

Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

- Security Supplement – Are you sure you're secure?
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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, AIne, 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

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Welcome



Backbone over Raw Talent

I've just returned from my annual fortnight's holiday – two weeks of melting in Florida's near 100 degree heat and stalking Mickey Mouse, Scooby Doo and Goofy in the theme parks – and am now hopefully refreshed and ready to push the pedal to the metal on life's accelerator once again.

So what has gone on while I was away? Well, there was a Foot and Mouth scare in the UK, a stock market crash worldwide and Tiger Woods won another Major – no doubt the most predictable of all. I'm not one of those people who feels short changed that one man is so dominant. I always support Tiger and, indeed, Roger Federer as we are very privileged to be around at a time when we can enjoy watching the best ply their trade. The one disappointment, in golf, has been that no-one has stepped up to the plate (you can tell I've been in the States) and offered Tiger serious competition. We've had David Duval, Ernie Els, Phil Mickelson all supply hints of a Palmer-Nicklaus; type rivalry but they have fallen short. It's therefore interesting to learn that while Tiger is head and shoulders above the rest he is still the one who spends most time in the gym.

It's the old thing - talent and application. We can all remember people at school who seemed to have it all but now do dead end jobs. It's a great example to everyone who has been in awe of the guy at the top of the class. If you work hard there is a fair chance you'll get further. It's strange to say it but a bit of backbone and a dose of application is a far greater gift than natural talent.

If you want a prime example of someone in golf with talent but no application you should look no further than John Daly. He spent the week of the US PGA not practising at Southern Hills, but at a Casino nearby playing the slots and when he did decide to practice he was given access to the Casino's own course for the day. His talent saw him to a great opening round but his lack of application meant he fell away. You've as much chance seeing Big John in a gym as you have of catching him eating a salad. It's when you get the rare combination of talent and application that you get real champions like Tiger and Roger and they deserve all the plaudits that come their way.

Another thing that happened while on holiday was that I had my 45th birthday.

When I was 35 it dawned on me that 15 years before I'd been 20 and that 15 years from then I'd be 50. It was a sobering thought but now here I am a mere five years away from being eligible to go on SAGA holidays!

But as I've said many times getting old is better than the alternative.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

THE BIGGA/GCMA SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System has been available to members of BIGGA and to members of the GCMA since the beginning of July. Since then, more than 100 golf clubs have signed up to use the system and the website has seen more than 500 hits.

Taking Health and Safety seriously is important for a number of reasons and it can help you to manage your golf clubs and manage your staff better. Moreover, as Environmental Health Inspectors target more and more golf clubs, good health and safety practice can save you money. A recent court case found a golf club guilty of not performing adequate risk assessments and of not giving adequate training and assessment to staff that had led to a member of staff being injured. They were fined £38,500 for what the judge called a serious breach of health and safety law.

Can you afford to ignore health and safety law?

Members of BIGGA should go to the Association website: www.bigga.org.uk and go to the member's area where they can use their name and membership number to log in as a member. Click on SMS Website then Click on Click here to visit the site. Enter the site and you will be taken to the BIGGA/GCMA Recommended Safety Management System page. Click on the docs/links tab and click on the SMS User Instruction button. The User Instructions will be downloaded into your computer's Word Processor and you can print the Instructions for later reference. You can now use the SMS to generate a policy document and to produce an organisation document for your club before attempting to use the Risk Profiles and Risk Assessments. You need to register your club's name and an e-mail address to gain access to them. Once you have completed your Risk Assessments and amended your Risk Profiles, you can produce your health and safety plan. This can be followed by the production of your Audit policy and a policy for reviewing your SMS.

The SMS site has been produced to make it as easy as possible for you to implement your SMS but if you need assistance and/or you do not have a competent person, contact Xact Consulting on: 0845 665 3006.

HEADQUARTERS EXPANSION

Rolawn have announced a major expansion of their headquarters near York.

Rolawn have continued to enjoy strong annual growth in turnover and to support their expansion plans in the UK market Rolawn have recently announced they are extending the size of their current headquarters by over 60% with work starting shortly.

Paul Dawson, Rolawn's Managing Director commented, "Our expanded headquarters marks an important stage in our development; it is a further illustration of our commitment to increasing our market share of both the UK turf and topsoil markets. With our existing range of products and with more on the way we are confident about continued growth."

NEW ROLE

Alan Pierce, 27, has been appointed Course Manager at Ham Manor Golf Club in West Sussex. Alan has been a greenkeeper for 13 years, starting his career at Wellshurst GC, then moving onto Chartham Park GC before becoming Deputy at Royal Eastbourne GC.



Alan Pierce (left) and Robin Stace, Ham Manor GC's Chairman of Green

Alan, who was Toro Student of the Year in 2005, said: "I was promoted to Course Manager in May 2007 and have just had confirmation that it is permanent! I think it shows how valuable the training at the University of Massachusetts is to previous and future winners of the Toro Student of the Year Award. It has certainly given me much valuable knowledge and confidence in my own abilities. A great prize, thoroughly worthwhile. Lets hope that Toro continue to sponsor it for many years to come."

ARCHITECTS MOVE FORWARD WITH EDUCATION

The 15 students of the European Institute of Golf Course Architects are presently moving to their final seminar, in St. Andrews, of their two year Professional Diploma Course before their graduation into the Institute.

They will complete their studies this September and take back to their 12 countries a unique qualification in their entry into the profession of golf course design.

They will be succeeded by 17 new students from as far afield as USA, Argentina, South Africa, Canada – in total 13 nations – who will begin their Diploma Course in Surrey in September. Thereafter, in their two year programme, they will spend time in Germany, Ireland, Portugal and Scotland as well as with EIGCA member practices in their professional education.

SOUTH WEST GMT

The South West Golf Management Trophy was held at Trefloyne Golf Club near Tenby recently, with Scotts sponsoring the day and an entry of 14 teams. The winning team (as seen below) was Pyle and Kenfig GC, in second place was Garnant Park GC and Trefloyne GC, who were last year's winners, came third.



THE OPEN AND SHUT CHOICE FOR CARNOUSTIE

As the golf world hails a new champion of The Open at Carnoustie, a brand new digital version of the world-famous links course north of Dundee has been produced, to encourage the next generation of golfers!

Golf simulation engineers Sports Coach Systems were commissioned to digitise the Championship Course after Carnoustie's Golf Services Manager, Colin McLeod, saw the simulators at the PGA Show in Orlando last January.

Part of the club's commitment to the local community is to provide free tuition to children from Carnoustie, so this is a very packed programme indeed. At the moment, the club has a practice ground but it's located about a mile from the first tee.

As junior coaching continues all through the winter, the intention is to construct a new state-of-the-art facility about 30 yards from the first tee. It is here that two secure bays are earmarked to house the simulators, allowing juniors to play the course and undergo analysis whatever the weather or time of day.

AWARDED CPD

BIGGA has recognised Rolawn, Europe's largest turf grower, as a contributor to their members Continuing Professional Development (CPD) educational programme.

Following attendance at one of Rolawn's training field days, BIGGA members will be awarded three CPD credits. During the training day, the primary topic areas covered will be the cultivation process for greens, tees and general turf, the link between a turf grower and a golf course, cultivar selection, turf harvesting and the importance of growing turf to meet the principles of sustainability.



Cedric McMillan, Rolawn's Sales & Marketing Director commented, "BIGGA strives, through education and training to set and maintain standards of excellence in golf course management throughout the Greenkeeping profession and we are delighted to participate in the Continuing Professional Development Scheme."

NORTH WEST BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Leading hire company, A-Plant, has been declared North West Business of the Year at the UK's 'Business Oscars.' A-Plant picked up the coveted Badenoch & Clark Business of the Year title at the National Business Awards North West Regional Final 2007 hosted in Manchester.

In a remarkable run of success, A-Plant - which has its headquarters in Warrington, Cheshire, and hires out Plant, Tools and Specialist Equipment from over 200 depots nationwide - also triumphed in the Cable & Wireless Award for Customer Focus for the second-year running. The company was declared a finalist in the Orange Best Use of Technology in Business Award and was highly commended for both the Corporate Social Responsibility Award and the City & Guilds Employer of the Year Award.



A-Plant's Marketing Director, Asif Latief

The National Business Awards are the highest accolade that British businesses can aspire to achieve and have been described by Prime Minister Gordon Brown as the UK's 'Business Oscars', A-Plant automatically goes through to the National Business Awards final hosted in London in November. Winners can then go on to the European Business Awards 2008 in Paris.

VIDEO WEBSITE FOR DR PRODUCTS

Rochford GM, the sole UK distributors for the American manufactured DR range of outdoor power equipment, has launched a new consumer website where prospective buyers can see the machines being used with a running commentary, by simply logging on to www.drproducts.co.uk and following the simple on-line instructions. The new website features four DR products in use as well as a dealer locator, downloads for manuals and a list of accessories and contacts.

For further information visit: www.drproducts.co.uk



The DR Power Wagon

KEEP YOUR SPRAYING UP TO SCRATCH

It is important to keep up to date with legislation and regulations surrounding the use of pesticides as well as ensuring all spraying equipment used is up to scratch.

The National Register of Sprayer Operators (NRoSO) was formed in 2003 as part of the Voluntary Initiative (VI) within land based industries. Its aim was to prove safe and responsible use of pesticides.

The NRoSO scheme was developed to help demonstrate Continuing Professional Development (CPD) – such as update training, seminars and conferences – in a way that farmers, greenkeepers and other sprayer operators could understand and use.

Changing the behaviour of pesticide users is a central pillar of the VI and this is frequently facilitated by training. NRoSO is a "professional

register" designed around CPD and training, thus helping to raise standards for all sprayer operators and advisors.

Training helps to provide a better understanding of application of sprays, a better understanding of the environmental effects of crop protection, and to ensure that they are used safely and effectively. Pesticides are powerful tools and can be used to great benefit, but misuse can have devastating effects. Training gives the confidence to all concerned that their use will be to best effect.

The public who have access to golf courses probably has little understanding of the products you use, and tend to have a negative view towards any form of pesticide treatment. Being a member of NRoSO will be a useful message for golfers and other members of the public to prove your professionalism in showing that you are taking your duties as a sprayer operator responsibly, and are sufficiently interested in the effects of the products you use to keep up to date and to continue to develop your skills.

The VI is now in its sixth year and has continued to meet or exceed the targets set for it. NRoSO membership was part of the VI plan, but has developed a real purpose of its own in helping sprayer operators access the sort of training that is relevant to their needs. It has enabled sprayer operators to share best practice and improve their skills. The current focus is on the latest thinking on water protection and covers advice on filling and handling practices and managing soils to prevent run off. Simple improvements in practices can have dramatic improvements on the residues found in water courses.



All sprayer operators on a golf course have a duty of care to the public on their courses, and to the environment that they work in. Being an NRoSO member and accessing CPD training represents a responsible way forward for the industry.

And whether you have your own sprayer or

News



engage contractors, you need to be aware of the National Sprayer Testing Scheme (NSTS).

There has been much discussion around the relevance of the NSTS in the golf course and amenity sectors. Why should small machines need to be tested when they are not by their nature large appliers of pesticide?

“But look at it another way,” said NSTS manager, Duncan Russell. “All machines – no matter what size or how much pesticide is applied – need to make that application accurately and safely for both the environment and the operator.”

“The NSTS test achieves exactly that – an independent person looking at the sprayer to make sure it is in good working condition and capable of applying pesticides correctly. All the more important when the machine is working in very public environments such as golf courses and amenity parks.”

This annual test has many benefits:

- It confirms that the machine is kept in good working condition and is unlikely to fail or break down when carrying out an important spraying operation.
- The machine is working correctly and capable, when operated by a qualified operator, of applying the correct dose of pesticide on target.
- It confirms the machine is safe to use from the operator’s perspective, helps confirm the requirements of Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (PUWER) and confirms a general duty of care to members and public alike.
- It will reduce the need for potentially expensive emergency call outs by the service engineer should the sprayer fail during a spraying operation.
- A sprayer kept in good condition is likely to be worth more as a trade-in against a new updated machine.
- It helps confirm that the sprayer owners are supporting the aims of the VI in reducing the impact of pesticides on the environment and gives notice of a professional and responsible attitude to pesticide application.

The NSTS has been testing liquid application machinery since 1 January 2003 and to date has carried out more than 32,000 tests. The scheme is part of the VI which has delivered genuine environmental benefits.

It has a nationwide network of qualified machine examiners who have the necessary specialist equipment to test a machine to the standards required. A list of these examiners is available from the NSTS website where machine owners can choose their nearest or preferred sprayer examiner.

Also available from the website is a check-sheet which can be used by machine owners and operators to pre-check their sprayers before submitting them for independent examination. This check-sheet can also be used for regular maintenance and mid season checks.

The NSTS is available for all forms of liquid application from specialist self propelled golf course machines through small mounted sprayers to barrow sprayers and knapsacks. All can be tested within the scheme and will benefit from this regular checking system.



Call to discuss your requirements: 01883 344244

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



PARTNERSHIP FORMED

Having healthy turf to play sports on is important to any Sports Surface Manager. But today, with the pressures of televised events it must also look good. To give future Sports Surface Managers an insight into what actually goes on throughout the year in a high profile stadium Askham Bryan College have formed a partnership with Leeds Rugby Ltd.

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE

This partnership will initially allow National Diploma Horticulture students on the Turf Production and Maintenance module to carry out turf maintenance operations on the playing pitch at Headingley. The premise stands that for half of the college year half of the group will be on the pitch and the other half in the classroom and then vice versa. The students will attend classes at Headingley on alternate weeks, whilst at college they will be able to apply the same methods on the college playing surface.

This should work out to be a fantastic opportunity for both parties, seeing at Headingley not only a Rugby Academy but also a Sports Surface Managers Academy.

*Dan Prest
Course Tutor, National Diploma Horticulture*

CONFERENCE RETURNS TO AMSTERDAM

The European Golf Business Conference will return to Amsterdam in November.

Hosted by the European Golf Course Owners Association (EGCOA), the 2007 conference is at the Renaissance Hotel from November 28-30.

Specialists from across the world will offer their thoughts and insight on the development of golf across nine sessions.

The conference is aimed at golf course owners, managers, directors of golf, suppliers, representatives or professional bodies, suppliers, golf course architects and industry partners.

For more information visit: www.egcoa.org/congres2007

UFO AT PURLEY DOWNS GC

Thursday started as normal, the Course Manager checking the clock as we appeared for work. Sitting round the table in the rest room in our temporary accommodation about 6.40am, I happened to glance out of the window and saw a balloon; on looking again it was a gigantic hot air balloon, slowly coming into land on our 8th fairway, a short par 3. We were all amazed at the spectacle unfolding before us!

As I approached the gondola, the pilot asked if it would be okay to land; as if I could say no, I said that he could land but the balloon would be deemed a 'moveable obstruction' should a golfer appear on the tee, this went clearly 'over his head' as did the balloon! I then jumped out of my skin as all at once 10 passengers appeared over the gondola's basket top viewing the scene. The pilot manoeuvred the balloon, assisted by two occupants pulling on guy ropes, to the 9th fairway to allow more room to lower it. Once stabilised the occupants disembarked and there followed a frenzied 20 minutes of collapsing the balloon, rolling it up and eventually stowing it away on the support vehicle and trailer (that had conveniently been harboured up outside the golf course).

Pictures were taken by the passengers, champagne quaffed, with lots of smiling faces at what they had all achieved. We then started the day's work...

Should anyone wish to take a trip in a hot air balloon in the South East of England please visit www.adventureballoons.co.uk

John Barnes, Greenkeeper



BRITISH BLIND OPEN 2007

The English Blind Golf Association recently hosted the 2007 British Blind Open Golf Championships, at Fulford Golf Club, York.

2007 marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of a blind golf association in England, previously known as the Visually Handicapped Golfers Association (London and South East Region).

York remained dry and sunny for the event, which lasted three days and consisted of a 36-hole medal played over two days for the Championship, and a Pro/Celeb/Am and Try Golf event on day one for the visually impaired children from the Yorkshire area.

So how is it done? The sighted caddie or guide acts as the blind golfer's eyes, giving verbal information about distance, direction and the characteristics of each hole. Then it is down to the accuracy of the golfer's swing. Blind golfers use the same equipment, same balls and play to R&A Rules, with the one exception that they are allowed to ground the club in hazard.

"I think the hotel looked after us spectacularly, Fulford Golf Club was hugely supportive, the course was in fantastic condition and god looked after the weather. We've received nothing but praise from everyone at the event and this year's Champion was a true Champion finishing 12 under par," said Malcolm Elrick, an EBGA Director and Public Relations Person.



Try Golf Event, L to R: John Scappaticci; Malcolm Elrick; John's Guide and wife, Jo Scappatacci; Malcolm's Guide and wife, Lesley Elrick; Fulford Club Captain, Mike Onyett; Ex-England Cricketer, Brian Close

Results: The overall winner was S. Smyth with a nett score of 132; second was M. Mayo with 143 and third N. Baxter with 144; Z. Sharon won best gross in the B1 category with 219; A. Sellars won best gross in the B2 category with 180 and M. Mayo won best gross in the B3 category with 173.

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

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' as in the Environment, Weather, Our Association, Finance, Equipment, etc.

Speakers so will include: John Pemberton BIGGA, Ian Lacy IOG, Steve Isaacs R&A,

Jason Lock Better Golf Centre, Laurence Pithie

MG Crown Golf, and a Groundsman from a leading County Cricket Club.

The cost for the day will be £15 this includes coffee/tea on arrival and a hot meal at lunch time.

More details will be published in the next edition of Greenkeeper International or for more information, contact Clive Osgood the South East Region Administrator on: 01737 819343.

IOG MEMBERS AWARDED MASTERS DEGREES

Three members of the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) have graduated with Master of Science (MSc) Sports Surface Technology degrees from Cranfield University.

Martin Ford, Alan Lewis and Ian Norman have all achieved their MSc degrees on a part-time basis, after undertaking modules plus completing a research project.

Based in Somerset, IOG/ECB Fine Turf Project Manager Martin Ford, formerly IOG treasurer, is a Royal Horticultural Society Master of Horticulture and he graduated from Cranfield sharing the Turtrax prize for the Best Student with Kathryn Severn, who is now at Loughborough University carrying out research into synthetic pitches.

Alan Lewis is a Senior IOG Instructor in Shropshire and is Technical Director of TTS, and Ian Norman is based in Sussex. Both are longstanding members of the IOG as well as being qualified and experienced IOG Training Instructors and Consultants. Commenting, Martin Ford said: "I don't just regard my MSc as a personal achievement; it is also a reflection of how the industry is recognising post-graduate level qualifications both in the UK and European Community."





WHY SO CRITICAL?

In this month's article David Golding, GTC's Education Director, looks to dispel the myth that "the GTC wants every greenkeeper registered on an NVQ." He also looks at why there are still some very influential "turf related" individuals who seem to spend most of their lives criticising vocational training

Ignorance by dictionary definition is "a lack of knowledge" and I could add that this is the perception of many VQ sceptics as they think N/SVQ's are all about doing the job, somebody, could be anybody, ticking a few boxes and bingo give the student a piece of paper and there is no knowledge requirement whatsoever!

Sorry, but before I set off again explaining how many more competent qualified assessors are now at the forefront of formally training and assessing their staff in their normal working environment, I really need to explain the GTC's stance on greenkeeper education, training and qualifications.

The GTC looks to have a range of both work-based and academic qualifications available for turf students and employers to access.

Access to these qualifications is through a network of GTC Approved Training providers who are encouraged to devise a range of delivery options to suit the needs of all employers/students e.g. part-time, full-time off the job courses or on the job learning through workbooks or on-line learning.

Whether the knowledge is gained on or off the job, the support of the Course Manager/assessor is vital when it comes to skills and the assessment of competence is always most cost-effective and efficient when carried out by the learners supervisor under normal working conditions.

Skills training, without doubt, is best delivered on the job, however there are still specialist training requirements, such as legislative certificates which can be best suited to group training at a central site e.g. provider centre, college or golf club.

The GTC therefore works with all the key bodies, organisations and providers to ensure that the sector has as small a range of certificates and qualifications available which are delivered to a national standard, based on quality and applicable to the turf industry.

The range of turf qualifications does not stop at the N/SVQ's, albeit in excess of 90% of turf student registrations are on work-based qualifications!

There are the more academic National Certificate/Diploma qualifications, which can lead students onto the higher education qualifications such as Higher National Certificates/Diplomas and Foundation and Master Degree qualifications.

The GTC is involved in the development and review of all of these qualifications and fully supports and endorses them!

All these qualifications are developed within the Governments national

framework and attract varying levels of funding support, making courses more attractive to employers.

The qualifications often are included within schemes promoted by the Government such as the Apprenticeship Scheme or Train 2 Gain.

Given that the GTC's Provider network are now really wanting to meet the industries needs, you need to discuss the various qualifications and delivery methods as well as costs with either your favoured provider, or for independent advice, contact the GTC direct.

The GTC is looking to launch a new facility on its website which does not just link you to the list of GTC Approved Training Providers but through a sub section list, the specific turf qualifications and courses each provider offers. We appreciate just how difficult it can be when clicking on a provider to actually find the turf courses. Often hidden within Horticulture or in the case of large colleges, well hidden for even us to find. Fiona from the GTC, is on the case and we hope to take the pain out of seeking which course or qualification by having the information available on the GTC website shortly.

As for the VQ sceptics, well I don't intend to name them but I will say that the responsible providers are now fully supporting Course Managers and in particular qualified assessors to drive the skills training of greenkeepers forward. This has been acknowledged more and more by employers recognising a more motivated, competent member of staff deserves financial reward and in many cases promotion when the position arises – succession planning!

Well done to all those on the job trainers/assessors, who are now driving up the skills of their staff in association with their chosen provider and to those employers who fully understand the true meaning and benefits of vocational training and as a result have a competent workforce.

To discuss the range of turf qualifications and courses contact David direct on email david@the-gtc.co.uk or Tel 01347 838640.

