to Learn Education Programme taking place from Sunday 20 to Thursday 24 January 2008. You will notice a new, later, start time for the Workshop programme on Sunday, 20 January (12noon), we hope it will enable delegates to travel to Harrogate on the day and could help save on accommodation costs.

Continue to Learn 2008, supported by the GTC and the John Deere Team Championship, boasts

five new workshops including subjects such as Stress Awareness and the Disturbance Theory. The programme also sees the return of several old favourites including An Introduction to Golf Course Design and Moving into Management.

A discount scheme offering savings of up to 52% is available to all delegates who pre-book Continue to Learn seminars. There are also many Fringe seminars, presented by companies who are exhibiting at the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibition, that are free of charge to all visitors to Harrogate Week.

Continue to Learn Seminar Discounts

No. of Seminars	1	2	3	4	5	6
Full Price	£25	£50	£75	£100	£125	£150
You Pay	£25	£40	£55	£60	£65	£72
Discount %	0%	20%	27%	40%	48%	52%
Discount £	£0	£10	£20	£40	£60	£78

"Have We Got Views for You!" is an unmissable event taking place in the Majestic Hotel on Monday 21 January. A panel, comprising Walter Woods BEM, Jack McMillan MBE, Andy Campbell MG, CGCS, Ken Siems MG, CGCS and Stan Zontek, from the USGA, will be ably compèred by Television Producer and Presenter, Roger Greenwood. The panel will answer your questions and regale you with stories from the world of greenkeeping and beyond. Questions will be taken from the audience, however, you can send a question to the panel prior to the event by emailing sami@bigga.co.uk or sending it to BIGGA HOUSE, FAO Sami Collins.

BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

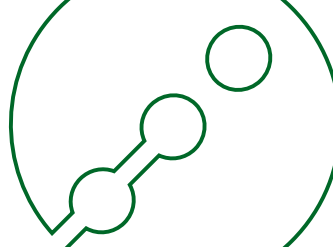


The judging for the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition is nearing completion. Representatives from the STRI Ecology Unit have been visiting courses throughout the summer months and will be reaching their conclusion shortly. The winning golf club will be featured in the December issue of GI along with a list of those clubs who have been awarded a runners up prize and those who have been awarded Highly Commended certificates.



The presentation to the winning club and the runners up will take place at Harrogate Week during the Opening Session on Tuesday, 22 January 2008.

Membership



VANESSA DEPRE UPDATES US ON MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

New BIGGA database

At BIGGA Headquarters we have a new database that will help us deliver a more efficient service to our members. However, because we have had to transfer data from our old database some pictures have disappeared.

If you receive a card without a picture can you please send us a new passport sized photo with your membership number on the back and we will send you a new card as soon as possible.

Due to the new database we are also having some problems processing membership renewals. So some of you may be experiencing delays getting your new membership cards. We would like to apologise for any inconvenience this may cause you. If you have any membership queries you can give us a ring on 01347 833 800 and select option one.

Rainy days

With the autumn and winter months closing in, the weather will soon be getting even wetter. So don't forget that we have a new and exciting range of waterproof suits available.

BIGGA Members and Clubs with BIGGA Members get a 10% discount on the retail price.

Go to the BIGGA website for more information or ring the Membership Department on 01347 833800 and select option one.

Attention Golfers – Seeking Golfing Calamity Stories for Publication.

Casagrande Press is seeking golfing misadventure stories, articles, and essays for publication in the forthcoming book Golfing's Greatest Misadventures. The press is looking for nonfiction golfing stories about bad judgment calls, pranks, comic/ironic episodes, disaster, attacking animals, crazy players, bizarre injuries, misfortune, rough weather, critical conditions, contest meltdowns, games gone wrong, and other episodes. The press looks for stories that tell a good tale, develop the depth of the characters involved, and have a tight narrative tension. There is no fee or cost to submit a story.

Submit online at www.casagrandepress.com

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JAMES	THOMPSON	Sheffield
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ANDREW	GARNETT	North West
DANIEL	FIRTH	Northern
DAVID	EMMINGHAM	Northern
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DARREN	POHL	Surrey
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Hobbies

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

Name: Tony Smith
Club: Teesside Golf Club
Position: Course Manager
Hobby: Amateur Dramatics

How did you get into acting?

"I first got into acting in Sheffield in the early 60's, my first role was a vicar (far from being typecast) in a production called The Happiest Days of Your Life.



"I didn't do any more until we came to the North East and joined a group called "The End of the Pier Show" with my daughter. We did several productions doing comedy sketches and dressed as Piero's (these were actors dressed in all white with black pom-poms). Then Lorna and I joined the 53 Drama Group over 14 years

ago. We have been involved in acting, stage-managing, lighting, set building, directing etc. for many, many productions. We have directed several pantomimes, starting rehearsals in early October in time for the production in early January. I have also directed several youth productions and one-act plays for the All England Drama Festival."

What is it about amateur dramatics that appeals to you?

"We bring people together from all walks of life and they learn to work, socialise and entertain audiences together as a team for a short period. It gives us a buzz to see the audience appreciate the hard work the team do and the children getting very excited at the pantos. I played Buttons in panto a few years ago and it is very rewarding when young children come up to me in Saltburn and say, "Look! There's Buttons!" I have acted in several plays, mostly farces but sometimes more serious."

What productions have you been in?

"Beauty and the Beast, Sleeping Beauty, Snow White, Pinocchio, Cinderella, Present Laughter, The Birthday Party, Merry Wives of Windsor, A Man for All Seasons and many more, I have directed several youth productions including Adjudicator's Nightmare and Cup Final and more. "

MACHINERY FINANCE: HIRE GOES HIGHER

By Eddie Henderson and Colin Theedom

At first glance there seems to be very little similarity between machine tools, company cars and professional grass maintenance equipment. However, take a look at the way they are financed by business and it's certain that you will find that operating lease or hire is one common denominator that links them all – not to mention many other types of business assets too. In this review of 'operating lease', the authors explain the concepts and show why 'operating lease' has become the fastest growing form of machinery finance in the turfcare industry, with the number of transactions doubling year on year over the past five years.

BUY OR HIRE?

Basically there are only two ways for a business, an individual or an organisation to acquire anything – either it can buy it or hire/rent it. The difference is ownership or 'title' to the goods. Purchasers get title immediately – eg, using cash, cheque and loans or, under some forms of finance agreement, on completion. Under a lease, the finance company (the lessor) usually buys the goods and then hires these to the hirer (the lessee). Therefore under a lease, title never passes to the lessee.

Historically many golf clubs, in common with smaller businesses, have avoided leasing on the basis that "buying is best because you actually own the machine!" In some cases that may have been true, although without good financial advice it would be difficult to judge. For the same reason, those same clubs avoided using finance at all, which limited their options for replacing machinery because their 'capital investment pot' was fixed every year and had to satisfy the competing demands of the house and the course.

THE BENEFITS OF FINANCE

The use of finance by the turfcare industry has grown significantly over the last 10 years as clubs recognise the benefits that it offers. These include:

Reduced pressure on cash flow: Machinery does not work any harder nor does a club gain any other advantage because it pays cash on day one. Instead, finance enables it to match the cost of new course machinery to its planned working life at the club. That's good for cashflow because the cost is spread and machinery pays for itself as the club uses it – season by season.

More accurate budgeting: Under both lease and purchase finance agreements the size and timing of repayments are agreed and fixed in advance. This makes for simple and more confident budgeting.

Quick and easy to arrange: Machinery finance is usually available at point of sale from the supplying dealer, making it quick and simple to arrange. What's more, leading machinery manufacturers often support their machinery marketing programmes with finance offers that are available at low APR rates of interest.

These benefits are common to hire purchase, finance lease and operating lease – giving clubs a choice of options. So what else does Operating lease offer that leads it to feature in the machinery investment programmes of a rising number of clubs?

OPERATING LEASE

In its simplest form, hiring a car at the airport when you go on holiday is a type of operating lease. All you want is the use of the car over a fixed period of time, say, for two or three weeks until you return to the airport and hand it back to the hire company. You are responsible for the fuel and any accidental damage – while the car hire company carries all the other risks. For example, depreciation plus breakdown and maintenance, additional services that extend the basic operating lease into contract hire.

For clubs and businesses, operating lease is much the same, except it is arranged over longer periods that are suited to the particular types of machinery being used – typically between 24 and 60 months.

The main difference between a finance lease and an operating lease is the treatment of residual risk. Under a finance lease, although the hirer never owns the machinery, it participates in the proceeds of sale by way of a rebate of rentals on disposal. Under an operating lease the machine is simply returned to the lessor at the end of the agreement meaning the lessee has no share in any rewards (disposal surplus) but, equally important, no share in the risk of any losses!

Residual risks can be substantial and hard to forecast. When the finance company prices an operating lease, it estimates the disposal value of the machine at the end of the agreement. For example after 36 months. This amount reflects the total hours that the machine will work over the period, the type of work it will do and other factors that impact on its resale value. The finance company then offsets the estimated disposal value against the initial price of the machine and the rentals are calculated on the balance. This means that operating lease rentals are normally significantly lower than those for a comparable finance lease or hire purchase agreement.





Count on it.

Another difference is that the level of initial rental (deposit) is also lower for an operating lease which means there is a cash flow benefit too.

Like any lease, the rentals the club pays are recorded in the accounts as a business expense in the year they are paid, just like wages, fuel and other operating costs. This can provide corporate/business hirers with tangible tax benefits and the added advantage that the machinery is not included as an asset in the balance sheet, which can improve the financial ratios – a benefit where performance is measured by the market and shareholders.

CONTRACT HIRE

Contract hire is an operating lease with the cost of full maintenance and servicing built into the rentals. Although companies like Toro provide a limited two-year warranty that covers major components, contract hire goes further to include the cost of servicing in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations and maintenance support subject to conditions about hours and exclusions specified at the outset.

INCREASED SPENDING POWER

The level and sophistication of financial planning at many clubs today means that accurate budgeting and financial information are now features of machinery operating and replacement programmes. The pages of the latest edition of Newslines, the magazine published by Toro Commercial Products, contain a number of examples of clubs replacing their machinery fleets with fixed period financing to match, much of this on operating lease.

Instead of viewing their machinery replacement budgets as a mix of capital – say, £15,000 pa, plus maintenance of, say, £10,000 pa, the clubs have rolled these into one amount of £25,000 and viewed this as an annual operating lease rental over a number of years – increasing their immediate spending power substantially.

Toro has just gone further in announcing a brand new extended warranty package called Protection Plus, which protects clubs against unforeseen costs of major breakdowns and repairs. This plan gives extended protection for commercial turf equipment beyond the manufacturer’s standard two-year warranty for up to another three years. This makes it an ideal addition to operating lease agreements over periods up to five years.

Regular replacement of key machinery offers clubs a number of advantages. The increased reliability of new machines reduces the incidence of breakdowns and subsequent maintenance costs. New machines also incorporate the latest design features and technology and produce a better job – impacting on the presentation of the course and its potential to increase green fee income.

Under an operating lease the period is agreed to match the machinery replacement programme that is best for the club or for a particular class of machine. At the end of the agreement the equipment is returned to the lessor and another agreement is written for a new machine. However, there are occasions when a machine has not had the expected amount of use and/or is still performing well at the end of the agreement. So much so that the club wishes to retain it. This usually presents no problem since, under these circumstances, the operating lease can be extended.

CONCLUSIONS

It’s important to have a physical plan and a financial budget to ensure the course machinery matches the course management and development programme set by the club.

All the financing options should be reviewed impartially, with support from professionals and others able to provide the accurate financial information and projections to enable the committee / management to reach realistic decisions.

The best packages are tailor-made to the club and may contain a mix of different financing facilities and support services (eg, planned maintenance agreements/extended warranty products).

EXAMPLE OF OPERATING LEASE EMPLOYED BY A GOLF CLUB

Undoubtedly, operating lease works well with quality machinery that has strong, proven resale/residual values. Often, the operating lease packages that Colin Theedom has constructed with clubs contain a mix of machinery from different manufacturers. Take, for example, this large 18-hole club in the South East:

The Problems:

- Some use of machinery finance but no history of financial planning
- A mix of ageing machines with rising maintenance and operating costs – annual budget of £13,500 for repairs and £17,500 for new machinery.
- Problems with performance and effect on greens’ staff morale.

The Solution:

- Dispose of eight old machines applying cash generated to first year operating lease rentals and upgrade to irrigation system.
- Apply £26,000 rentals each year on four-year operating lease for seven new machines comprising greens, fairway and rough mowers and a new utility vehicle.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Eddie Henderson has held senior management positions at board level in a number of leading finance companies. His company now manages the retail finance operations on behalf of a number of household names in turf-care and agricultural machinery manufacture and distribution. Eddie can be contacted at eddie@echenderson.co.uk

Colin Theedom has been involved in asset finance for more than 30 years – with a successful track record in direct sales and sales management. His company currently works with Toro and a number of its key distributors to provide effective financing solutions for clubs of all types and sizes. He can be contacted on 07776 197498.

Letters

ALAN HOLMES

I am sorry to have to write to you to inform you of the sad passing of Alan Holmes, Course Manager at Blairgowrie golf course.

I first met Alan at Gleneagles many years ago when British Rail owned it he came to work with us on the top kings as we called it and his experience helped the younger guys to learn from him.

In those days we still got our free passes on British Rail and I had the pleasure of spending a few weekends in Alan's beloved lake district with him and his family.

Alan stayed at Gleneagles for a few years then he returned to the Lake District to work there again.

Alan then returned to Gleneagles when it was privatised and worked there for a few years and his mum and dad followed him and lived in Auchterarder. He then went on to be the Course Manager at Blairgowrie golf course.

Alan touched a lot of peoples lives in his time in Scotland and beyond as he had lots of friends in the greenkeeping fraternity here and abroad and he will be sorely missed as all you had to do was pick up the phone and ask for any help and if Alan could help he would.

As an ex-colleague and friend Alan will be a sad loss to us all, including his staff at Blairgowrie and all his friends and family.

I am sure we all would like to send our condolences to Alan's partner, Ann, and her family.

*James McCormack
Head Greenkeeper
Kirriemuir GC*

REFLECTING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD

I was interested to read David Golding's article in the July issue of Greenkeeper International, Reflecting Back and Looking Forward.

David is far too modest of his own achievements in his article, which have been monumental over the years, as many older greenkeepers will vouch for. I remember well those early years of BGGGA and EIGGA, where David was heading a lot of the early important work, to form a better association.

We all know, or should do, how important education is to the association, where David and GTC is pushing as hard as ever for results. I last saw David at Woodhall Spa at a seminar, still as enthusiastic as ever, Greenkeeping and the Association owe David Golding a great deal - not that he would admit to it.

*Yours sincerely
John Nudds
Ex-Course Manager (retired)
Gerrards Cross GC 1972/99*

A SELECTIVE DISTURBANCE THEORY

The STRI backed disturbance theory is ok as far as it goes. However, it seems to imply that all that's disturbing the fine grasses is greenkeeper activity and avoids the obvious fact that pitch marks and foot traffic cause massive disturbance. I also note sadly that the STRI are still holding to the dangerous idea that courses should never shut. They expect us as course managers to think before we act, but are encouraging the golfing public to continue to take their courses for granted.

Sustainable golf implies thinking about the consequences of our actions on the environment. Many golfers are more concerned about their tee times than the effect that playing golf in extreme conditions will have. To make a sweeping statement that courses should never shut regardless of soil type or weather conditions appears to be a decision based on convenience and finance rather than on botany or environmental concerns and justifies golfers' carelessness.

If the actions of greenkeepers and golfers drove the fine grasses off the greens it is pure folly to allow the golfer to believe that we can return to the STRI's rosy conditions of the past by changing greenkeeping habits alone. How many golfers give themselves the blame for capped or pitchmark riddled greens and muddy worn paths? A robust disturbance theory would explain the damage golfers cause by overplaying courses especially in extreme conditions. Often the actions of golfers force us to disturb the greens purely to fix the damage they cause. Yes, courses are designed for golf, just as roads are designed for traffic however in both cases the good driver is the one who knows the impact of the weather and responds accordingly. Many a time these past winters I've been in checking the course when the police advice was not to drive unless absolutely necessary. How I wished the STRI would assist us by giving the same advice to golfers!

*Here's hoping
David Woodbyrne
Southernness Golf Club*

ELSPETH COUTTS

Dear Sirs,

Cut backs at Scottish Golf Union means that the Scottish Golf Environment Group can no longer offer Golf Clubs the services of Elspeth Coutts.

Over the years Elspeth has helped Golf Clubs throughout Scotland make their courses more environmentally friendly to wildlife etc and this has become an essential part of greenkeeping.

The question is: Why can't funding continue? – if every golfer in Scotland paid 10p per annum this service could continue. Elspeth leaves the Environment Group on 28th September and will be much missed all over the country not least by us at Ratho Park.