The GTC's website is: www.the-gtc.co.uk

GTC is supported by:



Education

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund



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

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

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

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As he enters his final month as an employee of BIGGA, before retirement Ken Richardson looks back over the past 14 years

Stress at work is now included as a hazard that must be considered when doing risk assessments and it's been said there are many outside influences that can increase stress levels - losing your job, moving house, divorce and a death in the family. 1993 ended with my redundancy from the Royal Air Force after 34 years and 1994 began with my father's death, my employment by BIGGA and a subsequent house move. I didn't have a handover when I arrived at Aldwark as my predecessor; had left before I arrived. However, I thought that I could cope OK as, after all, I had coped with regular postings, house moves, changes of job and lots of working away from home. I was coping quite well until, in May, Neil Thomas asked me if I had thought about the education programme for BTME. I can remember thinking 'BTME what?' as I hurried to my office to check the wording of my job description. Sure enough, there was an item saying produce BTME education programme. Thankfully, Neil gave me the names and numbers of several course managers and members of the trade so I could make a start. BTME 1995 brought back the stress as I hoped everything would go OK, that all of the speakers would turn up and some greenkeepers would turn up to listen. I needn't have worried, everything seemed to go smoothly with a two-day Conference in the Majestic Hotel and three days of Seminars in the Royal Hall.



The Conference Programme included papers on European Golf Course Ecology, How to Manage Golf Course Ecology, Obstacles and How to Overcome Them, The Benefits of Turf Grasses to the Environment, Water Management, Irrigation Techniques and Environmental Research.

Looking back it seems that BIGGA was taking a positive stance on environmental management in '95 and that has continued through to the present.

The Seminar programme included: two future

Chairmen of BIGGA, George Brown and Kerran Daly, Anthony Davies MG, Bridie Redican, Iain MacLeod and Jim Cassidy presenting a range of technical papers.

The Banquet entertainer was Tom O'Connor, ably supported by a last minute replacement, Linda Nolan - Who can ever forget Jim Snow's appearance on stage with Linda?

That was the start of my career with BIGGA but what has happened since?

My job has changed in many ways through taking on the additional role of Deputy Chief Executive. The depth and range of education and training for greenkeepers has grown massively. I have produced 13 Conference, Workshop and Seminar programmes for BTME/Harrogate Week. We have progressed from less than 12 MGs to more than 40. I have interviewed more than 400 students and helped to select 14 Toro Students of the Year. I've seen a massive change in the attitude, confidence and professionalism of greenkeepers, I have travelled around Europe and to the USA, attended more meetings than I care to remember but best of all, I have met a lot of very genuine, helpful, friendly greenkeepers, course managers, superintendents, officials, dealers, trade members, club secretaries, golf officials and even golfers.

Technology has brought many changes, computers are everywhere and overhead projectors are historical items like steam trains. Many course managers have become involved in staff training with more than 1000 holding an assessor qualification.

I can remember being asked at my interview what I knew about greenkeeping. My answer was not a lot but I did know a fair bit about education and training and that BIGGA had more than 3000 subject matter experts. I now know a bit more about greenkeeping know a bit more about education and training, and BIGGA now has more than 6000 subject matter experts.

I will be leaving my post with BIGGA on September 28 when Sami Collins, ably assisted by Rachael Duffy, will take over my duties in the new, Learning and Development Department. I am sure you will give both of them your full support.

I have enjoyed my time with BIGGA, working alongside, with, and for, some very dedicated professional people. I will miss you all but I look forward to keeping in touch through GI, the Internet and at Harrogate Week.

Membership



THIS MONTH OUR MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INUNDATED WITH NEW MEMBERS...

BIGGA WELCOMES

MIDLAND		
Martyn	Lumb	East of England
Nigel	May	Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Tony	May	Berks/Bucks & Oxon
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Gordon	Snape	Mid Anglia
Amanda	Waters	East Midland
Gary	Wood	Midland
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Dean	Baily	Surrey
Andrew	Barnes	Essex
Simon	Cairns	Essex
Richard	Dwan	Kent
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Martin	Gasson	Sussex
Mark	Gemmill	Essex
David	Gray	Surrey
Simon	Mockler	Surrey
Peter	Saunders	Surrey
Robert	Sebbage	Sussex
John	Sewell	Surrey
Jonathan	Sharp	Surrey
Craig	Sheeran	Surrey
Peter	Sparks	Surrey
Adam	Vickery	Essex
Liam	Webb	Surrey
Matthew	Webb	Sussex
Alex	Wilson	Surrey
SOUTH WEST & WALES		
Paul	Chiplin	South Wales
Grant	Evans	South Wales
Richard	Hammett	South Wales
Scott	Johnson	South Wales
James	Jones	South Wales
Jonathan	Knight	South Wales
Simon	Lacey	South Wales
Ashley	Lock	South West
Robert	Millman	Devon & Cornwall
William	Morton	South Wales
Mark	Parsons	South Wales
David	Patrick	South West
Steven	Price	South Wales
James	Pride	South Wales
Jamie	Saunders	South Wales
Lucy	Selick	South Wales
Barry	Smith	South Wales
Louis	Stephenson	South Coast
David	Thomas	South Wales
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Damien	Mcconway	Northern Ireland
Mark	Mcdowell	Northern Ireland
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND		
Thomas	Rafferty	Southern Ireland
ASSOCIATE		
Nicholas	O'Connell	South Wales
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STEPHEN	DOCHERTY	West
LEWIS	GLANCY	East
STEVEN	LAUDER	West
CHRIS	MOORE	Central
HOWARD	NICHOLSON	Central
BLAIR	O'NEIL	West
BEN	PETERS	East
CALUM	ROSS	Central
IAIN	SINCLAIR	Central
BRIAN	STEWART	Central
NORTHERN REGION		
SCOTT	ASTBURY	Northern
DANIEL	BENNETT	North West
JAMES	BREEZE	Northern
DANIEL	COOPER	North West
JONATHAN	GLYNN	Northern
MATTHEW	HAYES	North West
ADAM	PORTER	Northern
JULIAN	SHANKS	North East
JAMIE	SMITH	North East
DUNCAN	STEPHENSON	Northern
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JAMES	DEGNAN	East Midland
GRAHAM	DOWN	Berks/Bucks & Oxon
GRAHAM	ECCLES	Berks/Bucks & Oxon
PHILIP	GASCOYNE	Berks/Bucks & Oxon
ANDREW	HALL	Berks/Bucks & Oxon
PAUL	JAMES	Midland
SIMON	LEE	Midland
CHRIS	OWEN	Midland
TIMOTHY	ROOKE	Berks/Bucks & Oxon
GARETH	SURDO	Midland
MATTHEW	WALKER	Midland
STEPHEN	WARNE	East Midland
BEN	WILLOUGHBY	Berks/Bucks & Oxon
WILLIAM	YARHAM	East Midland
MARK	YATES	Midland
SOUTH EAST		
BEN	ADAMS	Kent
TIM	BREWSTER	Surrey
ANDREW	BROWN	Sussex
SIMON	DOWNHILL	Essex
LAWRENCE	FENNMORE	Surrey
STEVEN	FLYNN	Sussex
CHRISTOPHER	GURTON	East Anglia
LUKASZ	LISICKI	Essex
ANTHONY	MACLEOD	Surrey
CHRIS	MARKER	Surrey
NICK	MCGOWN	Surrey
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Count on it.



Hobbies

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

Name: Nigel Marshall

Club: Belton Park GC

Position: Deputy Head Greenkeeper

Hobby: Physiotherapist for Grantham Town FC



How long have you been assisting Grantham Town as a physiotherapist?

"I've worked at Belton Park GC for 33 years and started assisting Grantham Town FC 25 years ago. I've assisted at over 1100 games."

How and when did you get introduced to physiotherapy and how did you find yourself assisting a football club?

"At first I assisted Grantham FC with First Aid, I then moved on to become a trainer before finding myself in the position of their physiotherapist. I trained to the level of Football Treatment on an Intermediate Course."

What has been the highlight of your hobby so far?

"Working with Martin O'Neil (the Manager of Aston Villa), who managed Grantham Town FC in the late 80s."



GOLF COURSE PRESENTATION

By Stewart Brown

The significance of golf course presentation should be known to all Course Managers and greenkeepers and be an integral part of their thinking and attitude towards their profession. It is true that you cannot always judge a book by its cover, but we live in a media-dominated world and people not only expect quality, they expect it to look good too!

Many factors make up a 'quality' golf course – course type, history, players, greenkeeping staff management etc – and presentation is but one weapon in the armoury of management tools at the disposal of the greenkeeper.

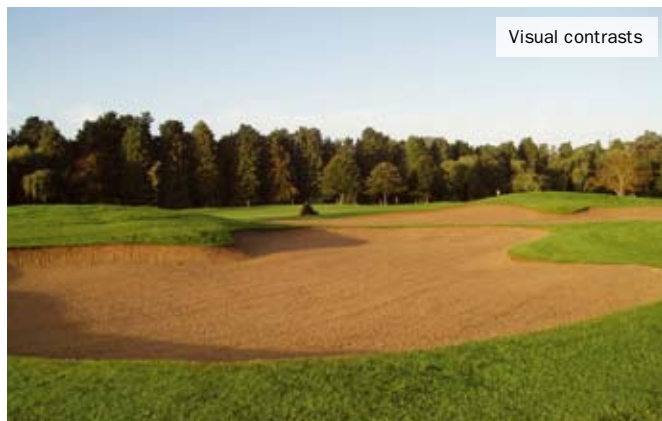
There is no substitute for sound agronomic practices in maintaining golf courses in top condition for play but there are many benefits that accrue from high standards of presentation. However, the most important factor to remember is the course aesthetics or visual appearance should never dominate the requirements of the game or health of the course. Golf course presentation is about achieving a balance between agronomy, playing requirements and course aesthetics.

A RATIONALE FOR GOLF COURSE PRESENTATION

Why then should we be concerned with golf course presentation, knowing it is not a panacea for creating good golfing conditions? Foremost is that it indicates the high levels of greenkeeper professionalism all should be aspiring to. It is the most visibly apparent aspect to the greenkeeper's efforts and shows players and golf course managers/secretaries the standard of 'craftsmanship' being achieved. Greenkeepers who take pride in their work like to demonstrate their high skill levels and knowledge to players and golfing officials. The striped green or neatly raked bunker is indicative of greenkeepers approaching even routine tasks with great care and attention to detail.

Such professionalism reflects well on greenkeeping staff, in most cases players and employers are appreciative of their efforts. Golfers are often 'professionals' from commerce or business and showing them a course presented to the highest standards only elevates the standing of those responsible for the course and its upkeep. When a golf course is presented well, golfers and greenkeepers alike can take great pride in their course and this instils a sense of ownership, which helps to ensure that all involved will want to support and continue their role or membership.

It is generally a fact that people like being associated with quality and success. A course in top condition, presented to a high standard will motivate people to look after their course, maintain such standards



Visual contrasts

or even aspire to higher levels of performance. A young greenkeeper indoctrinated with sound greenkeeping and an appreciation of course presentation, working under experienced and dedicated senior staff will carry this forward when they are managing their own course one day. So future golfers will benefit from this ethos of professionalism and commitment.

Presentation is also good business sense. Golfers want to play at the best courses. They seek a test of their golfing prowess and ability but also an enjoyable experience. A golf course which is aesthetically pleasing to the eye as well as testing of their golfing ability, leads to a rewarding golf experience which players will want to repeat. In contemporary golf course management competition is acute and the well-presented course, even if all other factors are equal, will often have the edge on its competitors.

Finally, for those venues hosting competitions and major tournaments, golf course presentation is a critical factor in determining a positive media perception. It is fact that people will judge the quality of a golf course by its aesthetic appearance even when it is generally well known that such appearances can be deceiving. Just because it is 'green' and highly manicured does not mean it has the best conditions for play! Presentation is particularly important where there is a media presence, where the 'world' will be looking at your golf course and making judgements on what they see on the screen. Television, particularly, is a very powerful medium and can pick on increasingly minute details in course appearance and presentation. Anything untoward or detracting from visual quality will be commented on, often in a negative way that will reflect upon the golf course staff and particularly the greenkeepers.

Equally, it can work in your favour – as others have said in other spheres, television can make or break you. If the course is presented to a high standard and looks good what harm will that do to your career or the reputation of the golf club? The caveat to this, of course, is that playing conditions are good also. It has to play well and look good. If the media, players or club officials consider the course to look poor you will soon know about it!

You must also understand that the game of golf is highly psychological. A player will be affected by the standard of presentation and course aesthetics. There is some truth in the adage that if it looks good it must be good at least in the mindset of many players. Remember golfers are your customers and to give them what they want is what business is all about. This, however, should never be at the expense of providing quality playing surfaces and golfing conditions. The art, as already stated, is to achieve both criteria.

HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE HIGH STANDARDS OF PRESENTATION?

Training is paramount. Unless staff are trained and competent in all aspects of course maintenance they will not be able to achieve craftsmanship levels necessary to present a course for play. This is true for aesthetic, agronomic and golfing requirements. After initial training and time to practice, an operative can achieve a level of competency but it is only with further years of experience that the highest levels of proficiency can be achieved.

Planning is crucial to success. Define objectives for the course and implement practices which will achieve them. These need to be attainable



Count on it.



The Green - focus of the game

but should be set to a high standard and clearly communicated to all levels of staff in the greenkeeping team. This is also where the course management policy document comes in as it needs to be communicated to players as well. Course presentation is an important part of the course upkeep and maintenance.

It should be seen that course presentation is an integral part of the maintenance regime and philosophy, not simply a bolt-on extra needed for tournaments. Staff should always strive to achieve excellence and be led by management in this quest.

Machinery is a key component in the achievement of presentation standards. Most operations are mechanised and some, such as mowing, are the most significant in presenting golf courses for play, delineating the areas for play, providing the necessary course definition and the most visually apparent evidence of the greenkeepers work. Mowing alone probably is the single largest factor in quality course aesthetics and appearance. Machinery must be fit for purpose, efficient, maintained and operated with due skill and recognition of the task requirements.

Finance is always an issue. Of course, a budget is needed to procure the necessary mechanical, material and human resources, but all these need managing in a way cognizant of the management objectives for course maintenance and presentation. Having all the resources in the world does not mean success is inevitable. Manage the resources available for greatest effect and efficiency. A little can go a long way if properly directed and controlled.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

The most important factor to consider is the course itself and its particular features. All courses are different and each must be considered separately; we are not aiming for all courses to look the same, nor is this desirable. Course presentation should bring out individuality and carry this through for different holes around the course.

Work with what the designer and landscape have provided and endeavour to highlight through course presentation the best attributes of the course. Be mindful, though, of course history, tradition and design

philosophy. Many a golf course has lost its initial design and character through errant greenkeeping practice or mismanagement. We need to maintain integral design features while presenting them to the highest standards of maintenance for play. The environment and 'natural' landscape need to be remembered and not unnecessarily compromised, abused or damaged.

Two phrases come to mind here – 'you cannot improve on nature' and 'nature will always have the last laugh'. Most people in golf course management now know working with nature is a better policy and that this can both enhance the natural appearance of the golf course, aiding aesthetic presentation, and be more efficient in resource utilisation.

Golf courses are valuable habitats for many species of native flora and fauna and these can greatly enhance the golfing experience. Standards of play and particular surface requirements may vary according to golfing standard, player ability and objectives for the club set by management but nonetheless the visual appearance and level of presentation can still be high.

Standards and methods of construction inevitably impact on maintenance requirements but again in terms of presentation achieving a high standard should still be a key objective of greenkeeping staff.

A final consideration is to remember and get the basics right. Simple aspects such as clean furniture, litter removal and course signage are easy to get right and these greatly augment the golf course appearance.

Make an impact – consider the view from the first tee and the approach to the last green and clubhouse. Similarly, look in your maintenance facility, what image does this present to the visitor, player or club official? High standards of presentation should extend to all parts of the course. Landscaping around maintenance facilities and clubhouses must be maintained as well and not overlooked by staff purely focusing on the playing components. It is not easy, but sufficient resource, effort and budget should be made available for all ancillary areas as well as the greens.

TO CONCLUDE

Major areas to consider will include mowing practices (patterns and delineation), bunkers (weed free and edged), water features (clean and aerated), course furniture (clean and painted), landscape plantings (weed-free, mulched and litter-free). This is not an exhaustive list but merely indicative of the types of works required to ensure high standards of course presentation.

Finally, remember courses can still be presented to a high standard without chasing the 'great god green', many of our courses (especially links) will 'brown' in the summer but this is natural and understood by most who understand our golfing heritage. Presentation should not be about throwing on the fertiliser and water simply to green-up the course. This suits neither our golfing tradition nor the environment.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Stewart Brown is Team Leader – Sportsturf and Mechanisation, Myerscough College, Bilsborrow, Preston PR3 0RY
Tel: 01995 642305 Email: sbrown@myerscough.ac.uk



THE HISTORY AND MYTHS OF TREES

By John Nicholson

You have no doubt heard many of the myths about trees and woodland which pervade British culture. Not only are there tales of fairies and elves, but there are often more serious myths. How often have you heard ‘plant some poplars they will solve the drainage problem’, ‘if you remove the trees the water table will rise and we will be flooded’ and even once I was told ‘I have been a member 30 years and the trees are the same as when I joined’ all said from the heart with complete conviction.

So let's dispel some myths and look for the reasoned truth of what and why we have the trees and woodlands of today.

For hundreds of years Britain has been one of the least wooded countries in Europe. Yet more than a thousand years ago man learned to manage the British woodland sustainably to supply his need for timber products. The density of woodland and the need for timber varied regionally depending on the availability of alternative materials for building and fuels. Scotland, for example, had an abundance of coal and peat to burn as well as stone to construct buildings where as the more populated fens of East Anglia and Suffolk had a great reliance on timber.

This resulted in alternative management prescriptions of different intensity which in turn gave rise to the woodlands we now see as natural. It is therefore likely that ancient Caledonian pine forest remains as a result of low density population and the availability of other materials, where as the coppice woodlands of Kent result from the high density of population and the demand for poles and firewood and so changing the perception of what now appears natural to man today.

Further, as man became more mobile he introduced species which he favoured such as Sweet Chestnut and Walnut in Roman times, Sycamore in the sixteenth century, the Georgians admired the Cedar of Lebanon, the Victorians the Atlantic Cedar and Rhododendron. Tree species like architecture had fashions, for instance, the 1930s was typified by the Wheatley Elm, the 1960s was Poplars and the 1980s the dreaded Cypress.

We are now obsessed with native woodland but what is native to our shores. The majority of people would undoubtedly reply English Oak! After all, poets and song writers alike have adopted oak as the antipathy of England's green and pleasant land. However, pollen profiles show that in 4500BC the native woodland of the south of England was in fact Lime. Unfortunately, Lime had no timber value and therefore we changed the composition of the woodland to suit our needs. Nelson, Raleigh and Drake required ships and oak was the prime timber.

So how did we manage our woodland? Well, that depended again on what we were trying to produce. Timber was required for planks, beams, and posts. Wood was required for poles and rods for light construction or for firewood or charcoal production. This still affects our language today we for example we say timber buildings and wood fires.

The importance of wood was such that many laws and taxes were attached to it. Until the 17th century you could not harvest over a certain percentage of the Aspen on your land by law. This was to ensure a renewable source for arrow production, tithes were payable on wood but not timber in the middle ages and after the first war the Forestry Commission was formed to ensure that we would not run out of timber to support trench warfare as we had in 1917.

The Forestry Commission was given the task of planting vast areas with fast growing conifer to not only safeguard our shores but to also meet the demand of the post war rebuilding programmes. Thus large areas of what was then thought worthless infertile land were planted with Spruce and Pine.

Depending on the end product and often the political will of government different management regimes have been adopted over the years, effecting what we perceive as natural woodland.

Originally there were the wildwoods of Britain the naturally regenerated forests which covered the country. So what were the wildwoods? It is

likely that they varied regionally depending on soil type and climate but the general rule is that northern Scotland was dominated by Birch below which was the Caledonian Pine forest then south running from central Scotland to the Humber Oak and Hazel with Lime dominating the south of England. Elm was common through out Britain but only dominated in south west Wales.

Then the need for man to survive influenced the methods used to manage the woodland and therefore changed its composition and character sometimes intentionally to create a crop and sometimes unintentionally by allowing more light into the woodland or by enriching the woodland floor through grazing. Next it was the turn of commerce and politics to have an influence. All these factors contribute to what we regard as natural today.



It is known that as early as 4000BC man was clearing the wildwoods by burning to establish clearings for grazing and to establish camps. This created the heathland we know today and the management regime of burning continued up until the Second World War and is still considered by many as an acceptable method of management today.

So the truth is that what most of us regard as natural woodland is in fact highly managed. If one considers that the majority of native species to Britain are not shade tolerant, then one assumes that the wildwoods would have been high closed canopy woodland with little under-storey or areas of dense scrub. Both of which would be quite foreboding places and certainly not attractive to live in.

So man began to create more acceptable habitats by clearing and managing the woods in fact the first book on woodland management was produced by John Evelyn, *Sylva* in 1664 and even at this point Evelyn was concerned with the loss of woodland.

By the time of the Romans, the wildwood was virtually gone and by 1200 AD much of the modern landscape was already recognisable. Nearly all our villages and settlements were present and the proportion of farmland to woodland was virtually the same as that of today.

Management prescription were changing at first we collected timber and wood for our needs in the easiest fashion possible this then evolved into coppice management where stools were grown on to produce a renewable source of poles and as man domesticated animals the need to produce poles above the browsing line led to trees being pollarded. These were possibly the first organised forms of management.

It is interesting that another myth which now pervades is that the only way a tree dies is by some undesirable person felling it. When in fact this does not kill the tree at all. When thought of rationally, the tree will continue to grow from the stool and will more than likely have an



even longer life span as a result. This is demonstrated by the ancient pollards which still exist today.

So is there any such thing as non intervention management? As with all things, man intervenes, often unintentionally and woodlands are no different.

The majority of the native trees to Britain are not shade tolerant and so a woodland can only reproduce on its margins. This is where we intervene either building houses, mowing grass or by cultivating the land. Therefore, removing the woodlands capability to reproduce, we must manage to redress the balance.