Tom Murray

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RANSOMES JACOBSEN SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME



The Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship Scheme has helped fund many aspiring greenkeepers through their studies, and aided them in fulfilling their ambitions of becoming fully qualified greenkeepers.

Among those who benefited from the scheme this year was David Warner, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Woking Golf Club. David spent two years studying for his Higher National Certificate on day release at Merrist Wood Campus, Guildford College.

The Merrist Wood Campus, located three miles from Guildford town centre in Worplesdon, is a 400-acre site that specialises in land-based programmes including horticulture, floristry, landscaping, garden design, animal management, countryside management, public services, sports studies, sports turf, arboriculture and equine management.

At Merrist Wood, courses in Sports Turf combine both theoretical and practical elements on a part-time, day release basis for people working in the Sports Turf industry. Courses allow access to science laboratories, computer suites, a comprehensive learning resource centre, machinery workshops and various sports turf areas on the Campus estate, students will also benefit from the College's close links with key figures within the Sports Turf industry. Sports Turf students have the opportunity to study the maintenance of equipment and machines, surveying and facilities design, turf production and maintenance, principles of plant and soil science, health and safety, and self management.

David started work at Woking Golf Club many years ago as a junior, after passing his NVQs Level 2 and 3 he obtained work experience at golf clubs both in France and Australia and worked his way up the ranks to Deputy Head Greenkeeper.

"Without the support from Woking GC and Ransomes Jacobsen, I would have really struggled to obtain my HNC," said David. "The Club were great and paid for me to have two hours off work each week to complete my course. The last time I had done any kind of studying was back in 1996, so finding time to study, learn a new computer system and raise a family was hard work."

David heard about the Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship Scheme through a friend at his golf club. He wrote to David Withers, Managing Director of Ransomes Jacobsen, and was sent the necessary forms to fill in. David also applied for a grant from Ransomes, which he used to buy a computer to use at home. "Without the extra funding from Ransomes Jacobsen that enabled me to buy a computer, I would have struggled to have been able to juggle my assignments around work and family life," said a delighted David who has three daughters.

Keith Harrison was David's Tutor at Merrist Wood and David found him to be a great help and very supportive. "The support and help given to greenkeepers is great, it enables us to further our education and career at the same time," David continued.

Not only did David complete his HNC, but he was also able to obtain an NPTC Certificate in Turf Irrigation Systems at the same time, due to the variety of modules he studied at Merrist Wood.

Ransomes Jacobsen fund Sports Surface and Sports Turf courses at Merrist Wood, Askham Bryan, Cranfield, Writtle, Elmwood and Myerscough College. Students Phillip Cooper, Shaun Pritchard and Lee Bishop also graduated this year, thanks to the Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship Scheme.

Lee Bishop, who gained a HNC in Sports Turf Management and is Course Manager at Burnham Beeches Golf Club, said, "I took this qualification at Merrist Wood College. The HNC helped me gain a Course Managers position and for this I would like to thank Ransomes Jacobsen for giving me the chance and sponsoring my course."



Lee Bishop gained a HNC in Sports Turf Management

Students received their relevant awards for their hard work and study in late summer, thanks to this BIGGA scheme, greatly supported by the manufacturing giant.

BIGGA has been able to help its members follow courses of higher education by offering them a scholarship since 2002. Many greenkeepers have been able to attend N/SVQ Level 4, Higher National Certificate, Foundation Degree/HND, BSc Turf Management and MSc Sports Surface Technology courses thanks to continued sponsorship of the Scholarship Scheme by Ransomes Jacobsen.

The amount of the scholarship awarded depends on the course and the funding available. The applications are assessed on the candidate's number of years as a BIGGA member, their contribution to BIGGA and their previous training and development.



David Warner achieved a Higher National Certificate

AS EASY AS ABC...

By Dr Andy Owen

SO DO YOU KNOW HOW BIG YOUR GREENS ARE?

If you don't you could be wasting money. Calculations for fertiliser applications, overseeding rates and plant protection might all be based on your green sizes. But are they right?

Courses having recent constructions or renovations should have accurate green area measurements, as the specifications will have been written with this information in mind, however older courses might be relying on green sizes which have been passed down from greenkeeper to greenkeeper like a Chinese whisper. How do you check?

Next time you have a free half hour get out and measure them. You will need: an assistant, a tape measure, a pocket calculator and a notepad.

Step one

Walk around the perimeter of the green and count your steps. (eg. 90 steps)

Step two

Divide the total number of steps by 36. (eg. $90/36 = 2.5$ steps)

Step three

Send your assistant into position somewhere roughly in the middle of the green with the tape measure.

Step four

Walk around the green again stopping every 2.5 steps to measure the distance from your assistant to the edge of the green. (eg. 12.5 m, 12.0 m, 11.5 m....etc).

Step five

You will now have 36 radial measurements from your green. Calculate an average of the 36 measurements. (eg. $12.5\text{ m} + 12.0\text{ m} + 11.5\text{ m} + \dots / 36 = 12.0\text{ m}$)

Step six

Using the formula πr^2 calculate the area of your green:

r = the average calculated in step five

$\pi = 3.142$

$(3.142 \times (12 \times 12)) = 452\text{ m}^2$

Simple.

So is the area you have calculated the same as the one you have been using for all your calculations for the last few years?

Dr Andy Owen is a lecturer at Myerscough College and Course Tutor for the BSc. Turfgrass Science and on-line Foundation degree.



WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?



WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?



Name: Paul Johnston

Company: Barenbrug UK

Position: Managing director

How long have you been in the industry?

"12 years."

How did you get into it?

"My father was in the seed industry for 35 years, so there was always a particular interest in the industry and it was a logical move from agricultural chemicals where I started my career."

What other jobs have you done?

"I started working for the general agricultural merchant RHM and from there moved to the American agricultural chemical business ConAgra, working for them in both the US and UK."

What do you like about your current job?

"The ability to introduce new concepts and solutions through our grass breeding programme and because of Barenbrug's diverse production facilities the chance to travel all over the world. I also like the progressive nature of the business."

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

"Our customers have become far more professional and informed. They are demanding innovative solutions to their problems and have a

greater thirst for information to help them reach the higher standards demanded by today's players. There is certainly a greater emphasis on the ability of different varieties to help them achieve top quality natural turf surfaces."

What do you like to do in your spare time?

"I play golf, but like a lot of players hate the game when it's not going to plan. I also have a yellow Lotus that I enjoy driving at speed around racetracks."

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

"That's a difficult one! Hopefully running a larger and more successful business in the UK and having a role in the larger European marketplace."

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

"This is a great industry to work in, there are some really good characters and I've made a lot of friends both here in the UK and other areas of the world. Too many to list here!"

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

"Three."

Pick a number

"39."

Paul has picked Tim Early from Waste2Water



A revolution in Golf Course drainage

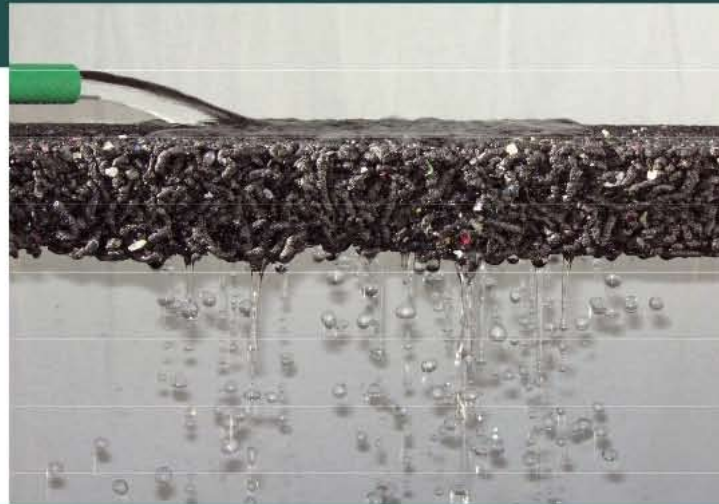
Aquadyne is a unique drainage medium manufactured from 100% non toxic recycled material.

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It is available in 1 metre lengths, so installation requires no heavy machinery.



The open pore structure fights against clogging, settlement and infiltration failure. The material is lightweight, yet extremely durable, with a flow rate ten times greater than sand.



More than 400 UK Golf Clubs are enjoying the unique benefits of Aquadyne
Here's what some of them say about it...

We have used Aquadyne in very wet problem areas, in bunkers and also as a cut off drain. The product is fantastic; it's very easy to use and install. (installed 2006)

Ian Upton
(Rye Hill Golf Club)

Because of the heavy clay soil our bunkers flood regularly. We have had tremendous results with Aquadyne in the bunkers and are planning to use it in other selected areas on the fairways.

Andy Baker
(Ely Golf Club)

In bunkers our traditional pipe drains blocked every year. Aquadyne has been in use for over three years without blocking. (installed 2004)

Kevin Atherton
(Coxmoor Golf Club)

I have used Aquadyne in bunkers and have subsequently had absolutely no problems with standing water in these bunkers. (installed 2005)

Malcolm Fairhurst
(Gathurst Golf Club)

We had problems with geotextiles migrating into the bunkers and blocking up. The Aquadyne has solved both these problems quickly and easily. (installed 2007)

Phil Smith
(Sapey Golf Club)

In my experience (25yrs) Aquadyne is the only product which has permanently solved the drainage problems in our bunkers. It has also performed just as well in many other areas. (installed 2005)

Ian Streeter
(West Sussex Golf Club)

I have used Aquadyne in tee construction, bunkers and on a very wet green. In all cases it has worked exceptionally well. (installed 2005)

John Bond
(Bolton Golf Club)

We have used Aquadyne in bunkers, on the fairway and on greens. The product has quickly solved our drainage problems and has not been affected by any of our maintenance work. (installed 2003)

Charles Gobie
(West Middlesex Golf Club)

We primarily introduced Aquadyne to eliminate stone migration in our bunkers. The material is now a key element in our bunker renovation programme.

We have also trialed the product in other areas which have been very successful. (installed 2005)

Nathan Kimsing
(Sutton Green Golf Club)

We have been replacing our conventional bunker drainage over the last 3yrs with Aquadyne. Installation is very quick and simple and the drainage performance remains very high. (installed 2005)

Duncan Kelso
(Kings Hill Golf Club)

I find Aquadyne very quick and simple to use. The product has worked very well in various situations; bunkers, pathway stabilization, in and around tees

William Hutchinson
(Elford Leigh Golf & CC)

I was very sceptical about using the Aquadyne product, but the performance speaks for itself. Our problem bunkers are now the best on the course, good condition and well drained.

Ian Harrison
(Bangor Golf Club)

We had lots of problems with migration of pipes, gravel and geotextiles in our bunkers. I have installed Aquadyne in 20 bunkers over the last 3yrs and these drainage problems have all been solved.

Jim O'Neil
(Greenock Golf Club)

Although the course is constructed on a heavy clay soil, Aquadyne has been very successful in the areas where it has been used .. around greens, on fairways and in bunkers. (installed 2005)

Maurice Gaumley
(Middlesborough Municipal Golf Club)

We have installed Aquadyne in 10 bunkers already and in the last 3yrs we have not had any drainage problems in these areas. (installed 2004)

John Crawford
(Stirling Golf Club)

Aquadyne is very quick and simple to install and maintain in bunkers. I would say that it is up to 75% faster than pipe drainage in bunkers, the performance is exceptional. (installed 2005)

Chris McCloud
(Forrester Park Golf Club)

We installed Aquadyne as a path edging between the club house and the first tee. The product has done an excellent job in keeping water off the surface of the pathway. (installed 2007)

Colin
(Peebles Golf Club)

I have used Aquadyne as a cut-off drain in very wet areas around certain tees. In my opinion it has performed much better than pipe / stone drains and I am very pleased with the results. (installed 2007)

Robert Hardi
(Craibstone Golf Club)

Distributors

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- Ireland (N&S) - John Lindsey - 028 3833 9229
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Unit 5a, Plaxton Park Industrial Estate, Cayton Low Road, Eastfield, Scarborough, North Yorkshire YO11 3BY

Telephone: 01723 586611 www.econoplas.com



LONDON CLUB ON THE UP AND UP

Scott MacCallum visited the London Club during the busiest week of its year and witnessed a club at the top of its game

Visit the London Golf Club and two things will quickly become apparent. It's not within the sound of Bow Bells - it's actually set in beautiful Kent countryside away from, but within easy reach, of London itself. But, like the city, it's very much a place where it all happens. Put bluntly, it never stops at the London Golf Club, and the greenkeeping team takes whatever is thrown at it in its stride.

Whether it be preparing for eight consecutive days of professional golf in the shape of the London Senior Masters and accompanying pro-ams – with shotgun starts - or ensuring that a half a million pound luxury cruiser is successfully manoeuvred into place in front of the clubhouse, the team makes sure it all happens without a hitch.

Investment has been poured into the Club since it was taken over by Spanish real estate company, the Bendinat Group, four years ago. Before then the Club, originally a Japanese venture, had seen fluctuating fortunes since it was opened in 1993.

However, the future now looks particularly rosy, even more so when you consider that the London Olympics are set to regenerate the east side of London and place much more emphasis on sport.

One of the initiatives reintroduced by the new owners has been the London Seniors Masters which sees the burgeoning European Seniors Tour arrive in town.

“This week is a real test. It takes you right out of your comfort zone,” said Peter Todd, Courses Manager, speaking in the middle of producing tournament playing conditions.

The London Golf Club greenkeeping team of 24 - which is supplemented by additional crew from the likes of The Belfry, The Grove and Tandridge GC - is pushed to its limits, working round the clock and round the players to meet the needs of the event.

“We've been working split shifts to ensure that the other course is maintained for our members use during this week,” explained Peter.

“Shot-gun starts do add to the pressure and the guys work from 5am to 10am and then from 2.30pm to around 7.30pm. Some volunteer to work on the other course from 10am to 2.30pm. In the main it's five hours in the morning and five hours in the afternoon and evening for a ten hour day.”

Most of the cutting is carried out after play has finished each day to fit in with the Tour schedule and as generally it offers drier conditions.

“Continuity during tournament week is important and so key operations are allocated to specific greenstaff in the run-up to the event particularly while stripes are being 'burnt in'. If we had two people of different heights cutting fairways for example, their sight lines would be slightly different and we'd have inconsistency of stripe.” explained Peter.

With regard to keeping a course at its best, peaked, for the week, nothing is left to chance.

“We are constantly aware of, and monitoring, stress levels, rainfall patterns and maintenance regimes to make fine adjustments. For example, the other evening five mil of rain fell so we altered the mowers to get the accuracy we were looking for. Our normal practice is spot watering with virtually no overhead irrigation during the tournament on greens surfaces,” said Peter, adding that praise on course condition from the likes of Sam Torrance, who eventually won the event, make it all the more satisfying.

Set in more than 700 acres of Kent countryside, the Club has two courses; the Jack Nicklaus-designed Heritage and its sister course, the International. The work makes mammoth and varied demands on Peter's time; an example being the enormous task of relining eight lakes.

“It trips off the tongue but the logistics were huge. It was a £1 million project. The lakes are all interlinked, stretching the length of the estate, and are a part of the Club’s extremely elaborate in-house water recycling scheme.”

All the run-off water, including the grey water from the clubhouse, flows into the system and is used as irrigation water – around 80% of the irrigation supply is recycled, which meant that last year’s drought had very little impact on the club.

The scale of the projects that the team undertake are also shown in the up keep of eleven miles of cart paths and extensive new tree plantations – a result of a £10,000 annual spend on a tree and gorse programme. On top of that, there is the detailed planting around the clubhouse, which is looked after by a full time horticulturalist, who ensures that every plant is labelled so that members and visitors can enjoy them to the full.

“We always look at ways of bringing ourselves up to date with equipment and feel it’s vital to continually review our maintenance practices” explained Peter. For example, a Toro Sidewinder is used for cutting most slopes now rather than a Flymo.

Since the Bendinat Group took over the aim has been to run operations from the head and not the heart, with profit being the name of the game.

“Profitable golf stems from sustainable golf. We have to meet the needs of our customers while at the same time minimising inputs of water and fertiliser – not only for ecological reasons but for the technical and cost benefits.

“By only applying minimal quantities and by always using information and the latest technology – for example regularly measuring evaporation, tissue analysis, soil temperatures and more – we can make quick informed decisions about fertiliser programmes using foliar sprays. It can be slightly more labour intensive but it allows us to fine-tune applications and minimise both quantities and cost at the same time as meeting turf needs” said Peter.

The injection of funds has also allowed the greenkeeping department to re-equip itself with all the latest machinery from mowers and tractors to workshop grinders. More than just a “shopping expedition” this was an opportunity to address the Club’s equipment schedule and create a greenkeeping inventory in accordance with the desire to maximise efficiencies, not only on the course but from a maintenance perspective as well. Through careful selection and identifying areas of work which can be contracted out, it has enabled the department to make a 10% reduction in the size of its fleet.

The ever-changing face of greenkeeping continually presents fresh challenges – gone are the days when the Club sought to be totally self-sufficient. Now large scale operations, such as fairway coring, tree planting and over-seeding across the courses are outsourced, leaving the staff time to focus on the fine turf areas.

The experience that the London Golf Club greenkeepers acquire stands them in good stead and former employees have secured positions at some of the world’s top golfing venues including The Belfry, Loch Lomond, The K Club and Kauri Cliffs in New Zealand.

The fact that the London Golf Club exists at all may well, be down to one of this country’s most famous political husband and wife. The tale goes that Mrs Thatcher was on a trade mission to Japan and was approached by some Japanese business men who wanted to build the best golf course in the world. Legend has it that Mrs Thatcher told them that she had a country to run but that they’d better speak to golf-loving Dennis. He





Bunker work can be labour intensive



Peter Todd



Looking good!



Top quality presentation

persuaded them to build the club in this country and ultimately Dennis became Club President.

It goes without saying that golf is big business nowadays and if confirmation of this were required, you need look no further than the London Golf Club marketing team who admit to taking the lead from their greenkeeping colleagues.

“Green fees have risen from £45 to more than £100 in the last three years, testament to the high standards set at the club through the combined efforts of a young, go-ahead team where everyone has the authority to pitch in with ideas,” said Marketing and Sales Director Heath Harvey.

Having achieved so much in such a short time in turning the Club in a new direction, the ultimate aim now is to secure a regular European Tour event. The odds are already looking good and with the drive and enthusiasm of everyone at the London Golf Club you certainly wouldn't bet against it!

www.londongolf.co.uk



HARROGATE WEEK

Exhibition: 22-24 January 2008 Education: 20-24 January 2008

WHY SHOULD I VISIT HARROGATE WEEK?

If your business is in Groundscare, make it your business to attend Harrogate Week. It's your best opportunity to meet all the players under one roof where buyers and suppliers from 30 different countries gather to network, exchange ideas and do business in a superb environment.

WHAT WILL I SEE?

Harrogate Week is the launch pad to the new season - it is so much more than an exhibition. It's packed with new and innovative ideas and has an outstanding education programme. With a Careers' Clinic, Job Shop and AGM's running throughout the week along with Dinners, Receptions and a Banquet, it's the only place to be each January.

With the industry's major players showcasing their latest equipment, technology and innovations all under one roof, your only difficulty may be having enough time to take it all in!

WHO WILL BE THERE?

Everybody that's serious about the groundscare industry and club facility management. Whatever your particular interest you'll find it covered during Harrogate Week, an event that combines both elements of turf management and clubhouse management. To see the full up to date exhibitors list visit the website www.harrogateweek.org.uk

WHAT ELSE IS ON OFFER?

Careers Clinic:

Free careers' advice from experts.

Job Shop:

Opportunities from all aspects within the industry.

Internet Café:

Get online, onsite.

Workshops & Seminars:

Leading the world in quality and content.

Have We Got Views for You:

Ask the panel a leading question.

EDUCATION

As the seasons alter and our climate changes, greenkeepers face an uphill struggle dealing with drought one minute and flooding the next. The following courses are just a sample of those taking place at Harrogate Week, designed to provide you with the perfect opportunity to get your questions answered and to share your problems and views:

- **The Disturbance Theory**
- **Environmental Management**
- **Noise and Vibration Management**
- **Current Environmental Legislation**
- **Drought, Drainage & Conservation**
- **Moving Toward Greater Sustainability**
- **The Practical Guide to Growth Regulators**
- **Golf & Turfgrass Management in the Future**
- **Water Management - An American Perspective**
- **Golf Green Fertilisation in our Changing Climate**



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



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Modern units are easier to work on and remove for sharpening. Note also the access to the hydraulic drive motor and the routing of the hoses. Hydraulic leaks are increasingly rare on modern kit, but only if it has not been subject to unskilled maintenance attention.

PLANNING BETWEEN DEALER AND MANUFACTURER TO GET BEST MAINTENANCE

Making sweeping generalisations is always dangerous. That said, the way in which modern mowing and ancillary equipment is maintained has tended to settle into a pattern; dealers carrying out the first and possibly major services on new kit, routine maintenance being left to course personnel. But what about the need to carry certain spares and how well trained are those who are expected to keep everything running?

Although there remain a good number of golf clubs with pretty grim workshops, there is a growing trend that has seen equipment housing and workshop facilities improved considerably in recent years. No surprise in this; modern equipment soaks up a great deal of money and it needs setting up correctly too. It pays to look after it.

Manufacturers are doing their bit to reduce maintenance costs, modern machines proving typically easier to give a routine service 'in house'.

Details that can include improved access to lubrication points through to easier to drain hydraulic tanks and engine sumps are just part of the story. Consider cutting units that can be removed without skinned knuckles and rounded-off nuts reduce the effort re-grind bottom knives and cylinders. Then there are improved hydraulic hose runs that are less likely to chafe or even the wide use of radiator screens.

The problem is, making machines easier to service does not mean just anyone can set the kit up to work properly. In some instances, it could be argued setting up a modern greens triple is an art in itself. Trained personnel will always be needed to make any item of kit work at its best, but there is a real danger that the skills needed to look after modern equipment is under-estimated. Keeping modern mowers running goes beyond the need to keep everything greased and changing the engine oil and hydraulic filters.



Modern grinding equipment includes models that are easier to set up and operate than some older designs, but that is not to say they can be used by just anybody. The Bernhard Blade Rite 1750 is among the easiest to set-up in the company's range, and can relief grind with the bottom knife in-situ.



Storing equipment under cover, and keeping it clean, is a key maintenance task. If there is a shortage of workshop skills it can pay to hire in a trained mechanic to carry out routine and general servicing. Sharing resources with a neighbouring course can work well.



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It can prove more economical to have a third-party to sharpen the mowers. There is no shame in picking and choosing the jobs that are carried out in-house. If someone who used to do all the grinding moves on, do not assume it is a job that can be picked up by existing members of staff.

Then there is the issue of grinding cylinders in-house. Modern grinding equipment is certainly more user friendly than it used to be, but to suggest this has de-skilled the job is way off the mark. To get the best from any make of model of grinder takes skill. If those skills are not available in the workshop, buying in a grinder will not see them develop overnight. There is no shame in having a third party re-grind your cylinders!

Similarly, a well disciplined workshop does so much more than just keep mowers in tip-top order. It is the details that help keep the equipment 'fleet' ready to go, such as ensuring tyres are inflated to the correct pressures, checking machinery returning from an intensive period of use is not stored needing attention and making sure certain fast moving parts are carried in-house to reduce downtime.

Those who have access to a good dealer locally may well be able to get round a spares stocking problem. But those faced with a bit of a drive to pick up spares, or have them delivered, really do benefit from having a few common parts on hand.

Where problems can arise is when there is a decision made to buy in a range of new equipment all at once. The chances are the new machines will differ from the replaced kit, even assuming the replacements are from the same manufacturer. There is always a risk that a carefully planned parts stock can quickly end up becoming obsolete.

As is so often the case, the key to ensuring maintenance can be maintained at a high level is planning. Forward thinking can help ensure fast moving parts for soon to be replaced equipment are run down, even if this may mean it is necessary to buy in the odd extra filter, blade or fastener to keep a machine going. Similarly, the type of parts that may be needed for new kit may differ from those stocked in the past. Here it pays to talk to the manufacturer and dealer, seeking advice on what parts it

will be a good idea to have on hand. It is well worth trying to work out a maintenance regime long before any new equipment deal is signed.

Terms and conditions relating to warranties need understanding good and early too. What servicing can be done in-house? How is a warranty claim handled? What is covered? How long does the warranty last? Can failed components be replaced in-house? If you do not ask these and other questions you may find a policy change could see the cost of parts you thought were covered coming with a bill.

Another vital issue relates to the use of spurious parts. A manufacturer's warranty will clearly state non-approved spares can impact upon a warranty claim. More important, it is best to maintain good relations with your supplying dealer. Buying genuine parts from them is a key revenue earner for them, so if you want their future support it is only fair to help them in return.

As to the manufacturers, it is fair to say most of them offer pretty similar terms and warranty conditions in real terms. There will be a few differences in the wording in the 'terms and conditions' small print, but these days a new equipment deal is unlikely to fall down through not offering pretty similar warranty cover. Although extended warranties may be offered, the cost of the total purchase and finance package is more important than how that final sum has been arrived at.

One final point is the status of those who look after the equipment. The skills and training required to look after greens and fairways has at long last started to be recognised more formally. Those with mechanical skills have an equally valid role to play. They too need recognition for what they do. It would be pretty difficult to keep everything in order without the workshop staff to maintain the equipment.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

BIGGA'S Health & Safety series produced by Xact



Personal protective equipment (PPE) is defined as something intended to be worn or held by a person which protects them from risks to their H&S at work. A suitable risk assessment will identify if PPE is required and what type. Typical examples are head, foot and eye protection where impact or dust and chemical splashes have been identified as hazards. Less well recognised items can be adverse weather clothing.

PPE should be the solution to protect people, not the first line of defence. The reason for this is PPE only protects those who are wearing it and not others in the same work area. The hierarchy of protecting people's safety of, elimination, reduction and control measures ensures everyone's safety. Only where the risk from a hazard cannot be fully controlled by other means will make the wearing of PPE an acceptable solution in protecting people's safety.

Where issued, PPE should be: Free of charge to employees; Suitable to control the risks identified e.g. eye protection to protect against chemical splashes will not be suitable for angle grinder use; Adjustable to fit the wearer; Not expose the wearer to greater risks by wearing it e.g. heavy waterproof clothing may cause people engaged in manual work to over-heat. In these cases a change in the method of work or more specialised PPE will be required; Compatible with other items of PPE that are being worn.

One vital part in the selection of PPE often ignored is the comfort of the user. Having identified that PPE is required it is then vital that it is worn. Bulky, uncomfortable equipment is less likely to be worn than

something that fits well, looks like everyday wear and is comfortable to wear e.g. where the requirement for impact resistance is low a modern pair of safety glasses be more readily worn than goggles. Where possible the user should be involved in the selection of PPE as it will increase the likelihood of it being used.



Having issued PPE to employees the employer has a duty to: Ensure replacements are available if required; Provide adequate storage to keep it free from damage and clean when not in use; Provide training on why PPE is necessary, how it is to be fitted and used and how to recognise any defects in the equipment; Inform employees on how to report defective or lost PPE and how replacements can be obtained; Ensure the equipment is worn when necessary, even for one off jobs that will last a short time. Failure to ensure the wearing of PPE can result in prosecution of the employer and a reduction in injury compensation to the employee involved in the event of an incident.

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RHUBARB AND CUSTARD

By Henry Bechelet, Turfgrass Agronomist

A DESSERT TO FINISH

It is time for me to stop writing these perishing articles. I am happy to have had my say on the matter of sward progression. This is my final article in the Disturbance Theory series. In the articles www.stri.co.uk we have tried to cover all aspects of the maintenance necessary to favour the development of the finer grasses in your greens. We have told you how to think about the problem in a new way that brings better insight. I hope it makes enough sense for you to carry it on. Because I know many of you have already started down this line I don't want to leave any gaps. I want to finish this off properly for you and then hope that the theory can take on a practical life of its own, through you. This final article is about aeration and it should serve to confirm that you have attained the complete understanding. Call it the pudding and you can lean back when you've finished.

ALL GOOD?

Aeration strategy is everything in greenkeeping and agronomy. If you know anything about either then it's the one. "Aeration, aeration, aeration" is the common call for correct devotion, but is real life that simple? No. Don't let an appealing sentiment stop you thinking properly. Aeration is beneficial when it's done right but it can also be damaging without thoughtful care. Don't be blinded to the truth when setting down your principles to work by. Aeration can be dangerous even in sincere hands.

FIRM AND DRY

We aerate to maintain the correct soil conditions to enable us to create superior playing surfaces. We seek to create playing surfaces dominated by the finer grasses because they are naturally superior. Browntop bents and/or the fine fescues make better surfaces for longer in the year and with reduced vulnerabilities. A firm, fine, and dense sward with built-in hardiness. Fast, smooth, and true surfaces that are receptive to approach shots. The ideal species blend will depend on the style and nature of the course.

To achieve the finer grasses we need to maintain a surface that receives and transmits water quickly, we must produce a sand dominated upper soil profile with an open structure and also manufacture decent underlying drainage. A bad inheritance certainly needs a lot of hard work. A good situation also needs work to combat the pressures of play and to keep the soil ecosystem and drainage functioning properly. Slit tines, solid tines, chisel tines, hollow cores, tine heave, offset rotating blades, compressed air injection, deep scarification, sarel rolling are all available to do the job. You just need to put your programme together to create the correct soil conditions but without damaging the desired species or laying the sward open to invasion from weeds. Basically, you will only need to get fussy with your aeration after you've done the majority of the hard work.

BANZAI!

For our standard annual meadow grass dominated soil-based greens we need to get rid of the thatch quickly, create a sand dominated upper soil profile, work the structure to depth and maintain adequate

drainage rates. Don't waste time when removing thatch because you will loose the ground, it comes back. Stop creating the conditions for it to come back. Hollow tine to remove organic matter, integrate top dressing to replace it, solid tine to aerate, top dress to integrate, solid tine to aerate, top dress to integrate, solid tine to aerate, top dress to integrate, hollow tine to remove, integrate top dressing, deep scarify to remove, integrate top dressing, verti-drain, verti-drain, verti-drain, slit tine, solid tine, structure and drainage etc. You get the picture. Get the soil conditions right in your own way but be careful not to loose sight of playing quality with your eagerness. Only aerate when surface, soil and growing conditions are right and take real care with the top dressing and tidying up. Don't forget about the golfers for goodness sake. Overseed throughout this time because the finer grasses start to take hold as things improve. Seek to reduce fertiliser and irrigation inputs to manage healthy turf through the change. Don't go silly at this stage because stress is no good to seedlings.



GUNG-HO!

Continue to aerate with a passion through the transition phase to create the ideal environment for early establishment. Disturbance is not an issue here if we fill the gaps with our own choice of quality seed. In addition to your aeration zeal, try to maintain healthy turf without imparting undue stress or producing too much growth. Just think of the seedlings as they come because they need your help. Stay on top of dry patch to maintain consistency. Reduce competition by keeping growth as quiet as possible. Plant growth regulation is achievable in a number of different ways. Try them, talk about them, learn about them.

Ultimately, we don't want to have to resort to too much aggressive verticutting and mowing to maintain playing qualities because it places too much pressure on the finer grasses. Spike, top dress and seed, brush around, prick, roll, roll, roll. Spike, top dress and seed, brush around, prick, roll, roll, roll. Spike, top dress and seed, brush around, prick, roll, roll, roll. Good surfaces. Nice method. Undertake light verticutting if needed but hear the seedlings wince.



KARMA

When the finer grasses have assumed dominance (or if they started with it) you need to ease back on the throttle. Now is the time to learn to live again. Well done and relax or good luck and start panicking, depending on how you got here. Suddenly annual meadow grass invasion is your primary concern. Take care not to damage the finer grasses or leave the surface open to annual meadow grass seed invasion. See the impact of everything you do. If you're here because you've managed to make the change then well done and keep doing what you are doing but gradually turn the volume down as the need for intensive treatments naturally declines. Keeping up the intensity at this stage might prevent you from kicking forward by keeping the surface too open. If you are managing a completely new establishment or have inherited some kind of fine turf heaven then it is time to start getting super protective.

NATURE AND NURTURE

New bent/fescue greens are a problem because they are so young and they react against the increased intensity of maintenance and the pressure of play. They can weaken quickly if allowed and rip to pieces under play without proper care. We have all seen the ensuing rout and find it easy to blame the method of construction or establishment. Maintain strong growth in the early days and don't take liberties with your cutting heights. Don't create the gaps for annual meadow grass seed invasion, concentrate on closing them down. Dust down with top dressing, brush lightly, roll, roll, roll. Repair pitch marks and manage marginal play properly. Take the greens out of play if you need to. Put your arms around them. Resilience comes with time and only after patient early care. Prepare the playing surfaces in an aggressive way and use them regardless if you want annual meadow grass invasion.

BACK ON TRACK

Certainly don't go berserk with the spiking on bent/fescue greens. Don't do any if you don't need to. Constantly observe the situation to determine exactly what is needed to maintain the ideal soil profile. Take advice if you need to get your eye in. Understand exactly what it is the various aeration treatments actually do. Minimise sward damage and the creation of gaps during high-risk periods. Sarel roll to prick the surface open if you need to keep the upper soil profile receptive to effective water infiltration during the Poa seeding seasons. Quickly fill open micro solid tine holes with top dressing and seed to improve the turf base without inviting disaster. Choose a most effective but damaging method only when the risk is minimal and the pay-off essential. Hollow tine, top dress and overseed if needed when quick recovery is available, when our seed germination and establishment is optimal and when there aren't too many annual meadow grass seed heads around. It always depends on the weather so think on your feet and be alive to all opportunities. Good greenkeeping requires foresight.

AND NOW THE END IS NEAR...