The storm of 1987 showed how vulnerable trees can be and should have made us more aware of the fragility of our unmanaged woodlands for it was those that suffered to the greatest degree.

With the modern awareness of global warming it has never been more important to manage and expand our woodland heritage. Management requires the felling of trees something often regarded as sacrosanct however the public must learn that it is essential if a woodland is to remain healthy to remove trees in order to allow those retained to reach their potential.

Further the best way to combat the problem of global warming is to ensure that we have a healthy environment which converts CO2 emissions and we must not forget that that includes all plants not just trees.

Yet, it is rather ironic that we hear so much from our politicians regarding green taxes and yet they fail to invest in the creation and management of our woodland.

Written by John Nicholson Associates www.johnnicholsonassociates.co.uk

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FENCING AND NETTING – HEALTH AND SAFETY

By Bill Lawlor

The erection and maintenance of fencing and netting within golf clubs are routine activities at many Courses. As the activities are seen as routine the associated health and safety issues are not always recognised.

When engaged in these activities risk assessments should be carried out before, during and after the work to address the health and safety issues involved for those who are to construct and maintain them and continued inspection and maintenance to protect both Club users and third parties.

FENCING

The first deciding factor is whether the work is to be carried out by in-house staff or out-sourced to a contractor.

Where work is out-sourced then a contractor risk assessment is required. This would require the contractor to provide:

- Proof of competence to carry out the work
- A risk assessment for the work. As a minimum the points outlined in the in-house risk assessment should be addressed
- A method statement how the work will be carried out
- The contractor's health and safety policies and procedures
- The arrangements for First Aid
- Any specific hazards in the area of the Club that may affect the health and safety of the contractor's employees
- How the contractor will protect the safety of Club users when carrying out the work
- Proof of liability insurance that will cover any potential damages or losses by the Club

Where the work is carried out in-house, the risk assessment should include:

- What manual handling is involved?
- Are the components of the fencing carried to site and how are they lifted into position?
- Is the area where fence posts are to be installed guaranteed to be free of underground services of water, gas and electricity cables?
- Where working near overhead power lines is a 40m gap maintained? – Otherwise consult the local electricity company before work commences

If powered equipment is used e.g. post hole drillers, nail guns etc is:

- The operator competent to use the equipment, could you demonstrate this if required
- The operator aware of the hazards associated with the equipment
- The equipment maintained and serviced as per the manufacturer's instructions
- Personal protective equipment required, head, hand, foot and eye protection and issued
- Precaution taken to ensure third parties cannot be injured while it is in operation
- The ground condition and contour suitable for the weight of the equipment involved
- The hazard and risks been discussed with the operators e.g. fumes from combustion engines, torque being transferred to the operator in hand held powered augers, noise, etc
- The hazard of using petrol powered equipment and

the precautions to be taken when refilling the equipment recognised

- Control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH) assessments will be required where posts are cemented in place or if wood preservatives are used
- Where the site is remote from the Clubhouse or maintenance facility, first aid provision should be held at the site and operators trained in its use
- Where livestock are in the adjacent area, consult with the local farmer before work commences to ensure that livestock do not wander or present a safety risk to the operators and other Club users
- Are there suitable stable stiles or gates to allow Club users and others to cross over the fence where required
- Barbed wire adjacent to public areas should not be used if it is less than two metres from a public footpath and less than two metres high
- Provision of an inspection regime to ensure that fencing remains whole and does not constitute a hazard to club users, employees and other third parties



NETTING

Netting can be used in different areas within the golf club:

- In the practice area/range
- Where a road abounds areas of the club and miss-hit balls may strike vehicles on the road
- To protect persons, houses and public areas from errant golf balls

Inspection of nets that are used to protect persons, houses etc should ensure that:

- The mesh size and strength of the net will not allow golf balls to pass through it
- No holes in the netting have occurred due to impacts that would allow balls to pass through it
- Posts are frequently inspected to ensure the stability of any structure, especially after high winds
- The nets do not have a negative environmental impact on local wildlife, e.g. in some cases nets may require to be made more visible to prevent birds flying into them

As with fencing the erection and maintenance of netting should be subject to a risk assessment. Some hazards and risks are common to all types of netting, these include:

- An assessment of the manual handling required e.g. weight and frequency of lifts, carry distances, single or team lifts etc and whether a manual handling risk assessment is required. This



would apply to both the construction of nets and where practice nets are moved around

- A regular assessment of the rigidity and stability of any structure should be determined especially where structures are designed to be portable. Lightweight structures should be anchored to the ground where possible or be weighted down to prevent movement
- Is work at height required in both constructing the netting and in any maintenance e.g. checking joints and connections, clearing off litter, dead birds, leaves. Those required to work at height should be suitably trained to do so
- That stanchions are covered with sufficiently slack netting to prevent ricochets
- In multi practice nets net screening between the bays will be required to prevent injury to adjacent users. Exit and entry will also have to be configured to ensure that those using the facility are not struck by either clubs or balls from other players
- Where golf balls have to be retrieved from multi-use practice nets by either staff or Club users, a procedure should be in place to ensure that this can be done safely e.g. closing all or part of the facility for use to allow this to take place

Bill Lawlor is Technical Director for Xact - www.xactgroup.co.uk



CLIMATE CHANGE: HOT TIMES AHEAD

A climate change conference at Celtic Manor Golf Resort in South Wales, warned turf managers to prepare for extremes. Mike Beardall reports...

Warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers will be the norm by 2080, flash floods and unpredictable storms will increase in the UK and average temperatures across the year may rise by up to 5 degrees celsius during the next 70 years – The result? More disease. Hot climate/drought/heat resistant grasses will need to be grown across the UK.

Professor Al Turgeon, of Pennsylvania State University, showed test results proving it is high night temperatures that cause stress in grass as the roots don't get a chance to cool down. "This is going to be a major problem in future if all the computer predictions are correct," he said.

Dr. Michael Schlosser, a Turf Consultant from Germany, said warmer, humid winters plus hotter drier summers and tropical storms every second year - will give Turf Managers a major problem. "Pythium spec will increase, dollar spot will be attracted to the high temperatures and drought conditions, and there will be new strains of *Leptosphaerulina* and *Myrothecium rostratum*. By 2080 temperatures in the UK will have risen by at least 3.6 degrees celsius. From a turf point of view we will have to change our cultivation practices and types of grass we use."

Professor Turgeon said altering the types of turfgrasses grown may combat the effects of climate stress in the UK. In golf, greens that are predominantly fine fescues and browntop bentgrass will have to become creeping and possibly velvet bentgrasses, while on fairways fine fescues and browntop bentgrass will have to be changed to creeping bentgrass or perennial ryegrass. "The most important aspects during the hotter summers and winters will be in cultural operations," said Professor Turgeon. "We will have to increase the intensity, nature and frequency of cultivation practices to control thatch accumulations and alleviate effects of soil compaction. Topdressing frequency will have to be increased to control thatch accumulation and the nature of the growth medium will have to be changed where it is unsuitable for local conditions."

Arwyn Harris, of the Hadleigh Centre for Climate Research, said climate change, is inevitable and the 1990s in the Northern Hemisphere was the warmest decade in the last 1000 years. "During the last 50 years

night-time temperatures increased by about 0.2 degrees celsius per decade with a 10% reduction in snow and ice cover," he said. "Lake and river ice has reduced in duration by about two weeks with a widespread retreat of mountain glaciers."

Arwyn said it's important to remember that without the natural greenhouse effect the global mean temperature will be -18 celsius, rather than the +14 celsius it is on average. "This means that the natural greenhouse effect is worth around 32 celsius," he said. "Sunlight passes through the atmosphere, warms the earth and infrared radiation is given off – most escapes to outer space but some is trapped by the gasses in the atmosphere thus reducing the cooling effect on the earth's surface."

According to Arwyn, worldwide pollution is resulting in more gasses being trapped in the atmosphere, thus increasing the greenhouse effect and leading to global warming. Computer predictions show the average surface temperature of the earth will rise by up to 5.8 degrees celsius by 2100. "This means we can expect severe storms, especially in the UK, with snow cover and sea-ice decreasing and glaciers and icecaps retreating," said Arwyn. "Sea levels will increase by up to 59cms by 2100, with resulting flood damage in low-lying areas."

Professor Turgeon said Turf Managers need to start thinking about how to deal with changing weather patterns now. "Switch to better-adapted turfgrasses, improve surface/internal drainage and adjust cultural/pest management practices," he said.

According to Dr Schlosser the biggest problem is going to be on golf greens with sandy profiles where damage to the grass roots is likely. He also predicted "dry patch" will be more prevalent and the use of wetting agents will have to be more widespread. "Golf greenkeepers will have to adapt to changing climate," he said. "We will no longer have the cold winters to kill off pests and diseases."

Proceeds from the event will be used to fund research into carbon sequestration in soil profiles.



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A LIFETIME IN GREENKEEPING

Scott MacCallum travelled to Bristol to meet Past Chairman, Ivor Scoones, on the eve of his retirement

Cast your mind back to 1962. For those old enough to be around it will seem a while ago but for younger readers it might as well be 1066, so far in the deep and distant past it will appear.

West Side Story won the Best Picture Oscar; Moon River was the Record of the Year; Arnold Palmer won The Open at Troon and Jack Nicklaus the US Open at Oakmont; Harold – no relation to Billy – Macmillan was Prime Minister; Marilyn Monroe was found dead in her bed and three days later your Editor was born.

I mention all of this because that was the year that former National Chairman, Ivor Scoones, started work at Long Ashton Golf Club, in Bristol, moving to the club as Deputy from Filton Golf Club. He retired last month 44 years later.

“I remember the winter after I started in ‘62/’63 that there was snow on the ground in April and we had terrible damage from snow mould. It took ages to get rid of it and our best friend, would you believe, was annual meadow grass. That was the only thing that got us out of trouble,” said Ivor, as he cast his mind back to when he started at the course as a Deputy.

He is a fund of wonderful stories and opinions and, sitting in the greenkeeper bothy which he brought to the course, he was more than happy to reminisce about greenkeeping then and now.

“We had push mowers when I started and we used to cut the greens twice a week. Takes some thinking about now but there was not much play then.

“In 1966 we got our first powered mower, a Mark 1 Certes, and thought all our Christmases had come at once! I’d cut nine greens a day, a colleague, also called Ivor, would cut the other nine and we’d meet up to mow the putting green together.

“If we saw two golfers out on the course in the morning that would be about average. People would be in the clubhouse, often bank managers for example would turn up to read newspapers and use the club for that,” said Ivor.

He also has fond recollections of his pro, Wally Smithers, in those early days. A close friend of Henry Cotton he would often return from a tournament and, if he’d done well, dip his hand in his pocket and bring out some money and say, “Buy the boys a drink”.

“That was very unusual because the pros used to struggle the same way we did,” said Ivor.

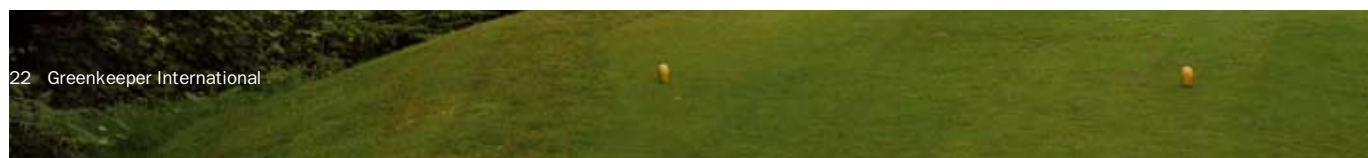
He became Head Greenkeeper 18 months after starting at the club taking over from Mark Ashley, another in the long line of Long Ashton staff who stayed at the club for many many years.

“One assistant who was here during my time was a 2 handicap player, Henry Burge, who worked here for a total of 47 years and that didn’t include the two World Wars. He worked until he was over 70 driving a tractor and gang mowers.

“I’ve always run a happy team and given everyone a reasonable amount of responsibility but tended to shield them for committees. I’ve never been an aggressive sort of person and never asked anyone to do something I wouldn’t or haven’t done myself.”

Ivor has shown his dedication to the task many times over the years but not least in assisting the club when it came to lack of machinery.

“If the club couldn’t afford a piece of machinery I’d often go out and buy it myself just to make sure I could do the job as well as possible. Maybe I’m unusual in that respect. I’d rent it out to other local clubs but it would always be there for Long Ashton.”



Among the pieces of Scoones' kit which he bought are a turf cutter, tractor hedge cutters, rotaries and a hydraulic winch.

"At the end of the day if you live the job you do these things and let's face it it did make my life easier as an individual and helped to provide a service to the members."

Asked which one thing had led to the most fundamental change in greenkeeping over his period the answer was not the vertidrain or the ride-on triple or a new chemical but something you certainly wouldn't have expected. "The One Armed Bandit," came the reply.

"It made a huge difference in our world because all of a sudden golf clubs had money to spend and we were able to buy more machines, fertilisers everything really. One Armed Bandits made an awful lot of money for golf clubs and was certainly a key factor in the development of greenkeeping."

He does have some concerns about the future of the game, however, with regard to expectation levels and demand for play which now exist.

"America led the way with the televising of the Masters and the US Open – we only saw the tournaments at the top end which people don't seem to take on board. What you see on television looks great but you wouldn't want to play the golf course for three to four months afterwards as it very nearly destroys them.

"I've got a horrible feeling that we're going too far when it comes to standards. Golf clubs need to be able to support financially the level of standards they are demanding and clubs can't always cope.

"This course was 100 years old in 1994 and wasn't designed to take the volume of play, especially in the narrow areas. Everyone wants to play 365 days a year and people have a lot more leisure time... except greenkeepers that is. A lot of people retire a lot earlier and there is more and more demand for electric ride-on buggies which all put pressure on a golf course.

"We will either need to lower expectations and make golf more cost effective or make the changes to cope with demand and quality requirements which will cost clubs a lot more money."

Ivor was born and grew up not 50 yards from the boundary of Long Ashton Golf Club and, not only was it where he learnt to play golf, reaching a handicap of 8, it was his playground as a child. The village of Long Ashton holds a very dear place in his heart and, to put something back, he has served on the Parish Council for the last nine years, the last two as Chairman.



Ivor with his successor, James Braithwaite



"It started as a problem over footpaths. They were the club's responsibility and at one stage I cleared them to make them more accessible but was accused by some local people of raping the countryside so the council asked me to stop," explained Ivor, who looks anything but your average rape and pillage merchant.

"I decided I'd had enough of people telling us what to do so I got elected to the Council where the committee skills I'd acquired in BGGGA and BIGGA were very useful.

"I've been Chairman of Highways and the Burial Grounds committees, while just last night at 6 o'clock I was involved in discussions surrounding the music festival which is due here shortly. It's all very interesting."

A former Chairman of BGGGA, Ivor was one of those involved in the amalgamation talks instigated by the R&A and involving themselves EIGGA and SIGGA.

"A lot of people, some of them still involved in BIGGA, put an awful lot of time and effort into forming BIGGA and at the end of the day I think we've really benefited from what we did," said Ivor, who became the fourth National Chairman in 1990.

"I was the first Englishman," he added, proudly.

In both BGGGA and BIGGA there is barely a position he has not held within either Association at Section, Region or National level, while he was responsible with others for launching Westurf, the Regional Show, which used the extensive Long Ashton practice area as its permanent home and raised money for the South West and South Wales Region.

"I'm very pleased with the way BIGGA has developed. In the early days we worried where the money would come from and if we'd ever get anywhere but with R&A support and the support from the trade things have gone better and better, far better in fact than I ever envisaged."

Ivor is being succeeded as Course Manager by his long time Deputy, and former Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, James Braithwaite.

"He had a very good education before he came here and he has done very well over the last 11 years," said Ivor, as his successor returned to the bothy from the course.

The first question to James was an obvious one. What have you learnt from Ivor?

"Patience," was the one word answer.

"We are returning to the older ways now. For example we hardly fertiliser the fairways at all now but we have to be on the ball all the time now to be aware of potential fusarium. I don't believe in preventative spraying but we must be aware of when we are likely to get it. I do feel that the Sustainable golf debate is not relevant to parkland or heathland courses and where here is so much competition for golfers."

James is also aware of the changes to the Course Managers role in recent years.

"There has been a change in priorities with a lot of paperwork, which I try to do out of hours, while a Course Manager has to be much more of a public relations officer now."

So would Ivor like to be in James's position now – taking over a high quality members' club and moving it forward.



"There are good things and bad things. It is very much a Rat Race in many ways, especially with the new health and safety and environmental legislation. That is a nightmare to deal with in itself, but if you look at my hands and the arthritis I've got and you do appreciate that our health is looked after a lot better now than before," said Ivor, who had just returned to work having had a knee replaced.

"One of the things that still stands out for me is having to go on a Thursday to get our wages. We'd go up, take off our caps and stand outside the Secretary's Office, knock and wait for him to bring the wages out. Or I'd have to go and ask if I could have money for something to spray the greens. That's another thing which has improved so much."

Ivor is not liable to become a pipe and slippers man and will keep working during his retirement.


"I'm going to set up a little grinding business and do some machinery maintenance to keep myself busy and compensate for the fact that Mr Brown has damaged our pensions," he said.

"I'll certainly still come to Harrogate and be one of the old miseries," he said chuckling at the prospect.



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DRAINING HEAVY LAND COURSES

Golf courses built on land which contains a high proportion of clay usually have drainage problems in the wetter times of the year. Unfortunately, it is the periods when the ‘course closed’ notices go up that the members recall with disgust and for which the management is reprimanded. But heavy-land courses have some good points!

Clay, by its very nature, holds moisture considerably longer than a sandy soil. When irrigation has to be applied to the sandy fairway to keep it green, the heavy land fairway will often go for weeks before it shows signs of stress due to water shortage. This fact will be increasingly important as the price of water soars, and its availability becomes limited particularly in southern areas.

So, how can one best ‘manage’ the heavy land golf course? If the sward remains very wet or waterlogged for periods of several days then the roots drown and cease functioning. When active growth restarts in the spring the shallow root system struggles to cope with more frequent mowing and more player activity on the course. Where water logging has not occurred and the grass root system is considerably deeper the sward grows away with vigour.

Instead of thinking negatively about the heavy clay soil let’s think positively! When one inch of rain falls on an acre it amounts to 22,625 gallons of water. That’s money! In the spring, summer and autumn much of this moisture is lost through evaporation, hence the course remains playable. But when the winter comes losses through evaporation virtually cease and the water content of the soil builds up.

It is widely accepted that a good land drainage system is a requisite on heavy land golf courses. This drainage system must allow play to continue in all but the heaviest periods of rain, but of equal importance it must stop the grass roots from drowning.

In compiling drainage plans thought must be given to where this drainage water is to go. Can it be used for irrigation of the course in the summer months? Can the course be enhanced by significant water features? Can it be sold? It must be appreciated that even when well drained a heavy land course is not going to have the same characteristics as a

sandy one, but as climate change accelerates the heavy land course may have distinct advantages over the sandy course.

ENGLISH GOLF UNION (EGU) SPLASH OUT ON DRAINAGE

The EGU at Woodhall Spa built the Bracken Course on heavy land in the early 1990’s. Last year they invested in land drainage in several areas of the course. So what has been their approach and what has been the outcome?

Land drainage works on established golf courses conjure up scenes of rutted turf, big tractors digging big trenches, gravel spillages and fairways out of use for weeks on end.

So why last year did the EGU start draining fairways on the Bracken Course at Woodhall Spa just four days before the Golf Medal Competition in August? We went to talk with Richard Latham, Director of Golf, and the Courses Manager, Sam Rhodes, to find out.

Richard Latham set the scene. The Bracken Course was built in 1995-96. Its construction entailed the removal of many trees and moving considerable quantities of soil. A land drainage system was installed at this stage but the spacing of the lateral drains has been such that on the heavy clay soil excess soil water has been slow to clear.

Furthermore, visitor numbers to the Hotchkin and Bracken courses have grown considerably in recent times and it had become imperative to improve the speed of drainage on the Bracken course to prevent damage to the sward.

So for the big question - when should it be done? The EGU hosts numerous tournaments during the spring, summer and autumn. Many corporate days are held also and they must be given consideration for they bring in substantial income. So it would seem that at this time of year drainage activities cannot be contemplated.

But the Course Manager points out that spring, summer, and autumn are the best times for drainage works. Undertake this work in the wetter winter months and the nightmare scenario with which this article opened can be expected.

The grounds staff were charged with getting the drainage improved on four fairways with minimum disruption to the tournament schedule. It was decided to do it in mid August.

It was explained that the very latest drainage equipment in the hands of experienced operators is speedy, clean and causes little damage to the playing surface. They believe it preferable to have equipment on tyres as opposed to tracks for wide low-ground-pressure grassland tyres leave virtually no impression on the ground.

A flag layout was used - as opposed to a herringbone layout - running the main drains at the side of the fairway, possibly just in the rough, and running the lateral drains across the fairway at ten metre spacings. The main disfigurement of the turf occurs where the lateral join the main drain. With the flag layout this is of little consequence, but with the herringbone layout this disfigurement occurs in the most prominent part of the fairway.

In practice this turns out to be easier said than done for one has to transverse irrigation pipes, irrigation control wires and electric cables many of which seem to have moved since plans were drawn up!

The EGU engaged the Contracting Division of Shelton Sportsturf Drainage Solutions to implement the plans for they have the most advanced equipment suited to the specific needs. The First fairway was drained in its entirety in four days and such was the finished job the Gold Medal Competition was played on the following days.

The next week part-drainage of fairways six, ten and 12 was undertaken. In each case the fairway being drained was closed for play for one day only.

For the technicalities. LYTAG was used as the permeable fill over the pipes and this was brought to within 50-75mm of the surface, topping-off with Aitkens Sportsturf Pro sport Rootzone. The drain runs were

then lightly rolled and a matching grass seed mixture spread by hand. No debris whatsoever was left on the grass for fear of damage to the precision mowing equipment.

LYTAG is a manufactured product originating from the pulverised fuel ash from selected power stations. Being spherical it flows readily and almost eliminates entirely the possibility of voids occurring when backfilling narrow trenches. Using 4-8mm Lytag provides a hydraulic conductivity of 2323mm per hour.