All these things you know. Now is the time for you to do what is needed. You know that this way of thinking holds the answer you need because the answer comes from you. The Disturbance Theory has only been about giving enough of an understanding and also the confidence for you to take up sward progression for yourself. Now you just need to persevere, listen and learn as you go, know when to work hard and when to take it easy and be sure to strike cleanly. I look forward to seeing the results and hearing of the journey.

At the end of all this you must promise to tell of your success to help those that want to learn and follow. The Danish success comes from good communication and their real sense of brotherhood. They help each other. British greenkeeping needs to wake up to itself in this regard and stop holding the secrets of success as personal treasure. Fools gold. The Danish model was also driven by legislation. At the moment we are largely doing this because we want to but, imagine ever-hotter and drier summers coupled with water restrictions and you might start to think that you have to make the change. I applaud The R & A for their movement into this area www.bestcourseforgolf.co.uk and hope that we are all happy enough to see the sense and join in. Working groups, seminars, articles, Internet forums, classrooms and lecture theatres are all to the good and should be used by the good for the common good. We are all going to need to help each other if we are to carry everyone along to a successful and more easily sustainable future. Rhubarb? We'll see.

UNTIL TOMORROW MY FRIENDS.

There will be further Disturbance Theory articles from other contributors and a number of seminar days are being arranged for the autumn so keep in touch with the website. We also conduct advisory visits if you need any further help or support. All the articles will remain freely available at www.stri.co.uk, just click on.

...AND FINALLY

The prize for the "Is verticutting necessary?" caption competition goes to Mr. K Singleton from Colne in Lancashire for his most concise answer... "Yes it bleedin' well is, now get on with some work...I mean, for crying out loud!" Thanks Kevin, will do and well done, your report is in the post.

Henry Bechelet is the STRI Turfgrass Agronomist covering North and Eastern England. Henry may be contacted by email at henry.bechelet@stri.co.uk or via www.stri.co.uk

Coffee anyone?

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In the Shed

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

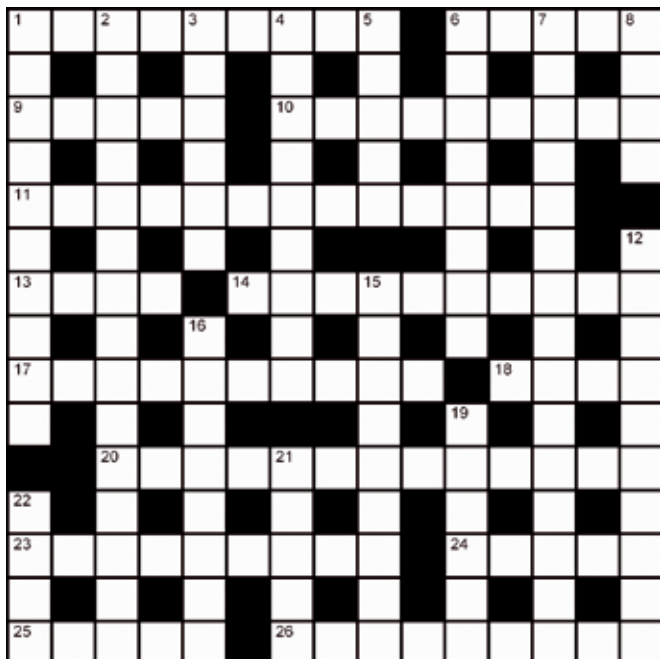
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Decline, declivity (9)
- 6 Make suitable for a different purpose (5)
- 9 Strong smell or just a suggestion of it? (5)
- 10 English equivalent of a French policeman's matraque (9)
- 11 East London market location - or slip road? (9,4)
- 13 Long, usually arduous journey (4)
- 14 The court fool in Shakespeare's As You Like It (10)
- 17 At very low cost (2,3,5)
- 18 Child's toy of which, on average, every person on earth has 62 pieces (4)
- 20 South African city known "The Friendly City" (4,9)
- 23 The Italian version of "good evening" (5,4)
- 24 Bread fragment (5)
- 25 Hang around, loiter (5)
- 26 Green alga commonly found in freshwater areas (9)

DOWN

- 1 Early morning reconnaissance flight (4,6)
- 2 Series of visits, especially to small towns as part of a political campaign (7-4,4)
- 3 Ending which serves a common purpose for a number of words (6)
- 4 One of an East Germanic tribe who populated northern Italy around 500AD (9)
- 5 Break open (5)
- 6 The use of an antiquated word or phrase (8)
- 7 Ironically polite equivalent of "after you" (3,6,6)
- 8 Minuscule (4)
- 12 Irrational fear of strangers (10)
- 15 Mock serenade for newlyweds, usually with pans, kettles etc. (9)
- 16 Month named after Latin word meaning "purification" (8)
- 19 Cowboy, especially of the South American pampas (6)
- 21 Of a bet, winning the same as the amount staked (5)
- 22 Assist, especially in wrongdoing (4)

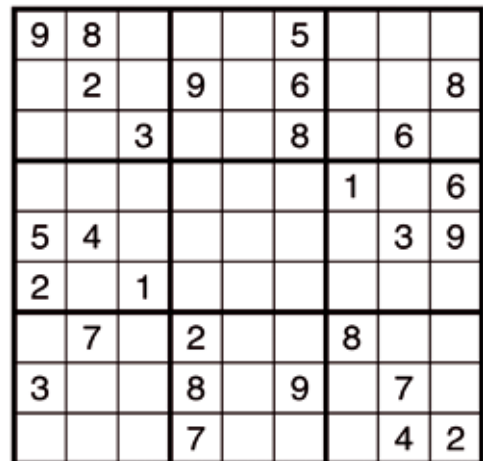


QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

- 1 Which cricketer is England's leading run scorer?
- 2 How many events are there in a decathlon?
- 3 How many tennis grand slam events has Tim Henman won?
- 4 Which English premiership team are known as the gunners?
- 5 Which Spice Girl has the nickname 'Sporty'?
- 6 What colour blood do the Vulcans' in Star Trek have?
- 7 What type of plant is a prickly pear?
- 8 Which zodiac sign is of scales?
- 9 Which three colours are shared between the flags of Germany and Belgium?

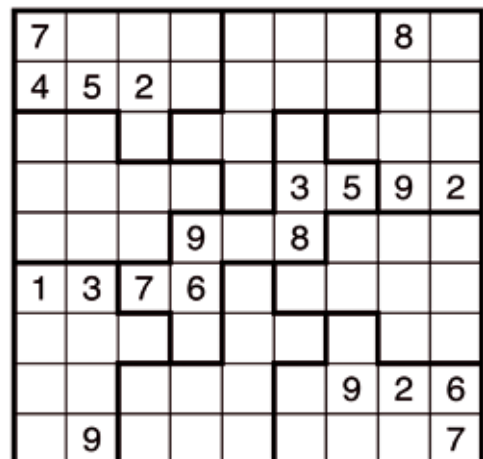
MONSTER SUDOKU

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



SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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



IN THE SHED ANSWERS ON PAGE 61



IN THE SHED

NEW



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SNAP HAPPY!

The results are in and the winners in this year's competition can be extremely happy with their efforts.

The second BIGGA Golf Photography Competition produced a huge variety of pictures from greenkeepers who see photography as both a hobby and an important communication element of their job.

Last year the winner was Swiss-based Steven Tierney who took a stunning photograph of his course, Golfpark Nuolen, near Zurich, and as a result featured in Greenkeeper International in August.

This year the winner is a little closer to home and comes from 21 year old Michael Cunningham, of The Duke's Course, Woburn, on which Michael works as an Assistant.

The competition was judged by three distinguished lensmen. Alan Birch is a long time friend of BIGGA whose photographs have been published extensively. The competition was his brainchild. Alan was joined by professional golf course photographer, Eric Hepworth, and, Matthew Harris, who has been one of the top photographers on the major golf Tours of the world for over 20 years.

"I thought it was a great photograph of a beautiful golf course," said Alan.

"I'm particularly delighted that Michael is just 21 as having such a good eye for a photograph is going to stand him in good stead throughout his greenkeeping career. A camera is such an important tool now for any greenkeeper and an ability to take good photographs is a very useful skill to have.

"Marek's picture from Mount Juliet is a wonderful picture which highlights some of the work that greenkeepers do while the Chris' picture of Sunningdale is another super effort."

Eric was equally praiseworthy of the winning pictures.

"All the pictures which make the final three have something going for them."

With the Woburn shot there is a good use of the shadow area. If the picture had been cropped a little more from the bottom upwards the picture would have been so much better. For future pictures, try to place yourself so the green is cross-lit. With slightly less foreground, I would be pleased to have this within my library. It's a fine effort.

"With the Mount Juliet pic it was taken with the benefit of decent weather although the sky could have been improved if the photograph was taken when attractive cloud formations were present. A good effort though nonetheless.



Hankley Common by Gareth Roberts



Traditions by Laurence Pithie



Newmachar by Dale Robertson



Palheiro by Peter Wisbey



Windyhill by Darren Welsh



Colne Valley by Gavin Steed



“The Sunningdale picture is a classic view of the course. Good use of players in the picture to give the view some scale. I would have preferred that it was photographed though on a better day. The sky could have been a little better.”

Matthew, who has taken some extraordinary golfing pictures during his time as a professional photographer was complimentary about the overall quality of the pictures entered.

“I was extremely impressed by the standard of the standard and it is obvious that there are many talented amateur photographers within the BIGGA membership,” said Matthew.

The remaining pictures shortlisted by the judges will comprise the 2008 BIGGA Calendar.

They are: Hankley Common, Gareth Roberts; Perranporth, Billy Mitchell; Newmasher Dale Robertson; Traditions, Laurence Pithie; Cumberwell, Marc Haring; Colne Valley, Gavin Steed; Windyhill, Darren Welsh; Fleetwood, Roy Welsh and Palheiro, Peter Wisbey.

The three winners will receive an Eric Hepworth print of their choice, while Woburn will be profiled in the magazine next year.

1ST THE DUKE’S COURSE, WOBURN, MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM

2ND MOUNT JULIET, COUNTY KILKENNY, IRELAND, MAREK ZUBERT

3RD SUNNINGDALE OLD, CHRIS SHERRINGTON



Fleetwood by Roy Welsh



Cumberwell by Marc Haring





SAFE AND WARM

By Melissa Toombs

For Course Managers and Greenkeepers there's more to preparing for winter than getting the course ready. Now is an ideal time to invest in some high-quality Safety and Winter Workwear.

Autumn is traditionally the time for workwear renewal and there are a number of improved fabrics on the market right now with many offering breathability as well as being waterproof. Waterproofs, gloves, fleeces, safety goggles and hard hats are the popular "kit" and, of course a decent pair of boots.

The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 requires that personal protective equipment is supplied and used at work wherever there are risks to health and safety that cannot be adequately controlled by other means.

To ensure adequate protection is afforded to employees, risk assessments should be carried out and equipment carefully chosen and supplied by the employer. Ask your PPE supplier for advice if you are unsure, as various options may be available depending on the nature of the risks involved. All equipment purchased, however, should be 'CE' marked and comply with the Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 2002.

Risk assessments should include the following six main hazard areas. Types of PPE are shown in each case;

Eyes

Hazards: Chemical or metal splash, dust, projectiles, gas and vapour, radiation. Options: Safety spectacles, goggles, faceshields, visors.

All safety eyewear used in the work environment has to meet rigorous European safety standards. You might be familiar with the oft-quoted code EN 166 1F - Effectively each group of numbers tells you just how good these products are – EN designates the European Safety standard that is certified for the product. 166 is the designation for eyewear. 1F tells you that the glasses are grade 1 optical quality – and 'F' is a level of impact protection – this test standard demands the lens can withstand a ball bearing fired at 80mph without shattering.

Today's safety eyewear lenses are highly sophisticated and offer remarkable levels of protection. Clear lenses don't just protect against impact – they can be anti-scratch, anti-fog – or both. They also give 100% protection against harmful UV radiation.

Yellow and orange lenses enhance vision in poor light – and grey sun lenses filter out intense light to make working in bright conditions so much more comfortable – again while blocking harmful UV radiation.

Head

Hazards: Impact from falling objects, risk of head bumping, hair entanglement. Options: A range of helmets and bump caps.

Breathing

Hazards: dust, vapour and gas. Options: Disposable filtering facepiece or respirator, half or full face respirators, air-fed helmets, breathing apparatus.

Protecting the body

Hazards: temperature extremes, adverse weather, chemical or metal splash, spray from pressure leaks or spray guns, impact or penetration, contaminated dust, excessive wear or entanglement of own clothing. Options: Conventional or disposable overalls, boiler suits, waterproof jackets and trousers, specialist protective clothing, e.g. Hi-vis clothing, spraysuits, chainsaw wear.

Hands and arms

Hazards: abrasion, temperature extremes, cuts and punctures, impact, chemicals, electric shock, skin infection, disease or contamination. Options: Gloves, gauntlets, mitts, wristcuffs, armllets.

Feet and legs

Hazards: wet, electrostatic build-up, slipping, cuts and punctures, falling objects, molten metal and chemical splash, abrasion. Options: Safety boots and shoes with protective toecaps and penetration resistant mid-sole, gaiters, leggings, spats.

N.B. Hearing protection and respiratory protective equipment provided for most work situations are not covered by PPEW Regulations because other regulations apply to them.

Maintenance of PPE is important. It should be properly stored, cleaned and kept in good repair. Replacement should be in accordance with manufacturers requirements, e.g. Helmets, which are used daily and exposed to sunlight, have a realistic life span of about two years and should be replaced after this period, irrespective of any signs of wear or damage.

The wearing of PPE is akin to the introduction of compulsory seat belts use. After initial resistance it soon becomes second nature and people wear it without thinking making the workplace a safer environment.

GREENKEEPER WEAR FROM THE HOME OF GOLF

In all professional clothing and footwear, appearance and comfort are important considerations but most critical of all is the safety and wellbeing of those who are wearing it. Hoggs of Fife know that the right greenkeeping footwear is vital for a greenkeeper's comfort and safety. They know this because they have spoken to a good many greenkeepers as part of their ongoing product development programme and because they have been making fine working footwear since 1888. Right now, Hoggs can offer 21 different safety boot styles and more than a dozen non-safety styles and 17 of their work boot styles are fitted with fully waterproof and breathable membranes.



The recently launched GK Pro boots, were designed in association with greenkeeping professionals to provide the ultimate in comfort, safety and waterproof-ness.



A price notch down from the Gore-Tex® waterproofs are the Green King™ waterproofs, seen here on bunker raking duty. The Green King™ waterproofs range consists of Long Coat with built-in hood, Over-trousers, Leggings and Gaiters all made with a state-of-the-art hardwearing Ripstop™ fabric.

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Artificial tees, as pictured, are now being more frequently used by golf clubs up and down the country.

ARTIFICIAL INFLUENCE

How important are artificial surfaces in golf and are they likely to play a bigger part?

Unlike sports such as football, rugby, hockey and use within Local Authority MUGA's (Multi Use Games Areas); golf has been rather slow off the mark to embrace fully artificial turf. However, all-weather golf tees, golf paths, putting greens, coverings to steps, ramps and bridges are slowly but surely being used up and down the country at various courses. All weather or high – wear lawn and landscape areas are also becoming increasingly used to enhance the clubs landscape from an aesthetic point of view.

"Golf has been slower than most sports to embrace the advantages of artificial grass due to it's liking of traditional methods and partly due to it's committee lead decision making processes," said Andrew Baylis, Managing Director of Kent based contractors, Active Leisure Contracts.

"Cheaper pay and play or pitch n putt courses where it is necessary to have facilities open all year round have been far quicker to embrace the practical and cost saving benefits of using artificial grass than the more established, traditional clubs," added Andrew.

All weather tees such as "Tee Turf" which is distributed exclusively in the UK by ALC has seen a significant increase in sales and installations within the last two to three years. "The product offers a solution to clubs/courses that suffer with heavy and/or wet courses that would normally mean closure during the wetter months; while also reducing maintenance costs and still providing a tee which is popular with the clubs members and players.

The time and cost savings allow more effort to be directed towards the greens, fairways and the general landscape aesthetics of the course. The development of more natural looking, more durable, low shine, polyethylene monofilament yarns over the past 10 years has made the use of artificial grass a real alternative to real grass on lawns and high wear areas such as tees, putting greens and walkways.

The development of rubber filled artificial turf in particular; has solved many of the problems of wet tees for both greenkeeper and golfer alike.

A fully synthetic golf course is now a real practical possibility, although the demand and need for such a facility in the UK is questionable. Due to cost, this still remains an unlikely event; but without question courses and clubs up and down the country could benefit from some sort of artificial influence – whether it be used for tees during the wetter months or all – year – round, putting greens, walk ways or to enhance the appearance of the landscape.

Chris Pickles, of Play-Rite, is another to feel that golf has been slow to pick up on artificial turf but is aware of the reasons.