It weighs around 800kgs per cu metre and has the advantage of absorbing water hence improving the micro climate. It is available in 2 grades, 4-8mm and 4-14mm. Its relatively light weight has appeal when transporting the material over fine turf surfaces. Furthermore it is not subject to the Government's Aggregate Levy.

Richard Latham stresses the importance of working closely with the contractor to minimise disruption to the playing schedule. Speed is all important and this is best achieved by team working and co-operation as opposed to adopting a we/they attitude.

The EGU had already installed secondary drainage on the fairways in question with their Shelton Gravel Band Drainer and these bands have linked into the new scheme.

Reflecting on the busy two weeks of drainage activity both Richard Latham and Sam Rhodes have no doubt in their minds that the drier summer months are the best time to undertake drainage on golf courses. The Shelton claim to be able to 'drain today and play tomorrow' is no idle boast for with the advanced equipment now available, and with a contractor employing skilled operators, it boils down to 'short term inconvenience for long term benefit'.

And for other clubs contemplating land drainage in the summer months perhaps that is best way to sell it to the Club members.



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MANUAL HANDLING

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Manual Handling is defined as 'any transporting or supporting of a load, including pushing, pulling, lifting, carrying or moving by hand or bodily force'. We all carry out manual handling in our daily lives e.g. lifting golf clubs/carrying items at work. Manual handling has the potential to cause injury if loads are not lifted/moved correctly. Some injuries may be relatively minor e.g. muscle/joint strains that clear up in a few days. More serious or chronic injuries may result in people having to change jobs or even blight their quality of life due to recurrent pain. Once joints/discs in the spine are damaged a full recovery isn't always possible and pain/restriction of movement can result. It is therefore important when carrying out manual handling that the correct handling procedures are adhered to.

Manual Handling at work is subject to H&S regulations. The Regulations require employers to assess the risks and put procedures in place to minimise risk of injury. Employees have a duty to follow procedures, make proper use of equipment provided and generally co-operate with the employer on H&S matters.

Important steps to be considered when carrying out a Manual Handling task:

STOP AND THINK Can I lift the load? Plan the lift/move by checking the weight of the load and the route. Is the route free from obstruction? Can the load be split up into smaller parts?

DO I NEED HELP? Can you lift the load on your own? If not, who/what is available to assist.

STAND CLOSE TO THE LOAD Wear appropriate footwear. Feet apart, unlock the knees creating a stable base for lifting.

LOWER YOUR BODY TO THE LOAD, TAKE A FIRM GRIP Move the load close to your body. Your waist should be close to the height of the load before commencing lifting.

LOOK UP You always see a weightlifter's face.

STAND UP Using all the relevant muscles naturally, keep the load as close to the body as possible, do not twist, avoid jerky movements.

LIFTING ABOVE SHOULDER/HEAD HEIGHT When lifting above shoulder height, break the lift into two parts, resting load on a suitable weight-bearing surface to change your stance and grip.

PLACING THE LOAD DOWN The reverse procedure should be used i.e. bend the knees, not the back, to place the load down.

STAIRS When carrying loads up/down stairs it's essential the load doesn't block your vision. Loads should be broken down into smaller amounts - Loads that cannot be broken down/are too heavy to lift with one hand should be moved using an approved stairs trolley.

TRAVEL DISTANCES Wherever possible mechanical aides should be used to move loads distances.

UTILITY VEHICLES: SIDE BY SIDE VEHICLES FOR USE OVER THE ROUGH STUFF

By James de Havilland

Ransomes Jacobsen, John Deere and Toro are key suppliers of utility vehicles to golf courses, with the companies' respective Cushman/E-Z-GO, Gator and Workman ranges listing among the most popular models currently in use. Here we look at models that are designed to carry two people and a load over rougher terrain.

Golf courses adopted what are generally described as light utility vehicles back in the 1970s, the once ubiquitous tractor and trailer soon making way to buggies that included three, four and even five wheel designs. As these vehicles have evolved, models that can suit a wider range of applications have been developed that enable machines to tackle 'rougher' terrain. Four-wheel drive, greater ground clearance and improved suspension systems now means there is a choice of side-by-side utility vehicles that can include units that will rival an ATV for off-road ability.

Take a look at the E-Z-GO ST 4x4 from Ransomes Jacobsen. Powered by a twin-cylinder Honda 614cc power unit developing a healthy 13.5kW (18hp), this machine boasts a generous 240mm ground clearance, locking front and rear differentials and a rear load platform capacity of 500kg. It has a top speed of 25mph and will tow up to 680kg.

John Deere also offers its Gator HPX 4x4. Offered with a choice of Kawasaki 617cc twin cylinder petrol 20hp or torquey 21hp Yanmar 854cc triple diesel, this small vehicle will carry 454kg and tow 635kg over pretty difficult ground, its 152mm of ground clearance proving its only disability in really rough going.

Toro do not offer a Workman model that is designed to compete in the tough terrain sector, but that is not to say models like the 4300 are



Although it does not boast as much ground clearance as some, the John Deere HPX Gator will negotiate some tricky terrain. Full and part cab options offered on this and other makes and models.



Rough terrain capable utility vehicles come in a wide range of shapes and sizes. Pictured front to back are the Kawasaki 610 (petrol), Yamaha Rhino (petrol), Polaris Ranger (petrol), Arctic Cat Prowler (petrol), Massey-Ferguson MF20D, Kubota RTV 900, John Deere Gator HPX and Kawasaki Mule Trans.

unable to tackle some pretty rough going. Powered by a 20kW (26.5hp) diesel, the all-wheel drive 4300 will take two people and 800kg plus rear load to places on a course that many would consider inaccessible by a vehicle.

Club Car are another company that offers models that push the utility vehicle concept beyond a machine that is at home on roughs and fairways. Take the company's rough terrain models that include the CarryAll 295. Power comes from a choice of 20hp air-cooled Honda petrol or 20hp Kubota diesel engine. The 295 features Intellitrak all-wheel drive. This automatically diverts power to the wheels as required.

In some markets, the CarryAll 295 is offered in a long-wheelbase four-seat version and as the SE with a front attachment system. All of which points to the increased versatility of this type of utility vehicle.

Talking of four-seater models, Kawasaki and its now ubiquitous Mule range have had its four-seat Trans model on sale for a while now. Based upon the established Mule 3010 diesel, the LWB Trans can be used either as personnel transport with a reduced length load platform or, by folding the rear seats, as a high capacity utility.



Road homologation is another feature offered by manufacturers to include Kubota. With its hydrostatic transmission and power steering, the RTV 900 is currently unique.



Club Car CarryAll 295 has generous ground clearance and automatic selection of all-wheel drive. This type of machine offers great off-road ability.



The E-Z-GO ST 4x4 offers greater off-road scope than other models in the company's line-up, and serves to illustrate just how much choice there is in the utility vehicle sector.

The Mule Trans converts between four-seat and long load mode quickly and easily. It is extremely versatile as a result. At the other extreme, the company sells its petrol powered 'baby' Mule in 600 two-wheel and 610 four-wheel drive versions. Powered by a 400cc petrol engine developing 9.9kW (13hp), the Mule 600 / 610 have a 181kg load capacity but are rated as having a generous 500kg towing capacity.

Kubota is unique in offering its RTV 900 with a full hydrostatic transmission. Powered by a 16.1 kW (21.6hp) 898cc diesel triple, the RTV also boasts power steering and, dependent upon specification, a really powerful hydraulic tip for its 500kg capacity load bay.

The ever growing choice of utility vehicles now includes models that are able to tackle rougher ground than more established designs. This is good news. Rugged and built to take tough conditions in their stride, these machines could have long service lives on a typical golf course. Just make sure the load height of the rear platform is taken into consideration. The greater the ground clearance, the higher the lip of the rear platform.



With seat belts for four, but room for possibly six, the Mule Trans is a versatile tool. The rear bench folds to provide a full length load platform.



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ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE SECURE?

Melissa Toombs investigates greenkeeping theft and offers advice on golf club security

Padraig Harrington has just won The Open at Carnoustie and suddenly thousands of young hopefuls can be seen on golf courses across the globe, aspiring to follow in his footsteps.

The popularity of this Championship increases year on year, mainly due to its increased media exposure. However, as the sport's popularity increases, so does criminal awareness that golf equals rich rewards.

The aftermath of burglary can be an overwhelming stressful time. Lost machinery can incur considerable costs, add to that the hassle of acquiring replacement machinery at short notice, valuable time spent talking to the police and your insurance company, the possibility of having to attend court and, being lumbered with a hefty increase in premiums.

Burglaries tend to either be planned by thieves who are targeting specific machinery to sell on, or those who may have noticed a weakness in the club's security system and fancy their chances. However, there is always the opportunist thief who may act on impulse after noticing an unattended piece of machinery that happens to still have the keys in its ignition.

The main issue it seems, is that many properties within a golf club are vacant during the day with greenkeepers having to work quite a distance away from their facilities.

So what preventative steps can we take to ensure our machinery and belongings are secure while we are out on the course?

IDENTIFICATION

Ideally golf clubs should invest in an organisation offering property marking and asset registration services. If money is an issue, an ultra-violet pen can be used to mark your equipment, however, a UV Mark can fade in time.

Marking your equipment can help with Police tracking and, at the same time, make life a lot harder for the thieves selling the goods on.

BARRIERS

Automatic barriers provide effective control of vehicle access and more

and more golf clubs are having them fitted. There are various types of safety barrier, rising road blocks, automatic gates etc.

It is also possible to lead thieves through an alarmed route by building ditches and blocking unnecessary tracks around the golf club.

CCTV

Closed Circuit Television is an extremely useful tool for both monitoring and deterring criminal activity. The only downside to CCTV is that it is costly. CCTV cameras need proper maintenance, the lenses need to be kept clean, the correct area of the golf course needs to remain covered and the tapes need to be changed daily.

ALARMS

Alarm Systems are a popular, effective deterrent against burglary. However, it is always best to seek advice from your local Police when investing in a system, as various types of alarm are available from wireless – which sends radio signals to a central control panel that activates either an audible alarm, flashing lights or fills the building with dense smoke, to signalling alarms - which alert your local Police that an offence is taking place at your premises.

LOCATION

If your club is planning a new machinery facility then it is worth discussing a change of location. Machinery sheds should be placed as near to the clubhouse or hotel as possible, where most staff, members and guest will be situated – their presence acting as a deterrent. It is also important to keep this area free from trees and shrubs etc, which provide ideal cover for thieves.

MACHINERY

It is of utmost importance that all ignition keys are removed and securely locked away when machinery is not in use.

Towing eye locks enable a number of units to be chained together, while wheel clamps and wall locks also prove useful for securing equipment.

TALKING HEADS

FEATURE

	WHAT SECURITY MEASURES DO YOU CURRENTLY HAVE IN PLACE?	HAVE THERE BEEN MANY PROBLEMS WITH THEFT IN YOUR AREA?
 <p>Name: Lauchlan Millar Position: Head Greenkeeper Club: Hayling GC, Hampshire</p>	<p>Our Buildings are alarmed and the compound is surrounded by a 6ft high fence. All of our equipment is marked with a security code and we hold a log of all the serial numbers.</p>	<p>Although we are on an Island with only one road on and off there have been a few thefts, which is probably similar to most areas of the country and unfortunately a sign of the times.</p>
 <p>Name: John Fullagar Position: Head Greenkeeper Club: Whitstable & Seasalter GC, Kent</p>	<p>We have alarms and a flood light in place.</p>	<p>Not really, not at our club. Herne Bay, just down the road, I believe has had a few problems. Our Clubhouse is 100 yards from the high street so vehicles are constantly travelling up and down the road, also, we are surrounded by about 60-70 houses. We have had a couple of minor break-ins at the Clubhouse but as soon as the burglar's break-in, the alarm goes off and they're gone.</p>
 <p>Name: David Lyons Position: Head Greenkeeper Club: Deanwood Park, Berkshire</p>	<p>We have a locked gate at the entrance, with security lights, locked secure yard, security shutters and alarmed building going straight to police. We also have security lights and CCTV in the car park.</p>	<p>Not really.</p>
 <p>Name: Jan-Ake Tyllman Position: Course Manager Club: Ingaro GC, Sweden</p>	<p>We currently have good security measures in places – An alarm, a 3m high fence with barbwire on top and barred windows and a security company looking after the sheds in case of alarm.</p>	<p>No, not as yet but they always try to steal gasoline.</p>
 <p>Name: Hans Nielsen Position: Course Manager Club: Dejberg Golf Klub, Denmark</p>	<p>We have a burglar alarm connected to a surveillance company. Sensors are placed in staff facilities as well as in the workshop and garage. Also, windows are guarded by metal grids and sliding doors are reinforced. The surveillance company give me a call when an alarm occurs to check whether it might be a false alarm. If not, they send a watchman to check.</p>	<p>Not recently. Being situated way out in the countryside we generally enjoy good crime statistics. We did have some break-ins a few years back though - guys looking for cash and a drink, I think.</p>
 <p>Name: Iain Gunn Position: Course Manager Club: Blackpool North Shore GC, Lancashire</p>	<p>We have a modern alarm system, Redcare, which is linked directly to the Police, also bars across the shed windows and smaller machines are kept in cages.</p>	<p>Two years ago we had two or three break-ins within a short period of time, hedgetrimmers, power saws and strimmers were stolen. A public footpath also runs across our course and is next to a compound - which we have to ensure is locked. We have suffered vandalism on the course, including vandalism of our irrigation system.</p>
 <p>Name: Gary Cunningham Position: Course Manager Club: Trentham Park GC, Staffordshire</p>	<p>All the buildings are alarmed with Redcare support and CCTV cameras with lighting cover the facility. All of the staff are trained and are accountable for locking up and setting the alarm.</p>	<p>We get the odd flag stick going missing but I have not heard of anything serious in the five years I've been here.</p>

SECURITY

HAVE YOU HAD ADVICE FROM POLICE OR PROFESSIONAL COMPANIES ON SECURITY?	HOW HAVE YOU OVERCOME THEFT PROBLEMS AND WHAT SECURITY MEASURES WOULD YOU LIKE TO PUT IN PLACE IN FUTURE?	WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO FELLOW GREENKEEPERS?
We have had a visit from the local Crime Prevention Officer.	At my previous club we were unfortunate to have a strimmer back pack blower and chainsaw taken from the sheds during work hours, when we stupidly left the doors open while we were working out on the course. I now make sure all doors are locked and also the compound gate is shut whenever no one is around. As for the future maybe CCTV will be considered.	Keep your sheds secure and compound tidy, and don't leave anything lying around that could be used to help break in - Don't trust anyone, do not assume delivery drivers or other visitors, including golfers, are not looking around in order to come back later to turn you over. Take down the registration number of the vehicles of any suspicious callers. Don't leave easily removed equipment lying invitingly around, lock them away out of sight. Build a positive relationship with your local police and ask if maybe sometimes they could get a patrol car to pass by at night. If you are unfortunate to be the victim of a robbery be aware that it is a tactic to return 2 or 3 weeks later to steal the brand new kit you have just bought as replacements!
We've recently had a new implement shed – it has never been broken into, so we have not had to seek advice from anyone.	Not at present.	Make sure you put your implement shed near the town! We are lucky that we are in a busy area. People don't get the chance to break-in, as there is always someone about.
Yes.	We increased security with alarms and a locked secure compound. We are thinking about movable or retracted bollards to prevent unwanted vehicle access.	Keep things out of sight from the general public or known workmen. Lock and shut doors when leaving your compound, make sure all employees know the correct procedure for locking up. Invest in a good alarm system as well as secure CCTV locks and gates.
Yes, when we where building the new sheds in '99 we consulted a security company for advice.	Maybe a surveillance camera (or a fake one) but you have to have permission to install one I think.	Watch out and don't leave anything valuable unattended.
Yes, from a professional company when deciding to install the alarm.	We are going to build new greenstaff facilities this winter, and of course an up-to-date alarm system will be part of the plan.	Firstly, machinery and computer/control systems cost a lot of money - secondly, losing them or having them damaged by uninvited guests also costs a lot of trouble and lost working time. We owe it to our members and ourselves to look after them!
We had advice from the Police to install Redcare and our insurance company made the suggestions to bar the windows and cage and padlock small machines/equipment. Redcare is a good system but if you have too many false alarms, the Police stop coming out to see you for a period of time.	Over the next three years we are planning new greenkeeping sheds, we will have a full security regime put in place when this is done. The thefts have stopped since we installed Redcare and took the Police and insurance company's advice.	Make sure your sheds are locked at all possible times, your alarm is regularly serviced and all shed doors are well looked after and solid.
I have talked with the alarm company that monitor the site while the system is being serviced. We have also taken advice from the Club's insurance company.	I have not had any problems, as of yet (touch wood), our present signage and security measures must be working. If we do have a problem in the future we will seek advice and adapt to the problem.	Always use the security measures you have to the full, incase the worst happens and something goes missing or there's an accident on site, the insurance company may try avoid paying up due to your negligence.

Security – New Products

COUNTERFEIT CLUB SCREENING SERVICE

Golfbidder, the industry's leading online retailer of pre-owned golf equipment has launched a free screening service to tackle counterfeit golf equipment fraud.

As online shopping has grown in popularity, so has the sale of fake golf clubs, and an increasing number of golfers are being duped into buying imitation clubs at premium prices.

With the threat to a UK golf hardware market worth £275 million growing, Golfbidder has moved decisively to provide golfers with a safeguard against the counterfeiters.

Golfbidder's new counterfeit screening service allows customers to verify equipment's authenticity either before or after it is purchased. The service, which will be available to everyone including non-registered Golfbidder customers, invites concerned customers to send images of the products for Golfbidder experts to assess.

www.golfbidder.com



Can you spot the fake? The club on the left is a Callaway Steelhead X-16 sand wedge. The one on the right is not.

DIGITAL VIDEO SURVEILLANCE (CCTV) SYSTEMS

Chubb Digital Video Surveillance (CCTV) Systems provide an effective crime deterrent, utilising the latest digital technology to monitor access to secure areas, unauthorised activities, theft or criminal damage and personal safety or even provide a remote response to an intrusion. Typical applications include: Basic Stand-alone, Intermediate CCTV and Complex Video Surveillance System.

www.chubb.co.uk



GOLF WATCH SYSTEM

North Yorkshire Police coordinate Watch Schemes throughout the County which bring the Police and the public together to reduce crime and the fear of crime.



The Golf Watch System uses the Ringmaster computerised message system to inform local golf course and clubs about crime and crime trends affecting their premises, such as: suspicious individuals, vehicle crime, theft and stolen property.

For more information on joining the scheme contact Deborah Palmer.

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www.greenhillssecurity.co.uk

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www.atgaccess.com



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Homelogix™ is compatible with Rosslare's line of wireless sensors and remotes, enabling you to expand your security system to fit your needs, without costly and invasive installations.

www.sourcesecurity.com

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Onestop-locks.com, online supplier of locking and security products, has added over 100 new lines to now offer its largest selection ever. One Stop Locks has selected top name brands including products from Chubb, Yale, ERA, Kidde, Maggi and Camlock Systems. In Vehicle Security there are ranges of locks for motorbikes, scooters and bicycles, as well as commercial vehicle safes for those who handle cash and other valuables in the course of their business.

www.onestop-locks.com



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Count on it.

FLAG THIEVES STEAL OVER 500

Melissa Toombs talks to Bulwell Forest Club Secretary, John Bush

An unlikely target for burglars, Bulwell Forest Golf Club has seen over 500 flags vanish from its course during 2007.

John has been a member of Bulwell Forest, the oldest golf club in Nottingham, for 20 years and told me that disappearing flags have always been a problem. "It's got to the stage where we are buying cheaper flags and saving the best ones for special occasions," said Club Secretary, John Bush. "We used to be a municipal course and government workers used to collect the flags at night, however, when we entered into employment of our own, we decided to start leaving the flags out during the evening as members had complained that they had no flags to play to."

This created a tricky situation for the Club, as two or three flags started to go missing each night. Comparing the monetary loss of the theft of two or three flags to paying a greenkeeper to come back at night and pack the flags away, the latter still proved more costly for the Club.

"Over the last few months the problem has increased 10 fold," explained John, "We are losing a dozen or more flags each night."

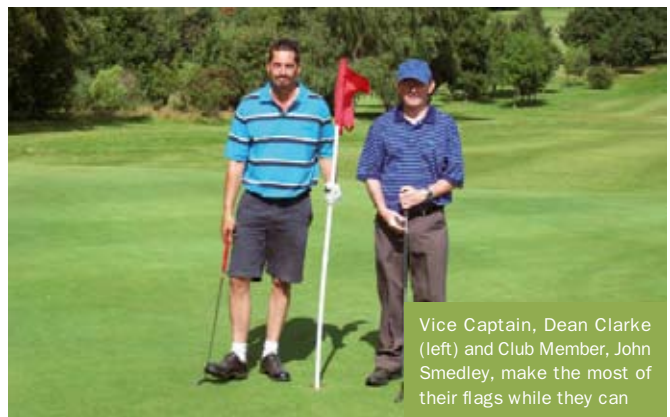
The Club believes one of the sources is dogs. People walk their dogs over the course at night and the animal lifts the pin out of the hole and chews the flag.

"We tried confronting the individuals involved on several occasions and for a time, the number of stolen flags dropped, but this was only ever temporary," said a rather frustrated Club Secretary.

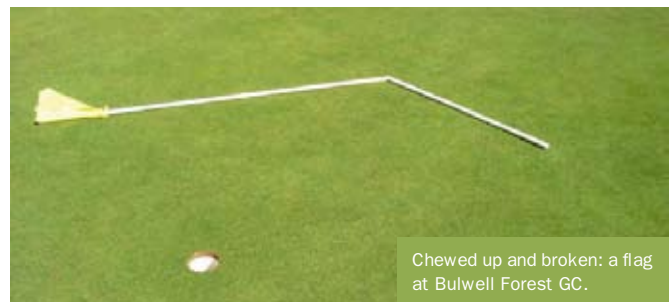
Bulwell Forest, where golf has been played since the 1870s, is in the unfortunate position of having a footpath running across its course, which many children cross coming home from school - this is another time of day when flags tend to go missing.