"The high costs involved are an obvious reason and no perfect replacement for natural grass greens has been found so it is difficult to switch," explained Chris, addinh that an old fashioned thought process has also prevented artificial turf from making inroads in other than general pathways and routine high maintenance areas.

The chicken and egg concept also appears to prevent much major development in the golf industry as Chris concedes that the game isn't at the front of their minds.

"There is very little development going on in the golf side as it is a very small market and the only work has really been on winter tees and practice/teaching mats."

So it would appear that for the time being at least artificial turf has obvious benefits to golf in a limited area but any thought of wall to wall artificial is a long long way off.

Websites of interest:

- www.activeleisurecontracts.co.uk
- www.technicalsurfaces.co.uk
- www.tigerturf.co.uk
- www.huxleygolf.com
- www.thegreenapproach.com
- www.verdesports.com
- www.play-rite.co.uk

Andrew Baylis is MD of Kent based contractors Active Leisure Contracts who are exclusive UK distributors of "Tee Turf".

ALC have installed artificial solutions at various golf clubs, football, rugby and hockey clubs as well as Local Authorities.

ALC are also UK distributors for Poligras which will be used at all hockey pitches at the 2007 Olympics in Beijing.

Issued on behalf of Active Leisure Contracts by Fusion Media (Europe) Limited

Telephone: +44 (0) 1322 424 499

Facsimile: +44 (0) 1322 424 515

Email: info@fusionmediaeurope.com

www.fusionmediaeurope.com

Reference: ALC2007/09



SUN SHINES ON JOHN DEERE QUARTET

For the first time in its 10 year history the BIGGA Golf Day, now known as the Neil Thomas Memorial Golf day, in tribute to the Association's first Executive Director, was postponed because Aldwark Manor Hotel's golf course was flooded on the day in June for which it had been scheduled.

It was therefore a great relief when curtains were drawn back on Monday September 10 to see sunshine, a little breeze and no sign of rain!

The day that followed would have done June proud and left some disappointed that they were coming into form with Christmas on the horizon rather than a golf packed summer!

In a competitively fought contest John Deere, Captained by David Hart, and with David Norton Course Manager at Aldwark Manor's sister course of Forest Pines, within their number, sneaked home by a single point from two teams Colourstream and Hayter who were divided only by Coloursteam's better inward half.



The prizes were presented, as always, by Neil Thomas' widow, Elaine.

RESULTS.

1st	John Deere	88 pts
2nd	Colourstream	87 pts (bih)
3rd	Hayter	87pts

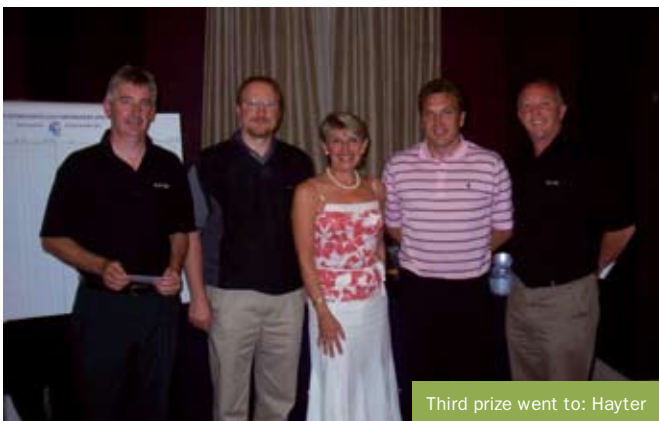
Longest Drive. Neil Morrison, Toro II

Nearest the Pin. Keith Taylor. Heath Lambert.

Many thanks to our Golf Day sponsors: Rigby Taylor, Hunters Grinders, Premier Plan, Heath Lambert, Kubota, John Deere, Ransomes Jacobsen, Golf Finance, Toro, Hayter, Destination Harrogate, Scotts, Q Hotels, Colourstream, Alpha Amenity, Tower Chemicals, Bernhards, New Holland, Lincsgreen, Warners, 3M, Pitchcare, Ing Lease, Yorkshire Aggregates, Rolawn and Floratine.



FEATURE



Saltex – New Products

NEW PROFESSIONAL TRIPLE MOWER

Improved operator comfort and serviceability plus a new traction system are features of John Deere's new 2653B professional utility mower, which builds on the durability, performance and quality of cut of its predecessor, the 2653A. This three-wheel drive triplex machine is particularly suitable for the more difficult areas of grass on golf courses and other amenity turf areas, including slopes and rough terrain.

i www.johndeere.co.uk



NEW ATTILA

Etesia has launching their latest Attila – the AV98. Like its mighty warlord namesake, the Attila ride-on brushcutter cuts its way through virtually everything in its path reducing tough, overgrown vegetation to mulch. Designed for clearing the thickest of brambles, bracken, saplings and dense undergrowth, this new ride-on benefits from Etesia's eleven years' experience in the field.

i www.etesia.co.uk

BRUTAL BRUSHWOOD KILLER

Vitax have brought their highly effective SBK Brushwood Killer into the amenity market for the first time.

Brutal with tree stumps, brambles, thistles, nettles and stubborn woody weeds SBK does not kill grass and can be applied by staff without spraying certificates. Available in the retail sector for many years and used by professional and domestic gardeners alike, SBK is ideal for use around playing field perimeters, rough areas on the golf course, grass car parks and patches of rough ground. Once the application has dried children and pets can be allowed onto treated areas.

i 01530 510060
or visit: www.vitax.co.uk

MARVELLOUS MOWERS

Rochford GM introduced the DR range of wheeled trimmers and heavy-duty mowers in recent months, and has now added to this comprehensive stable of garden and estate machinery, the DR Power Grader 48, a really useful tool for the smoothing of rough roads and driveways.

The DR Power Grader can be towed by a utility tractor with a minimum engine size of 16hp, or an ATV.

i 01963 828000
or visit: www.drproducts.co.uk

COMPACT TRACTORS

Rustons Engineering featured a range of mid-sized Kiota compact tractors for the amenity sector at this year's Saltex Show.

The new Kiota EX tractors are available in mechanical transmission or hydrostatic versions with engine sizes from 35hp to 45hp, so they fill the gap between the smaller CK models and the DK range with engines from 45hp to 90hp.

i www.rustons.co.uk

GOLF RESPONDS TO SMOKING BAN

With the July 1 smoking ban turning the fairways into the only place where golfers can enjoy their cigarettes, a new product has been launched to keep golf courses free from discarded butts – the Stubbi Golf 'pocket ashtray'.

Golfers simply place their cigarette butts inside the Stubbi and close the flap. Within 20 seconds the lack of oxygen extinguishes the cigarette. The pouch holds up to five cigarettes and can be emptied in the nearest bin – leaving the course a litter-free zone.

i www.stubbi.net



POWERFUL SOLUTIONS

Latest introductions to the Stihl range include: chainsaws, three new 4-Mix brushcutters, hedge trimmers, blowers, pressure cleaners and Stihl's first 4-Mix clearing saw.

www.stihl.com



CLEAN SWEEP

Trilo has launched the new SG300 high tip, vacuum sweeper. Built to the same high quality and with many of the features of the larger SG400, it fits perfectly into the expanding Trilo range.

www.trilo.co.uk

ON-LINE ORDERING SYSTEM

A-Plant has launched an on-line ordering system for hire equipment. The new on-line ordering system forms part of an expanding suite of fully integrated on-line services available to customers through the company's Extranet system accessed via the A-Plant website at:

www.aplant.com



NEW LONGER LASTING DEWCURE

Headland has launched DewCure, a new liquid surfactant specifically designed to suppress dew formation over an extended period.

During extensive, three-year trials in both the U.K. and America DewCure's dew inhibiting formulation was found to be impressively effective and long lasting.

01223 597834
or email: info@headlandamenity.com



KEEP CHAFER GRUBS AT BAY

Scotts has launched Nemasys G, an innovative biological control product which is a proven solution to the problem of chafer grubs and can be used as part of an Integrated Pest Control Programme.

Chafer grubs are larvae of the garden chafer (*Phyllopertha horticola*), the most abundant chafer species in the UK. They grow to around 18mm in length and cause extensive damage to amenity turf such as golf courses, sports pitches and landscaped areas as they feed on grass roots. Secondary turf damage often occurs as birds and small mammals such as moles and badgers turn over the weakened turf to feed off the grubs.

www.scotts.com

TELEHANDLER

The new T2250 Compact Telehandler from Bobcat combines the features and benefits of three different machine types – the telehandler (lifting height and reach), with the advantages of an articulated loader (loading ability) and those of a skid-steer (compactness and attachment capability).

www.bobcat.com



Saltex – New Products

NIPPY NEW AERATOR

Wiedenmann UK's new fast, deep aerator for greens and tees has arrived. The Terra Spike GXi 6 provides major time and cost savings because now only one machine is needed where two were used before.

Capable of aerifying a golf green of 500 square metres in 15 minutes, or 18 greens in one day, the 1.4 metre wide 550kg GXi means greenkeeping won't stop play.

www.wiedenmann.co.uk



DRAIN IT

Econoplas Ltd has launched Aguadyne – drainage panels that are simple solution to a wide variety of surface and sub-surface drainage problems.

01723 586611
or visit: www.econoplas.co.uk



GREENS ROLLER

The Double A Trading Company Ltd and Tru-Turf have launched the Tru-Turf RS48-11C Greens Roller which incorporates a unique patented triple off set roller system designed to smooth the turf by design and not by weight.

www.doublea.co.uk

NEW COMPACTS ADD TO LINE-UP

A new range of compact tractors for large domestic and commercial grounds were launched by McCormick Tractors International Ltd at Saltex this year. Complementing the established McCormick machines for this sector – the larger 35hp to 54hp GM Series, heavy duty 58hp to 98hp F Series and full-size 58hp to 98hp C-Max models, the McCormick CT Series range will comprise four models from 28hp to 47hp.

www.mccormick-intl.com



WATER MANAGEMENT PRODUCTS

Vitax have launched the highly successful Aqua-Aid range of Water Management Products onto the UK market.

The result of 25 years experience and widely used on many of the top golf courses in the USA, (including Oakmont, host to this year's American Open) the range consists of AQUA-AID, a soil penetrant, AQUIFER a surfactant available in both liquid and granule form, OARS CURATIVE, an organic acid removal system and PERCOL 8 a biodegradable formulation of soil penetrants designed to be injected into irrigation systems and/or incorporated into nutrient mixes.

01530 510060
or Email: info@vitax.co.uk

PAVING THE WAY TO A GREENER FUTURE

Tenax UK has just launched a new range of injection-moulded pavers, Tenax Connect, which has been introduced to compliment the successful GridLock reinforcement system.

Suitable for ground reinforcement and erosion control in a wide range of applications, Tenax Connect offers a practical and cost effective soft landscaping solution for areas of ground which otherwise would require major construction work.

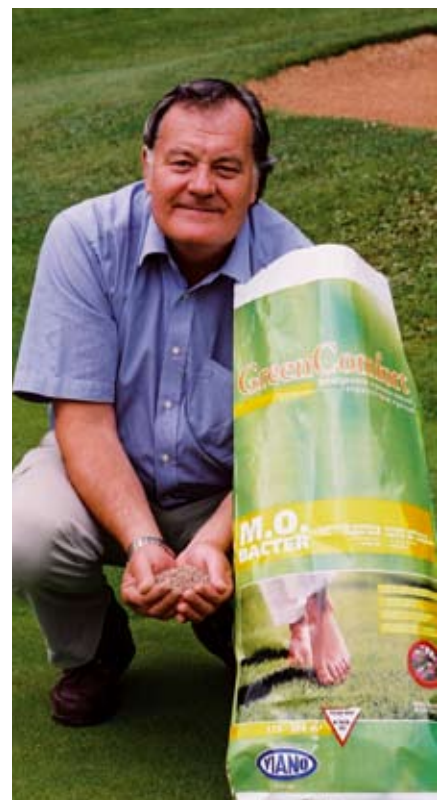
www.tenax.co.uk

ORGANIC FERTILISER

DJ Turfcare recently launched MO Bacter, an organic fertiliser which also destroys moss without leaving debris.

This unique product, from Viano of Belgium, is a slow-release granular fertiliser which eradicates moss by secondary action, feeds grass and improves the soil. Scarifying after treatment is not necessary.

01483 200976
or Email: sales@djturfcare.co.uk



PEDESTRIAN GREENS MOWER

Launched at the GIS Show in Anaheim and making its Saltex debut last month, the new Jacobsen Eclipse 122 F greens mower redefines tournament quality of cut through a new cutting head capable of 50% more float than competitor machines.

The Eclipse 122 F combines the exclusive Jacobsen In-Command™ control system with an independently mounted cutting unit to produce an optimum cut in any conditions. The true floating-head design and a variety of performance options virtually eliminate the possibility of scalping, providing a consistent, low height-of-cut on difficult undulating and contoured greens.

www.textron.com



INNOVATIVE STEM INJECTION SOLUTION

Japanese Knotweed Control, specialists in the treatment and management of non-native invasive plants, formally launched its innovative new stem injection system recently.

The Cheshire-based company which offers specialist advice and management control of a wide range of species including Japanese knotweed, Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam, is set to augment its traditional chemical spraying and 'dig and dump' treatment methods with the new stem injection technique.

0845 643 1168
www.japaneseknotweedcontrol.com



MAKE YOUR MARK

One of the newest entrants into the line marking market, Grassline Sports Marking Liquids has launched its new concept, Grassline Titan spray line marker.

Grassline is both a manufacturer and distributor of line marking paint concentrates and Ready to Use marking paints for both grass, artificial grass surfaces and hard playing surfaces supplying direct to local authorities, schools, professional and amateur sports clubs and sports contractors across the UK.

www.grassline.net

NEW ADDITION

Efco has recently introduced the Tuareg 92 4x4 all-terrain garden and landscape tractor, which offers highly efficient clearing and tidying of areas thick with vegetation on sloping or uneven terrain.

www.efco.co.uk



NEW TURFCARE SYSTEM

Lloyds & Co. Letchworth Ltd, recently launched the Maredo Turfcare System.

One of the most unique products to be launched on to the turf care market, this machine has been developed to give added value to the budgets of today's fine turf managers.

The Maredo Multi-functional Power-unit is a unique patented "mini tractor" that is actively steerable.

01462 683031
or Email: sales@lloydsandco.com

MINI-EXCAVATORS

The E9SR mini-excavator is the smallest model in the New Holland range.

Despite the compact size, the E9SR delivers a punch from the 6kW engine, which provides a breakout force at the bucket of 10.8 kN. With a maximum dump height of 2.3 m, forward reach of 3.3 m and digging depth 1.75 m, the E9SR is ideal for trenching and other applications found in many landscaping situations.

www.newholland.com



MORE SALTEX NEW PRODUCTS NEXT MONTH



News from the Chief Executive

Merger talks with the IOG continue, albeit slowly. In August representatives of both organisations met to progress the report that will be submitted to members of both BIGGA and IOG for their consideration. To date the Group has not found any major reason why a merger could not work, although there are key issues yet to be resolved. The most significant of these is the question of location of the resultant headquarters and the staff structure. Progress is slow and has been hampered by the inability of the Group to make final decisions for inclusion in the report. While BIGGA representatives have been empowered by their Board to take whatever action is deemed necessary, IOG representatives do not enjoy the same privilege and must consult their Board at every stage. This inevitably causes delays and frustration. The recommendations of the working party, which need to be supported by each Board of Management, can only be adopted following a vote by members in accordance with respective Constitutions. The next meeting is scheduled for October 4, by which time both boards will have had routine meetings and thereby time to consider next steps.

You may know of the European Parliament draft proposal to restrict/ potentially totally ban, the use of pesticides in all areas to which the public has access, this would include golf courses. The next stage is a vote, this is likely to happen in late October. There is an action group, 'The Amenity Forum' made up of representatives from a diverse range of organisations and businesses, including BIGGA with Ken Siems (Loch Lomond GC) and Gavin Robson (Burton GC) taking an active role. I'm also in regular contact with the Forum's Chairman, Jon Allbutt, and Secretary, Bob Joyce. Following consultation with its members the Amenity Forum has submitted to a number of MEP's a report on the consequences of such action, highlighting the effect on the economy, employment and people's lifestyle.

I was pleased to be involved in the judging of Toro Student of the Year last month. The eight finalists who made the trip to BIGGA HQ, were of an exceptionally high standard. Congratulations go to overall winner, Avon Bridges. To get as far as the final is no mean feat, every year the standard seems to get better.

Staff changes: Ken retired at the end of September after 13 years service as BIGGA's Education and Training Manager and also latterly as my Deputy. Ken has been instrumental in transforming the provision of Education and Training to both members and staff of BIGGA, there is no doubt many greenkeepers wouldn't have progressed as they have had it not been for his impact on their careers. Most of his duties have been taken over by Sami Collins who became Head of Learning and Development on October 1. Sami has been with the Association for 14 years and has more recently acted as Ken's understudy. Rachael Duffy will be working along side Sami, I hope you will give both of them your support. Sandra Raper has joined BIGGA HQ as my Secretary but will also give administrative support to the office generally. Her arrival has already had a positive impact on the office.

Congratulations to Stephen Coates and his wife Emma on the safe arrival of their daughter. He thought it would just be his role as BIGGA's Accountant that would keep him awake at night!

John Pemberton



SCOTTISH – CENTRAL

On behalf of all members of the Section, we wish to pass on our condolences and best wishes to the families and friends of Mick Hanlon and Alan Holmes who passed away recently. I did not know them personally, but from the number of calls I've had, and the sentiments expressed, it is clear they were both held in the highest regard by their colleagues in the profession and all trade representatives.

A short set of notes this month due to pressures of work, and our Chairman's golfing calendar being rather full. (More events than the European Tour!) We'll see if all this practise pays off at the Autumn Tournament or The National Championship (8/9th October)

A nice dry spell of weather recently has certainly helped conditions on the course, and also stopped everyone moaning about how wet a year it's been. I even heard some guys starting to complain about how dry it was – Long may it continue.

We have organised a short presentation courtesy of our friends from the States who were kind enough to share their experiences and knowledge with us last year also. Let's have a good turnout for this again. The topics should be of interest to us all, and I'm sure they have a lot of interesting information to pass on.

Presented by Mike Fidanza, John Kaminski & Stan Zontek – USGA Green Section.

Location - Elmwood Golf Course, Maintenance Facility, Training Room. Time: 6.30pm, November 28. Free of charge. If you're not a member come along and see what we have to offer. Hope to see you all there for an informative evenings education. Check the website for further details.

Scotsturf is looming, and I'm sure we will all bump into each other again. This year has flown by. The Section AGM will be held on October 29 at Elmwood Golf Course Training Room, at 1.30pm. Please come along and air your views, and support your fellow greenkeepers.

All the best

Secretary: Andy Mellon

Chairman: Derek Scott

www.biggacentralsection.org.uk 01334 658914

EAST



I start this month's report with the news that John Eadie, Head Greenkeeper at Bathgate, has retired after many years loyal service. He commenced his working life in 1960 on a farm before joining Scottish Landscapers in 1971 where he worked his way up to the position of Contracts Supervisor. In 1992 he joined the greens staff at Bathgate working initially for Head man Stuart Cruickshank and then for a short

Around the Green

period as Deputy to Graham Hobbs. In March 1995 he was promoted to Head Greenkeeper a position he has held until his recent retirement. I am sure all in the Section will join me in wishing John a long and happy retirement.

The new man in charge at Bathgate is Robert Burns who until his promotion held the position of Deputy at the club. He commenced his career at Deer Park, where he worked under the guidance of an old friend of mine, Jim Brown. In 1996 he left Deer Park on a free transfer to his present club. Employed as an Assistant he was promoted to Deputy Head in 1997. Having worked closely with John during the past 10 years I am sure Robert will prove a worthy successor. Incidentally for those of you who may not have heard, Jim Brown is now employed as General Manager on a private estate near Carnoustie.

Colin Noble, Head Greenkeeper at Peebles, married Katy in August. The wedding and reception for 200 guests were held at Kailzie Gardens. The guests included greenkeeping staff from Peebles and Colin's old club at Cardrona. The happy couple's honeymoon to Mexico had to be cancelled owing to the hurricanes so they spent one week cruising in the Mediterranean and another in Majorca.

There are two golf events to report this month, both being held at West Linton Golf Club which is in magnificent condition at present. The first, the Willie Woods Tournament was held on Thursday, August 23, when 24 played. The winners aided by a fair amount of inside knowledge were (you've guessed it) Chris Yeaman and his Club Captain, David Buchanan. Our thanks go to West Linton for granting us courtesy of the course and to Chris and his team for the excellent preparation of the course. The final plaudit must go to the catering staff, who put on a banquet fit for a king.

Less than 48 hours later a large number of greenkeepers turned up again at West Linton to swell the numbers and compete in the 6th Annual Christopher Yeaman Junior Charity Tournament. The beneficiaries of this year's event were the Birmingham Children's Hospital Liver Unit and the Child Brain Injury Trust, which supports children with an acquired brain injury and their families. Funds raised from the day are estimated at £4,200 bringing the total raised during the past six years to almost £27,500. The Yeaman family would like to thank everyone who contributed financially or otherwise and helped to make the event such a success.

In closing, by the time you read this I will be in Crete. However, this year it is more likely to be paint pot and brush in hand, rather than the usual beach bed and cold beer!

Mike Dooner



NORTH

Here we are in October already. Hope your autumn renovation programmes are all going well and you're getting plenty of seed in the ground.

The weather through September was slightly better with a few glimpses of the sun. The results from the autumn meeting at Fortrose will be in next month's issue.

The committee have had discussions about the format for the AGM in October. We normally run it on the basis of an outing but the attendance figures in the last few years has been poor. We feel it is not viable or cost effective to send out 250 forms to the members and only get 20 replies. Having the AGM so close to the autumn meeting is not ideal either, so this year we are going to have the AGM at Peterhead GC on November 1. The format for the day will be arrival at 9.30-10am for a bacon roll and coffee. Golf will be available to those who want to play with the AGM following afterwards with soup and sandwiches available as a light lunch. There will be no forms sent out to you, so you just need to put this date in your diary and turn up on the day for some golf and the AGM. This will be free of charge to all members and trade so hopefully it will result in a few more coming on the day. We realise that people are busy or are on holiday so maybe this format will allow people to just turn up on the day if they are available.

It is with regret that I report the death of Alan Holmes, who was Course Manager at Blairgowrie GC. Alan was only 59 but had health problems for the past few months. Alan went to Blairgowrie in 1991 after being on the Kings and Queen's courses at Gleneagles. He was well known in our industry and will be a sad loss to the green keeping world. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

*Robert Patterson
Royal Aberdeen*



WEST

Welcome to this month's report, I would like to thank the West Section team who attended the Harry Diamond Quaich during July, it was a great day out enjoyed by all. Well done to Cecil George for organising the greenkeeping teams.

The Norrie Whytoch trophy was held at Aucterarder GC during July, well done to the West team who managed to finish second to last instead of the usual last, I didn't manage to play this year so that speaks for itself.

Archie Dunn and his staff had the course in first class condition and thanks to Peter Boyd for organising the day.

Job news, Gerry Bruen has returned to Scotland after a couple of years in Ireland. Gerry has taken over from Robert Johnston as Course Manager at Williamwood GC. Robert has taken up a new project, a course being built in the Ayrshire area and I would like to wish you every success with your new ventures.

The match against the club stewards will be played at Clobber GC on Monday, October 15, hopefully we can win back the trophy after losing out last year.

We hope to have our annual night out at the Comedy Club in Glasgow,

Around the Green

dates and cost have still to be arranged. Members will be contacted with details as soon as I know.

On the football front Brian Hillan is keen to play any other Sections that are up for a challenge at 11-a-side you can contact Brian on: 07721610160.

Fairways Group held their open day at Irvine Bogside. It was very well attended with a wide range of machinery on view and for demonstration, many thanks to David Rae and his team for a first class day. To Derek Wilson, Course Manager and his staff, the course was in first class condition as a game of golf was played after the demonstration.

Over the winter period we hope to arrange some education courses on manual handling and fire safety and any other subjects may be accommodated. We also hope to hold a seminar October/November and members will be notified in due course.

The 2008 spring outing will be held over East Renfrewshire Golf Club on April 24, hopefully it will be a well attended day as it's a first class course. Well that's all for now see you next month.

Fraser Ross 07970 366 355



NORTH EAST

Recently vandals struck twice at Tyneside GC, firstly causing quite a lot of damage to the 6th green over the bank holiday and, in the same week, removed the seats from the club buggies bearing in mind that they are hinged not like they can just pick them up fortunately they were recovered by the police on the Ryton Willows.

On better news, at Tyneside GC I hear that they have received planning permission for staff accommodation not before time as they must have one of the worst facilities in the area and that's not just my view but other people further afield.

I have been informed by Tom Harrison, of Gosforth GC, that three members of his staff are joining the Section they being John Saunders, Chris Walker and John Lee. It's been along time since we have had that many greenkeepers from Gosforth. I hear that they liked the benefits that are on offer these days. Good luck lads I look forward to meeting at some point.

I see that Parklands GC has re-opened its new driving bays after major refurbishment and that the new crazy golf is open to the public, or is it called miniature golf these days, I'm not sure.

Jimmy Richardson



MIDLANDS – MIDLAND

Firstly let me apologise for the lack of notes last month. Such was due to a technical problem with my broadband provider. Our thanks to last

month's calendar sponsor Mark Rayner/Scotts. You can checkout their website for your fertiliser needs etc on: www.scottspromotional.co.uk Secondly thanks to Abbey Mowers for sponsoring this month's calendar. Their website being: www.abbeymowers.co.uk Our thanks to both of the above for their continued support over many a year. Please consider them in your thoughts; their contribution to our industry is invaluable.

For many years the committee has played for the committee cup annually. We were fortunate enough to be invited by David Ward to play this year's at the lovely course at Royal Porthcawl. What a course. The winner on the day unsurprisingly being our Chairman, E. Stant. Our thanks to Royal Porthcawl and David Ward and his team for affording such a great opportunity. Thank you.

I would like to congratulate Alan Strachan (C.M.), Eamonn Crawford(Dep) and their team at Royal County Down for the wonderful condition of the course there, for the Walker Cup. Never mind Sunningdale Alan, you have the best...

Sean McDade

Time is running out to book your places on the Irrigation Workshop and the Noise and Vibration Management Seminar. The Irrigation Workshop takes place on October 30 at The Belfry and the Vibration seminar a week earlier on October 24 at Gay Hill GC. The issue of vibration management is as clear as mud and we aim to offer guidance to our industry with the help of some expert speakers. Priced at just £15 you really can't afford to miss out. Book direct with BIGGA HQ.

Paul Woodham



EAST MIDLANDS

Not much to report this month besides the East Midlands Autumn Tournament and AGM which takes place on Thursday, November 1 at Birstall GC, Leicestershire. Tee off Times 10.30am until 12 noon. If entry forms have not been received by anyone please contact Dan Rodgers, Secretary on 07745 227224.

Dan Rodgers



EAST OF ENGLAND

For those who have been using the website I make no apologies for repeating this gem of information: Greenkeepers 3½ Trade 1½. C'mon Boys! Give us a game! Maybe we should all putt left-handed next year to give you a chance. Never mind lads, it was a good day, enjoyed by everyone and the banter was excellent.

As I write this, the Rugby World Cup is about to start. Hopefully my beloved Scotland can put up a good show this year. Winning it would be good, but there is more chance of the trade winning against the greenkeepers!



The Order of Merit is now finished. Overall Winner was Simon Bosset, Burghley Park. U25 Winner Ash Cox, Cleethorpes Golf Club, and, believe it or not, the Trade Winner was Gary Cooper, STG Supplies! Yes, it does say Gary Cooper. Well done to you all. Next up is the match with the Secretaries at Cotgrave. Hopefully another victory for the Section.

Finally, the team to play at Burton in the Midland Championship will be Les Howkins, Graeme MacDonald and Brian Robinson. Good luck lads and bring the Trophy home.

Allan Walker
www.eastofenglandbigga.com



BERKS/BUCKS AND OXON

The next event will be the BB&O Clay Pigeon Shoot on October 18 at West London Shooting Targets. So, for those last minute entries and blunderbuss details, Jon Beck can be contacted on: 0790 999 7636.

Sharing greenkeeping knowledge and experience on October 31 will be the order of the day as the Section are hosting an educational seminar at Newbury & Crookham GC. The line up for speakers at this event will be Gerry Byrne, from the K Club, in Ireland, who played host to the 2006 Ryder Cup and many Smurfit European Opens.

David MacIndoe, from Killarney Golf & Fishing Club, who has hosted the Irish Open and Curtis Cup, Ian McMillan, from Walton Heath GC, who has hosted the US Open Qualifiers and Technical Director Mark Hunt, from Headland Amenity, will make the line up. Numbers for the day are limited to a maximum of 120 and are on a first come first serve basis, so please support this venue and get your entry forms in early to avoid disappointment.

Entry forms and further information for all events can be downloaded from the Section website, and hopefully by the time you are reading this details of the next event will be posted on the www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk

Congratulations to Bill Patterson, from Beaconsfield GC, who has attended the the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace after a personal invitation by the Queen, and before you say anything it was not for services to the Scottish whisky industry, but for Bill's generous services to the youth and local community work experience projects with learning difficulties. Well done Bill.

After Jon Ryan's stag night in Devon a new dance called the Tartan Triple has been taking the west country by storm. The craze started after Colin Wilson started to hand-mow the dance floor in a Torquay nightclub. Details of the new dance are available on the website. However, Colin is offering specialist instruction to this new dance, details of the stag night fortunately are not on the website. Congratulations to Jon and Joanna on their engagement.

Rob Surgey is leaving Wycombe Heights GC for pastures anew, and will be starting a new challenging position as Senior Course Manager at

Burhill GC. We wish Rob and his family a smooth move to the Surrey area and best wishes for the future.

The BB&O has a famed family of greenkeepers namely the Piggott clan who have reigned at Henley GC for many years and recently this year influential greenkeeper Peter Piggott has sadly died. Peter started his career at Henley GC in 1966 – 1989 and worked alongside his father, George, who was also Head Greenkeeper until his retirement in 1972 when Peter took over the reigns. Peter with his father and together with sons Brian and David led the way forward for the family into the world of greenkeeping. Peter trained on some of the first triple mowers and regularly used the overgreen, and if you are not sure what an overgreen is, find a very old greenkeeper.

Brian and David both started their careers at Henley GC under guidance from granddad George and Brian is now Head Greenkeeper at The Buckingham and David who has recently retired after many years as Head Greenkeeper at Leighton Buzzard GC. The camaraderie of the Piggott's at Henley were legendary and Peter was well known throughout the Region. Our thoughts go out to all the family.

Mark Day
mark.day@tacticgolf.com



MID ANGLIA

Hello chaps, it's that time again already, another month gone by and still no settled weather. I hope you have all coped with the continuous downpours and endless cutting.

Now for the results of the Summer Competition which was held at Welwyn Garden City GC in early August, 1. F. Whittle, Stocks,; 2. M. Frappell, Lamerwood; 3. G. Fenn, Beds and County; 4. P. Crouch, St Neots; 5. B. Cox, Welwyn G City.

M. Fance, Scotts, won the Trade Prize, D. Hodkin the Longest Drive, P. Larter Nearest the Green, (sorry the Pin) and finally a special prize for the Longest Walk was won by R. Saunders, from Mowsbury GC.

Our thanks go to Brett and his team for providing us with an excellent course and to W.G.City for their hospitality for the whole day. Also thanks go to Mark Day and Tacit for sponsoring the event and once again to all our other trade members who support our days come rain or shine. It was nice to hear from the Club Captain, Bill Williams, that BIGGA would always be welcome to hold competitions at W.G.City. You should have your entries in for the Autumn Competition, Berkhamsted GC, on October 17. This will be followed by the AGM. It would be good to see some new faces at the AGM as fresh input and ideas could help us to help you and the Mid-Anglia Section move forward.

I will say this again, the Texas Scramble is at South Beds GC on December 6, get those entries in early to avoid disappointment.

Steve Mason

Around the Green

SOUTH EAST – SURREY



Thursday, September 6. The green, green grass of home. The rain in Spain falls mainly on the green, green grass of home. That was August, that was summer and it was wet. But not on August 20, at Tandridge GC the sun shone on this excellent golf course and we thank Neil Baker and his greenkeepers for their hard work in producing great conditions for a great days golf. The food, as always, was devoured with gusto by the players and the injured Mark Harvey could not resist turning up later to enjoy a delicious dinner. The sponsors for the day were Tacit, and they were represented by a Senior Sales person who in remarkable condition for his age gave away the prizes to the winner, Les Salmon, who was also in remarkable condition for his age. Paul Bacon was runner up with Jason Hunt third, followed by Barry Cannon. Iain Dye, Deputy at Tandridge, won Longest Drive and Roger Tydeman was Nearest the Pin.

The next event is at Tyrrells Wood GC on December 13 followed by the AGM. Please remember that we need a new Chairman and he, or she, will be voted onto the committee during the meeting. Don't be shy, put your name forward, or nominate any intelligent fellow greenkeeper that you know. Today at Foxhills GC is the final of the Surrey Bowl knockout competition, sponsored by ETT, Environmental Turf Technology and due to start at 1.30pm. It is now 9.15am and I am sitting in front of my computer typing this month's news but as I have not been informed of any births or marriages the final paragraph in this edition will reveal the as yet unknown pair who have won that coveted Surrey Bowl Trophy. The finalists are Derek and Dan Walder against Gareth Roberts and Paul Bacon. The final did start on time and with every type of shot being demonstrated by the players, the Surrey Bowl trophy was presented by Richard Fortmuller, on behalf of ETT, to Gareth Roberts and Paul Bacon together with a voucher for £100 each and entry into the National Championship.