"We can't imagine what particular use the flags could be put to. We often find them broken around the course and wonder if people used the old, more expensive, slender flag poles around the garden," said John.

After six break-ins in a fortnight, security at the heathland course has been strengthened with alarms and the Catering Manager is now living on the premises.



The course itself is situated in the middle of Nottingham city and is surrounded on three sides by large housing estates. Two public footpaths also run across the course, and although the course is fenced in many areas - along the roadside and southern sides of the course - it is still impossible for the staff at Bulwell to stop the public from cutting across their course.



"We are looking in to having security patrol the course at night, but this is obviously linked with the expense of having to pay a security person for three or four hours work a night. The cost of their wages in comparison to cost of the flags being stolen doesn't prove to be cost effective for the Club," explained the Secretary.

There really doesn't seem to be an easy answer to the problems this Club is facing. A certain amount of trust is involved when flags are left out, "It's a case of how much money can you afford to spend on this - Do you simply have to sit back and accept the fact that it's just going to continue happening?" said John Bush.

"We've reported the incidents on numerous occasions and unfortunately it seems the issue if a bit too small fry for the local Police."

The Club has installed CCTV within the Clubhouse but the cost of installing this out on the 18 hole course would be immense and problematic, what with having to lay out a power line.

The Club currently has flags out on the course which are used in the plumbing trade - This seems like the only way to try and save money, as they only cost around £2 each.

The Club has lost around £1200 worth of flags within the last year.

"We just need to find someone willing to donate 600 flags a year," said John, trying to remain upbeat about the situation.

SECURITY STATS

Trends in the British Crime Survey, Incidents of Crime:

- **Burglary with Entry - down 50% from 1997 to 2006/07**
- **Burglary Attempts - down 61% from 1997 to 2006/07**
- **Theft of Vehicles - down 53% from 1997 to 2006/07**
- **Attempts Of and From Vehicles - down 59% from 1997 to 2006/07**



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





CHRIS & MIKE'S US OPEN ADVENTURE

Mike Gash and Chris Sealey have just returned from Pittsburg where they worked on the US Open as part of the huge volunteer squad. Mike gives an insight into life at the US Open

It all started back in 2005, Orlando, Florida, on the Bernhard trip, where we meet David Ward formally of Olympia Fields which held the US Open in 2003. We had a fascinating chat to David on the setting up of a US Open and afterwards Chris and I thought it would be a great idea to see if we could get on the volunteer support team at a US Open.

For me it was to see how different it was to an Open, as I have been on the BIGGA Support Team a few times there, so we set ourselves a date - the 2007 US Open at Oakmont (yeh right. As if that's going to work to plan). We sent letters together with recommendations and eventually we received an e-mail saying we would be considered and they would let us know before Christmas. True to form we got the e-mail we were looking for, saying we had been accepted and we would be part of the 2007 volunteer grounds crew.

We arrived on June 8th after 10 hours of travelling and two flights. Our initial meeting was not until the Sunday, two days later, at 4.30pm. We were staying in a Holiday Inn Express, along with nearly all the 150 grounds volunteers, about 2 ½ miles from the course.

On the Sunday we were picked up by mini bus and on arrival at the maintenance facility, we saw our marquee which housed all 200 plus greenkeepers, mainly Americans, but some from New Zealand, Australia, Japan, and the UK.

We picked up the credentials and shirts for the week and helped ourselves to free drinks ready for the meeting. The meeting went on for an hour and a half. We had a greeting and a motivational talk from

Superintendent, John Zimmers, known as JZ; the Greens Chairman of Oakmont, and couple of university professors who were friends/mentors to JZ, and a representative from USGA, who bought along the trophy for use to see and have a photo with.

JZ introduced us to all his assistants, past and present, who were going to be in charge of specific groups during the Championship. Then came the job allocations for the week. We did expect to be doing menial tasks but it was a nice surprise to see we were actually getting fully involved in every aspect.

Initially Chris was down for cutting greens on the front nine, and I was down for bunkers on the back nine.

We all, then, sat down for a meal, before JZ put us in our groups and we went straight out for a practice run.

The next morning we had to be ready for the mini bus at 3.15. JZ arrived and gave us our jobs for the morning, but at this stage people had already been swapped around. They were looking for the best man for each specific job, during the first couple of runs. By Monday evening Chris was swapped to the front nine bunkers, which he was happy with, as you get to see more of the course instead of just three greens! We were all out and ready for action for about 4.45am.

Some people could start earlier because they had floodlights to help then, and the guys cutting could see their first line because of the dew, but the bunker crews had to wait for sun up to see anything.

There was more fuss made over the bunkers than any other job. They had to be meticulously raked or basically you did it again. Everybody was finished for 7.30-8.00 with the whole course cut and raked ready for play and we were back at the marquee waiting for breakfast. Everyone was ushered back into the marquee at 9.30 ready for JZ to give us another talk on how we did and how progress was going, also to give us our afternoon job allocations. These were jobs like cutting the graded rough, flymo/stripping the bunkers, divoting and trimming sprinklers. Lunch was about 12.30pm then we would have a break until 4ish, just in time for our evening meal.

About 5pm JZ and his assistants would come in the marquee and give us another talk and our evening's job allocations. These were similar to the morning duties except the bunker crew would be divoting tees and fairways and the practice area. Everyone was finished for about 9.30pm ready for us to go back to the hotel and get some well-earned sleep or down the pub for one 'honest'.

Tuesday and Wednesday were much the same as Monday except on Wednesday we had a terrific thunderstorm, which destroyed all the bunkers, so that evening instead of divoting, we had to deep rake the bunkers. This was a big blow as we had only just got the bunkers back to perfect condition from the thunderstorm the Friday before, so we didn't finish until after 10pm.

Thursday and Friday morning duties started as normal, then one or two people from each bunker crew would walk with one of the assistants in charge from tee to green and check everything ie. if there were any clippings left etc. The bunkers were intensely scrutinised, if a small bird had walked through it would be raked again.

So having walked one half of the course again and raked about 20 more bunkers you didn't get back to the marquee until 9.30pm, which meant you just scraped in for breakfast. Then the day was yours until about 5pm when JZ would give everyone an update and job allocations for the evening.

Evenings brought one slight problem, no one could get out until the players had finished their game, which was not until around 7.30. So with all the equipment loaded up on trailers, plus all the ride-on mowers ready to go we all congregated for a convoy out of the maintenance facility. A police escort was waiting to lead us all down the road. What a sight that was, about 150 plus bits of equipment in one huge line going down main road with just over 200 green staff waving and smiling at all the traffic we had just held up. There were about 50 guys on the flymo team, 30-40 on the divoting team and the rest were cutting right up until about 10pm

Saturday and Sunday, this was a little easier, the morning duties were as normal, even though they didn't tee off till 10am. Because it was a one-tee start this meant we could get out earlier in the evening and get more jobs done.

Sunday morning, duties were as normal except I was in charge of the back nine bunker crew, quite an honour for me as the bunkers proved to be the focus of a lot of attention. We did receive throughout the week praise from JZ for their superb condition and we were even featured on CBS News focussing on the twilight raking. The organisation of the whole operation was fantastic, to get just over 200 greenkeepers working, as one without any mistakes was unreal. I think that is a testament to all, on how focused everyone was, from JZ right the way down.

We will say the USGA looked after us exceptionally well with four meals a day, free drinks and a freezer full of ice cream!

A fuller version of this article can be read on the Midland Section website: www.biggamidlandsection.com





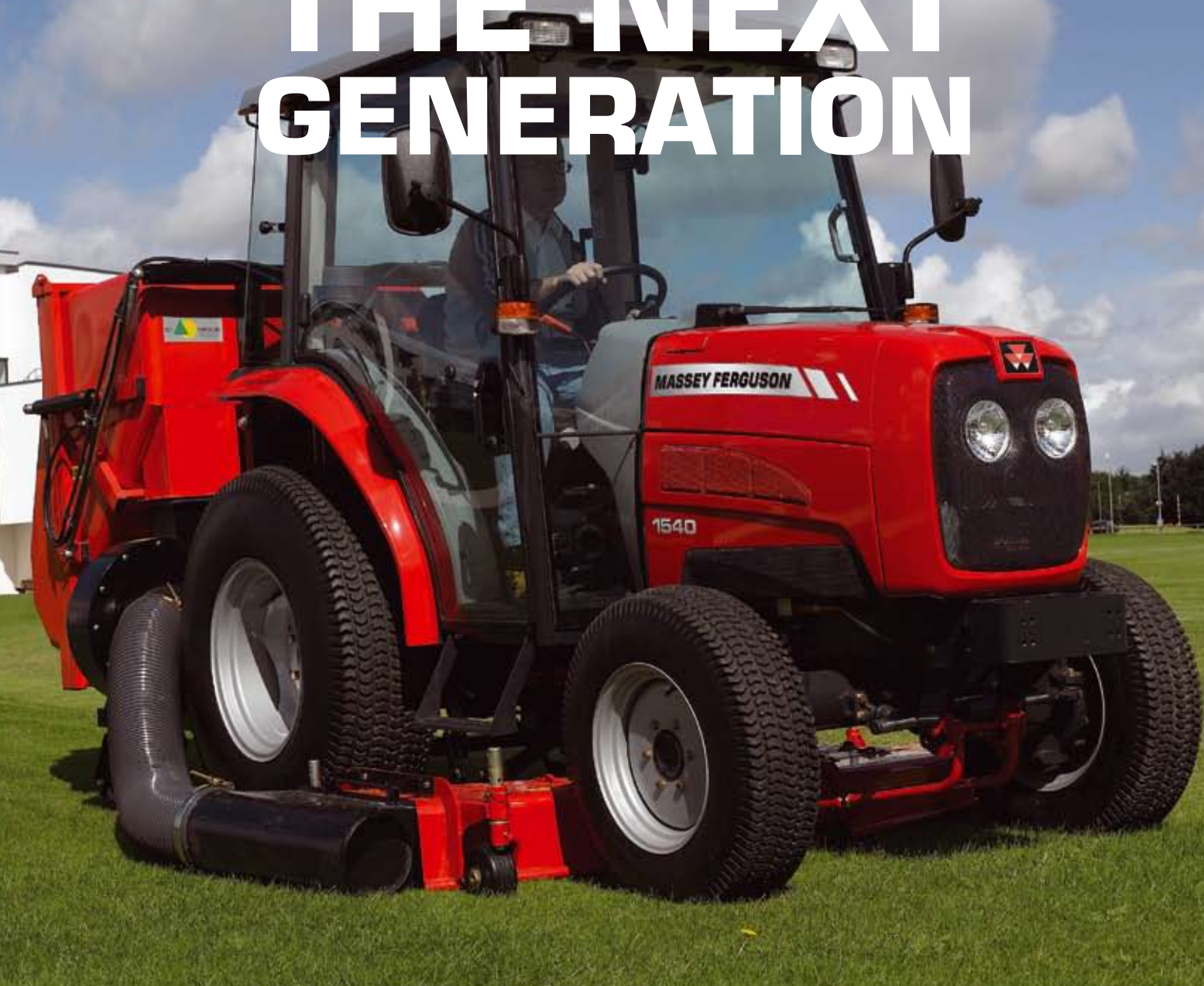
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INTEGRATED DISEASE MANAGEMENT OF TURFGRASS - THE THEORY

Dr Kate Entwistle, The Turf Disease Centre

Integrated disease management (IDM) is a procedure of maintaining disease pressure below defined thresholds by using all of the available control options in a combined manner, while minimising the risk to humans, other organisms and the environment. IDM is not a new concept but the idea of implementing a complete IDM plan can be rather daunting with regard to the time and effort that can be involved in putting it together. The aim of this article is to outline the fundamental steps involved in any IDM plan and to show the benefits of each with regard to disease management. Your IDM plan can be started at any time and can include as much or as little information time and resources allow, but can be added to over time, as new problems develop or as new information on control options becomes available. It really is a process of continuous improvement.

WHY HAVE AN IDM PLAN?

One of the main reasons for having an IDM plan is to ensure that you and your staff are aware of all potential disease problems that can develop on your course, the reasons for their development and the control options available. If the IDM plan is maintained as a written document, all members of the greenkeeping staff can ensure that they are up to date on disease management procedures.

HOW DO YOU BUILD AN IDM PLAN?

1) MANAGE THE TURF TO MINIMISE DISEASE

The first step in any IDM strategy must be to plan and manage the turf in such a way that minimises the likely incidence of disease. Trying

to limit the conditions that favour disease will mean that disease incidence and severity of outbreaks will be lower and control options become more effective. Whether you are involved in the design of a new course, construction of a new area or reconstruction of parts of your course, you can keep in mind the conditions that are likely to favour disease while planning the physical design and specification of materials to be used.

Water availability and relative humidity

Since most disease problems are caused by fungi and the majority of fungi need a period of free water to enable infection to take place, planning and management should include consideration of factors that will minimise the period of leaf wetness and improve surface drainage. The water requirement of fungi for infection may not necessarily be leaf wetness, but high relative humidity, encouraged by water availability around the base of the sward, air and rootzone temperature, shade and reduced air movement, can be all that is needed for infection to take place. Ensuring that all of these factors are managed to minimise the duration of humidity will lessen the opportunity for the fungal pathogen to develop in the sward.

Temperatures and rootzone

Temperature is also a key factor in fungal growth and infection. It is not necessarily the temperature that supports optimal fungal growth that provides the ideal temperature for disease to develop. Disease occurs when the balance of environmental conditions is more strongly in favour of the fungus than the plant and therefore we must try to

keep this balance in favour of the plant. The type of the rootzone is not strictly important when it comes to disease development but what is important is the ability of the rootzone to support healthy plant growth. If the rootzone is prone to compaction, reduced oxygen availability to the plant roots, restricted nutrient availability and limited water movement away from the base of the sward, the plant's strength is more likely to be compromised and fungal growth encouraged. Disease development under these conditions is therefore much more likely.

Maintenance of the sward

(e.g. height of cut, plant strength, plant nutrition)

The way in which the sward is maintained has an important part to play in both the occurrence and the severity of disease development. Right from the initial preparation of the seedbed, young plants need to be encouraged to establish quickly and mature into a strong sward. Any slow establishment or forced, weak growth is likely to succumb to infection. The height of cut can have a dramatic effect on disease development and the severity of several foliar diseases can be significantly reduced by slightly raising the height of cut.

It is worth being aware that the nutrient availability to the sward can have an important effect on the development of certain diseases. One example is the role of manganese in the development of take-all patch disease. Manganese is utilised by the plant in the production of compounds that are released in to the rootzone and that effectively reduce root infection by the take-all pathogen, *Gaeumannomyces graminis*. This fungus, however, is able to convert the manganese to a form that cannot be taken up by the plant roots, effectively reducing its availability in the rootzone and reducing the plants ability to produce the required compounds. An equilibrium develops between the fungus converting the manganese to an unavailable form and the beneficial organisms (antagonists) in the rootzone that convert the manganese back to a form that can be taken up by the plants. The greater the amount of manganese applied to the rootzone or the higher the antagonist population, the more likely the plant is to maintain its natural defence from this pathogen.

2) KNOW YOUR POTENTIAL DISEASES

Being aware of the potential disease problems that could develop on your turf is the second key step in any IDM strategy. Once you have identified what the potential problems are, it is important to be able to recognise the initial stages of disease development and appreciate all of the factors that can encourage pathogen activity so that they can be minimised before disease occurs. Accurate identification of the cause of any disease problem is fundamental to ensuring that an effective long-term control plan is implemented. You cannot effectively manage a disease outbreak if you misidentify its cause. All disease is caused by a pathogen and the majority of diseases in cool-season turf are caused by fungal pathogens. However, it is worth keeping in mind that plant parasitic nematodes are increasingly being associated with symptoms of disease and that other microorganisms can also adversely affect the sward. Many fungal diseases provide evidence of their infection, e.g. black mycelial growth along the stem and root tissues in take-all patch, blackened rotted crown tissues in anthracnose basal rot and red needles throughout areas affected by red thread. Nematode problems may be more difficult to see but reduced root depth and quality, deformed root growth and galling/swelling to the roots and stem bases may be indicators of nematode infection.

Once the potential diseases have been confirmed it is important to monitor their populations and establish thresholds above which damage to the sward is unacceptable. Nematode populations can be monitored through analysis but fungal disease must be maintained below unacceptable levels by monitoring for the initial symptoms and preventing development to unacceptable levels.

3) PULL TOGETHER ALL TOOLS OF DISEASE CONTROL



Once you have identified the unacceptable disease thresholds, you can begin to pull together all aspects of disease control that will allow you to maintain conditions that are unfavourable for disease development. There are four main ways of controlling disease development and these are either through cultural, genetic, biological or chemical means.

Cultural Control

With regard to cultural control, the emphasis has to be on ensuring strong plant growth, not only strong leaf tissues but also strong, deep root development that is achieved through the maintenance of a healthy rootzone. The importance of a balanced nutrient input, correct mowing height for the grass type and use, water management and air movement through the rootzone and the sward have all been mentioned earlier but overall, cultural management of the sward and the rootzone to optimise turfgrass strength is the key to reducing disease outbreaks. All other control options increase your ability to maintain minimal disease outbreaks as long as the basic, cultural maintenance procedures are implemented.

Genetic Control

Genetic control relies on the inherent variation within different grass types and cultivars to minimise disease development through any sward. Monocultures, where one grass cultivar is used on a give area, may have advantages over a mixed sward with regard to the playing quality and sward uniformity. However, the perfection that can be achieved through this practice may be short-lived if disease takes hold in the sward because, with an identical genetic make-up, all plants will be equally susceptible to infection and disease can spread rapidly. In a sward containing different grass types or cultivars, the variation in the plants genetic make-up will present a barrier to the rapid progression of any disease. Although all grasses are susceptible to one or more diseases, they will vary in their sensitivity to infection and to the conditions that will allow disease to develop.

Biological Control

Biological control can be broken down in to two main areas, i.e. the application of microorganisms to the sward/rootzone to bolster the

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natural population and reduce the likely incidence of infection, or the application of products or practices to increase the natural population of beneficial microorganisms in the rootzone.

Chemical Control

Chemical control or perhaps more correctly, the use of fungicides or plant protection products in an important component in an integrated approach to disease management. There have been a number of recent changes made in pesticide legislation and greater emphasis on users achieving accurate product application. The following is an attempt to bring you up to date with the current UK approval status for fungicides and to summarise the different types of product available, their mode of application, their activity against the pathogen and the likely chance of the target fungi developing reduced sensitivity or resistance.

Although more correctly called plant protection products, I will continue to refer to these products as fungicides as this term is now so familiar to us all. Fungicides can be broadly regarded as either contact or systemic in their movement once applied to the turf. Additionally they are also classified as to how they arrest the development of the fungus (also referred to as the mode of action). Understanding both of these attributes of a fungicide will help you choose the correct product for each particular application.

MOVEMENT OF FUNGICIDES

Contact fungicides

With contacts, the fungicide remains where it has been applied, forming a barrier to infection that protects the treated leaf but that will not prevent development of any infection that has already taken place. Since contact fungicides remain on the leaf surface, they are prone to breaking down or weathering over time and newly emerging tissues are not protected. They can be applied at any time of the year but if applied whilst the plant is actively growing, they will need to be reapplied quite frequently to maintain efficacy. They are ideally used when there is little growth in the plant and when the environmental conditions are more conducive to certain fungal disease as their barrier against infection is more long-lived. In the UK amenity market, we have only one active ingredient that can be classed as having contact activity and that is chlorothalonil.

Systemic fungicides

All of the other active ingredients tend to be called systemics but should more correctly be regarded as local or acropetal penetrants (see Table 1). There is only one fully systemic compound with approval for use and that is fosetyl-al which has off-label approval for use against Pythium on greens and tees. Following application of all other systemic products, their movement within and around the plant can vary and it is therefore important that you select the correct active ingredient and it is imperative that you apply the formulated product correctly to ensure efficacy.

Table 1. Active ingredients identified within their different chemistry group and movement following application

Contact activity	Systemic activity (local penetrant, acropetal penetrant)			
Phthalonitriles	Dicarboximides	Methyl Benzimidazole Carbamates (MBC)	DeMethylation Inhibitors (DMI)	Strobilurins
chlorothalonil de	iprodione d	carbendazim a	epoxiconazole	azoxystrobin
		thiophanate-methyl b	fenarimol c	pyraclostrobin
			myclobutanil	trifloxystrobin
			prochloraz	
			propiconazole	
			tebuconazole	

- a** Approval revoked on certain products (as of 31 August 2008) and others have the approval amended to include only worm control
- b** Approval revoked on certain products (as of 31 August 2008)
- c** Approval revoked (as of 30 June 2008)
- d** Products must be re-evaluated under PPPR
- e** Approval unsupported on certain products (as of 31 August 2007)

Local penetrants

For the local penetrants, the applied active ingredient moves in to the plant cells around the area of application but does not move through the vascular system of the plant. Some of these local penetrants have high mobility in a vapour phase that means that they are continually being redistributed around the leaf surface.

Acropetal penetrants

As for the acropetal penetrants, these products move upward through the plant, from the point of application, in the xylem (water moving vessels). The degree of control achieved against a given disease will depend upon correct product placement, as there will be no downward movement in the plant by any of these products. Using the correct water volume, (which varies with each product label) is very important to ensure that the turfgrass is adequately covered. As an example, azoxystrobin has approval for use against take-all patch, a disease of the root and stem base tissues. If the product is not applied in sufficient water to allow it to be taken up through the roots, the product will not reach its target site.

Mode of action

(how a fungicide stops the development of the fungus)

It is important to understand how these products work to ensure that you apply them in the most effective way to achieve the desired control. In addition to their differential movement around the plant, active ingredients vary in the way in which they target the fungus.

Multi-Site Inhibitors

In the case of chlorothalonil, it is a so-called multi-site inhibitor that means that it targets many processes within the fungus, stopping fungal growth in several different ways. Due to this multi-site activity, it is quite unlikely that any fungal population will develop reduced sensitivity to this active ingredient.