Brian Willmott brian.willmott@hotmail.co.uk

KENT



Due to a mix up, the wrong notes were printed for this Section last month. Apologies for this.

I'll start this month's edition with a question for you all: Feedback. What does it mean to you and what do you do with it?

We all get feedback in some shape or form. All too often it is a complaint, sometimes it is a compliment. Either way it is valuable information that can be used to assess how we are serving our paying customers. We all know that golfers can be a bit naïve when it comes to the intricacies of maintaining a golf course so a complaint is often the result of this lack of knowledge. Compliments too, can come as the result of good fortune rather than a particularly skilful act of the greenkeeper, either way we need to be appreciative that the golfer has taken time to make his sentiments known and act on them accordingly. It is far easier to

educate one troublesome individual at an early stage than to wait until he has told all his friends an exaggerated version of events.

Acknowledgement on a personal level to anyone who wishes to pass opinion on your golf course is not only polite but vital to maintaining regular custom. If complaints are unheeded the golfers can think that you don't care. If positive comments are not acknowledged, that can be seen as the greenkeeper being ungrateful. Either way, the golfers will vote with their feet and if they aren't respected, they will take their business elsewhere.

The key is to listen to your golfers and, wherever possible, give them what they want as long as it is beneficial to the golf club. Nobody has a 'perfect' course, ask your members what they would like to see, be proactive in the development of your club and believe me, you'll find it a lot easier than trying to fight them on a daily basis.

On to life in Kent. A 10 man strong team of crack Kentish golfers welcomed a similar number of their Sussex counterparts to Birchwood Park for a golf match on August 22. A breezy but, fortunately, dry day, ensured an enjoyable occasion for all involved. Sussex were obviously worried even before the first shot was struck as the format of the match was hotly debated. Several different permutations were put forward and then "modified" by various Sussex members purely with the intention of leaving the Kent team with their heads spinning! By the time the final format of five two man teams playing a Texas Scramble Stableford had been decided upon, and Carol Vorderman had been booked to work out the scores, our team were pretty flummoxed!

A great game of golf ensued, not least in my match. Gary Tait and I took on the Singing Hills duo of Dan and Dave who were in perfect harmony as they clocked up an unbeatable 49 points. Despite playing reasonably well ourselves, amassing 44 points, we could not find a way to break their resolve and, as it turned out, a similar story was unfolding across the other games.

The Sussex team won the event by four matches to one with overall points tallies being 221 Sussex to Kent's 209. Everyone involved had a great day on a great course in a great atmosphere. Many thanks to Rob Hudson and his team for making it such an entertaining day and we look forward to the re-match!

By the time you read this we shall have played our autumn event at The Wildernesse Club. Look for news and results on our website now!

The Regional seminar is being hosted by us at the end of this month as I'm sure you're all aware by now. Details are also on the website.

Hopefully this month we shall be staging our first paintballing event. Although this will be among our own Kent members, preliminary talks with other Section secretaries suggest that future inter-county events are definitely on the cards! So get to the website now and register your interest and we'll see you on the battlefield!

Rob Holland

www.kentgreenkeepers.co.uk



SUSSEX

Hello again, sorry I missed last month's but there was not a great deal going on and I know you guys would be too busy cutting grass to read it!

The only event we have had is the Sussex versus Kent golf match which was held at Birchwood Park GC. I would like to thank Kent for their hospitality and also Rob Holland for hosting and organising the event. On the day it stayed dry but was extremely windy. The course was in great condition and Sussex came out on top winning 4-1.

Things to look forward to are the AGM with nine holes before, which is on November 1 at the Dyke GC. The golf will start at 12.30pm with the AGM starting at 4pm, there will also be a buffet tea after the golf. There is no charge for golf or tea so it should encourage a few more than last year. Remember it is your Section so come along and support it! Also there is the Turkey Trot on November 30 which will be held at Worthing GC, and will be sponsored by Avoncrop Amenity.

On the football front, we have got a match versus Surrey in mid October, which we are looking forward to especially as we have a new kit which will be sponsored by Rigby Taylor. so a big thanks to them and mike ring for making this possible.

My details are mobile: 07776223234 or email: robert.hudson77@btinternet.com so if you would like to play any of this events get in touch.

Rob Hudson



ESSEX

On a day with a weather forecast of heavy showers and high winds, we arrived for our Autumn Stableford Tournament at Colchester Golf Club. Fine sunny weather with a high of around 26° met the field of 56 players and although the wind did blow and the rain held off till we had started to eat, it was not as bad as the forecast. Colchester GC, celebrating its centenary year, had done us proud not only with the weather but also with a course set up to entertain. The course was in excellent condition and had been well manicured by Deputy Head Greenkeeper, Sam Cook, (in the absence, due to a holiday of Head Greenkeeper, Keith Chinnery). Sam's efforts were soon to be seen and well received, with some very tidy scores being carded. Vice Captain, Roger Robertson, said a few words after the dinner and gave praise to Sam and the team for all their hard work. I'm sure everyone there felt the same.

Winners were as follows: Overall - Ray Clarke, Channels, 37 pts; 1.1 Roland Hughes, Forrester Park Golf & Tennis Club; 1.2 Jamie Hughes, Forrester Park Golf & Tennis Club; 1.3 Antony Kirwan, Lexden Wood Golf Club. 2.1 Craig Serafin, Colchester Golf Club, 2.2 Malcolm Smith, Regiment Way Golf Centre; 2.3 Darren Stuttle, Frinton Golf Club; Nearest the Pin - Liam Springett; Longest Drive - Adam Vickery; Guest Prize - Dan Eke; Trade Prize - Michael Fance.

Banks Amenity Products sponsored the day and a big thank you goes to Simon Banks and his company for the fine prizes that were handed out.

Our thanks go to all the trade members who also helped with their support, enabling us to have a fine raffle table. The next event is the Winter Stableford Tournament, at North Weald GC. A full report on this event to be held at the end of September will appear in next month's magazine.

Christmas Texas Scramble AGM – November, 27 at Orsett GC. Teams of Four. Each team must comprise of at least two Greenkeeper members and then can be made up of anyone else, Trade, Guest or Greenkeeper. You choose and make up your own team. Antony will not be making the selections. It's up to you. Entries to Antony Kirwan, on the official entry forms please, with your entry fees. Any queries contact Antony on: 0707887780065 or by email: antz16@btinternet.com

Also anything you wish to bring up at the AGM should be with the Secretary in writing no later than the end of October, contact Martin Forrester, email: mdwforrester@hotmail.com

Anyone who has any news for inclusion in the "Around the Green" can contact me at: highwoods.photographic@talktalk.net or on: 01206-852.353 Please note the new email address.

Arnold Phipps-Jones www.essexbigga.co.uk



LONDON

Well, with an interesting summer just passed and Autumn on its way what will the following months have in store for us, whatever it may be its just another season to see what mother nature throws at us. Keep up the good work all.

Firstly congratulations to Dave & Emily with the arrival of baby Millie, who was born August 18th. Also congratulations to Matt Plested on recently getting married and his move on to pastures new.

On to the golf now where at Gerrards Cross GC there was a new trophy up for grabs.

The Rigby Taylor Trophy, well done and thank you to Joe and Gareth who provided us with some great prizes and not forgetting the coffee and bacon rolls, which I know, I certainly tucked into. I look forward to next years meet.

Thank you to Lee Robinson, his team of greenstaff and all in the clubhouse who provided us with a thoroughly enjoyable day.

The Results for the Rigby Taylor Trophy are: 1. Paul Simpson, Northwood; 2. Stuart Playle, Sandy Lodge; 3. Bill Geddes. The two Nearest the Pins went to Ian Boothby, Brookmans Park, and Pat Johnson, Sandy Lodge.

Aaron Percival

Around the Green

SOUTH WEST



Has anyone else had problems with Chafer grubs? The little so-and-so's really got going at Minchinhampton - Just on the eve of the English Mid Amateur over the Cherington Course. I couldn't believe it, beautifully manicured acres of golf course, and then areas looking like some nerk had gone mad with a rotavator. Bring on the Merit Turf next year! The members had to be informed what was going on, so I produced an A4 sized print of a chafer (cleverly downloaded from the internet) in all its glory, big enough detail to see in close-up all its pretty impressive mouth-parts and legs etc, together with an explanation for the damage around the courses. It was only a week later when the first golfer said something along the lines of "I never realised they were so big" and "no wonder they do so much damage". This was swiftly followed by members of the senior's section going round the course armed with pool cues and baseball bats just in case they met one in an enclosed space! - A case of too much information?

My phone has been ringing with queries like "help - what can I do with my lawn?" My stock answer is "move house mate - it's easier". Apparently the Lawn Thumbs and Green Doctors of this world are recommending Chlorpyrifos at £45 per 100m² lawn. Obvious experts there then. My personal advice is simply to keep the affected areas as tidy as possible, and re-seed when all is done. We are trying applications of garlic spray and have noticed that applications of gritty top-dressing are to an extent reducing the pecking and digging activities of birds and badgers etc. We've also noticed that the collars of tees are more severely affected than the tee-tops themselves. Could it be that a single annual application of Carbendazim disrupts chafers to an extent? Nematodes seem only effective as long as you can keep the area well-watered. Any feedback or observations would be welcomed, and I'll print them asap.

The Mid-Amateur Championship, hosted on the Cherington Course, (open to amateur players over the age of 35), was won by Colin Edwards, of Bath GC, with 68, 68, 70, over this tight par 71 course. He won by 6 shots from Gareth Bradley, of Bramhall. The course, measuring a relatively short 6450 yards really looked after itself in terms of scoring, only giving up 11 sub-par rounds all week; the tournament was played in bright sunshine (for a change) with light winds, and holding (but very fast) greens. Happily, that's the last big tournament for a while now so I'm looking forward to semi-retirement (or possibly a gap-year) in 2008.

I would just like to give congratulations to Dave Rosselli, and Adam Matthews (both well-known serial prize-winners in the SW Section events) on their promotion to Acting Deputy Course Manager, and Acting First Assistant Greenkeepers respectively at Minchinhampton. Look forward to working with you guys.

We're revving up for the Autumn Maintenance work now with hollow tining and verti-draining on the menu. We will probably verti-drain with big tines as deep as possible, and then follow up with a 5mm hollow tine operation which will help to close the vertidrain holes at the surface before overseeding with Bent, and top-dressing. I like to get a 4.0.10 fertiliser on 10 days prior, and add a seaweed soil amendment after we dress. How about some details of your preferred programmes?

I know that Saltex is "not one of ours", but it was nice to see the big companies back at this exhibition. We were thoroughly well looked after on the Ransomes Textron stand, and it was very nice to see a DVD of golf course environmental work being played. Of course, not everyone can spend lots of money every year - particularly this year, but I certainly took home new ideas and new initiatives from all of them. Also high profile was the Timberwolf stand - "Miss Timberwolf" who was only separated from the elements by a skimpy pair of shorts and a liberal coating of body paint was the obvious star of the show. Disappointingly however, after 10 minutes of earnest conversation it became glaringly obvious that she knew sod-all about compost making.

The Provisional Fixtures for 2008 include: Kingsdown - winter tournament; Clevedon - Spring Tournament; Minchinhampton Old - Greenkeeper Amateur; The Bristol - Summer Tournament and National Qualifying; Marlborough - AGM & Autumn Tournament; Weston Super Mare - Christmas Tournament.

Thanks to all the greenkeepers who assisted with the arrangements. See you all at Minchinhampton New on October 11 for this year's AGM.

Paul Worster
paulw@mgcnew.co.uk 01453 837355



SOUTH COAST

How the year has flown by! I think the summer, or the lack of it, has fast forwarded our year. As I put pen to paper I'm preparing for Saltex, the kids are going back to school, the football season is upon us again (come on you Irons!) and the Autumn Tournament at North Hants GC. It seems like only yesterday we received our fixture cards for the year. North Hants is a beautiful course and we very much look forward to the day which is October 23. I would recommend booking early. If you want to attend this or any of our Golf Days please contact Chris Sturgess on: 0777 313 8409 or send a cheque, made out to BIGGA South Coast, to Chris direct at his home address: 31 Bay Rd, Sholing, Southampton SO19 8EZ.

Congratulations to all the greenkeeper students who successfully passed their NVQs this year, in particular to George Cooper of Camford Magna GC who attended Sparsholt College and not only passed his NVQ2 in Sports & Amenity, but was also awarded Trainee of the Month for July. The certificate quoted "for his dedication and commitment to his work and employer. Well done George!

I would also like to wish Steve Robinson, of Blackmoor GC, all the best for his new position as Course Manager at Moortown GC near Leeds. Also all the very best to James Norris who will be taking over at Blackmoor.

If there are any other pieces of news like the two items above, please let me know on the number below so they can be included. Remember it's your Section, make use of it.

That's all for this month and I shall now finish off my packing for Saltex and by the time you have read this it will be a distant memory, and then



we can start thinking about (dare I say it) Christmas & Harrogate (BTME dates: Exhibition 22-24 January; Education January 20-24 2008)

Joe Crawley
07721 389200



DEVON AND CORNWALL

Some important dates for this autumn: Wednesday, October 10 - Elfordleigh and AGM - please make every effort to come along. It is your chance to have your say in the way your Section is being run. If you are not happy with something please speak up and I promise you we will do our very best to sort it. If we get more than 60 members in attendance, I will personally get you all a drink! Tuesday, November 7 - Killiow Golf Club - Meeting and Educational Talk; Tuesday, November 15 - South West Cannington Seminar - "Golf in the Commercial World"

Our aim this year is to get the best speakers our industry can offer and this year's we have secured the services of Ecologist, Bob Taylor, from the STRI, and George Sheils, one of the country's leading Agronomists. I am sure you will agree that this is a fantastic start to our season.

A red hot topic at the moment, which has raised its head yet again, is our old enemy Green Speed. Demands from golfers for fast greens are at best unrealistic and at worst outright impossible to achieve long term without ruining your bent-fescue surfaces. If there are any of you out there who are suffering problems in relation to this or if you have overcome problems or you just feel you might have something useful to contribute, then please contact me. If we get enough replies we can meet up and discuss our problems and maybe help each other. The most important thing is not to suffer in silence. I have done this many times over the years and I can tell you now that a problem shared is a problem halved. We can only do something about this "speed" problem if we join together and create a big enough voice. Assistance from organisations such as the R&A and STRI would be great and if anyone associated with these organisations should be reading this, please give me a ring and I will tell you how you can help.

I think that will do for now. See you all at Elfordleigh on October 10.

Steve Evans
07815 827902 stevenevans184@btinternet.com



SOUTH WALES

Finals weekend for us at the Grove this weekend (Sept 8) that followed by maintenance fortnight and it will be into the Autumn, I can't say I for one will be sorry to see this wash out of a summer over, although it did have its compensations (no hand watering).

On with the report and one piece off information that maybe of interest to some of you comes from our Vice Prez, Dave Ward, Royal Porthcawl) He informs me of a Links Forum which has been formed. The forum was put together by Dave, Peter Lacey and Richard Wyman, and has been held at Richard's club Burnham Berrow; the last meeting took place

on August 21 with 14 links staff from England & Wales in attendance also was Steve Isaacs, R&A.

The meetings are informal and cover all aspect off Links Management; anyone interested in attending should contact one of the above for more information. The R.T Knockout tournament is making progress with the following matches having been decided: G. Humphries & R. McDonagh, bt D.Jones & C. Jones; C. Thomas & J. Rees bt P. Lacey & H. Morgan; C. Campbell & J. Curtis bt L. Sellick & I. Wade; A. Roach & M. Davis bt D. Bray & L. Davis; P.Williamson & R. Davis bt M.Wilshire & M. Anderton; S.Jones & P. Thoma bt E. Nickels & L. Lunn; K. Jones & J. Probert bt G. Blum & G. Knight.

Ceri Richards, Avoncrop Amenity, has suggested having a charity golf day in aid of my wife's cancer charity in October at the Grove. If anyone would be interested please contact Ceri or myself, it would be teams of four and hopefully the trade would sponsor some prizes and Mr Mike Thomas, Grove GC, would let's us use the course, it would be a good day. Last but not least I would like to thank Neil Baldwin, Amega Science, for his time and efforts trying to sort out my dry patch and also Dave Carvey, R.T, thank you both.

That's it from me hope you are not to stressed out and remember always look on the bright side off life! Bye for now.

Henry Stead
henry@henrystead.wonadoo.co.uk 07889792190



NORTHERN IRELAND

We held our Spring Golf Competition at Kilkeel GC on May 31. Conditions were ideal with blue skies and hot temperatures throughout the day. Head Greenkeeper, Gerry Bruen, and his staff had the course in superb condition which combined made our visit to Kilkeel a success. A big thank you to our competition sponsors, The Turfcare Group, who provided all the prizes. We would like to thank NI Sales Representative, Kyle Irwin, for all his support. Praise must also go to the bar and catering staff at Kilkeel GC, for all their hospitality and excellent service.