Single Site Inhibitors

The same cannot be said for the other active ingredients. Regardless of the chemical group to which they belong, the local or acropetal penetrants all target a single site in the fungus (the target site varies on the group of chemistry to which the product belongs). Being active on a single site there is more of a chance that the fungal strain with reduced sensitivity will be selected from the general fungal population, if it is repeatedly exposed to the same chemistry. What this means is that if you continually select, for example, a fungicide from the strobilurin group for application to the turf, there is a strong risk that a strain of the fungal pathogen will be selected that shows reduced sensitivity to



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that class of fungicides and once that happens, future applications of fungicides containing that chemistry will be ineffective. The same is also true for the MBC group of fungicides but for the DMI (also known as the SBIs) and Dicarboximide groups of fungicides, any strain that shows reduced sensitivity compared to the natural fungal population will not be as fit for survival as the natural strain. Reduced sensitivity to DMI fungicides is generally seen as limited longevity of the applied product and a need to reapply more frequently to achieve the same level of control. As for the Dicarboximides, if application of the formulated product is suspended, the selected fungal strain showing reduced sensitivity will be lost from the fungal population and the products will eventually be able to be reintroduced in to the IDM plan. It is also worth knowing that some groups of fungicides are more susceptible to resistance than others.

Managing Resistance

In the UK, there is currently no evidence of resistance having developed to any class of fungicide in amenity situations although in agriculture and horticulture, resistance to fungicides is a real issue. However, laboratory tests have identified reduced sensitivity of *Microdochium nivale* to the MBC fungicides. Elsewhere around the world, and most notably in the USA, certain turf diseases (or more correctly, the fungi that cause the disease) have shown resistance to a range of fungicide chemistries and in some cases, an individual disease has developed resistance to two or more different types of chemistry.

In the past, fungicides were approved in the UK under the Control of Pesticide Regulations (COPR) however, with the on-going EC review of all active ingredients and a change towards harmonisation of plant protection products across Europe, fungicides are now approved under the Plant Protection Products Regulations (PPPR). The initial phase of this harmonisation of approvals across the EC meant that all active ingredients had to be assessed and, if accepted, placed on to the so-called Annex 1 list of approved active ingredients. Once on the Annex 1 list, it becomes the responsibility of individual EC Member States to register approvals of formulated products. The active ingredients listed in Table 1 were those with approval for use in the UK in June 2007. Some of the products containing these active ingredients have since been withdrawn from the market or the approvals for the active ingredients themselves may have changed. An outline summary of these changes is also shown in Table 1 but the Pesticides Safety Directorate web site www.pesticides.gov.uk will provide complete and up to date information on all approvals. The Turf Disease Centre can be contacted at: www.theturf-disease-centre.co.uk.

In many cases, the marketing companies will need to re-register products that contain active ingredients that were initially approved for use under COPR (e.g. chlorothalonil, iprodione). Under the new regulations (PPPR), there is much greater emphasis placed on companies to provide information relating to the possible risk of resistance developing and to justify the recommended application rate to ensure that it is the minimum effective dose (the least amount of product that needs to be applied in order to achieve the required control). The provision of information on the risk of resistance developing to any active ingredient and on resistance management strategies, including this information being detailed on the product label, is now necessary before any approval is granted. In addition a range of other data may be requested by the Regulatory Agency. This increases the registration cost to the development company and with amenity being such a small market, certain products will be lost due to the company taking the decision to withdraw support of the approval as it considered not being economically viable. All new active ingredients that come to market will automatically be registered under PPPR.

In order to maintain approvals for the fungicides we need to use the products carefully and correctly, to maximise their efficacy and minimise the potential for selecting resistance from within the fungal population. The new systemics are used at very low application rates and therefore,

the onus is on the user to ensure that the area to be treated is accurately measured, that the correct amount of formulated product is used in a given application and that the water volume chosen will allow the product to be deposited where it is needed. In addition to that, it is imperative that the sprayer is correctly maintained and calibrated; the correct nozzles have been selected and checked to ensure that they are not damaged and that the speed and pressure of the application is set for the correct delivery the fungicide to the turf.

If a fungicide application fails to control the disease, it is usually the case that the product itself is blamed. However, failure of any fungicide application could be due to incorrect product selection or incorrect application by for example, inaccurate calculation of the spray area to be treated, wrong selection or faulty nozzles, incorrect application rate of product or water volume. It could also be due to application to a wet sward or to turf that receives rainfall soon after application. Incorrect disease identification can also lead to control failure. Whether you have misidentified the causal fungus or whether the problem is caused by something other than a fungus, incorrect target identity will at best result in limited control. It is always advisable to seek confirmation of the disease identity if you are uncertain.

4) RECORD AND REVIEW PAST CONTROL OPTIONS

The final steps in any IDM plan must be to evaluate the control options that you have implemented with regard to the management of each disease problem and keep records of what you have done, whether successful or not, so that in future, successful options can be improved upon and those that fail can either be re-evaluated to try and increase their contribution to disease management or disregarded as part of your IDM plan.

The increased legislation that is governing our industry and that is placing ever-tighter controls on product applications, is in place to reduce our impact on the environment and to ensure our safety and that of other organisms. As long as we all play our part in using these control options wisely, there is a greater chance that they will remain available for use for future turf grass managers for diseases we have today and ones that may develop. Turf disease management without fungicides is possible but some compromise on quality may have to be accepted. With an IDM plan in place, you can work to maximise the efficiency of a reduced number of fungicide applications whilst utilising other control options to maintain the diseases below their damage thresholds.



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WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?



Name: Joanne Hooper

Position: Sales and Marketing Co-ordinator

Company: OptimizeGolf

How long have you been in the industry?

"I joined OptimizeGolf in July '06. This is my first role specifically within the golf industry."

How did you get into it?

"My experience is in marketing communications but I've always had a passion for golf, encouraged by a competitive husband, dad and brother. OptimizeGolf were recruiting for sales & marketing staff, I applied out of curiosity. After my interview, I was so excited about the opportunity to work in such an innovate industry, I wouldn't go away until they hired me!"

What other jobs have you done?

"I've been in marketing for 10 years."

What do you like about your current job?

"This last year's been a huge learning curve for me, it's been thrilling to learn about golf course management, greenkeeping, surveying techniques and the 'behind the scenes' industry that is busy ensuring the wellbeing of our golf courses. Last year I was lucky enough to stroll around The Old Course with Ernie Els and Vijay Singh at the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship, using our Shotmiser device to record their shots – and they call this work!"

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

"The need for courses to get as much out of surveys as possible. In the past GPS surveys have been conducted for one specific purpose or because a course thought it should 'have a survey done' which ends up stored away due to its impractical size and limited use. As courses increasingly employ the services of irrigation consultants and architects, they require detailed course data that can be used for all these purposes, as well as being a valuable information source for themselves."

What do you do in your spare time?

"Try to improve my awful swing!"

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

"I've already informed the boss I will be International Director of Sales & Marketing, after helping OptimizeGolf to achieve worldwide success!"

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

"I've been surprised by how friendly this industry is. We exhibited at Harrogate and Anaheim, the atmosphere was so sociable with everyone networking. I'm looking forward to Harrogate Week 2008 and the GIS show."

What do you consider to be your lucky number? "8"

Pick a number "78"

Joanne has picked Paul Johnson from Barenbrug



In the Shed

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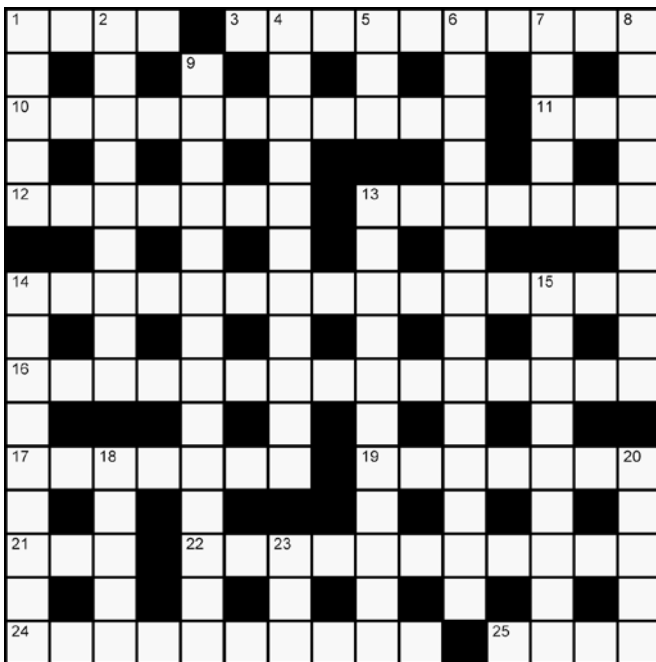
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 To conceal or disguise (4)
- 3 Overwhelmed, flabbergasted (6,4)
- 10 The first Beatles single credited to "Lennon/McCartney", not vice versa (3,5,3)
- 11 Roman god of the underworld (3)
- 12 Bang on (7)
- 13 Smooth-leaved variety of kale (7)
- 14 1980 film starring Goldie Hawn and Eileen Brennan (7,8)
- 16 Type of TV show based on the humour of daily life (9,6)
- 17 Dreamlike, characterised by fantastic imagery (7)
- 19 Piece of audio equipment sometimes called "cans" (7)
- 21 Cut down, terminate (3)
- 22 Good day in Italy (11)
- 24 NEGATIVISM (anagram) (4-6)
- 25 Out of control (4)

DOWN

- 1 "I don't know anything about --. In my line you don't have to" (Elvis Presley) (5)
- 2 Garden herb, mentha spicata (9)
- 4 Too old to be of use (4,3,4)
- 5 Narrative song with repeating chorus (3)
- 6 Prosecution of a defendant for a crime upon which judgment has previously been served (6,8)
- 7 Alcoholic drink whose name is based on "water" (5)
- 8 Householding (9)
- 9 Split up - literally or figuratively (2,8,4)
- 13 Facially fresh? (5-6)
- 14 Get a vehicle going by engaging the clutch while in motion (4-5)
- 15 Vortex (9)
- 18 Watery nasal discharge (5)
- 20 Exercise the mind (5)
- 23 "Gun" an engine (3)



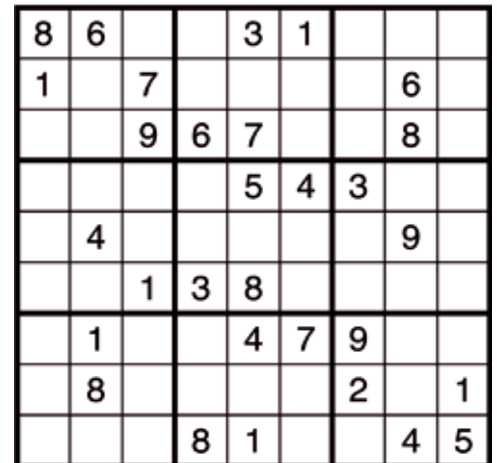
IN THE SHED ANSWERS ON PAGE 67

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

- 1 Which sportsman published his autobiography entitled 'My Life And The Beautiful Game' in 1977?
- 2 Who was the only female to win the BBC Sports Personality of the year in the 1990s?
- 3 Lending her name to a famous sports manufacturer, who was the Greek Goddess of Victory?
- 4 Which famous American sports star was nicknamed 'The Juice'?
- 5 Which synthetic fabric was first developed by Dupont in 1958 and is worn regularly in a variety of sports?
- 6 W G Grace captained England at which two sports?
- 7 Which sportsman's autobiography is called 'You Cannot Be Serious'?
- 8 Which famous sportsman lit the torch at the opening ceremony of the 1996 Olympic Games?
- 9 When Brazil won the 1994 World Cup, to which famous sportsman did they dedicate it?

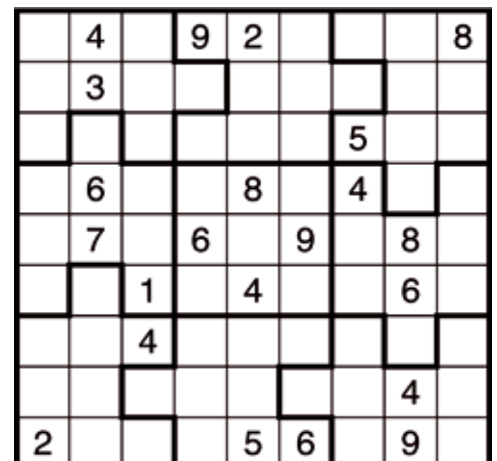
MONSTER SUDOKU

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.





TORO STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2007 PREVIEW

Time to get up close and personal with this year's finalists

Summer. A time to relax, visit the beach, top up your tan. Well, not if your chosen profession is greenkeeping, June through to September remains the busiest time of the golfing year. The pressure is piled onto BIGGA members, as wannabe Woods and enthusiastic Els, come out of hibernation. As well as The Open and the US PGA Championship, summer months see numerous high profile Section, Regional and National BIGGA events. Well-earned "time outs" were taken by 32 student greenkeepers, as they attended the Regional Finals of the Toro Student of the Year Award 2007.

Travelling the width and breadth of the country, was BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, in search of this year's eight National Contenders. Joined by Archie Dunn, Tony Smith, Jeff Mills and Gavin Robson, from the BIGGA Board of Management, as well as Trevor Chard, John Pike, George McDonald and Robert Jackson from Toro, Ken and the rest of the judges, through much discussion and many difficult decisions, decided on the final eight to come to BIGGA HOUSE on September 17 for the Grand Final.

Entailing a further interview and the completion of a survey of Aldwick Manor GC, (evaluating nine of the holes), home of BIGGA HQ – there will be tough competition at the September final.

The amazing prize involves an eight-week trip to the USA, where, for six weeks, the University of Massachusetts will be home, as the lucky winner completes a residential Turf Management Course. The trip also includes visits to the Toro Headquarters in Minneapolis and to the GCSAA Golf Industry Show in New Orleans, in February 2008.

"This competition goes from strength to strength. The candidates are better prepared, they cope well with interviews and have a good idea what to expect in the US. It gets more and more difficult to select the final eight candidates and I do not envy the task of this year's judges," said Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager.



Name: Neil Plenderleith
Age: 27
Club: Oatridge, West Lothian

Neil has recently completed his National Certificate Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management at Oatridge College. He has worked at Oatridge Golf Club during the past academic year, helping the greenkeepers with various tasks. His summer has been spent at Gleneagles doing seasonal work.

"I'm grateful to Gleneagles as well as the staff at Oatridge for the chance of a starting position with such a prestigious club. I hope to take my education to at least HCN level once I have more practical experience in the industry," said Neil.



Name: Jamie Duncan
Age: 23
Club: Brodick, Isle of Arran

Jamie spent most of his childhood on Brodick golf course having been a very keen golfer since the age of about four. Before becoming a greenkeeper, Jamie spent three years at the Club doing seasonal work.

"When I was 19 I travelled the world for a year visiting Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and America. Seeing so many amazing places has given me the ambition to see more and hopefully through my greenkeeping qualifications I will be able to work at some of these destinations," said Jamie.



Name: Lewis Birch
Age: 23
Club: Abbeydale, Sheffield

Lewis' career at Abbeydale started out as a summer job but he knew he wanted to take greenkeeping further, "I enjoy working outdoors and with the great variety of the role, I felt no other position would keep me as happy," said Lewis.

Lewis has achieved PA1, PA2, NVQ sports turf level 2 and the Technical Certificate in Sports Turf at Askham Bryan College in York. "I'm currently working towards my NVQ Sports Turf Level 3," said Lewis.



Name: Stuart Ross
Age: 33
Club: Cradoc, Powys

Stuart joined Cradoc in 2005 having previously been employed as a production planner in the steel fabrication industry. "I feel that I've finally found a career that excites me and fuels my imagination – I have found my niche," said Stuart. Stuart is always looking to learn new skills and has undertaken a manual handling course, first aid at work course and various mini digger courses.

"My hopes for the future are to continue learning about greenkeeping, progressing on to NVQ Level 3 next year and eventually become a Course Manager in my own right," said Stuart.



Name: Richard Oakley
Age: 19
Club: Erlestoke, Wiltshire

Richard has just completed his first year of NVQ Level 2 Sports Turf at Bridgewater College and has also attended a first aid and manual handling course.

Richard has been working at Erlestoke as an Assistant Greenkeeper for just over a year.



Name: Avon Bridges
Age: 26
Club: Luton Hoo Park, Bedfordshire

Avon started greenkeeping at Finchley at the age of 17. "Over the nine years that I've worked at Finchley, I've always been encouraged to learn and been given every opportunity to take on new skills. I've trained new staff members within our team of six. My efforts were rewarded in 2003 when I was given the position of Deputy Head Greenkeeper," said Avon.

"In future years I aim to continue to develop the golf course at Luton Hoo and will make it one of the south east's best course in 5-10 years time."



Name: Simon Lambert
Age: 25
Club: Seaford Head, East Sussex

Simon has worked at Seaford Head for seven years, "Since working as a greenkeeper I have learnt, achieved and given a great deal. All my training while working at the course and attending Plumpton College, has enabled me to work more confidently and efficiently in the everyday running of the golf course," said Simon.

"In the future I hope to develop my present skills, studying for my advanced apprenticeship NVQ Level 3 in Amenity Horticulture at Plumpton College."



Name: Greg Knight
Age: 22
Club: Abridge, Essex

Greg started his greenkeeping career at the age of 16, doing seasonal work at Theydon Bois, and has been at Abridge for nearly three years now.

"I am currently studying for my NVQ Level 3 at Writtle College under the guidance of my tutor, Nigel Beckford, and my Head Greenkeeper, Geoff Smith," said Greg.

"After my NVQ 3 I would like to furthermore my 'thirst' for education by continuing to study for a degree."

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The first GCSGA delegation to attend Harrogate Week

EXPERIENCE GREENKEEPING US-STYLE

If you've ever dreamt of visiting America to see how superintendents over the pond solve problems on their courses, now is your opportunity to make the dream a reality. How? – By applying to be one of the 10 greenkeepers who will jet off to Orlando in February as part of the BIGGA Delegation 2008.

Previous delegate Chris Sealey, Course Manager at Chippenham Golf Club, said: "If you want to get ahead this trip is a must. I learnt so much from the experience."

Sponsored by Bernhard and Company, during the trip you will have the chance to visit the high-profile GCSAA Golf Industry Show in Orlando for free, where new ground-breaking machinery introductions and ideas

are launched. You will also have the opportunity to attend Education Conferences and visit major golf clubs in the area, gaining an insight into golf management practices US-style.

The Delegation is open to all BIGGA greenkeeping members, and all you have to do to enter is complete the wrap-around in last month's Greenkeeper International or phone BIGGA HOUSE on: 01347 833800 to request an application form. Once you have completed your application, send it back to BIGGA House and you will be automatically entered into the second stage of the competition.

Grasp this opportunity for a really life-changing experience and to see first-hand how superintendents address agronomic issues.

CUTS BOTH WAYS

Ten US superintendents travelled to Harrogate and were blown away by their experiences of greenkeeping in the UK. Here they describe their momentous inaugural visit.

Certainly ranked as a major logistical challenge, ten superintendents from all over the US safely arrived at the same time at Manchester Airport, they then made their way to the 'quaint' town of Harrogate.

Somewhat confused with the UK road system Ken Williams said: "With steering wheels on the right and the direction of travel on the left and the numerous mazes of roundabouts I never felt completely sure where cars were coming from for the entire week. But what a welcome!"

Williams, Golf Course Superintendent at Stanford University Golf Club, recounts his heady days in Harrogate as part of the BIGGA delegation, sponsored by Bernhard and Company.

"Our exploration of the town included a visit to a couple of pubs where I was introduced to the tumultuous excitement of watching an English Premier League Football Match between Manchester United and Arsenal. At dinner we met three European greenkeepers, who became our unofficial guides for the week. They had been part of the BIGGA delegation to San Diego in 2004. Sid Arrowsmith, Master Greenkeeper runs a 54-hole complex in England, Richard McGlynn was building a course in Russia and Steven Tierney has the luck of running a course in Switzerland.

"The following day we travelled to see the major turfgrass research projects carried out by the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) in Bingley. We observed their research on golf turf, as well as other amenity applications such as football, rugby and cricket pitches. I now know that in England a field is somewhere you graze livestock, and a pitch is somewhere you play sport. Touring test plots with resident chemists and pathologists we learnt that Fusarium patch (*Microdochium nivale*)

is the number one disease problem in the UK, with crane fly larvae one of the biggest insect problems. Birds have been known to tear up entire fairways foraging for the numerous grubs.

“Next on the agenda was a trip to Alwoodley Golf Club in Leeds, the first course to be designed by Dr Alister MacKenzie. Our host was Nick Leaf, Club Historian and former Chairman of the Green. He shared his deep knowledge of both the renowned architect and the course. While walking all 18 holes, Nick explained the architectural principles inherent to the design. One of the most remarkable features of the course was the medieval farming furrows left in place across the fairways. These numerous rounded ridges of approximately one foot in height ran across many of the fairways, ensuring no two fairway lies were the same. What is regarded in the UK as adding interest to the game, is something we in the US would consider completely unfair!

“BTME opened its doors the following day with around 250 attending the Opening Session. Seeing different types of equipment used abroad and their differing applications was an experience. We would never need a flail strong enough to handle gorse. Educational seminars provided an insight into UK management strategies but the information related universally. One highlight for me was realising how very focused Europeans are on sustainable practices and low input methods. Initially practiced for economic reasons, this has proven sound for both environmental protection and the fight against annual meadow grass (*Poa annua*). Most of the clubs seek greens made up of the finer grasses, the fescues and bents. In that pursuit, one British greenkeeper insisted he only applied six grammes of actual nitrogen per square metre to his greens last year. Awesome.

“Harrogate Week is similar to the GCSAA event, with evenings filled with great opportunities to meet new colleagues, network and just talk turf. We had the opportunity to meet the 10 BIGGA delegates who were set to visit Anaheim this year and we made plans for us all to re-connect there.

“At dinner I had the honour of sitting across from Sir Michael Bonallack, former Secretary of the R&A, who, when persuaded, talked about his duties with the R&A, his British Amateur titles (5) and Walker Cups (9).

“The BIGGA Banquet was the climax of the show, held at the historic Majestic Hotel - it proved a great, unexpected moment of my trip. I introduced myself to an older greenkeeper I had sat next to in one of the seminars earlier in the day and, low and behold, I found out it was Walter Woods. Talk about a legend of the profession. That guy has probably forgotten more than I will ever know.”

The next day, our trip culminated in a visit to a great old links course, The Ganton Golf Club. Both Harry Vardon and Ted Ray were former professionals here and the club hosted the Walker Cup Matches in 2003. Their Course Manager, Phillip Baldock, took us around for a no-nonsense look at the links. Previously he had overseen 36 holes at Royal Portrush in Northern Ireland. The course was prepared for golf alone – no signs, no yardage markers, no flowers, no fancy monuments, no beverage carts – practice green markers were made of a simple short hook of steel. Bunkers contained the native sandy soil, which included many seashells, and weeds were not a problem as long as they did not affect play. It was a truly refreshing way of seeing a course prepared by a crew of six. Phillip said he would probably be disciplined if he ever burned in the stripes on the fairways like we do in the US. When asked how steep they construct the walls of the riveted bunker faces, he said:

“We use a very technological method, on greenside bunkers we place each piece of sod one finger back of the last piece and on fairway bunkers we use two fingers.”

Frequent greens topdressing consisted of a 70/30 mix of sand and soil.



Ken Williams at Ganton

Iron sulphate was used regularly to control moss. When asked at what rate he applied this Baldock said: “Black does not bother me, it only lasts a few days and does a world of good.”

How empowering to hear such a practical approach to golf course maintenance.

This is a week in my career I will never forget and which truly inspired me. I am now passionate in promoting BIGGA's BTME as something every Golf Superintendent must do at least once in their career and I encourage my UK counterparts to visit the US. We have a lot to learn from each other!”

Roger Stewart, Golf Course Superintendent at TPC Jasna Polana was equally enthusiastic and added: “Networking with BIGGA members and meeting people who manage courses all over Europe really opened my eyes to the differences in our management technique. Equally, there are tremendous similarities in many of the challenges we face. I must say I was impressed with both courses we visited when it comes to the conditions they produce.

“Our trip to STRI was really great because I had heard so much about their work for most of my career and was able to put much of that into perspective.

“And for the first time in my 30 plus years as a superintendent I got to see what gorse and heather really looked like. This may seem trivial to some, but it was a great experience for me.”

Dave Ward, of the Coyote Run Golf Course, feels British greenkeepers are way ahead of Americans on sustainability issues and working with restricted budgets. He said: “These two realities are now becoming vital issues at some facilities in the States, so it was great to see how they were being addressed in the UK.”

Harrogate Week 2008 takes place the third week in January – Exhibition: 22-24 January, Education: 20-24 January



News from the Chief Executive

More and more I hear of Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers that get themselves into stressful situations through their lack of management skills, or through a lack of appropriate skills in the clubhouse. Golf is undergoing a serious change with far greater financial competition between clubs than ever before. Only recently have I heard of a long established, highly regarded club that is close to insolvency, perhaps even technically there already. Drastic measures are being considered to reduce overheads but the action may be too late.

The daily life of a typical golf club now needs to be geared to the commercial world and with it the employment of commercial skills. Today's Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper needs to keep up to date with some of these skills and that is where being a member of BIGGA can help. The programme for Harrogate Week will soon be released and in it members will find an abundance of workshops and seminars designed to help them cope with the demands of the job. The competent manager can contribute so much more to the golf club than just looking after the course, and golf club committees and owners need to recognise this fact. Management that works as a team has a much greater chance of success and had this happened in the case I referred to earlier, then the club might not have found themselves in their current crisis. Getting the average golfer to understand and accept this fact is difficult, however, by looking and acting professionally and by demonstrating business competence then the Course Manager can make his mark.

I am continuing to build stronger working relationships between BIGGA and the other lead bodies in golf, in particular the R&A, the Golf Club Managers' Association, the Home Unions and the Greenkeepers Training Committee. We all need to work together for the benefit of the game and thereby avoid duplication, make better use of resources and hopefully improve standards.

While Harrogate Week is the annual focus of BIGGA's education, members should not ignore the opportunities that are available the rest of the year, both on a local and a regional basis. The Education and Development Fund together with the Ransomes Jacobsen scholarship/grant scheme, provides the funding or subsidy for a wide range of courses. If a member has a specific need then I would encourage them to contact either Sami or Rachael in the Learning and Development office at HQ, to discuss how we can help.

Once again the Association's staff will be pleased to welcome you to the BIGGA stand at Saltex. Remember though, it is Harrogate Week that provides vital funding to YOUR Association and not Saltex! I will be in attendance on the Tuesday and will be happy to discuss any points that members have.

Finally, a reminder to book your place at the National Championship sponsored by Kubota and also to submit your application for the Bernhard & Co sponsored trip to the Golf Industry Show 2008 in Orlando, both of which appeared in the August edition of Greenkeeper International.

John Pemberton



SCOTTISH – CENTRAL

First of all, a warm welcome to all our new Section members - please feel welcome to attend future events. The committee will be trying to arrange some educational events commencing in November. All info will be posted on the website, talking of which, we have all been rather busy this summer and the website activity has slowed down. We will be putting some effort into kick-starting this activity again, as the positive feedback we had when it was active indicated that it was well received by the members. Please play your part and send any news and ideas you have to the committee.

It's been a really busy time for many courses in Scotland, playing host to The Open Championship (Carnoustie), The British Ladies Open (St Andrew's Links – Old Course), The Seniors Open (Muirfield), and the Johnnie Walker Championship (Gleneagles). September will also see The Scottish Lades Senior Amateur (Glenbervie), the Ladies Home International Matches (Dunbar), and the Ladies Scottish Open (Carrick), followed by the Dunhill Links Championship (St Andrews, Carnoustie and Kingsbarns). A really fantastic year for the Golf spectators among us if you have the time. From what we've seen so far it has shown the talent that exists in our profession producing such fantastic venues in what has been a very challenging season weather wise. Congratulations to all involved.

The Autumn Tournament will be played on September 20 at The Dukes. All entries should have been processed by now, and you can check the draw on the website or by calling Andy Mellon: 01334 658914. This year's National Tournament is being held at Dundonald Links and Kilmarnock (Barassie) Golf Club. For a fee of £85 you get to play two fantastic courses with lunch both days and dinner on the first evening all included. I hope that many section members take up the opportunity to play, when it's being hosted so close to home.

I have been as busy as usual on my own Golf Tour. All the courses were in great condition and a testament to the hard work of the Greenkeeping teams' efforts. I had great days at Royal Burgess, Kirriemuir and Brechin. I was trying to keep it quiet but I also lost £4 to Andy O'Hara, Course manager at Leven, on a real Black Thursday when I also lost my trusty 7 – iron, damaged my putter and was run down by a golf buggy. Fortunately my injuries were not severe enough to stop me jetting off to Canada next month on holiday, which I'm busy setting up a schedule of course visits for. I'm pulling on all contacts to try and get some good courses. I get back the day of our Autumn Tournament and I've asked for a late tee time to try and take part. Hope to see you all there.

Your committee are keen to arrange as many events as you need, and to provide relevant learning opportunities for our members. Please give them your support and let them know what you want. The AGM is just round the corner and you'll receive an Invite in the post. It's your opportunity to come along and have a say on how things are run, and offer your services to help if you can. All the best.

*Secretary: Andy Mellon
Chairman: Derek Scott*

www.biggacentralsection.org.uk 01334 658914

Around the Green



SCOTLAND – EAST

I am writing this report at home on Sunday, August 5, after a week of dry but windy weather. However the rain has returned with a vengeance and more is forecast for the week ahead rendering irrigation systems redundant.

The Open at Carnoustie this year, drew huge praise for the condition of the course from all in attendance. This was just reward for all the hard work put in by John Philp and his team, and statements like "Best Open Course preparation ever" were not wide of the mark. On a personal note I would like to thank everyone who contacted me after seeing my response to John Huggan's ill-informed article in 'Scotland on Sunday' on the Sunday prior to the Open.

In the week after the Open the seniors had their turn, with the main event being held at Muirfield. The Qualifier's for this event were held at the following venues, Dunbar, North Berwick West and the relatively new Links at Craighielaw. I understand all courses were in excellent condition and were a credit to their respective Greenkeeping teams.

I am sure everyone will join me in congratulating Ryan McCulloch

(Goswick) and his wife Louise who are celebrating the safe arrival of Spencer, a brother and playmate for Leo.

On a sad note I have to report the death of Tom Baillie, the former Head Greenkeeper at Dalmahoy. In all he spent 40 years working on the courses at Dalmahoy, and was in charge for the first major tournament to be held there prior to his retirement in 1991. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his family at this sad time.

Finally, our congratulations must go to former Greenkeeper John Gallagher Jnr, who won the Scottish Amateur Championship on Saturday, August 4 over the testing links of Old Prestwick. His triumph is all the more commendable when you consider he has hardly played this year due to a hairline fracture to a bone in his wrist!

*Until next month
Mike Dooner*



SCOTLAND – NORTH

The year is rolling by at an alarming speed. The nights are getting dark already. It seems like only yesterday that we were getting ready for the new season.

I don't think anybody has escaped the wet weather this year; it's been a test for all courses to keep them dry and in play. We have had more than half our annual rainfall in three months here on the east coast, never seen this much rain in May, June, July before or links courses so green. Nevermind, we could have been caught up in the floods that hit the midlands in August, which must have been a nightmare scenario for everybody down there.

The Open at Carnoustie was fantastic. You couldn't script a better finish and a homegrown winner for a change. That 18th hole at Carnoustie must be the hardest finishing hole in golf. I have to say that the condition of the golf course was awesome with superb greens and surround areas and magnificent fairways, which were so tight they looked like they were cut at greens height. I think they have laid the ghost of '99 to rest this time but in saying that the condition then was equally as good but nobody talked about it, which was a shame. I think John has raised the bar for all of us to try and match with regards to course set up and conditioning. The attention to detail all over the course was incredible and is a credit to John and his team.

The Autumn Meeting is at Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC on September 20, so let's have a good turnout for this one and support Kevin Fowler and his boys. This is great course on the Black Isle and one, which everyone will enjoy.

The Walker Cup match between Britain and Ireland is at Royal County Down GC in early September. Hopefully we will spank the yanks this time and win back the cup. County Down is a majestic golf course and is in mint condition. I was lucky enough to play it in the spring with Alan Strachan (Course Manager) and it was awesome. The scenery around that area is fantastic with the mountains of Mournes looking down on you all the way round.

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Around the Green

John Merchant, who is an Assistant Greenkeeper at Royal Aberdeen, is going to be a dad in the wintertime, his girlfriend Emma is expecting in mid December. Good luck to you both with the impending arrival. Not much else from me folks.

Robert Patterson
Royal Aberdeen GC



NORTHERN – NORTH EAST

Well only a little bit of news this month, although nothing has been in the past couple of magazines. Firstly, people on the move. As the Cleveland Section had in last month's news, Head Greenkeeper, Glen Baxter of South Shields GC, has now left the profession after working there for 23 years and is now working for Rigby Taylor Ltd covering the north east area. I'm sure you all will meet him at some point, anyway, best of luck Glen.

Two more greenkeepers have also moved, one is former Head Greenkeeper, Ian Hutton, of Garesfield GC, and James Leighton, formerly Assistant Greenkeeper at Hexham, who has moved to Slaley Hall GC.

Other news is that a golf club in our Section has been fined quite a sum of money for not complying with the H&S regulations, this news came via the Secretaries' magazine, so if any of you have not got the necessary paperwork I would advise you to get on the BIGGA website and look up the new Safety Management System as there is lots of information, such as the risk assessments, that are available for you to download.

Jimmy Richardson



NORTHERN – NORTH WEST

Everyone must be on holiday or clearing up from the floods, as I have not had any news this month. I have not had any names yet for the Tournament at Silloth, contact me if you wish to go.

The annual Stewards' Match will be played at Disley GC in October and we will need a team to represent the north west Section, it's a sponsored day so it will not cost you a penny, if you fancy it please contact Bert Cross. Well that's all for now,

if anyone needs any help or advice please contact the Secretary, Bert Cross on: 0151 7245412 or myself, Chris Sheehan on: 0151 2894625 my email is: jsheehan@blueyonder.co.uk

Chris Sheehan



MIDLAND – EAST MIDLAND

I start this month's column with the results of our five a side football friendly that took place at Loughborough College on June 5. Although

there was not a great turn out we decided on a young versus old boy match, which was eventually won 20-19 by the old boys with Kevin Kinzer scoring the all-important winning goal.

The summer golf tournament took place at Chevin GC on July 18 and the following results were Handicaps 0-14: 1. A Porter, 43pts; 2. C Brown, 37pts; 3. A Marsh, 34pts. Handicap 15-28: 1. A Colton, 26pts; 2. A De Wet, 26pts; 3. N Nottingham, 26pts. The Rep's prize was won by S Banks with 34pts. The Longest Drive for Greenkeepers was won by D James and the Nearest Pin, D J Rodgers. The Longest Drive for Rep's was won by S Banks and the Nearest Pin, J Robson.

Dan Rodgers



MIDLAND – EAST OF ENGLAND

It's official! www.eastofenglandbigga.com – we are now online! The website is still in it's infancy (acorns into oaks and all that), but I hope you will use it and enjoy it. My thanks for the site go to Gary Salisbury for all his hard work. It is greatly appreciated.

I could talk about the weather, but what can you say? The weather makes us what we are – a very tough breed able to cope well in such conditions, providing a testament to the skill and determination of all greenkeepers. Things can only get better!

Now onto the golf. Lincoln GC was the venue for this 3rd round qualifier for the BIGGA National Tournament. A touch on the damp side (we didn't realise just how many water features could be on one course), but all credit to Ade and the lads, the course was in excellent condition. Our sincere thanks to Nigel and Toro for the sponsorship. The results were as follows: 1. Russ Moody; 2. Jack Fairman; 3. Steve Beverley. Longest Drive - Rob Welford; Nearest the Pin - Rob Bemment; Trade Prize - Tito Arana.

The final round of qualification for the National Tournament was held at Oundle Golf Club with Collier Turf Care sponsoring the day - a big thank you to Mark and Roger. A big thank you also to Oundle Golf Club who made us very welcome. I was told the course was quite tight! I didn't seem to notice, but I think a few fishermen on the lake did. Results were as follows: 1. Graham MacDonald; 2. Scott Pritchett; 3. Dave Mawford; 4. Bruce Hicks; Nearest the Pin - Steve Hopkins; Longest Drive - Carl Chamberlain; Trade Prize - Carl Chamberlain.

The three qualifiers for the National Championship are: G. MacDonald, B Robinson and S Bosett. Well done lads and good luck in Scotland.

Finally I would like to say well done to Dave Coupland (formerly of Boston Golf Club). For those who don't know, Dave qualified for the British Open. Quite an achievement, especially with Bruce as your mentor. Seriously, well done Dave, we were all cheering for you and hope your career goes from strength to strength.

Allan Walker



MIDLAND – BERKS/BUCKS AND OXON

August, and it seems the cousin of El Nino has paid us a visit in Britain with the result that we have one of the wettest summers on record. This is in sharp contrast to last summer which was one of its driest and hottest. No sooner had we all predicted a heat wave summer this year with bets on record temperatures for our new Spanish climate, then the heavens opened with rising waters forcing dozens from their homes as the surge from Britain's worst floods in 60 years pushed through various parts of county and southern England.

There will always be a debate on whether climate change or global warming is to blame or just maybe Zeus the Greek rain god and cloud-gatherer sent us his wrath and fury which has affected so many people up and down the country.

On Wednesday, October 31, 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 has 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 for a truly memorable day in Berkshire. Numbers for the day are limited to a maximum of 120 and your support for this amazing line-up of individuals who will be sharing greenkeeping knowledge and their experiences. So please get your entry forms in early to avoid disappointment.

Other events to be held this year will be The Clay Pigeon Shoot to be held on October 18 at West London Shooting Targets, which is located adjacent to RAF Northolt just off the M40 and M25.

Head of shooting for the day will be Jon Beck and we are looking for individuals who have never tried this sport or even lifted a shotgun before. You will be made most welcome by the qualified instructors on site who will guide you through this challenging and addictive sport which can give first timer's a real buzz. For more details Jon can be contacted on: 0790 999 7636.

The next event will be the BB&O Invitational on September 26 at Newbury & Crookham GC and hopefully by the time you are reading this your entry forms will be well on the way back to Dean Jones, who will be posting your tee time on the section website, www.bbo-greenkeepers.co.uk

Now that September is here, look out for the Chelsea chariots as the school runs start up after the holidays and let's hope the waters have started to recede and a sense of normality can return for all those affected by the recent flooding.

Mark Day
mark.day@tacitgolf.com



MIDLAND – MID ANGLIA

Hello chaps, long time no scribe, for which I must apologise - I was moving house and it seems like we are cutting forever at the moment.

I know we don't get the same volume of traffic that some of you guys have, but my grass doesn't stop growing because we haven't got a lot of golf.

I am writing this article just before the Summer Competition at Welwyn Garden City GC, so the results will be in the next issue.

Just to remind you all that the Autumn Competition will be held at Berkhamsted GC on October 17 and the AGM will follow the golf. The committee is hoping to get a good turn-out as previous meetings have been a bit poor.

Another date for your diaries is December 6, this will be the Christmas Texas Scramble and will be held at South Beds GC. Please make sure your entries are in early to avoid disappointment as this one always fills up very quickly.

My final note this month is to congratulate Darren Mugford and his wife for the arrival of their baby daughter, best wishes from the Mid Anglia section.

If anyone would like to contribute to this article then please contact me on: 07971 198173.

That's all for now folks, see you next month.

Steve Mason



SOUTH EAST – SURREY

Sunday, August 5. It was my birthday on August 2 and I have reached

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Around the Green

that glorious age that is the same as Chris Rudkin. I have, in a past edition, been a little rude about Chris but I know that you all would say that we both look much younger than our years, I must admit that deep inside that Victor Meldrew syndrome is gradually growing and by next year, I fear, we may both be eligible to appear on that TV programme "Grumpy Old Men". But enough of that, for now I will continue to put on a cheerful smile, tighten my belt, comb my hair, wipe my nose and as before greet you all with a cheery hello.

The entry for the McMillan Tankard competition at Sunningdale GC was full to bursting and on a hot and sunny day, July 30, some 60 Surrey members, after practicing on the range, confidently set off to do battle with Sunningdale's New Course which had recently been used as a qualifier for the Open. It was, as usual, in fabulous condition and we thank Murray Long and his team for all their very successful efforts. It was, however, more testing than in previous years and the result shows that only some of the single figure handicappers were able to do justice to a course that had been set up for a more professional standard of golfer. Darren Woodward won the Tankard and a place in the National Tournament. Jason Hunt came second, with Mo Bah third and Tony Brennan fourth. The other qualifier in the higher division was Barry Cannon. Tom Spurgeon was Nearest the Pin and the longest drive was won by Mo Bah. Our beloved Ex-Chairman, Anthony (Kojak) Freeman took the Longest Walk. Jim Russell presented the prizes on behalf of the sponsors, Grass Roots and Billy McMillan presented the Tankard on behalf of his dad. Many thanks to Sunningdale's artisans for cooking the tasty alfresco burgers, sausages and chicken and selling us drinks at prices we wish we could find in all local pubs and bars. We all thank Sunningdale GC for the pleasure of once again playing at their superb golf club.

I am sorry to announce the death of Dave Town, the mechanic at St George's Hill GC. Chris Gosden, the Course Manager, said that after 25 years at the Club Dave would be difficult to replace, both as a great mechanic and a really good friend to all the greenkeepers at the club.

Brian Willmott



SOUTH EAST – KENT

It's been that long since we last saw rain in this neck of the woods, I'm beginning to think I should live in a tent and ride a camel to work! Surely this seemingly endless heatwave has to end soon. Somebody who has had the right idea to stay out of the heat on his golf course and spend longer in an air conditioned college classroom is Mike Emptage of St. Augustines Golf Club. Special congratulations to Mike as he has been studying at Hadlow College and has been nominated to represent the South East region in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year award. Your committee are arranging an autumn golfing event at a top venue for late September/ early October. More specific details shall be posted on the website as soon as the host course has confirmed it's availability. Entry forms can also be downloaded from the website so please remember to check it regularly.

Another event awaiting a confirmed date is our football match against Essex Section. Rumour has it that the Kent team has had enough of

their current goalkeeper despite several heroic moments in the games that we have played so far and he is to be put into a defensive position. All I can say is the new guy had better be good! The game will be played at the Corinthians ground which is close to Brands Hatch some time in October.

Our winter educational programme is all but completed and details of the seminars to be held at Hadlow College in Tonbridge shall be posted on the website. There shall be some very good speakers talking about topical subjects. These are all completely free of charge and an excellent way to spend a winters day.

Lastly, we are still on the lookout for clubs anywhere in Kent to fill a couple of spaces we have left on next year's fixture list. So please consider accommodating us and if you can then, again, you can contact us via the website.

That's it for this month guys.

Keep Cool!

Rob Holland



SOUTH EAST – ESSEX

It's a very short one this month no news as such to report, only that the Golf Day at Colchester has gone by and a report of that will be in my next news report.

The next event for your diary is the Winter Tournament at North Weald GC, on September 27, early entries, as always, will be appreciated.

Move news - after many years at Burnham-on-Crouch GC, Head Greenkeeper, Paul Copsey, has decided to move on to pastures new outside of the golf industry, although not out of the grounds care business altogether, I believe he is going into landscaping.

Also, after 14 years at Thorpe Hall GC, 10 of which have been as head man, John Sinclair, Course Manager, has decided to move back to his native Scotland at the end of the year, leaving behind a fine golf course that he has lovingly nurtured through thick and thin over the years. His Deputy, Ian Gordon, is also leaving to take on the post of Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager at Ballards Gore Golf & Country Club.