The results were: 1. Michael King, Royal County Down, 35pts; 2. Eamonn Crawford Royal County Down, 34pts; 3. Gary Crawford, Royal County Down, 33pts. Greenkeeper Non-Member Prize – John Adair; Nearest the Pin – Ken Henderson, Allen Park GC; Longest Drive – Michael Kennedy Royal County Down.

Ken Henderson

BIGGA's Regional Administrators



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



Clive Osgood
SOUTH EAST
Tel: 01737 819343



Peter Larter
NORTHERN & MIDLAND
Tel: 01476 550115



Jane Jones
SOUTH WEST & WALES
Tel: 01454 270850

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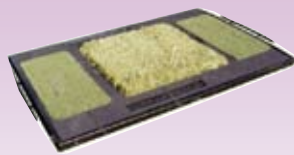


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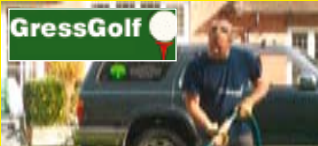
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9	8	6	4	7	5	2	1	3
1	2	7	9	3	6	4	5	8
4	5	3	1	2	8	9	6	7
7	3	9	5	8	4	1	2	6
5	4	8	6	1	2	7	3	9
2	6	1	3	9	7	5	8	4
6	7	4	2	5	3	8	9	1
3	1	2	8	4	9	6	7	5
8	9	5	7	6	1	3	4	2

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



MIKLAGARD GOLF

Miklagard Golf Course is situated approx 15 miles north of Oslo, and is only a 10 minute drive from Oslo international airport.

We are currently seeking mature ambitious individuals to take on these prominent key roles within a large team.

HEAD MECHANIC

Working alongside the Course Superintendent to promote a professional attitude to machinery management, this position will entail maintaining our large fleet of maintenance machinery to the highest standards.

Dealer approved training and qualification will be provided.

GREENKEEPERS AND TRAINEE GREENKEEPERS

Working under the direction of the Superintendent, these challenging roles will involve working within a large team and maintaining and developing our course to the highest possible standard.

No accommodation is provided, although help will be given to find suitable accommodation.

Applications in writing enclosing a current CV and marking your application 'Confidential' to: ianross@c2i.net
or to: Ian Ross, Miklagard golf AS, Postboks 87, 2041 Klofta, Norge

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HEAD GREENKEEPER

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This is a great opportunity for a committed, hands on, enthusiastic, motivated and hardworking Head Greenkeeper to lead and manage a dedicated team.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the management of the course and its continuing development and is expected to have the following qualifications and skills:

- Qualified to NVQ level 3/4 or equivalent to HND Golf Course Management/Master Greenkeeper PA1, PA2, PA6 Spraying Certificates
- Be able to develop and implement a course management plan
- Understand Health & Safety and Environmental Management issues
- Have considerable experience in working on woodland courses
- Knowledge of irrigation systems
- Proven leadership and motivational skills
- Ideally a minimum of 5 years experience at Head Greenkeeping level

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence
Please apply with a full CV and current salary to:
The General Manager, King's Lynn Golf Club,
Castle Rising, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE31 6BD

Closing date: Friday 12th October

RECRUITMENT

Bolton Golf Club

Require
Head Greenkeeper



Established in 1891 this prestigious Club is situated on the north side of the town, the course having a mix of moorland and parkland turf.

The club is looking to recruit an individual who is self motivated, has excellent man management skills, with ability to show attention to detail in maintaining the course to the highest standard. They should also possess the appropriate qualifications expected from a Senior Management role.

Salary details will be negotiable and inline with experience.

Please apply in writing with CV before the 29th October to:

**Secretary/Manager, Bolton Golf Club,
Lostock Park, Bolton BL6 4AJ
E-mail – secretary@boltongolfclub.co.uk**



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This post requires a well disciplined, dedicated professional who possesses the following experience:

- 2-3 years+ experience Golf Course Maintenance
- Minimum Level II NVQ Qualification
- Sound Communication Skills
- Knowledge of Machinery & Irrigation Systems

The successful applicant will be a highly motivated individual with good sound Greenkeeping experience and a strong desire to succeed in his/her chosen career.

Please send your CV and covering letter to be received no later than the 31st October 2007 to:

**Tony Kyle, Head Greenkeeper
Surrey Downs Golf Club, Outwood
Lane, Kingswood, Surrey KT20 6JS
Phone 01737 839073**



JOB TITLE: Course Manager

SALARY: Negotiable subject to experience and qualifications

LOCATION: St. Ives Cambridgeshire

JOB DETAILS

St Ives is currently an established 9 hole course in the heart of Cambridgeshire, founded in 1923 and currently has around 500 members. The successful candidate will be required to meet the challenge of managing the existing course whilst also being part of the team managing the growing-in period of a new championship golf course.

This course is due to open in June 2009 and the successful candidate will have the exciting prospect of managing and maintaining a premium golf course that can be enjoyed by members and guests alike.

Once open they will be responsible for running a team looking after the overall maintenance and upkeep of the course within a specified budget

ESSENTIAL

The successful candidate will have hands on approach with a proven track record:

Working with inland links style courses and USGA standard greens.

Experience of sand capped fairways.

Experience at dealing with the diseases and problems associated with the early years of a new course.

Knowledge of environmental management of a golf course.

Be able to develop and implement a course management plan

Understand Health & Safety and environmental management issues

Financial Management of a set budget

Will be a highly motivated and self managing individual who is able to deliver a course to the highest standards.

Will have the ability to motivate and manage a team of individuals to deliver a course to the highest standards.

Will need to good communication skills for dealing with members and guests to the course.

Will have a practical knowledge of a wide range of golf course equipment.

The ability to network with other Greenkeepers to develop a best practice of ideas.

DESIRABLE

Qualified to NVQ level 3/4 or equivalent to

HND Golf Course Management/Master Greenkeeper

Ideally a minimum of 5 years experience at Head Greenkeeping level

**Please apply in writing, including a full CV by 30th October 2007
to: The Club Manager,**

**St. Ives (Hunts) Golf Club, Westwood Road,
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(The post becomes available from the 1st March 2008).

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Please email or send a full C.V. together with an application letter for the attention of Tim Webb: tim@tacitgolf.com

Tacit, 59 Moat Farm Drive, Hillmorton, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 4HQ

Closing date 31st October 2007

Interviews will be held in Edinburgh in November 2007.



ROTHLEY PARK
Golf Club

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Rothley Park is a prestigious club with 700 members, set in beautiful yet challenging Parkland with several outstanding holes and some panoramic views across Charnwood Forest.

Applications are invited for the above position from experienced, professional greenkeepers with strong management skills and an enthusiastic positive nature.

Good communication skills are essential as you will be expected to liaise with the Club Committee, staff and members.

The successful applicant will hold the necessary qualifications for such a post and have experience in all aspects of greenkeeping including, health and safety/COSHH regulations, machinery maintenance, work scheduling, overseeing staff training, renovation and a sound knowledge of irrigation.

Applications in writing plus curriculum vitae to:

The General Manager
Rothley Park Golf Club
Westfield Lane
Rothley
Leicester LE7 7LH

Closing Date: 20th October 2007



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Assistant Greenkeeper

Ifield Golf Club is an 18 hole private members club set in parkland in Crawley, West Sussex. We currently have a vacancy for an Assistant Greenkeeper to help us maintain our current high standards.

The candidate will be qualified to NVQ level 2 standard with PA 2 and 6. Chainsaw qualifications preferable.

The successful applicant will be punctual, organised, show good leadership qualities and will have their own transport.

A good package is offered by this forward thinking golf club. Excellent machinery replacement and future development plans are already in place.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:
Steve Hayes, Head Greenkeeper
Ifield Golf Club, Rusper Road
Ifield, Crawley,
West Sussex, RH11 0LN

RECRUITMENT



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Rockliffe Hall Ltd is looking to recruit a full greenkeeping team, starting with the Course Manager, who will initially manage the grow in of the 18 hole 8,000yd. Hawtree designed golf course which is now being built by MJ Abbott. With bent grass greens, full irrigation and the Company's commitment to quality, this promises quickly to become one of the top golf venues in the UK

The role will encompass the development and management of the golf course and the landscaped gardens and woodland surrounding the Hotel, part of which is a grade II listed building.

The successful candidate will have previous experience of growing in a course in a cool weather climate and recruiting and directing a team to deliver high quality playing surfaces in a commercial environment.

Applications from suitably qualified and experienced candidates should be sent to Ian Bulleid, Impetus Golf and Leisure Ltd., Cambrian House, 220 Hempstead Rd. Watford WD17 4LL or e-mail isimpetus@aol.com

Recruitment for all other positions in the team will commence in the New Year. If you feel you have the right skills to join the opening team for this high profile development forward your CV to Ian at the above address.

www.rockliffehall.com

Duddingston Golf Club – Assistant Green Keeper

We are looking for a reliable, hard working person who has a willingness to learn and improve. The successful candidate will be part of a team that takes pride in producing a golf course of high quality. A company pension scheme is in operation.



Requirements:
Minimum of three years golf course experience
NVQ2 or equivalent



Salary will be negotiated with age and experience being taken into account

Please reply in writing to:

General Manager
Duddingston Golf Club, Duddingston Road West
Edinburgh, EH15 3QD

CHOBHAM GOLF CLUB

Requires a

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant should be qualified to NVQ level 2 or above with a minimum 3 years experience.

Ideally the applicant will be enthusiastic, motivated and have a sound knowledge of golf.

Salary will be between 17k - 20k dependant on experience

Apply in writing with a full cv to

Mark Bugler (Course Manager) Chobham Golf Club
Chobham Road, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey, GU21 2TZ



FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Rugby Golf Club require a First Assistant Greenkeeper

Rugby Golf Club was founded in 1891, and is a friendly private members club, situated in a pleasant riverside location.

Applicants should have a minimum of 3 years green keeping experience and ideally hold relevant qualifications.

We are looking for a motivated person to assist the Head Greenkeeper Robin Bryson and his small team.

Please apply in writing with CV to:
Robin Bryson (Head Greenkeeper)
Rugby Golf Club, Clifton Road,
Rugby, Warwickshire CV21 3RD



Burhill Golf Club Head Mechanic

As part of our continuous investment in our Golf Courses we are looking to employ a Head Mechanic to maintain our fleet of Golf Course machinery. Applicants should possess a sound knowledge of Golf Course Equipment including servicing, cylinder grinding and record keeping. A sound knowledge of H&S regulations would be of an advantage. Salary to be negotiated.

Please apply to Jane Meincken.
Burhill Golf Club, Burwood Road, Walton on Thames,
Surrey. KT12 4BX. Email j.meincken@burhillgl.co.uk



BLACKMOOR GOLF CLUB DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Applicants need to be experienced and qualified to a minimum of NVQ level 3 or equivalent plus PA1, PA2 and PA6.

The successful candidate will have the ability to manage the course and greenkeeping staff in the absence of the Head Greenkeeper and will become part of an enthusiastic team.

APPLICATIONS IN WRITING PLEASE, TOGETHER WITH CV TO:
MR J NORRIS, BLACKMOOR GOLF CLUB, FIRGROVE ROAD,
WHITEHILL, BORDON, HAMPSHIRE GU35 9EH.

Bird Hills Golf Centre

Email: info@birdhills.co.uk | Telephone: 01628 771030

Greenkeeper

An experienced NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeper is required to assist the Head Greenkeeper on this busy 18 hole parkland course. Relevant spraying certificates would be beneficial.

Accommodation is not available but the course is conveniently located close to Maidenhead, Wokingham, Windsor, Bracknell and Slough.

A competitive salary will be paid to the successful applicant.

Please apply by sending a CV with covering letter to:
Hannah Edwards
Bird Hills Golf Centre, Drift Road,
Hawthorn Hill, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3ST

GLENBERVIE GOLF CLUB LTD

Require a Deputy Course Manager

Founded in 1932, Glenbervie is private members Golf Club, set in 300 acres of beautiful parkland.

The Club provides the highest standard of facilities, including an 18 hole golf course, a 9 hole golf course and extensive practice facilities.

Applications are invited from enthusiastic, hard working greenkeepers, qualified to NVQ level 3, or equivalent. With a minimum of 5 year's experience, the applicant will have

- A commitment to excellence.
- Good team management skills.
- The ability to manage resources and exercise good budgetary controls.
- Full spraying and chainsaw certificates.

Salary negotiable, subject to experience and qualifications.

Please apply in writing, with a full C.V. and salary expectation, by 19th October 2007 to:

Mr A J Smith
Course, Match & Handicap Convener
Glenbervie Golf Club Ltd
Stirling Road
Larbert, Scotland
FK5 4SJ

WHAT A MONTH!

Times in the year can be stressful in our chosen occupation at the best of times! With long days and even earlier starts than normal, my staff and I have been tested to the extreme. Mix in a member golfing calendar that reads more like a timetable for the British Rail network and you might just about be getting close to how things have been for us at Tyrrells Wood during the last month or so. Course closures for major club events, shotgun starts at ungodly hours of the morning, big days booked with the best intentions for a weekend in July being postponed to a Monday in September because of bad weather - All of this takes its toll on us as a greenkeeping team.

A time of the year that should be manageable has become, because of high rates of growth, the complete opposite of the expected norm for this time of year. It seems like only yesterday we were all being challenged in 2006 as to how best to recover our courses, to grass cover after the worst drought in years, it would seem almost normal therefore, regardless of how the weather has been, we do at this time of year find ourselves slightly worse for wear. Another factor I almost forgot is of course staff holidays that have been booked to give the team a well deserved break after a long summer stint in the world of greenkeeping, before we set to on the next busy schedule of events with on course renovations and continued course development projects to start. Just to put into context how well the grass has been growing, we have had three day a week cutting programmes turn into a daily operation and those bunker and tee bank maintenance programmes becoming not weekly, but full time operations in an effort just to keep them at bay. We have carried out machinery overhauls mid season that would normally be done at the end of the main growing season and without exception these overhauls will still have to be done, as normal, at the end of the growth we are currently going through to put the equipment back into good order for the next seasons work.

It might seem that all these factors have got us down, well, in fact, the opposite has been true, we have enjoyed a course this year better than we have ever been able to have in many a long year, we have used very little fertiliser and our consumption of irrigation water is at an all time low. Our fuel bill has almost doubled and we have had had a fairly intensive repair



programme, nothing more than could have been expected with the higher wear and tear put onto the equipment. On another financial note, our current account spends are at a higher level than we would normally expect at this time of year with machinery maintenance and wages being the main areas of growth within our day to day spend lines, but will I'm sure, not be a problem in terms of balancing the accounts as we have of course had some cost centre savings on other nominal codes overall.

So what's the fascination with this tale you might ask? As far as the golfer is concerned it's just another normal year and in some cases the focus has just changed from dry grass last year to wet grass this and no matter what the weather has to throw at us as greenkeepers we are expected to perform regardless. I wonder if the average golfer could comprehend the diversity of skill changes required to manage and maintain a golf course, I would hazard a guess not, all they seem to want is to have a good golf course in spite of the challenges given to the greenkeeping staff at anytime, with regards to weather or financial restriction. How often is it we hear the course was better last year or the grass was too long and why is the course so untidy with lumps of dead grass everywhere. In fact, not only have greenkeepers today become masters in the art of cutting grass, but also in the art of getting rid of what would

have been deemed normal on course debris conditions in extremes of growth conditions. We have become used to collecting clippings, this year in particular on fairways, managed roughs without many dry conditions outside the play pattern's, have had to employ vac's and blowers to the extreme - Adding to our list of daily tasks in an effort to meet the very exacting standards expected by today's golfer. A well-planned course maintenance operation with the right weather to support, it is without exception an easy thing to both manage and achieve to the required standards. However, a heavy period of rain with no light at the end of the tunnel, of a break in this unexpected onslaught of extreme weather, does in fact in the mind of the golfer make us look pretty ineffective sometimes about a factor we have no control over. The only recourse we in fact have to combat is poor weather conditions, to temporally postpone these necessary works until the weather conditions are more favourable and of course taking a planned operation outside the terms of opportunity afforded us, within a busy golfing calendar with all its associated problems, to get things done on time within budget and to the required standard.

This month's topic is, and has been, inspired by meeting many members that have been between a rock and a hard place this year, me included, to manage our affairs with all the weather has thrown at us as custodians of the greens. So to those among the golfing public that feel it necessary to bemoan their lot and condemn the best efforts of their greenkeeping staff under extremes of weather I would say this - You can never compare eggs with eggs and to create an omelette you first have to crack a few eggs. There are no normal conditions, we live in a world of many dimensions and it takes great dexterity, skill and experience to achieve the intended goal of excellence, that's not expected today, but demanded by you, the golfing public. I, unlike a minority of golfers am impressed beyond belief by the level of skills that the modern course manager has to master to ply his trade today.

So it's been just another normal month as you can imagine, for me, your Chairman, as I'm sure it has been for all of you. Right now that's off my chest time for the kid's I think.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. McMillan'.

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