Mark Day (Tacit) has just had a bit of scare, while on his rounds up in North Norfolk, he felt unwell and went to see a doctor, who diagnosed a twisted hernia. He was immediately rushed into hospital and operated on. He is recovering well and has now returned to work though on light duties, hopefully we will see him at the next golf days though I believe he has to stay away from the sticks for the next few months. Anyone who has any news for inclusion in the "Around the Green" section can email me: highwoods.photographic@virgin.net or call me on: 01206 852353.

Arnold Phipps-Jones www.essexbigga.co.uk



SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES – SOUTH WEST



88mms of rain fell on “Wet Friday” (July 20) at Minchinhampton. This figure rose to 108mm at Cirencester, nearly 120mm in Cheltenham, and peaked around Worcester at 143mm. Happily I was on holiday in Italy where there was wall to wall sunshine, so there was nothing for it but to send a postcard along the lines of “Having a lovely time, and hope Captain’s Day went with a splash”. Apparently it did. I might just pay tribute to our staff who all turned in on the Saturday morning and got the courses ready for Captain’s Day by bringing the bunkers back from the dead. I really hope that no member’s homes were badly flooded, and all the courses have recovered.

The Summer Tournament was played under much better conditions at Cumberwell Park the following week. We were very fortunate to play on the new nine holes, and although I didn’t play myself, I was told that the new holes were in fine condition, and would look really special once fully matured. Thanks very much to Cumberwell for hosting this big day, which included qualifying for the National Championship. This prize, which alternates between gross and net scores, was decided on gross this year and allows the winner an expenses paid trip to participate in the National Championship later in the autumn. As the scores show, this was very keenly contested: 1. John Jarvis, Lansdown GC, 74 – 7 – 67; 2. Paul Gibson, Forest Hills GC, 74 – 70; 3. Roger Neale, Taunton & Pickering GC, 79 – 6 - 73. National Tournament Qualifier - Richard Carter, Lansdown GC, Gross 73.

Many thanks to Marc Haring, not only for the preparation of the course, but also for hosting the inaugural “Haring Quiz Night” afterwards. This was tremendous fun, and also very closely contested by teams of mainly three. The “Happy Hackers” team won by some distance – not necessarily because they knew more answers than the rest of us, but there were four of them! Great fun – notably I had to get Chris Sealey in an armlock to write “Chippenham” for the answer to the overhead photo of a Wiltshire town (he later spotted his own house when he realised where it was), and no, neither of us could name all four Teletubbies. Thanks very much Marc, and Andy Parker for helping – we must do it again some time.

There was a slight improvement for “McClaren” Vincent at St.Pierre in the match vs the Welsh Section. Not quite good enough to win however, but at least 3-and-a-half – 2-and-a-half wasn’t a complete whitewash. The Old Course was in very good condition, with two new greens part way under construction at the 8th & 9th. Robin Greaves and I arrived a little late on the 1st tee to see our opponents completing their warm-up schedules – “Scratch and Ten handicap” they proudly announced – Robin

and I both had the same thoughts “shafting – good - and us” but actually it was a close game and could have gone either way.

Thanks very to St Pierre for hosting yet again, and to Stuart Wood and the team for the superb presentation of the course. I’ll just mention Paul Garlands round of five birdies and two bogies, which considering the density of the rough and the height of the trees, was outstanding.

Finally, on Saturday, August 4, Long Ashton GC hosted a Testimonial Tournament to recognise the retirement of Ivor Scoones and his huge contribution to the Club. Having joined Long Ashton in 1964, Ivor became Head Greenkeeper in 1965 until the present time. He was also a past National Chairman of both the BGGGA, and later BIGGA. The Section Committee entered a team but unfortunately Chris Sealey injured his back changing holes at Chippenham early that morning, and was unable to play. (Do I detect a Health & Safety issue? Defective equipment? Inappropriate or insufficient training? Greens too hard and need closing for safety? Watch this space). It was a wonderful day at Long Ashton where the greens were perfect, (and hole changing carried out in complete safety). It was marvellous to see so many of the Long Ashton staff, past and present, attend to pay tribute to Ivor. Also Jack and Billy McMillan representing BIGGA. Ivor was presented with an engraved watch, a cheque, several birthday presents, and an Honorary Membership of the club. The evening finished with cake and champagne, which was a fitting curtain to his long career.

Look forward to seeing you all at Minchinhampton on October 11th for the AGM.

Paul Worster paulw@mgcnew.co.uk

SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES – SOUTH COAST



It’s holiday time and at last a bit of sun has appeared! Being hols time there is nothing to report on the golf competition side but just to remind you our next Golf Day is the Autumn Tournament to be held at North Hants GC, on October 23. If you want to attend this or any of our Golf Days please contact Chris Sturgess on: 0777 313 8409 or send a cheque to Chris direct at his home address: 31 Bay Rd, Sholing, Southampton SO19 8EZ.

Chris Bitten has started the process of planning the South Coast Seminar for 2008. It must be emphasised that it is your seminar so you must inform us of what you would like on the agenda. One possible angle is to really place an emphasis on education, a sort of hands on approach rather than the usual conference style event. For example: small classes could be organised on the following topics: soil science, weed identification, irrigation in practice, the golf course and the environment etc.

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NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

When you join you are automatically given membership of one of the 27 sections around the country. As an active member you can attend golf days and other social events on a regular basis enabling you to network amongst others in the industry. Look at the 'Around the Green' section for contact details.

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ABOVE: Greenkeeper International magazine
LEFT: The BIGGA website

Around the Green

These subjects are just off the top of my head and the idea is that the membership (that's you!) tells us that subjects and areas that you would like included. The aim would be to have an informal learning environment and a relaxed atmosphere to enhance learning.

So, what do you think? A good idea or would you prefer the more formal conference which has been very successful? Maybe a change would help to maintain this event continuing its usual success. Please let Chris Bitten know your thoughts on: 07796 887633 or email: chrisbitten@btinternet.com.

Those of you have been away on holiday, I hope that you had a great time and I will talk to you again in October.

Joe Crawley
07721 389200



SOUTH WEST & SOUTH WALES – SOUTH WALES

Hi everybody. I hope the waterproofs are holding out, did anyone spot the deliberate spelling mistakes in last months report. If you did then I was only testing you.

On with my first report and it's Trefloyne GC near Tenby that saw 14 teams compete for the Scott's Management Trophy. We would like to thank the management for the courtesy of the course, the inside staff for the warm welcome and fine food and the greenkeeping team for the excellent condition of the course, Mr John Noyce from Scott's for the prizes and sponsoring the day. The 1st prize went to Pyle and Kenfig GC with 73pts, Paul Johnson (Deputy Course Manager) played with his secretary, greens chairman and captain and they received £250 off Scott's vouchers, leather holdalls, baseball caps and some golf ball's, they also get the pleasure of hosting the tournament next year. In 2nd place we had our Chairman, Kerry Jones, and his team, in 3rd place were last years winners Trefloyne and in 4th place Julian BJ from Dinas Powis.

I would just like to welcome Paul Johnson to Wales, he hales from Hankley Common GC in Surrey and has been at Pyle and Kenfig since May 2006. Welcome Paul, hope to see more of you in the future.

My next report is from Chepstow and St Pierre Resort where we had our annual clash with the South West, Scott's once again provided us with the prizes many thanks once again from us all. Our team shirts were provided by our very own James Rees (InTurf), Thank you James. The weather was fab and it was made even better with a win for the South

Wales boyos by three and a half, two and a half, the prizes for nearest the pin and longest drive were as follows: Nearest pin, 13th Rich Louisson, Cirencester; Nearest pin, 3rd Paul Garford, Lansdown; Longest Drive, 14th Paul Garford, Lansdown. Longest Drive, 9th Rhys McDouagh, Llanwern - one for the Welsh, well done Rhys! I would like to thank St Pierre Resort for their hospitality and all of you for turning up.

Our next Section fixture is at Inco on September 27 v A.G.C.S 12.30 kick off, so if your called upon please try and turn up.

That is about it from me (thank god for that I hear you say) just a few more mentions, Jane Jones our Regional Administrator for all her continued hard work, thanks Jane hope you are well and to see you soon.

The last thank you is a personal one to my team at the Grove, Dean, Dave T, Dave M, Neil, Colin and young Scott for their patience and hard work over the last few difficult months. Thank you boys.

Any news contact me on: henry@henrystead.wandaoo.co.uk

All the best
Henry Stead

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

Section Notes -

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

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Letters

25 YEARS SERVICE

Stewart Fotheringham has entered his 25th year of service at Shiskine Golf Club.

Stewart came to work at the course as a trainee and studied at Elmwood College. He remembers his first tasks on the course as raking the chipping stones outside the clubhouse, hand shearing the burns and collecting the many feathers off the fairways. He has put a lot into greenkeeping on the island, always willing to help other clubs with various maintenance tasks and will give you good advice when you need it. He is still as enthusiastic now as the day he started, with a positive outlook on all tasks he tackles.



This past year has seen him oversee the re-building of three bunkers, levelling of tees, encouraging the rough to add a greater challenge and give better definition to the fairways and receive the regular comments of 'the course is getting better each year' from the annual visiting members.

Stewart says that he has no immediate plans to retire and at only 40 there is plenty of years in him yet!

The special occasion was celebrated with the greenkeepers on the island, 11 present from five clubs, past greenkeepers and staff, gathering for a surprise lunch, that for once, left Stewart speechless.

*Many thanks
Kenny Gilroy*

CARNOUSTIE

I am dropping a line to thank the BIGGA staff for all their hard work at The Open Championship, it is only when you go to these events that you become aware of all the work the staff do for us. I really enjoyed The Open.

Thank you

*John Mitchell, Deputy Course Manager
Perranporth GC*

THE OPEN

Just a quick note to pass on my thanks for all your help at the Open. It was good to catch up with everyone for the few days I was there. Thanks to Rachael and Melissa for all their help, and also to Scott. The organisation was superb and great credit to everyone involved is due.

It's good to know BIGGA is in such good hands with all the dedication by those involved.

*Regards
Stuart Greenwood
Course Superintendent
North Berwick*

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Can I start off by saying what a great experience The Open was. I enjoyed every moment from beginning to end, and with an Irish winner, it just made it better!

I also wanted to say how well run the Support Team was. Even before the event, letters were sent out with really useful advice on what to bring, what to expect and what was expected of us. All of this was really helpful.

As it was my first time meeting BIGGA representatives in person, I must say I found everyone very approachable and down to earth. This really added to my enjoyment of the event.

*David Byrne
Assistant Course Superintendent, St. Helens Bay Golf Resort*

THANK YOU

I would like to extend a big thank you to BIGGA and Ransomes Jacobsen for funding my trip to the United States to take part in the Ohio State international Intern Program. I have been at the Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte North Carolina for a period of four months now and have already had some excellent experiences.

I worked on the preparation during the Wachovia Championship at Quail Hollow in May and have also worked on the preparation for the Memorial tournament at Muirfield Village, Ohio in May. I have already learnt so much from being here for such a short time, that I would like to write a more in depth article about my experiences for your readers before the next Wachovia Championship.

I would like to thank David Withers from Ransomes Jacobsen, and John Pemberton from BIGGA, for their kind support and help in making this experience happen.

*Yours sincerely
Tom Granite, Quail Hollow Club*

BIGGA HQ RETIREMENT



On behalf of the GTC Board and technical committee members I would like to wish our friend and colleague Ken Richardson (BIGGA Education and Training Manager), a healthy and long retirement.

Ken and I have worked very closely for the past 13 years (how time flies – sorry for the RAF pun!)

I can say he has always been very professional and supportive in all our work to promote the education and training of greenkeepers.

Thanks Ken, we will miss you!

*David F Golding
GTC Education Director*



In the Shed

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QUICK NINE HOLE QUIZ

- 1 Pele
- 2 Liz McColgan
- 3 Nike
- 4 O J Simpson
- 5 Lycra
- 6 Cricket and Bowls
- 7 John McEnroe
- 8 Muhammed Ali
- 9 Ayrton Senna

MONSTER SUDOKU

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SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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info@shirehamptonparkgolfclub.co.uk

Further information can be found on our web-site

www.shirehamptonparkgolfclub.co.uk

Hot Job Criteria

Hot Job is a new feature of the recruitment section in Greenkeeper International from March 2007.

In order to qualify for the title 'Hot Job', a vacancy must satisfy as many of the criteria below as possible.

The vacancy with the most points by the time of going to print each month becomes 'Hot Job' and will be displayed prominently in both the magazine and on the recruitment page of our website.

Booking deadline is approximately 20th of each month.

- **Is pay within the recommended salary scale?**
- **Is a training schedule in place for this role?**
- **Is health insurance provided?**
- **Does the employer make pension contributions?**
- **Is more than 20 days holiday per year given?**
- **Is a company car/vehicle provided?**
- **Is accommodation provided?**
- **Are meals provided?**
- **Is uniform/clothing provided?**
- **Is BIGGA membership paid for?**
- **Is paid time off given for BIGGA events (The Open, Harrogate Week etc)?**
- **Are staff encouraged to benefit from training/education (Harrogate Week, regional training)?**
- **Is leisure membership/golf membership given?**

Participation in Job of the Month is strictly optional



Course Manager

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The successful applicant will have experience in links course management together with all other capabilities expected of this post.

We offer a highly competitive salary, accommodation of a 2 bedroom bungalow, pension contribution and other benefits.

Please apply in writing, enclosing your curriculum vitae to Ian Prentice, Secretary/ Manager, La Moya Golf Club, St Brelade, Jersey, JE3 8GQ

Pravets Golf and Country Club

18 Holes Parkland Golf Course

Requires an Assistant Head Greenkeeper

located 55km north of Sofia, Bulgaria Starting date: Spring 2008

Job Requirements:

- Young, dynamic and flexible personality
- 5 years experience working as an assistant head greenkeeper
- Experience bringing golf courses into play
- Experience in working with large greenkeeping staff
- Experience in all maintenance duties which are required on the golf course, specially Creeping Bent Greens
- Experience in setting up the golf course for big tournaments
- Certificates in Greenkeeping phase 2, phase 3 and H.N.C in golf course management, is a preference

The successful candidate can write his/her application to the attention of:

Terra Tour Service
67A Postoyanstvo Str
BG - 1111 Sofia
Bulgaria
Mr. Arne Van Amerongen
Harradine Golf Project Manager
E-Mail: arne@harradine-golf.com



Longcliffe Golf Club

www.longcliffegolf.co.uk

COURSE MANAGER

Longcliffe Golf Club is a progressive private members club situated on the outskirts of Loughborough, Leicestershire.

The golf course has many heathland characteristics in addition to mature woodland and is regarded as a premier venue in the East Midlands having been selected by the EGU for national events.

We are looking for a dedicated and ambitious person to exploit the superb agronomic and ecological potential our course offers. This is an ideal opportunity for a Head Greenkeeper or Deputy to take the next step and make their mark in golf course management.

The successful candidate can look forward to:

- Taking the lead in course policy and independence in its implementation
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Please apply in writing, including a full CV by 12th October 2007 to: The Club Manager, Longcliffe Golf Club, Snells Nook Lane, Loughborough, Leics LE11 3YA.

(The post becomes available in mid-January).

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Sheffield, S8 8LL



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Assistant Greenkeeper

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The successful applicant will be punctual, organised and will have their own transport. They will also show potential leadership skills.

Please apply to Andy McNiven with CV by email or in writing - or phone on the number below.
Mid Sussex Golf Club, Spatham Lane, Ditchling, East Sussex, BN6 8XJ

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admin@midsussexgolfclub.co.uk



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Applicants should ideally have obtained the following qualifications: NVQ level 3 or similar, PA1 and possibly PA2 and/ or PA6 spraying qualifications, and should have gained at least 5 years experience in the industry. Some supervisory experience would be an advantage.

An attractive salary package based on qualifications and experience will be available to the successful applicant.

Applications must be made in writing, with an enclosed CV to:
Mark Kitching, Head Greenkeeper, Castletown Golf Links,
Fort Island, Derbyhaven, Isle of Man, IM9 1UA.



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Assistant Greenkeeper

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Willingness to learn and undertake training.

**Greenkeeping Department
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Business Manager, CSC Amenity, Glenearn Rd, Perth, PH2 0NL.**

I had the pleasure of attending the Open Championship in July, my first for some years. The last time I was at an Open was at Troon in the late 90s, so it was with eager anticipation that I set off for the hallowed links of Carnoustie. I had given the wee ones their instructions about what they could and couldn't do; parties were ok but not to make too much noise as to annoy the neighbours. The kitchen was bulging with every kind of food imaginable, with meals planned and contingencies for running out of anything in place, so I was happy to leave them for the week. I was up as usual in time to leave for work and, unlike usual, all the wee ones were up waiting to say goodbye to me before I left on my latest adventure, Summer was still asking to come with me and saying she would be no bother, "Honest, daddy". Shannon being all grown up said - "See ya dad, don't forget to bring me some shortbread back" and Billie was keen to see me out the front door so she could return to her bed.

A dilemma when travelling is always what to leave out of your suitcase. I had to be prepared for every event but it was impossible to take everything, if say, I was getting there by car. So I was packed and ready with an impressively small bag for the week and set off to the airport from Tyrrells Wood.

Travelling, as I have found over the past few months, is mostly a pain in the buttocks, as you seem to, when flying anyway, spend more time sitting around or standing in queues than you ever do on the plane. I arrived at Edinburgh having left almost an hour late - on time, how did they manage that! With a bus ride and then train to Dundee, I took the chance to ask a local how to find the University of Abertay, "That's easy son. Just turn left as you get out of the station and it's about five minutes up there on the right, you cannae miss it." As she said it was on the right, but a wee bit further than predicted. I went to reception and enquired about my room and was duly told were to go and given a map. So there I was waiting and the time was ticking away. Surely someone would come along soon I thought, and open the door to let me in, and then my phone rang. At last I thought, someone has remembered I was here. It was Scotty MacCallum, "Were are you? We're all here and waiting for you to



get booked into your room." Well, thing is I, was in the wrong part of Dundee and, in fact, at the wrong University trying to gate crash the BBC's accommodation.

We soon headed off for the course and to have a look around the BIGGA Marquee. It was my first time at Carnoustie, so as you do, you have a wander onto the grass and see how it's doing; I was already impressed before getting too far onto the course, by the immaculate conditions. Years of heartache, hard work, love and attention to detail had been bestowed on it. It was now almost late evening and the shadows were just falling over the course, it was truly a magnificent sight and I knew then we were all in for a real treat during The Open. Now I could wax lyrical for years about the course it was in superb condition but I would just like to pay tribute instead to a few people that made my time in Scotland more special than it could have been.

To John Pemberton and his team that organised every second of my time, ensuring I was in the right place at the right time, they have my heartfelt thanks. To Scott, Rachael, Melissa and everyone at BIGGA HQ that helped make this

event tick with all the precision of the finest timepiece ever crafted. Well done to you all. Well done to all those Board members: Kenny Mackay, Tony Smith, Gavin Robson, Richard Whyman, and Jeff Mills. Also Peter Later, Peter Boyd and Bert Cross, and the Pod leaders and drivers, for your dedication in ensuring everyone was there in good time and able to perform as required. I would like, without reservation, to thank the Support Team greenkeepers from around the world who had taken holidays and time to muck in and give of their time to help rake bunkers, divot tees and fairways and do anything that was asked of them with great spirit. To you all, I can't put into words how proud you all made me feel during the week. To the locals, you know, Walter and Caroline, Andy and Clare, George - I could keep going - no Open would be complete without the dastardly duo of Cecil and Jimmy sharing tales of the past.

But make no mistake, we were but a side salad to the main event because without doubt the main act of the week for me was John Philp and his team, ably supported by Paul, Sandy and all the Greenstaff at Carnoustie. They, in my opinion, prepared a test of golf of such quality that made, I'm sure, every greenkeeper in the British Isles very proud indeed. So well done you lot.

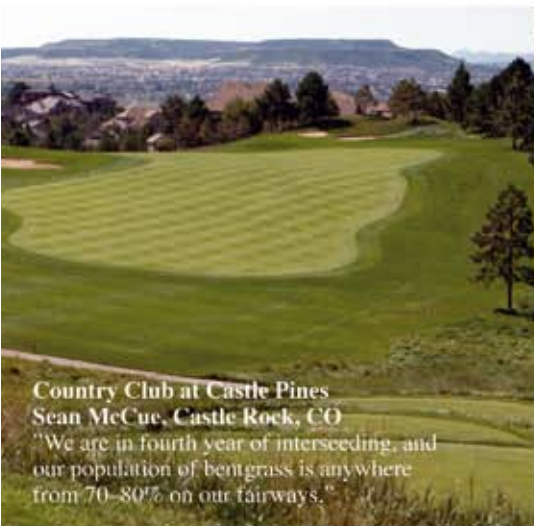
An event the size of The Open Championship is dependent of the services of so many people, from the professionals to the normal member from a neighbouring club, giving of their time and energy, to man a scoreboard, to move cars into a field, to marshal thousands of spectators around - It is truly an amazing thing to see. So to the R&A with another well run and successful Championship under your belt, well done and roll on next year.

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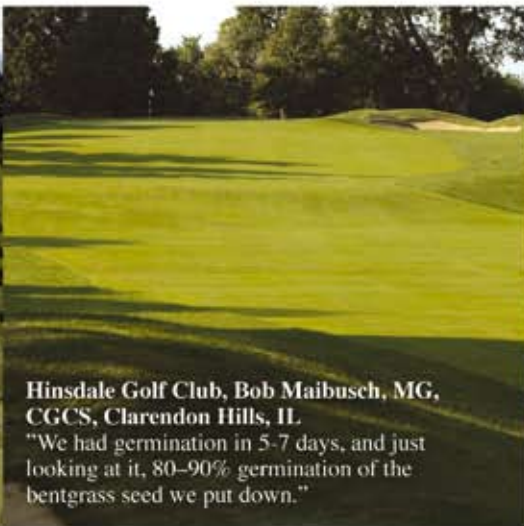
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